

# *The Messenger*

## *First United Methodist Church of Mexico*

### *September 2017*

From the Pastor...

Beloved,

Every once in a while a sermon insists on being preached more than once. My letter today comes to you as a distillation of the sermon that I preached at Dempster Grove, then again at the Chautauqua Institution just a few days later. God has something really significant to say to you, so I pray that the Spirit will guide my writing and your reading of these words.

*One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'*

Many of you know by now that this is my favorite passage because of how simple it becomes to understand how God wants us to live. (NB: Simple to understand does not mean easy to accomplish. This is hard work!) It all comes down to this: love God wholly, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Love God. Love neighbor.

Even as simple as this is though, something often gets dropped from our interpretation of this passage. There are, in fact, three loves there to be affected: love for God, love for neighbor, and **love for self**. On the whole, we as American Christians are bad at loving ourselves.

We are taught that to love ourselves is to be selfish.

We are taught that love is a limited resource, and we ought to spend all our love on God and others, particularly those for whom we are called to care.

Some of us are even taught that we are not worthy of love at all.

*Continued on page 2...*

## **From the Pastor... Continued from page 1...**

These are all false paradigms. To love oneself is not to be selfish, but to be godly. God loves me, so if I am to be like God then I must love me too. Selfishness is to love oneself **at the exclusion of loving others**, and that can only happen when we believe the second false paradigm.

Love is not a limited resource. In fact, the more love we show to God, self, and others the more receptive we will become to the love others offer. In being so filled by the love of others, we'll then be energized and inspired to offer more love to God, self, and others. As love is given, it is multiplied and returned to us.

Insidious as the first two false paradigms are, it is the last one that makes my heart ache. So many of us have been taught that we are not worthy of love. This is directly antithetical to the teachings of Scripture. God knit you together, you are wonderfully made, God knows every hair on your head, and loves you with a boundless, enormous, unconditional love. This is what the scriptures teach us, and it impacts everything.

How would your life be different if we learned to love ourselves well? We are to love others as ourselves, so loving ourselves ought to be our template for loving others. It follows, then, that we ought to love ourselves well. After all, God says we're worthy; who are we to disagree with God?

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

## **Living the Questions... By: Pastor Emily**

As our children's Sunday School program begins, so will our adult program. "Living the Questions" is the curriculum we'll use, and we'll meet on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45am. According to [livingthequestions.com](http://livingthequestions.com),

*People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer humanity. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.*

*Living the Questions is a source of curriculum and media for both seekers and "church alumni/ae" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Providing a variety of flexible resources, Living the Questions can help people explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.*

Come watch video teachings of pastors and scholars such as Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, Minerva Carcaño, Amy-Jill Levine, and many others. After each video lesson will be a guided group discussion. We begin on September 10.

## IMPORTANT DATES...

- Sept. 3: Worship at Presbyterian Church at 10:00 am.  
Sept. 4: Labor Day  
Sept. 7: Finance Committee meets at 10am.  
Sept. 7: "Since You Asked" Class, 6:30-8pm.  
Sept. 9: Unity Acres Picnic, departing church at 9:30am.  
Sept. 10: Sunday School begins at 8:45am.  
Sept. 10: All-Church Picnic@ Community Park, 1pm  
Sept. 11: Administrative Council meets at 6:30pm.  
Sept. 13: Outreach Committee meets at 6:30pm with Guest Speaker Dan LeClair.  
Sept. 14: "Since You Asked" Class, 6:30am-8pm.  
Sept. 16: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am.  
Sept. 17: Youth Pizza Event, 5-8pm.  
Sept. 18: Trustees Committee meets at 6:30pm.  
Sept. 20: Church Growth meets at 7pm.  
Sept. 21: "Since You Asked" Class, 6:30-8pm.  
Sept. 28: "Since You Asked" Class, 6:30-8pm.  
Sept. 30: Church Conference, at our church, 1pm.

### WORSHIP at the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Sunday, September 3, at 10:00am**

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO...

~ Duane and Sue Morton for hosting a breakfast on their boat, the DelMor, for the UMMen's Club in August.

~ those who volunteer to lead Children's Church during our worship on Sunday mornings.

~ those volunteering as Sunday School teachers in our church this year.

~ missionaries who carry the Gospel around the world, including our Covenant Relationship Missionary Rev. John Calhoun, serving in Kiev, Ukraine.

~ the seamstresses who are faithfully stitching together pillowcase dresses for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry.

## Sunday School News

By Hope Lenhart  
Sunday School Superintendent

The 2017-2018 Sunday School year will commence on September 10, 2017. Sunday School will begin at 8:45 am in the upper room with music and singing. The children will move to their classrooms at 9:00 for lessons and we will reconvene in the common room at 9:40 for our closing prayer. The children and youth will head down to the sanctuary at 9:45 – 9:50 for worship service.

We have some new and exciting things to share with the children! We cannot wait to see you on the 10<sup>th</sup> and begin this year's adventures into the life and ways of Jesus.

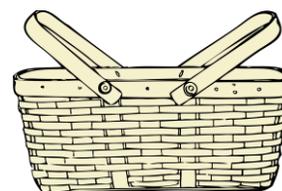


## UMMen's ALL CHURCH PICNIC!!

Sunday, September 10, 2017

1-4 pm at Mexico Community Park

The UMMen's Club will once again sponsor the Annual All Church Picnic for all ages. The men will provide the hotdogs, rolls, drinks, table service, and games. Please bring yourself, your family, a dish to pass, and an appetite. This is a great opportunity to relax and enjoy fellowship.



## **SAVE the CRAYONS!**

*If you have extra crayons, broken crayons, any odds and ends of crayons, A. C. Moore will gladly take them. The crayons then go to THE CRAYON INITIATIVE where they are melted down, and made into brand new crayons for children in children's hospitals. One pound of unwanted crayons is recycled into five new packs of crayons.*

## **UNITY ACRES PICNIC**

**Saturday, September 9, 2017**

*Our church will once again bring a 'picnic' to the 60 plus men who live at Unity Acres – the Catholic work farm in Orwell, NY. All are invited to join in on this mission event. Servers and cooks are needed. If interested, please sign the clipboard as it circulates during worship 9/3/17.*

## **VBS a GRAND SUCCESS!!**

Over 50 children enjoyed an exciting, educational, and fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School at our church in August. Many thanks to all who served as leaders and to all who contributed in this effort to share Jesus with the children!

## **Lake Effect Cooperative Ministries**

By: Marcia Albrecht

**LECM Bell Choir** – We picked November 12th. We will need five rehearsals. Will need five more people. If you are interested, - let Sharon Vollmer at Oswego First know by September 1st.

**The Story** has been postponed indefinitely.

**LECM Harborfest** service had about 130 attendees and raised just under \$500 for the food pantry.

**Laity classes** – Pastor Jeff will be doing one on Worship on September 29 and 30 at Pennellville UMC.

## **SPECIAL GUEST DAN LeCLAIR**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

**Dan LeClair**, Community Empowerment Coordinator: Oswego County Legislator, Chair Human Services Committee, and Ordained Minister, will give a special presentation during the **Outreach Committee meeting** on September 13, at 6:30pm, at our church. Dan will speak on the new:

### **Regional Ecumenical Collaborative**

As described on OC2030.org, “This initiative is designed to enhance collaboration between parishes and communities to create efficiencies of scale and to reduce redundancy. This should also free certain volunteers to fill gaps in services in ways that government is slow or unable to respond to. This is a volunteer and need-based effort that has tremendous promise.”

During his presentation, Dan will explain the initiative and how it works. Will this open more doors for our congregation to collaborate with other churches and the community as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ? Everyone is welcome to attend this special Outreach Committee meeting to learn more.

## District Day Laity Session

Come hear from Rev. Nola Anderson (District Superintendent) as churches throughout the district gear up for autumn. Engage in conversation with peers, share in the blessings of our connectional system, and be in conversation with Rev. Nola about your questions and concerns. The gathering will be September 7th from 7-8:30pm at the United Methodist Conference Center (7481 Henry Clay Blvd.).

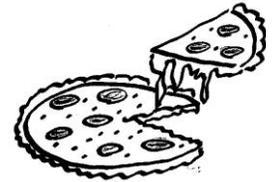
## Church Conference

Each year, every UMC engages in a church conference. The annual event gives opportunity for us to share information about the wellbeing of the church and to vote on important matters of church life. Our church conference will be led by Rev. Nola Anderson (District Superintendent) and will take place on Saturday, **September 30, at 1pm at Mexico First UMC.** All are encouraged to attend.

## YOUTH EVENT!!

All middle and high school youth are invited to a pizza party to kick off the school year. We will eat together, play together (bring your wii-mote and your foosball skills!), and talk about the exciting new shape of the youth program. Parents are encouraged to attend this first event.

Come gather on  
**Sunday,**  
**September 17,**  
**from 5 - 8pm.**



RECIPE CORNER: *This seasonal recipe is from Kenny Tupper, a late member of our congregation.*



### Applesauce Spice Bars

|                        |                        |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 cup applesauce       | 2 ¼ cups flour         | 1/8 teaspoon vanilla |
| 1 cup brown sugar      | 1 teaspoon baking soda | ½ cup raisins        |
| 2/3 cups vegetable oil | 1 teaspoon cinnamon    |                      |

Combine applesauce, brown sugar, and vegetable oil together in saucepan and heat. Set aside. Mix together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, vanilla, and raisins. Add applesauce mixture. Pour in a 9 x 13 pan and bake for 25 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Remove from oven and cool thoroughly before cutting into bars.

**"THE CASE OF THE  
SHOW-STOPPING  
NUN NABBER"**

**Coming soon to a  
church near you! Ours!**

**Save the date:  
October 28, 2017,  
The UMMen's Roast  
Pork Dinner  
and this Show!**

**Do you have a desire  
to act?? Please  
contact Hope Lenhart!**

## Serving in September

### Greeters

Sept. 3: Worship is at the Presbyterian Church.  
Sept 10: Parker Family  
Sept 17: Earl DeLong  
Sept 24:

### Monday's Meal

Sept. 4: No Monday's Meal due to holiday.  
Sept. 11: Connie Day and \_\_\_\_\_  
Sept. 18: Nancy Evale and \_\_\_\_\_  
Sept 25: Rose Ann/Wayne Myers and Jane Backus

### Counters

Connie Day & Christy Hall

### Trash

Terry Grimshaw

*Mark 9:35 "And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."*

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 1- David DeLong  
5- A: Bill & Maggie Palmer  
6- Rose Ann Myers, Maggie Palmer  
A: Duane & Norma Griffin  
8- Brenda Hotchkiss.  
11- Cindy Monson, Nellie Roberts.  
13- A: Grant & Rita DeLong  
16- Gary Day  
18- Linda Fravor, Cindy Ross  
24- Lisa Spencer  
26- Bill Butman  
27- Victoria Ross  
29- Jen Jackson  
30- Zianna Gorton

### AUCTION THANK YOU...

*So many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the Annual Church Auction on August 19. Everyone's efforts, from planning to working to bidding, made for a fun and successful auction raising over \$5,000 for our church's operating expenses.  
Thank you all.*

### 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.mex1umc.com**



### INTENTIONAL FOCUS...

*Hold what needs holding...  
Mend what needs mending.  
Walk what needs walking,  
even though it means an extra mile.  
Pray what needs praying...  
Say what needs saying.  
'Cause we're only here a little while...  
Anonymous*