

*The Messenger*  
*First United Methodist Church of Mexico*  
*November 2017*

*From the Pastor...*



Beloved,

Happy Thanksgiving! It seems unreal to be saying that already, but Thanksgiving is just around the corner with Christmas coming on its heels. What a gift it is for me to celebrate these seasons with you.

These seasons are often joyful and celebratory, but they can be a significant drain on our resources. Charities will be soliciting donations, we'll be doing our Christmas shopping, and the cost of feasting with loved ones will be sure to add up. How do we stay faithful with our money amid the clamor for cash?

The Bible has much to say about money: it speaks against debt (Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:8), in favor of wisdom and intentionality (Proverbs 21:5, Luke 14:28-30), and in favor of prioritizing the needs of family (1 Timothy 5:8). Scriptures also set forth a historical precedent for tithing, and a call for extravagant generosity. Today we'll focus specifically on the practice of tithing.

***What is tithing?*** Simply put, tithing is the practice of regularly giving to the church one tenth of a person's income.

***Why should we tithe?*** Tithing is an expression of gratitude, an act of worship. We recognize that all we have was God's to begin with, and we identify ourselves as faithful stewards (managers) of God's abundance. We are grateful for the blessings in our lives and for the ability to bless others, and we honor God by giving back that which belonged to God to begin with.

Furthermore, tithing benefits us as it is a spiritual discipline. I know firsthand that deciding to tithe, especially for the first time, is a bit scary. When my husband and I began tithing, we were nervous. We had always felt we wouldn't be able to live without that money, but God's call for us to tithe was clear, so we stepped out of our comfort zone and into a faith zone. The more faithful we've become with managing God's abundance, the more abundance God has given us to manage.

Tithing also benefits the tither by deepening one's relationship with God. Living faithfully when it comes to money (or anything else, for that matter) will cause your relationship with God to grow stronger as you learn to rely more fully on God. I am in awe of how I've been blessed by the practice of tithing.

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***How can I possibly come up with that kind of money?*** Beloved, I wondered the same thing for many years until Dana and I became deeply intentional with our personal finances. First, know that if you are in financial crisis, your primary responsibility is to provide for your household's basic needs: food, shelter (including basic utilities), clothing, and transportation. Don't worry about tithing until these necessities are accounted for. Instead, reach out to the church and/or other agencies for support.

Most of us, though, are not in true financial crisis. Things may be tighter than we want them to be, especially for folks who are on fixed incomes. I completely understand this. Even so, some basic steps toward more thorough financial management might help. Dana and I start by writing a monthly budget; I recommend you do the same. List all the income you anticipate for the month, then list all your anticipated expenses in a prioritized list. Try putting your tithe at the top of the list, then savings and expenses after that. Allocate every dollar anticipated income, then make a choice to live in accordance with your budget. Most of us would be surprised to find that we can commit to giving 10% of our income to the church without seriously cramping our lifestyle. After all, tithing still leaves a full 90% of our income for us to save, spend, and give as we choose.

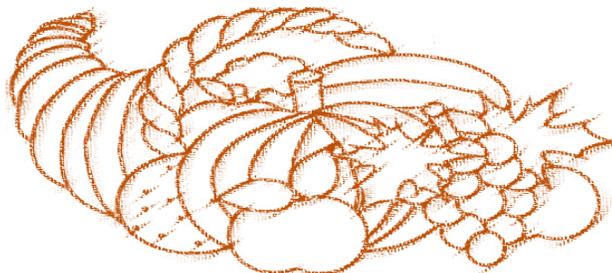
Oftentimes when pastors write about money, there's an underlying plea or solicitation. That's not the case here. Tithing is a bit like the Sabbath – a practice designed for the benefit of God's people. We ought not to tithe out of a sense that the church needs the money or that God needs the money, but because we desire to walk ever closer with Christ. When we tithe we deepen our trust, strengthen our faith, and find ourselves surprised by the wealth of blessings that result.

Beloved, I encourage you to consider tithing if you're not already. It's a decision that Dana and I do not regret. Give it some real thought, pray about it, and (if you're married) talk with your spouse about it. Maybe commit to trying it just for a few months, knowing you can always drop back to your current giving level if you feel you need to. Step out in faith, and see what blessings God has in store.

“...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

Shalom,

Pastor Emily



## IMPORTANT DATES...

Nov. 3: Set up for OCC Shoebox Packing Party, 12-7pm.  
Nov. 4: OCC Shoebox Packing Party, 10am-Noon.  
Nov. 6: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30 pm.  
Nov. 11: Veterans Day.  
Nov. 11: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am.  
Nov. 13: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm.  
Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service,  
Lycoming UMChurch, 7pm  
Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day.  
Nov. 28: Church Growth/ Evangelism Meeting, 6:30pm.

### Thanksgiving

*Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love  
and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies  
the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*

*Psalm 107: 8-9*

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TOO...

~ All of our United States Armed Forces Veterans.  
~ The cooks and servers for the Brown Memorial Church dinner, Syracuse, on 10/15/17.  
~ The Master's Touch Chorale for the wonderfully inspirational concert they performed at our church on Sunday, 10/22/17.  
~ The Hurlbut's, Hurlbut Road in Mexico, for the donation of two bushels of apples for the UMMen's Club Roast Pork Dinner on 10/28/17.  
~ The folks who made applesauce, those who peeled potatoes and squash, and all who cooked and served the aforementioned Roast Pork Dinner.  
~ Skip Hall and George Grants who helped finish the handicap ramp at the home of Donna and Bob Hooge on the corner of Spring Street and South Jefferson Street.

## ANNUAL SHOE BOX PACKING PARTY

Our Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Party will be held on:  
Saturday, November 4, 2017

The time is 10am to noon, and the location is the church fellowship hall.

Join the fun of sending Christmas in a shoe box, along with the message of Jesus Christ,  
to children in need around the world!

During the party, the shoe boxes are filled with Christmas gifts for children and teens living in refugee camps, orphanages, war torn areas, and on the streets around the world. A multitude of gifts have already been collected for the shoe boxes, but more donations are always welcome. Gifts may include, but are not limited to, such items as: small balls, toothbrushes, washcloths, bars of soap (still wrapped - no Ivory), school supplies, socks, t-shirts, underwear, toys, small dolls, small stuffed animals, matchbox cars, combs, girl's hair ribbons and barrettes. Items that are not allowed are: candy, toothpaste, violent toys, knives, or guns.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. The filled shoe boxes will be shipped to a Samaritan's Purse warehouse where a booklet with the story of Jesus' birth in the child's language is added to each box. The shoe boxes are then distributed to children around the world in time for Christmas.

Beyond the Shoe Box Packing Party, any organization or individual who fills shoe boxes may deliver them to the church during the week of November 13-20. For questions, please call the church at 315-963-3066.



## ADVENT 2017

By: Pastor Emily Huyge

Beloved, the church calendar is playing all sorts of feisty little tricks on us this year. Advent consists of the 4 Sundays before Christmas. This year, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas is Christmas Eve. Beyond that, we're looking at Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day and Easter Sunday on April Fool's Day. What a crazy year!

In response to Advent 4 falling on Christmas Eve, we'll be switching things up a bit this year. We will begin celebrating Advent a week earlier than the liturgical calendar calls for. Please mark your calendars according to the schedule below:

November 22: 1pm, Decorating of the church - all are welcome to come help!

November 26: 10am, Advent 1

December 3: 10am, Advent 2 (decorating the Chrismon Tree)

December 10: 10am, Advent 3 (Children's Program)

December 17: 10am, Advent 4

12pm, Youth Event: Pizza Party, Cookie Decorating,  
and Christmas Caroling



December 21: 7pm, Longest Night Service (for those who are grieving this Christmastime)

December 24 10am, Worship (Lessons and Carols)

4pm, Family-Oriented Christmas Eve Service

9pm, Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Advent is a great time for you and your family to participate more fully in the life of the church. You can help decorate the church, encourage your child(ren) to participate in the Children's Program, bake cookies to be decorated by the youth, or offer to do an Advent Wreath Lighting during worship. Please reach out to Pastor Emily if you are interested in celebrating Advent with us in any of these ways. Otherwise, we'll just look forward to worshipping God together with you.



## WATCHING ANGELS in ACTION



By: Rose Ann Myers, Outreach Committee Member

On October 15, Carol Watros, Barb Lighthall, Wayne and I left for Brown Memorial United Methodist Church (Syracuse), with three roasters full of hot scalloped potatoes and ham, a drink cooler full of green beans, Italian bread, butter, lots of desserts and fruit. All donated by our congregation. Two ladies, Esther and Peggy, greeted us when we arrived. They live right in this area and you can tell that they are not wealthy, but they love this church and the people of the neighborhood. They expect the children to say please and thank you when they come in and you can tell how much respect people have for them. Peggy even went out and chased some undesirables away and told them not to come back.

Before we started serving, another couple came in from their place of business with boxes of hot dogs, packaged deli meat and bologna. Peggy had them put it in a small side room. I didn't know what she was going to do with it. Perhaps because it was a beautiful fall day we didn't serve as many meals as we had anticipated. We had been told to expect about 150, but we probably didn't do more than 100.

As I looked at the potatoes we had left, I wondered what on earth we were going to do with the leftovers--a roaster and a third. Unbeknown to us, Peggy had made bags of the meat that had been given to them and as each family left, they were given a bag with hot dogs, etc. Still, the potatoes sat there. I asked what we were going to do with the leftovers. Peggy appeared with take-out containers and we started filling them with complete meals. She was going to load them in her car and take them to the homeless. No dumpster diving for them that night. We have so much admiration for these two women who truly give of themselves. They truly are angels in action. We are so lucky to know them.

## Lake Effect Cooperative Ministries

By: Marcia Albrecht

LECM will host a **Progressive Dinner** on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11 am. The theme is "Christmas around the World". Each host church will provide a dish representative of the country they chose. Additionally they will make an ornament for each participating church. So far we have New Haven is Germany and Mexico is Mexico.



Please let me know if you may want to participate by November 13th. We will need to have an approximate count so we can proceed with the planning.

Also, please let me know if there any specific trainings or workshops you would like to see at the **2018 District Training Day** in early February.

## **CRISTMAS in MEXICO CRAFT SHOW/BAZAAR!**

Again this year our church will be hosting a craft show/bazaar and bake sale during Christmas in Mexico, Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9am - 4pm. Here is your opportunity to purchase locally made hand crafted and specialized Christmas gifts.

Volunteers are needed to help out in the kitchen serving lunch and selling baked goods at the bake sale table. Bakers are needed also. All proceeds go to our regular church budget. Call Sue Morton (315-963-3566) if you can help.

Thank you!



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 2: Kelly Freihofer  
3: Molly Freihofer, David Rose  
4: Lori Behling, Rita DeLong,  
and Nancy Murray  
7: Carleen Talamo  
8: Jennifer Spaulding  
12- Mary Smith  
14- Robert Ellison  
17- Rachel Monson  
20- Richard Rose  
22- Nancy Williams  
26- Amanda Jo Russell, Steven Watros  
28- Mary Grants  
30- Flora Kugler  
A: Bill & Judy VonZagorski

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

## THANK YOU to our ARMED FORCES VETERANS



**RECIPE CORNER:** *If you are having company come to stay over the holidays, this recipe may be just the one to serve for a fun, simple, yet festive breakfast.*

### OMELETS in a BAG!

Quart size freezer zip lock bags

Eggs

Shredded cheese

Green or colored bell peppers, cut-up

Mushrooms, chopped

Large kettle of boiling water

Black olives

Tomatoes, chopped

Ham, small pieces

Broccoli, chopped

Onions, chopped



Boil kettle of water. Meanwhile, have each guest write name on bag with permanent marker. Break one or two eggs into bag, scramble slightly. Add whatever ingredients from those above. Squeeze air out of bags and seal bags. Place bags in kettle of boiling water for 13 minutes. If more than eight bags, have two kettles of boiling water. Remove bags from kettle and carefully open each bag to remove omelet.

## Pastor-S/PPRC Covenant



**Church/Charge:** Mexico First United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Emily Huyge

**Date of completion:** 10/25/2017

**SPPRC Chair:** Phil Kugler and Terry Grimshaw (Co-Chairs)

**Date shared with congregation:** included in the November 2017 church newsletter

### **The congregation's two main goals for disciple-making ministries in the coming year are:**

Draw more people into relationship with Jesus.

Help people to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

### **In what ways will the congregation build leadership capacity in order to meet these goals?**

Encourage increased participation in Lay Servant and Lay Speaker conference training courses as well as Men's Group, Choir, groups that are faith based.

### **In what ways will the pastor increase her/his leadership capacity in order to lead and guide the congregation in meeting these goals?**

Continuing education on Conference level: 'Tending the Fire' - how to lead churches through change.

District level: participate in peer learning group (meet monthly).

Meet regularly with local Pastor Assoc.

### **In what ways will the pastor and congregation endeavor to grow spiritually together?**

Pastor will provide additional scripture passages that correlate with each week's message.

### **How will the S/PPRC support the pastor in these endeavors?**

Clear, concise, open communication

### **In what ways will the S/PPRC hold the pastor accountable?**

Open, timely, honest and helpful communication

### **How will the S/PPRC intentionally handle differences of opinion or conflict following the example of Christ, in an effort to build healthy relationships?**

Be open minded; listen with compassion and focus.

Explore mediation, prayer and compromises.

### **Two ways in which the Pastor and S/PPRC plan to work together to strengthen the connection between this congregation and the Conference/Denomination are:**

Pastor to publicize trainings and events through the District, Conference, and denomination.

Encourage participation in the trainings.

### **How will the S/PPRC and Pastor hold one another accountable for accomplishing these goals?**

A brief time of each meeting will be used to review our covenant.

Need to Contact our Church??

The phone is: 315-963-3066.

The email address is:

fumcmexico@gmail.com

**PLEASE VISIT OUR  
CHURCH WEBSITE at:  
www.mexlumc.com**

PILLOWCASE DRESSES...

By: Sue Morton

At last count 111 beautiful dresses have been made this year from pillow cases or colorful fabric. The seamstresses were a team of six to eight dedicated women from our church and other area churches. These dresses will be put in Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and to ultimately be distributed to girls in need, ages 2-14, in many countries around the world. Thank you to those people who helped and/or donated fabric.



Baby Congratulations!

Zayden Tyler Levía

Born October 26, 2017

Great-Grandparents are Chuck and Dotty Parker

SERVING in NOVEMBER

GREETERS

- Nov. 5: Terry & Karen Grimshaw
- Nov. 12: Sparky Rector & Mary Beth Turo
- Nov. 19: Sunday School Class
- Nov. 26: \_\_\_\_\_

COFFEE HOUR

Many thanks to anyone who makes contributions of such items as: chips, pretzels, dip, vegetables, fruit, and baked goods. These are always appreciated.



MONDAY'S MEAL

- Nov. 6: Barb Lindovski
- Nov. 13: Rose Ann Myers & Cathy Stock
- Nov. 20: Lori Behling
- Nov. 27: Jane Backus & Nancy Evale

TRASH DUTY

Mike Freihofer

COUNTERS

Mary Grants and Kathy Rose



SERVING, GIVING, SHARING...

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38*

## **2017 ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING PROJECT**

We invite you once again to let your Christmas spirit shine with candles in our church windows during this year's Christmas season. Sponsor a candle in one of our church windows in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost for sponsoring is \$15 per candle. The candles will be "lit" for the first time on Sunday, November 26, the First Sunday in Advent. Responses may be placed in Sunday's collection plate or delivered to the church office by Sunday, November 19. All proceeds from this year's candle lighting project will benefit the operation of our church.

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### **CANDLE LIGHTING PROJECT – 2017**

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

or

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Candles @ \$15 Each \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to First United Methodist Church. Please note "Candle Project" on the memo line. Your check and this coupon may be mailed to the church office in care of PO Box 255, Mexico, NY, 13114, or placed in Sunday's collection plate, using one of the envelopes provided in the pew pockets. Please note "Candle Project" on the outside of the envelope.

Thank you for your support in this year's fund raiser.



### **OUR CHURCH MISSION...**

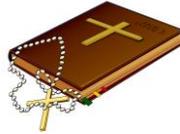
To make disciples of Jesus  
Christ for the transformation  
of the world.

### **Candy Thanks...**

Thank you to those who helped pass out Halloween candy to trick or treaters passing in front of our church on the evening of Halloween. Thanks to the Church Growth Group for furnishing the candy. Each small bag of candy included a note inviting children to attend our Sunday School and Children's Church programs.

# New BIBLE STUDY to Begin...

“THE STORY,” a video study of the Bible, will be held on Wednesdays, beginning November 1, 2017. The time is 10am, and the place is Mary Mack’s home in Pleasant Meadows, Academy Street, in Mexico. Each video is one book of the Bible so if you cannot make all sessions, feel comfortable to come when you are able. For questions, please call the church office at 315-963-3066.



## A Christian Movie Coming Soon!

### REVIVE US 2

Kirk Cameron’s **REVIVE US 2** will encourage and inspire believers in these troubling times.

See the special encore showing:

**At 7:00pm**

**On Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

**At REGAL DESTINY USA, Syracuse**

“Look around. Many say our nation is terribly divided ... and it’s only getting worse. But while others are emphasizing the negative, Kirk Cameron believes an awakening has begun! With our nation facing increased political, racial, economic, religious, and family tensions, Kirk hosts **REVIVE US 2**, the second National Family Meeting, filmed live at the

Museum of the Bible

in Washington, D.C.” [reviveus.com](http://reviveus.com)

Check out the movie trailer on YouTube.

## “TABLE of PLENTY”

Come to the feast of heaven and earth!

Come to the table of plenty!

God will provide for all that we need here at the table of plenty.

O come and sit at my table where saints and sinners are friends.

I wait to welcome the lost and lonely to share the cup of my love.

O come and eat without money;

Come to drink without price.

My feast of gladness will feed your spirit with faith and fullness of life.

My bread will ever sustain you through days of sorrow and woe.

My wine will flow like a sea of gladness to flood the depths of your soul.

Your fields will flower in fullness;

Your homes will flourish in peace.

For I, the giver of home and harvest,

Will send my rain on the soil.

*“Worship and Song” Hymnal, page 3173.*

(This song is from our new green hymnal.)