

The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
May 2017
From the Pastor ...

Beloved,

It might seem as though you've been hearing a lot lately about forgiveness. The Lenten study this year was focused on the topic of forgiveness, and we're getting ready to welcome Margaret Keyser on May 6 as she leads us in learning to forgive. I urge you to come and to invite others to come as well. (This is a great opportunity, too, to invite a friend to experience our church in a meaningful way.) In preparation for our gathering though, allow me to walk you through the fourfold path of forgiving as laid out by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu.

1. **Tell the story.** The first step to breaking the chains of resentment is to say out loud what it was that hurt us. In a best-case scenario, we'd be able to tell your story to the one who you seek to forgive. If that's not an option, we might seek out a trusted friend or family member or a professional like a therapist or (wink, wink) pastor.
2. **Name the hurt.** For many of us, this is one of the hardest things to do. We are called upon here to verbalize the way we feel. Procedurally, it would follow the first step, likely in the same conversation.
3. **Grant forgiveness.** This is the point at which we (through much prayer) can find release. Recognizing our common humanity is one of the greatest ways to do this. If we begin with the understanding that every person (including the one who has harmed us) is a beloved child of God, we can get well on our way.
4. **Renew or release the relationship.** When we have truly forgiven the one who harmed us, we would be faced with the option to either renew the relationship or to release it.

Breaking the chains of anger, fear, and resentment will bring us further along the path toward shalom. The more fully we can live into the freedom Christ offers, the more joy and peace we'll have. If you have any questions or want to know more, please reach out to me and/or read "The Book of Forgiving" by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. May you be blessed on the journey.

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

IMPORTANT DATES...

May 1: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
May 2: Financial Peace University, 6:30-8pm
May 4: Finance Team Meeting, 10am
May 4: National Day of Prayer
May 5: First Auction Committee Meeting, 10am
May 6: Financial Peace University, 10am
May 6: Forgiveness Workshop with
Margaret Keyser, 1-5pm
Mar 7: Worship with Guest Speaker Margaret Keyser
May 9: Financial Peace University, 6:30-8pm
May 13: Financial Peace University, 10-11:30am
May 14: Happy Mother's Day!
May 15: Church Growth Evangelism Meeting, 6:30pm
May 16: Financial Peace University, 6:30-8pm
May 20: Financial Peace University, 10-11:30am
May 23: Financial Peace University, 6:30-8pm
May 26: FoodSense Distribution, Noon-2pm
May 27: Blood Drive, 8am
May 27: Financial Peace University, 10-11:30am
May 29: Memorial Day
May 30: Financial Peace University, 6:30-8pm



Thank You to...

~ Mary Loysen for again sponsoring this month's issue of The Messenger.

~ Members of the church choir who add so much to our worship services.

Want Forgiveness??

By: Pastor Emily

Really, who doesn't? Whether we need to find forgiveness to offer another or are looking for forgiveness for ourselves (or both!), we all would do well to learn the art of forgiveness. To this end, I encourage you to mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 6**. We are thrilled to offer a presentation and workshop on forgiveness, led by Margaret Keyser.

Margaret Keyser has been working in conflict resolution and transformation for more than 20 years. Her work in this area began in South Africa, her native land, where she worked in the anti-apartheid struggle, in grassroots conflict-transformation movements, and in the Truth and Reconciliation process called forth by Nelson Mandela (<http://www.transformingconflicts.org/>). I (Pastor Emily) have personally worked with Margaret in another context and can attest that she is a brilliant and engaging speaker with an incredible story and this wisdom that comes from a life full of extraordinary experiences. To have her here with us is an amazing opportunity.

This event is open to all people, both within and without the First UMC faith community. We encourage you to invite friends and family. Details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2017

Time: 1pm-5pm (Registration begins at 12:30pm)

Cost: Suggested donation of \$15 per person.

To Register: Contact the church office at 315-963-3066.



The Soup Goes On...

Please stop by Monday's Meal and enjoy a bowl of soup served from the new soup pots. These new soup pots came from Maine's Grocery Store. Whenever the Maine's shopper card is used for our church or by a church member, our church earns money back. Monday's Meal was able to purchase the new pots with the last 'money back' check. If you would like a card to earn 'money back' for Monday's Meal when you shop at Maine's, please see Lori Behling or Barb Lindovski.

Also, Monday's Meal is in need of dishwashers. If you are able and available please let the folks at Monday's Meal. Pictured: Wayne & RoseAnn Myers, Lori Behling, Mary Grants, and Barb Lindovski. Jane Backus is in the back.

SERMON SERIES...

May 7:	Repent	Acts 2:42-47	Margaret Keyser joins Pastor Emily in leading worship
May 14:	Community in Christ	John 14:1-14	Mother's Day Festival of the Christian Home
May 21:	Stay Rooted	John 14:15-21	Heritage Sunday
May 28:	Fly to Jesus	Luke 24:44-53	Ascension Sunday
June 4:	Receive the Spirit	Acts 2:1-21	Pentecost and Confirmation



Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 2- Connor Revette
4- Kathy Rose
5- Duane Morton, Everette Robinson
7- Hope Lenhart
10- Aaron and Eric Albrecht
13- David Hubbard
17- Sharon Anderson
18- Jim Barbur, Marybeth Turo
20- Dana New
23- A: Connie & Gary Day
24- A: Niles & Jonita Greenhouse
25- A: Richard & Leslie Sherman
27- Alex Linerode
 A: Jim & Brenda Hotchkiss
28- Rebecca Hall
29- Leslie Sherman, Sparky Rector
30- A: David & Marlea Munger
31- Jane Hollister, Cooper Sheldon
 A: Gary & Gail Hurlbut

A THANK YOU...

Dear Sue and Church Family,

I would like to thank you for the beautiful kitty quilt. I truly love it and appreciate the time it took to make it. Also I would like to thank you for the Monday's Meals and your love and support during my knee surgery and recovery. Yours, and the support from the entire church, with cards and telephone calls, has been a true blessing.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Nancy R. Murray
(As written to Sue Morton, Visitation Committee.)

SERVING in MAY...

GREETERS:

5/7: Marty Smith & Lori Giverson
5/14: Grant & Rita DeLong
5/21: Had & Linda Fravor
5/28: Grace Shetler & Sarah Huyge

COUNTERS:

Mary Smith & Barb Lindovski

COFFEE HOUR:

5/7: Muriel DeLong and Helpers
5/14: Muriel DeLong and Helpers
5/21: Muriel DeLong and Helpers
5/28: Muriel DeLong and Helpers

MONDAY'S MEAL

5/1: Lori Behling and Connie Day
5/8: Kathy Stock
5/15: Jane Backus
5/22: RoseAnn & Wayne Myers
5/29: Memorial Day – No Monday's Meal

TRASH DUTY

Andy Ross

Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2017 Easter Letter from our Covenant Relationship Missionary

Dear Friends in Christ,

I wish you and your loved ones a Happy Easter. May the joy of the resurrection fill your hearts and minds with a spirit of thanksgiving and praise, as together we glorify God for Christ's victory over sin and death. As our Christian friends here in Ukraine say, "*Христос воскрес! Во истину воскрес!*" Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Unlike most years, in 2017 the observance of Easter in the Orthodox and Western church traditions falls on the same day. So on Sunday, all across Ukraine, believers of all denominations—Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant—celebrated the holy day of Christ's resurrection.

Here in Kyiv, our United Methodist community celebrated these most holy days of the Christian year with two special worship services. On Maundy Thursday, members of our English-language student group joined with the Russian-speaking United Methodist congregation for a very solemn service of worship. As one body, we sang hymns of praise, listened to the reading of Scripture, and reflected upon Jesus' sacrifice for us as we celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion.

And then on Easter Sunday, the entire United Methodist community—Ukrainian families, international students from Africa, and other guests and visitors—joined as one for a festive celebration to welcome the risen Christ. Following worship, the community gathered around a *трапеза* ("trapeza"), or long table, to share a meal and enjoy fellowship. The ritual of the Easter "trapeza" comes from monastic times, when holy brothers would emerge from their solitude to break bread with fellow Christians.

In addition to these sacred celebrations, the people of Ukraine also embrace the more secular traditions of this Easter season. One beloved tradition, also marked in other societies around the world, is the painting and displaying of Easter eggs, or *писанки* ("pysanki"). Here in Kyiv, in St. Sophia's Square, the very heart of the historic district, hundreds of large painted wooden eggs have been placed in metal stands. Decorated by a cross-section of city residents—from renowned artists to ordinary school children—these "pysanki" serve as a reminder of this season of new birth in a joyful and whimsical spirit.

The people of Ukraine take courage and hope in this season of resurrection. It is a much-needed balm, as war continues in the east of the country, and political and economic turmoil create havoc and uncertainty in the daily lives of citizens across Ukraine. I ask you to continue to keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers, that the conflict would end and that all those many lives broken by war and suffering would find healing.

And I also ask you to pray for our growing ministry with international students here in Kyiv. Each Sunday, we gather together for a time of Bible study and fellowship, before joining the Ukrainian United Methodist congregation for worship. On the first Sunday of every month, I lead a service of Holy Communion in English, where students and young adults gather to worship God, offer prayers, and sing songs of praise in their native language. And throughout the week, I provide pastoral care and counseling to the student community, and make home and hospital visits to those in need.

I give thanks to God for our developing ministry in Kyiv, and for the opportunity to represent you in this ministry, as a missionary of the United Methodist Church.

May God bless you in this season of Easter!

Yours in Christ,
John

OUR CHURCH MISSION

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

SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 19, 2017

By: Madelyn Schmidt

This year will be our 25th Annual Auction. In those past 24 years we have raised over \$123,000. It would be wonderful if each year's earnings could be used for special projects, such as missions, but alas each year it's needed to just plain pay bills.

We have a dedicated, hardworking committee, plus the help of many of you, your donated items and your coming to the auction to bid. If you can help this year, even a little, please let myself, Madelyn, (315) 963-3646 or Barb Lighthall (315) 297-5410 know.

Last year we made (including some cash donations) over \$8000. We can be most hopeful that this year will be close to the same.

The next three months will speed by, so please help if you can. The next meeting of the committee is Friday, May 5th at 10 a.m. Thank you very much.

First UMC is Live!

We are excited to be streaming our worship services every Sunday morning via **Facebook Live!** (Videos are posted to our **Facebook** page after the service and can be watched anytime.)

How to Watch:

1. Sign up for a **Facebook** account if you don't already have one.
 - a. Go to www.facebook.com.
 - b. Follow the prompts under "Create a New Account". (If you are uncomfortable giving out personal information, contact the church office to discuss other ways to watch.)

If you do have a FB account, sign in and go to www.facebook.com/fumcmexico.

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

Please Join Us For:

Sunday School at: 8:45am. Worship at: 10am.

Children's Church at 10am



*Ladies,
Shall we
wear
bonnets
on
Mother's
Day, May
14th?
Sure. Why
not?*