

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

July 2017

From the Pastor...

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship
and it's all about you, it's all about you, Jesus.*
"Heart of Worship" by Matt Redman

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NRSV)

Beloved, why do we worship together every Sunday morning? Most (if not all) of us could think of about a gazillion other things we could spend an hour or two on every Sunday morning. So why come to church? We each have our own personal reasons for coming to church, but we also know that there are certain trends in the answers people give to this question.

According to a 2007 Gallup poll¹, the most common reason why people attend church is "for spiritual growth and guidance" (23%). Second is that church "keeps me grounded and inspired" (20%), and the third reason people gave is, "it's my faith" (15%). Fourth on the list was, "to worship God" (15%). There were other reasons that followed.

15% of those polled cited worshipping God as their primary reason for attending worship.
85% did not.

Beloved, I fear we have lost focus. I fear we, like 85% of our peers, have been more concerned with what church does for us than with worshipping God. The Bible tells us that our life (and our worship) should have a different purpose. Every part of our worship service ought to be designed for worshipping God. Of course, there will be secondary benefits that come from worshipping together, but they ought to be just that – secondary. With this in mind, let's look at some of the major components of a typical Sunday service:

- Music – Praising God through music is as ancient as the scriptures themselves (read the Psalms!). To do so is to engage in a rich and vibrant historical tradition that spans most (if not all) cultures.
- Prayer – When we pray together on Sunday mornings, you may notice that our prayers (including the Lord's Prayer) always begin with words of praise for God. Worshipping God is our first priority. Asking for what we need and want (for ourselves and for others) comes secondary to that.
- Scripture and Sermon – Reading God's word together is a way of honoring God, too. We spend time with the people we love, and we listen to them when they communicate with us. Listening deeply to God's message (through scripture *and* through sermon) is a way of declaring through our actions how much we love God.

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- Communion – This practice, instituted by Jesus, is one of the most visceral ways we can connect with God. We hear the liturgy, see the bread and cup, smell their sweet goodness, receive the bread into our hands, and taste grace as it enters into us. It reminds us of the love God has for us and sends us crashing to our knees in humility and wonder at the grace and mercy God gives. Communion is one of the most powerful ways we can connect with God. We come forward for Communion because something deep within our soul wants to be as intimately connected as possible with God. Communion provides enormous spiritual benefits for we who partake, but it is still an act of worship above all.

When we come on Sunday mornings with self-focused expectations, we hold ourselves back from the incredible freedom of doing that which we were created to do. We were made to worship God.

You and I were made to worship, you and I are called to love...
“Made to Worship” by Chris Tomlin

I'll see you on Sunday, when we'll worship God together.

For God's glory,
Pastor Emily

¹ <http://www.gallup.com/poll/27124/just-why-americans-attend-church.aspx>

IMPORTANT DATES

July 2: Presbyterians will join us in worship.
July 4: Happy Birthday America!
July 10: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
July 13: Finance Committee Meeting, 6pm
July 16: Parsonage Walkthrough for Trustees, 1pm
July 16: Parsonage Open House for all, 2pm
July 18: Lake Effect Cooperative Ministries Meeting, at our Church, 6:30pm
July 22: Unity Acres Picnic
July 28: Food Sense Distribution, 12pm-2pm
July 30: Harborfest Worship Service, Oswego, 9am
July 30: 12:00-2:00 Children's Ministry meeting

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

Lydia Becker
Riley Bolton
Alex Linerode
Emily Miller
Rachel Monson
Todd Rector
Victoria Ross
Becca Saya
Madison Sheets
Bryceann Williams



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- ~ **Jennifer Jackson**, left, who was baptized and became a church member.
- ~ **Scott Jackson**, center left, who became a church member.
- ~ **Lori Giverson**, center right, who became a church member.
- ~ **Jacob Becker**, right, who was confirmed in the church.

These joyous events took place during the worship service on Sunday, June 4, 2017.



Making
a
Joyful
Noise
Unto
the
Lord!



Our teachers and youth singing during worship on:
Father's Day, June 18, 2017.

Our Sunday School Children singing during worship on:
Children's Sunday, June 25, 2017

Need to Contact our Church??



The phone is: 315-963-3066.

The email address is: fumcmexico@verizon.net

VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE at: www.mex1umc.co



Children's Ministries Meeting

As we gear up for Vacation Bible School and (later) the start of a new school year, Pastor Emily will be hosting a time of conversation regarding children's ministries. All who are connected with VBS, Children's Church, Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group are encouraged to attend. The conversation will be held on **Sunday, July 30, from 12-2pm.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MAKER FUN FACTORY VBS!!!

August 7-11, 2017 ~ 9 – 11:30am

Music...Fun...Games...Crafts

and Fun!!!



"Since You Asked"

By: Pastor Emily Huyge



When I was in middle school I was notorious for challenging my Sunday School teacher with some intense theological questions. What comes around, goes around and now I find myself intellectually and spiritually challenged by some of the questions you've been bringing to me. During the month of September, I'll be taking on the challenge during a series called, "Since You Asked." You'll submit questions and topics of interest to me in writing or via email, and I'll do my best to address as many as I can during the series. We'll meet every Thursday evening in September from 6:30-8pm.

Wanna dip your toe in the water before you put this on your calendar? Come to the series Preview Night on Thursday, August 3 at 6:30pm. The topic that night will be Heaven.



MANY THANKS

You may notice that our church parking lot has been repaired. And... the sidewalk on the north side of the church has been repaved. Thank you to the Trustees Committee for having this work done.

CHURCH MISSION:

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

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REVIEW...

**What, some may ask, has the Outreach Committee been up to of late?
The answer? A great deal.**

- ~ In January – socks, underwear, and cat litter were delivered to **Unity Acres**, the Catholic Work Farm for men in need of a home in Orwell, NY.
- ~ Two Sunday meals were served at **Brown Memorial UMC** in Syracuse, feeding nearly 100 people each time.
- ~ Funds have been sent to support our **Covenant Relationship Missionary Rev. John Calhoun** in Ukraine.
- ~ The **Annual Attic Treasure Sale** was held, netting \$1,679.50 for mission work.
- ~ The committee directed \$500 to **Dawn LaFlamm** for postage to ship children's books to the library/book mobile in **Africa**.
- ~ A financial gift of \$200 was donated to **Aaron and Katy Lighthall** for their recent mission trip to **Africa**.
- ~ On behalf of the church (ark banks), a donation of \$850 was sent to **Heifer Project International** to provide livestock for families in need of food around the world. This was matched dollar for dollar at Heifer.
- ~ Items are continually collected throughout the year to fill **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** for children in orphanages, refugee camps, war torn areas, and such places around the world – spreading hope in Jesus Christ. (July collection items are: cups, bottles for drinking water, and anything on sale.)
- ~ In mid-June, Outreach participated in the **Community Yard Sales** with a sale/ bake sale/ ice cream sundae sale and raised over \$700 for mission work. The Outreach Committee wishes to thank all for their donations, both items and baked goods to be sold.
- ~ On July 22, Outreach will lead our congregation members to **Unity Acres** to bring the men a summer meal complete with hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad, and more.

All said, the Outreach Committee is an active committee, happily serving the Lord in a number of ways. The next meeting is July 12, 2017, at 6:30pm. If you would like to join in, please consider this an invitation. Many thanks to everyone in the congregation for the many ways in which the committee is supported.



"IT WAS A WONDERFUL CONCERT"

Last summer Dana Huyge donated his musical talents to be sold at the Annual Church Auction as a concert. On Sunday, June 4, 2017, Dana "made good" on his donation, with a wonderful viola concert to which he added his vocal talent with some Aaron Copland pieces. Our many thanks to Dana for sharing. Gratitude is extended to Susan Dawson as well, as she accompanied Dana during certain points in the concert.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU TO...

~ Dotty Parker and Mary Smith who collectively made over 20 beautiful "prayer pockets" which will be handed out to attendees at the Harborfest Worship Service, July 30, at 9am. These cloth or plastic crafted "pockets" will contain a written prayer. All the churches in the Lake Effect Co-operative Ministries were asked to make a quantity of pockets.

~ the Trustees for "seeing to it" that a new light was installed in the ladies' bathroom. Also noticeable smoothness in the back parking lot.

THE 25TH ANNUAL AUCTION

For 24 years we have had an annual church auction, making this our 25th!! Nearly every year our auctions have raised more money than the previous one. The proceeds go to the general fund and enable us to pay our end of the year bills, including Ministry Shares. This year's auction is scheduled for August 19th, so mark your calendars! The silent auction runs from 9am – 9:45 am, followed by the "live" auction with auctioneer Jeff Gibbs. We will have over 150 items, plus the "Mystery Boxes". We invite you to support our efforts by donating something to be offered at the auction and coming to bid and buy. Also, there will be a bake sale and lunch available. We hope to see you there! Thank you, Madelyn Schmidt

Auction Chairperson

RECIPE CORNER:

Sue Morton shares her favorite go-to recipe with us this month. This is a perfect recipe to serve as a side-dish on hot summer days, and an easy one to bring along on picnics. Thanks Sue!

COPPER COINS---Marinated Carrots

2 lbs. carrots	½ cup oil
1 large onion	¾ cup vinegar
1 green pepper	1 tsp salt
1 (10 oz.) can tomato soup	¼ tsp dill weed
1 ¼ cup sugar	1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce
¼ tsp. pepper	

Cut carrots into julienne strips-or circles. Cook in small amount of water until barely tender; drain and cool. Slice onion thinly and cut pepper into strips. Combine with carrots. Mix the remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Pour over carrots, onions, and pepper. Chill.



SERVING in JULY

GREETERS:

July 2: Jen&Katie Spaulding & Millie Murray
9: Connie Day & Jewel Fultz
16: John & Carol Aldrich
23: Sparky & Mary beth
30: Jeff & Carol DeLong

MONDAY'S MEAL:

July 3: Connie Day & Barb Lindovski
10: Myers
17: Nancy Evale
24:
31:

COFFEE HOUR:

July: Muriel DeLong and Volunteers.

COUNTERS:

Cindy Ross and Rita DeLong

TRASH COLLECTION: Jeremy Spencer

Lake Effective Cooperative Ministries News

Tuesday, July 18th – FUMC hosting LECM meeting at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 30th - Harborfest Sunday Service - “Together in Prayer: Trusting that God is Enough”, Rev. Aaron Bowman. Oswego First UMC Praise Band will provide music. LECM will distribute Prayer Pockets to all attendees. These prayer pockets were knit, crocheted, sewn or cross-stitched by members of LECM churches including ours. Many thanks to Mary Smith and Dotty Parker for their beautiful contributions to this effort. The worship service will be at 9:00 in the Children's tent, West Park, Oswego.

Sunday, August 27th, 1:30-6:30 - LECM SUMMER PROGRESSIVE PICNIC

1:30 – Appetizers at Pennellville

2:30 – Salads at Palermo

3:30 – Corn on the cob and salt potatoes at Mexico

4:30 – Burgers and hot dogs at Lycoming or New Haven

5:30 – Desserts at Journey of Faith, Oswego

Please see Marcia Albrecht or Pastor Emily for details and reservations

Upcoming in September (date TBD) – “The Story” – directed by Pastor Brandin Greco

Ongoing – Collection of Welcome Kits for Migrant Workers: The kit contains: washcloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, pocket comb, Dial antibacterial bar soap and a note of welcome or encouragement. All goes into a zip lock bag. Donations of these kits are welcome anytime and perhaps could be a service project for some of our church groups.

Submitted by: LECM Lay Representative Marcia Albrecht

NOTABLE QUOTES...

“The Ten Commandments flow out of how we were designed, who we were meant to be. That’s why we don’t so much break them as we break ourselves when we violate them.”

Soul Keeping, By: John Ortberg

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“Pray like it all depends on God, but work like it all depends on you.”

**Dave Ramsey**  
Financial Peace University

### THANKFUL to be an AMERICAN

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”*

--Thomas Jefferson



## **WORDS from OUR COVENANT RELATIONSHIP MISSIONARY**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings and peace to you all! I pray that you are well, and that this season of Easter has been a blessing to you and your loved ones.

As I have shared with you in the past, the conflict that began in eastern Ukraine in early 2014 continues to this day. Armed rebel groups in that region, supported by the Russian military, engage in daily battle with Ukrainian armed forces. Casualties are reported nearly every day, and since the conflict began, approximately 10,000 lives have been lost.

Earlier this month, the episcopal leader of the United Methodist Church in Eurasia, Bishop Eduard Khegay, called together pastors and lay leaders from United Methodist congregations in both Russia and Ukraine for a "peace dialogue." Held in Lithuania, this dialogue was intended to bring together brothers and sisters of faith for a time of reflection, prayer, sharing of stories, and developing a strategy for empowering United Methodists in this region to be agents of peace and reconciliation in a time of conflict.

It was my privilege to attend this gathering as an observer, and to be asked to write an article about the dialogue. This article has now been published on the website of the UMC of Eurasia, along with photos and a video in English. I invite to you to read the article and see the accompanying media by following this link:

<http://www.umc-eurasia.ru/en/united-methodist-church-eurasia-holds-ukrainian-russian-peace-dialogue>

I thank you for your prayerful support of the United Methodist Church in Ukraine and Russia, and your commitment to mission service. May God grant peace to those living in conflict, and courage to us all to serve as peacemakers.

Yours in Christ,

John

Rev. John Calhoun, Coordinator of International Ministries, Kyiv, Ukraine, Global Ministries,  
The United Methodist Church

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

July 1 - Jean Irwin

2- Joanne Barnes, Mildred Murray

3- Chase Parker

4- Paul Vautrin

5- Patricia Smith

7- Doug Irwin

A: Earl & Muriel DeLong

9- Bill Lindovski

10- Linda Robinson, Sarah Huyge

11- Joan Rouse

A. Mike and Kelly Freihofer

13- Terry Grimshaw, and Wayne Weber

14- Doanne Hurlbut

16- A: Skip & Christy Hall

July 19- Jonita Greenhouse, Karen Grimshaw,  
Jeannette Spicer

20- Robert Halstead, Barbara Lighthall,  
and David Coonrod

A: Chuck & Jessica Parker

21- Alyssa Ross, Andrea Ross, and Rev. Joe  
Wallace

22- Don Field. A: Jeremy & Lisa Spencer

23- Bill Herrington, Madelyn Schmidt, Jim Smith

24- Pastor Emily Huyge

25- David Hurlbut. A: Rich & Jeanne Revette

28- A: James & Carol Watros

29- Kaitlyn Linerode, Dan Miller, and Matt Miller

31- Skip Hall

## **Committees and Teams: Current Members**

*Below is a list of many of the volunteers who see to the business, programs, and ministries of the church. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please talk with Pastor Emily or a member of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to bring them to any member of the committee responsible for that area of church life.*

### **Administrative Council**

Chair: Hope Lenhart

Current Members: representatives from all committees and ministry teams within the church as well as the following members at large: Carol Aldrich, Phil Kugler, Madelyn Schmidt, John Aldrich, Connie Ellison, Barbara Lighthall.

### **Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development**

Chair: Pastor Emily

Current Members: Linda Fravor, Phil Kugler, Nancy Murray, Mike Freihofer, Diane Tupper, Rita DeLong, Alicia Weber, Angela LaBoda.

### **Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee**

Co-Chairs: Phil Kugler and Terry Grimshaw

Current Members: Phil Kugler, Terry Grimshaw, Jean Irwin, Chuck Parker, Christy Hall, David Hubbard, Marilyn Marks, Hope Lenhart, Lisa Spencer, Judy Farr, Lori Giverson.

### **Trustees**

Chair: Marty Smith

Current Members: Mary Grants, Mary Mack, Tom Farr, Alan LaBoda, Had Fravor, Marty Smith, Linda Fravor, Jeff DeLong, Jeff Sherman.

### **Finance Committee**

Chairperson: RoseAnn Myers

Current Members: representatives from committees and ministry teams, Leslie Sherman (Financial Secretary), Lori Behling (Treasurer), Mike Freihofer (member at large), John Aldrich (member at large).

**Membership Committee:** Lori Behling, Linda Fravor, Rev. Emily Huyge.

**Memorial Committee:** Marcia Albrecht, Marjorie Perth, Kathy Rose

**Outreach/Mission Committee:** Lori Behling (chairperson), Kelly Freihofer, Christy Hall, Angela LaBoda, Barbara Lindovski, Sue Morton, RoseAnn Myers, Kathy Rose, Diane Tupper, Carol Watros, Alicia Weber.

**Sexual Harassment Contact Persons:** Connie Main and Rick Sherman.

**Specialty Auction Committee:** Connie Day, Sue Morton, Madelyn Schmidt (chair), Diane Tupper, RoseAnn Myers, Barbara Lighthall, Kathy Rose, Lori Behling, Joan Rouse, Elaine DeLong, Nancy O. Smith, and Ellen Nurse

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### **Committees and Teams: Current Members**

**Worship Committee:** Marcia Albrecht (co-lay leader), Connie Ellison, Linda Fravor (chairperson), Christy Hall, Carolyn Hiler, Rev. Emily Huyge, Phil Kugler, Connie Main, RoseAnn Myers, Chuck Parker (co-lay leader), Ellen Nurse, Barb Lindovski, Mary Grants.

**Visitation Coordinator:** Sue Morton.

**Newsletter Coordinators:** Kelly Freihofer, Jessica Parker, and Sue Morton.

**Pray Chain Coordinator:** Flora Kugler.

**Memorial Luncheon Coordinator:** Flora Kugler.

**Children's Church Coordinator:** Flora Kugler.

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Hope Lenhart.

**Webmaster/Tech Advisor:** Chuck Parker (webmaster), Marty Smith (sound technician).

**Native American Ministry Local Church Representative:** Carol Watros.

**LECM Lay Representative:** Marcia Albrecht.

**Investment Committee (Buck Fund):** Duane Morton, Andy Ross, Doug Irwin, Mike Freihofer.

**Growth and Evangelism Team:** Kelly Freihofer, Sue Morton, Mike Freihofer, Flora Kugler, Phil Kugler, Madelyn Schmidt, Connie Ellison, Jessica Parker, Carol Aldrich.

### **ANNUAL UNITY ACRES COOKOUT**

Looking for a place to serve? The Annual Unity Acres Cookout is an excellent opportunity to give of your time and energy in mission work.

The date is Saturday, July 22, 2017. The time is 9:30am – approximately 2pm. The work includes preparation, cooking, and serving for the men who make their home at the Catholic Work Farm in Orwell, NY. Watch for a clipboard coming soon!!