

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

October 2017

From the Pastor...

Beloved,

It's time for a moment of vulnerability. Every now and then, even pastors go through spiritual slumps. At this moment, I am simply overwhelmed by all that is going on in the world. I imagine many of you are too. Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, violence, war, abuse, and fear are ravaging many parts of the world and many thousands of our fellow humans. Some days it is more than the human spirit can bear on its own.

This is where faith comes in.

The most beautiful promise I know is threefold, like the Trinity:

1. God is Love.
2. Love took on flesh to show us how to live.
3. Love moves among us, flowing like a river of hope.

I believe this wholeheartedly. I have faith that this is all true. Faith is what will get me through, and I pray that it will do the same for you. Set time aside to read the Bible daily. Engage in prayer as often as you think of it. Speak God's promises aloud. Do what you can to help those in need.

And while we do all of that, I will pass along this gift that has helped me through these spiritually difficult times. This is "Blessing When the World Is Ending" by Jan Richardson (© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com.).

Blessing When the World is Ending

Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.

Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.

Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.

Continued on page 2...

From the Pastor continued from page 1...

Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door,
the shattered hope.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.

Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.

But, listen,
this blessing means
to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.

It is simply here
because there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.

This blessing
will not fix you,
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes. *Continued above right...*

Continued from bottom left...

It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.

—Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace*

May you find yourself looking toward
the light that we know is always with
us.

Shalom,
Pastor Emily

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 2: Administrative Council Meeting,
6:30pm
- Oct. 5: Finance Meeting, 10am
- Oct. 9: Trustees, 6:30pm
- Oct. 11: S/PPRC Meeting, 7pm
- Oct 21: UMMMen's Breakfast
Meeting, 8:30am
- Oct. 23: Church Growth Meeting,
6:30pm
- Oct. 28: UMMMen's Pork Roast Dinner
4-8pm



THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO...

*~ Our dedicated Sunday School teachers and
Children's Church volunteers.*

*~ All who are serving on committees. These
committees are important to the smooth operation
of our church.*

*~ Those who donated to, and/or served at, Unity
Acres in September.*

Colossians 3:12-15

Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. Above all, put on love – the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful.



UNITED METHODIST MEN'S

ROAST PORK DINNER

Saturday, October 28, 2017,

4:00 pm until sold out

**The Dinner: Roast pork, mashed potatoes,
gravy, butternut squash, bread dressing,
homemade applesauce, and desserts.**

Adults \$9.50. Seniors \$9.

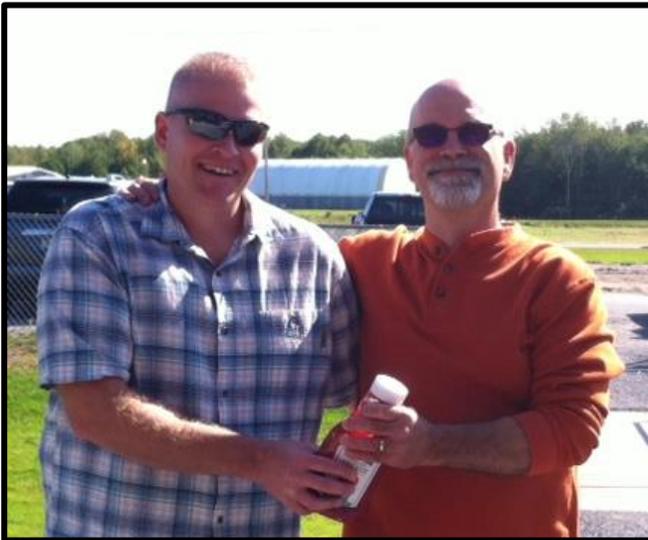
Dine in or carry-out.

Local deliveries available – please call the church at 315-963-3066.



**69 Hygiene Kits
for Hurricane Relief!!**

Our church put together 69 hygiene kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), to assist with the hurricane relief. A filled flood bucket was sent too! Thanks to the Outreach Committee for funding the project with \$575. Thanks too, to all who helped put the kits together on September 17, 2017.



**LEADERSHIP SHIFT for
UNITED METHODIST MEN'S CLUB**

Mike Freihofer, pictured right, steps down from a leadership position in the Men's Club after approximately 17 years. Long-time active member Jeremy Spencer, left, now steps up to assume the position of Mexico UMMen's Club President. Thank you both for serving.

UNITY ACRES 2017

A team of 10 traveled to Unity Acres, in Orwell, on Saturday, September 9, 2017 to serve a picnic meal of hotdogs, hamburgers, summer salads, baked beans, desserts and more. Many thanks to all who contributed food, to the Outreach Committee for organizing the trip and providing money, and to the UMMen's Club for contributing funds.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- October 2- Charles Bateman
- 3- Bill Palmer
- 5- A: Joe and Jean Wallace
- 6- A: Gary & Alicia Weber
- 8- Norma Griffin
- 9- A: Don & Shirl Field
- 10- Judy VonZagorski
- 12- Carol Watros, Evan Lenhart
- 13- Marjorie Perth, Julie Mason
- 15- Tonaya Gorton.
A: Had & Linda Fravor
- 16- Merrilee Gorton
- 18- Deanna and Elizabeth Spencer
A: David & Sharon Anderson
- 21- Had Fravor, Philip Kugler
- 22- A: Andy & Cindy Ross
- 25- Addison Lenhart
- 26- Alexander and Philip Watros
A: Doug & Jean Irwin
- 27- Carol Aldrich
- 29- Rick Sherman

WELCOMING BABIES!

Ainsley Elese Grants

Born on September 21, 2017

Granddaughter of George & Mary Grants

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*Abigail Quinn Pitzer*

*Born on September 22, 2017*

*Granddaughter of Deb McCoy*

**ON FAITH...**

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible,  
and receives the impossible.

***Recipe Corner:*** *We are fully in the delightful apple season and Linda Fravor graciously shares her recipe for apple pizza with us. Thanks Linda!*

**APPLE PIZZA**

**1. PASTRY**

- 2 cups of flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 5 to 7 Tbsp. cold water

Roll out dough mixture and place on pizza pan. Flute edges.

**2. FILLING**

- 4-5 medium-sized apples
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. nutmeg

Put thinly sliced apples in large bowl. Stir in sugar and spices. Mix thoroughly. Arrange evenly on pastry.

**3. TOPPING**

- ¾ cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup butter/oleo

Combine and mix until crumbly. Sprinkle over Apples.

Bake: 425 degrees, about 20 -25 minutes.

## SERVING in OCTOBER...

### **GREETERS:**

October 1: Barb Lighthall and Marcia Albrecht  
8: Marty Smith and Lori Giverson  
15:  
22:  
29:

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

*Everyone or anyone is welcome to sign up to bring items for coffee hour, or simply bring a vegetable, fruit, or dessert on any Sunday that you wish. Donations are always welcome.*

*Thank you!*



### **MONDAY'S MEAL**

October 2: Cathy Stock & Barb Lighthall  
9: Kathy Rose & Mary Grants  
16: Jane Backus & Nancy Evale  
23: Rose Ann & Wayne Myers, Barb Lindovski  
30: Rick & Les Sherman, Lori Behling

### **COUNTERS:**

Diane Tupper and Esther Granger

### **TRASH DUTY:**

Had and Linda Fravor

## LAKE EFFECT COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

By: Marcia Albrecht

The progressive picnic was very successful. We had 60 people from 7 churches participate on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. We had 10 from our church! We are looking to do another progressive event with a Christmas around the world theme on Saturday, December 9th with an earlier start of around 11am. Please let me know if you might be interested and what country/culture we should do.

District Training will be in early February. What workshops would you like to see? Please let me know as the planning had begun.

## CHRISTIAN MUSIC on the RADIO!!

Need an everyday boost in your Christian walk at home, at work, or while you're driving?

Try:

101.7 K-LOVE

or

102.9 Mars Hill

## *A Special Note...*

Beloved,

I have been asked recently to write about how we can approach one another in love when one of us is upset with another. While conflict is uncomfortable, it can be very healthy if addressed properly. Knowing how to do so, though, can be a significant challenge. Here is what I do know:

In Matthew 18:15-22 Jesus presents a model for healthy conflict within faith communities. The 2016 Book of Discipline contains the parameters for the structure and function of United Methodist churches. These are both resources which can teach us about how to address one another when concerns and/or conflicts arise. Here's a summary of what we ought to do when we are upset with an individual or individuals within the faith community:

1. Address the individual directly and privately (Matthew 18:15).
2. Utilize the systems in place within the church.
  - a. The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC) is the committee designed (in part) to hear concerns about the well-being and effectiveness of the pastor and/or staff. Current members (through December 31) are: Phil Kugler, Christy Hall, Hope Lenhart, Terry Grimshaw, Lisa Spencer, David Hubbard, Jean Irwin, Marilyn Marks, Judy Farr, and Lori Giverson.
  - b. A Lay Leader is someone who could be approached with a concern about the state of the church and her ministries. Our current Co-Lay Leaders are Chuck Parker and Marcia Albrecht.

Additionally, there are committees which work on specific areas of ministry: the Worship Committee talks about Sunday Services and holidays, the Trustees address the needs of the church building and parsonage, the Finance Committee tends to the fiscal health of the church, and the Church Council oversees the whole mission and ministry of the church.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to transform the world. We can best do that by living courageously into the principles Jesus taught, even (especially) when doing so makes us uncomfortable. Jesus calls us to address one another directly when we are upset. If, for some reason, that is not possible the Book of Discipline does give us other options, as indicated above.

It is a joy to continue to grow in relationship with you. I pray that God will continue to inspire us to live boldly in our love for one another as we follow Jesus.

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

# MULLY

Meet the 'The Father of 12,000 Children'

A Christian movie coming soon to a theater near us!

October 3, 4, 5, 2017 ~ At: Regal Destiny ~ 7pm

"From poverty to wealth, Charles Mully went from rags-to-riches in his native Kenya only to discover God had something much more valuable in store. As an abandoned child, Mully knew the pain of living on the streets with no family to feed, nurture and teach him. He worked hard to overcome these dire circumstances, eventually becoming a millionaire business tycoon. **But that isn't the end of his story.** Mully responded to God's call to help "the least of these" in his own land, and today **more than 12,000 orphans** later, the Mully Children's Family is the largest children's rescue, rehabilitation and development organization in Africa." *Focus on the Family*

*This promises to be a movie worth seeing and perhaps one that a whole group from our church would like to carpool to! Contact the church office for carpool information.*

## 2017 AUCTION REPORT

By: Madelyn Schmidt

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction is over and together with the bake sale and lunch netted about \$5400. In the 25 years of auctions, nearly \$129,000 has been earned for the church general expenses, helping to carry on the work of the church. Thanks to all who have helped in any way to make this happen and especially to the small, but hard working committee.

At the recent wrap-up meeting the need for an auction was discussed. Any decision was tabled until after the first of the next year when we will revisit the church financial situation and decide if there is a need. If so, then we will choose a date and start plans for 2018.

Again, thanks to those who solicited (not a fun task), those who donated, those who attended and bid, and all who helped in any way.

## Need to Contact our Church??

*The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmexico@gmail.com)*

**PLEASE VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE at:**

**[www.mexlumc.com](http://www.mexlumc.com)**

**Please Join Us For:**

*Sunday School at 8:45am. Worship at 10am.  
Children's Church at 10am.*

## OUR CHURCH MISSION...

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