

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

Beloved,

As in any other vocation, you might imagine that there is much happening behind the scenes to bring you the worship experience you participate in on Sunday mornings. In addition to preparing the sanctuary, the bulletins, the PowerPoints (what you see on the screen), and the music we are also often considering where we are in the liturgical seasons. Liturgical seasons have a lot to do with what we're planning for much of the year, and that is especially true now as we find ourselves in the middle of one of the most critical seasons in the church. So what are liturgical seasons?

The liturgical seasons are the periods we cycle through on an annual basis as we celebrate the events that make us who we are as Christians. Each liturgical year begins on the first day of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. We start our Christian year by remembering the spiritual darkness in which the world dwelt before Christ, and by preparing our own darkened hearts to receive the nascent light of the world. We continue through the Christmas season and move toward Lent (marking other parts of the story along the way). In many ways, Lent parallels Advent. It, too, is a season of preparation. We lean into the coming darkness, made complete at Christ's death. We prepare ourselves for that Godburst of light that we celebrate three days later, on Easter morning. We remember again that darkness is never forever, that Light will overcome darkness every time, and that we have reason for hope and joy. After Easter we make our way to Pentecost. We celebrate the birth of the first Christian communities and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We spend much of the rest of the year remembering who and whose we are in Christ, until we begin anew the following Advent.

This liturgical calendar is important because it moves our study and spiritual disciplines along a cyclical path, thereby preventing us from forgetting (for too long) any part of who we are as disciples of Jesus. But in our observance of the calendar, something always seems to be missing. We rarely honor the fullness of Holy Week as it leads us into the miracle of Easter. We are quick to jump to the story of the resurrection without ever having observed the Crucifixion and all that led to this ultimate tragedy – a tragedy which made possible the greatest miracle of all time.

And as I do some of the background work of preparing for Holy Week, this leaves me with a bit of a quandary. Ought I to spend the Sunday before Easter observing all the rich stories of Holy Week within the hour or so of our service? Or will you join me in marking those critical events, either in worship with community or by reading the relevant scriptures at home? You will find in this newsletter a chart designed to help you observe Holy Week. I trust that you will join me in observing the holiest of weeks in the Christian year. It is only because Christ was crucified that he was able to rise.

Thanks be to Jesus for all he has done.

Peace,
Pastor Emily

IMPORTANT DATES

April 3: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
 April 6: Finance Team Meeting, 10am
 April 6: Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
 April 10: Church Growth/Evangelism Team Meeting, 6:30pm.
 April 11: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm
 April 13: Maundy Thursday Service, FUMC, 7pm
 April 14: Good Friday Service at North Mexico Union Church, 7pm
 April 15: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, FUMC, 8:30am
 April 16: Easter Sunrise Service, First Presbyterian, 8am
 April 16: Easter Sunday Service, FUMC, 10am
 April 21: Friday Morning Study Group at Mary Mack's, 10am
 April 28: Food Sense Distribution, Noon – 2pm
 April 28: Set up for Attic Treasure Sale, 2pm
 April 28: 30 Famine for Youth, begins at 3pm and ends at 9pm April 29.
 April 28: Movie Night, 6pm
 April 29: Attic Treasure Sale, 9am-3pm
 April 29: Financial Peace University, 10am – 11:30am.

THANK YOU TO...

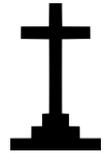
~ Elaine DeLong for tending our church sign.
 ~ Kevin Dano for playing the bagpipes during worship church on March 5.
 ~ All who cooked and served for the Brown Memorial United Methodist Church meal on Sunday, March 26.
 ~ Mary Loysen for sponsoring the cost of mailing this issue of the newsletter.
 ~ The three to four folks who faithfully make coffee hour happen each week.

CELEBRATING BIRTH!!

Quinn Avery DeLong
 Born: February 26, 2017

Daughter of:
 Andrew & Kelly DeLong
 Granddaughter of:
 Grant and Rita DeLong

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>
APRIL 9	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	10am	<i>First United Methodist Church</i>
April 13	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7pm	<i>FUMC (Presbyterian as guests)</i>
April 14	<i>Good Friday</i>	7pm	<i>North Mexico Union Church (Led by MACS Clergy Association)</i>
April 16	<i>Easter Sunrise</i>	8am	<i>First Presbyterian Church</i>
	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	8:30-9:30am	<i>First Presbyterian Church</i>
	<i>Easter Service</i>	10am	<i>First United Methodist Church</i>

ANNUAL ATTIC TREASURE SALE!!

The outreach committee is having their annual attic treasure sale on:

Saturday, April 29th from 9 am to 3 pm in the fellowship hall.

Any donations may be dropped off between 12 noon and 5pm on April 28th. This year we prefer that: No clothes (except children's gently used to size 12). No computers, printers, technical or text books, TVs (unless flat screen). We are sorry, but we have no place to send these items if not sold and disposal is difficult or costly. Thank you for your understanding.

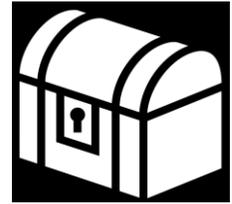
Special Note:

All proceeds from the sale go to missions. Thank you.

ANNUAL BAKE SALE!!

Bakers: We welcome your baked goods!

Buyers: We'll have delicious baked goods for you to purchase!



Are you completely happy with your finances?



How would it feel to be in total control of your money?

How might your life change if you were completely debt-free?

What if you had such financial stability that you could weather any storm that might come?

Do you want to do away with financial stress and find financial peace?



Jesus taught more about personal finance than about nearly any other topic, and it's no wonder. God knows the impact that finances have on our overall well-being. As our finances become more stable we find ourselves less stressed and more capable of extravagant generosity. Even John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, echoed this truth. He practiced what he preached, and his message was clear: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.

These are the truths on which leading financial expert **Dave Ramsey** has built his program called **Financial Peace University**. FPU is a 9-week course that more than 4.5 million people have already taken. On average, individuals or couples who take FPU save \$2,700 and pay off \$5,300 of debt in the first 90 days. That's an \$8,000 change in position in just the first three months!

Here's the most exciting part: Financial Peace University is coming right here, to FUMC! This is a great opportunity for you (and your spouse, if applicable) to join the class. It also presents a unique opportunity for inviting a friend to get to know the church by attending the classes. Please see the details below, and mark your calendar accordingly.

Dates: every Saturday, April 29 – June 24 and every Tuesday, May 2 – June 27

Time: 10:00-11:30am on Saturdays and 6:30-8:00pm on Tuesdays

Cost: \$93 per household (couples are strongly encouraged to do the class together).

To Register Online: Go to www.daveramsey.com. Under "Classes" click on "Financial Peace University". Click on "Find a Class Now" and select "With a Group". Put in the church's zip code (13114) and select "First United Methodist Church". *If registering online is not an option for you, please contact the church office for assistance.*

Other Info: The classes will run parallel to each other (i.e. content on April 29 will be the same as on May 2). Childcare and refreshments will be provided at the Saturday sessions at no extra cost. If the \$93 fee is too costly, please contact Pastor Emily. Assistance is available.

HOLY WEEK READINGS

Palm Sunday, April 9:

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Monday, April 10:

Isaiah 42:1-7 Psalms 36:5-11

Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 11:

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalms 71:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 12:

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalms 70

Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday, April 13:

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 14:

Isaiah 52:13-53 Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 15:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 136:1-9, 23-26 or Ps. 33

Genesis 22:1-18 Psalms 16

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

Romans 6:3-11

Psalms 114 Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Sunday, April 16:

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18 or Mat. 28:1-10

THANK YOU...

I can't thank you enough for all the prayers, cards & help you have shown to Sue & I. What a blessing to have such a wonderful church family. Thank you so much and God bless.

Mary & Sue Loysen

THANK YOU...

THANK YOU. Your service of providing the Sunday afternoon meal at Brown Memorial UMC continues to make a great difference! We are building relationships in our neighborhood and have seen Sunday worship balloon to the mid 50's these past few weeks. We are making connections and touching lives. I was privileged to baptize 4 young people this past Sunday -- a direct result of the community building you are helping with.

Thank you and God bless you for supporting this vital ministry.

BJ Norrix, Lead Pastor
Syracuse United Methodist Churches

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.



Friday Morning Study Group

ALL are welcome beginning:
April 21st at 10 AM

At Mary Mack's, 167 Academy St. #23.

Topic: REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN GOD
This is a seven week study of the HOLY SPIRIT with
videos and discussion.

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

April 3: Barbara Campbell
7: Daniel Hall
9: Marlea Munger, Julie Shulsky
11: Sue Morton
13: Wayne Myers
14: Connie Day, Jacquie Taylor
16: Carolyn Hiler
19: Leeann New
23: A: Jim & Mary Smith
28: Clinton Smith
A: Connie & Bob Ellison

SERVING in APRIL...

GREETERS

April 2: Kathy Rose
April 9: Faith & David Hubbard
April 16: Mary Mack & Jeff Sherman
April 23: Karen & Terry Grimshaw
April 30: Mary Beth Turo & Sparky Rector

COFFEE HOUR

April 2: Muriel DeLong and _____
April 9: Friendship Circle
April 16: Happy Easter NO COFFEE HOUR
April 23: Muriel DeLong and _____
April 30: Muriel DeLong and _____

MONDAY'S MEAL

April 3: Barb Lighthall and _____
April 10: Myers and Shermans
April 17: Kathy Rose and _____
April 24: Mary Grants and Alicia Weber

COUNTERS: Muriel DeLong and Lisa Spencer

TRASH DUTY: Jeremy Spencer

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

Jesus died.

He arose.

He is coming again.

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3

Go Hungry, Feed the Hungry!

By: Pastor Emily

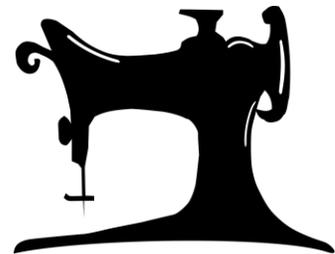
On April 28-29, all youth grades 7-12 are invited to take part in our 2nd annual 30 Hour Famine (sponsored by World Vision). **Participants will go without food for 30 hours** (beginning at school after lunch on Friday and ending at dinnertime Saturday) and will be raising money to help care for those who live in extreme poverty. **Here's how you can help:**

1. Donate money either by giving it to a participant to collect or by donating online at youth.worldvision.org/team/fumcmexico.
2. Encourage any youth you know to join the famine.
3. Volunteer to help out for some or all of the famine. Please contact Pastor Emily if you would like to:
 - a. Lead an activity. This will require just a few hours. All plans and materials for each activity will be provided well in advance.
 - b. Be a chaperone. Chaperones don't need to lead any activities, but serve as an extra adult available to assist as needed. You can chaperone for any or all of the famine.
 - c. Coordinate the meal. When the fast is done, there will be a handful of *very* hungry teens who will be eager for a big dinner. We will need one or two people to make sure dinner is ready at the church at 6:30pm on Saturday, April 29.
 - d. Volunteer to help with the meal. If you choose to do this, your name will be passed along to the coordinator(s), who will contact you with details of how you can help.

Thanks in advance for all your support!

Sewing Circle News...

Ten pillowcase dresses were completed for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry at the March Sewing Circle Workshop. Watch for the date for the next workshop is being planned in April. All who are willing to join the Sewing Circle (no skill required!!), are asked to contact Sue Morton at 315-963-3566. Thank you for helping to clothe 'the least of these...'



OUR CHURCH MISSION

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

SOMETHING to PONDER...

*Today a minister can send a whole sermon around the world
in one-seventh of a second, but it might take him/her years to
force one simple principle through
a quarter-inch of human skull.
"A Laugh a Day!" Hallmark*

Jesus Has Risen!!

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "

Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the eleven and to all the others.

It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. **Luke 24: 1-12**

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.

Easter Season Sermon Series

In my front-page letter I wrote about liturgical seasons. The season that spans from Easter (April 16) to Pentecost (June 4) is called the Easter Season. Throughout Lent (the season leading up to Easter) we have been studying the vows we take when we become baptized or commit ourselves to membership in the church. Throughout the Easter Season we'll continue in this vein with a new series as we explore what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, set out to transform the world. Below you'll find more information on this engaging series. I hope you'll join us in person if you're able, or online via Facebook Live if you're not.

Shalom,
Pastor Emily



Date	Title	Focus Text	Other Info
April 16	Risen Indeed!	Matthew 28:1-10	No Children's Church or Fellowship Hour
April 23	TBA	TBA	Guest preacher – pastor on vacation
April 30	Now What?	Luke 24:13-35 Acts 2:14a, 36-41	none
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

RECIPE CORNER: *This recipe for Southern Coffee Cake by Dorothy Coonrod and can be found in the church cookbook "Treasures from Heaven." It may make a delightful cake for breakfast or brunch on Easter morning. Thanks Dorothy.*

SOUTHERN COFFEE CAKE

1/2 Cup Vegetable Oil

1 pkg. Instant Vanilla Pudding

TOPPING:

1/2 Cup Chopped Nuts

1/2 Cup Granulated Sugar

1 Pkg. White Cake Mix

8 oz. Sour Cream

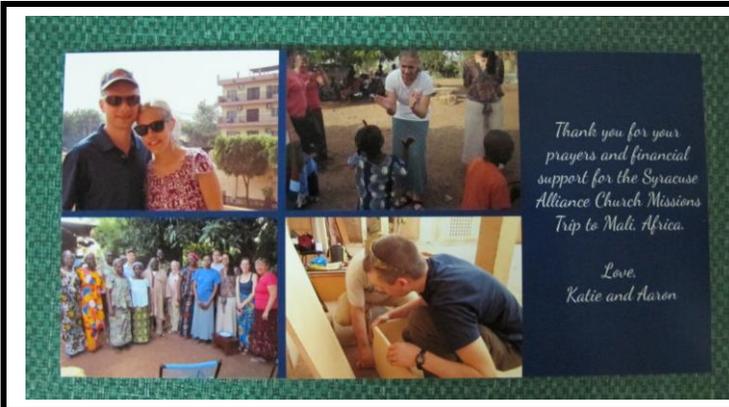
1/4 Cup Brown Sugar

2 teaspoons Cinnamon

4 eggs



Mix first five ingredients. Pour half of the batter in a greased and floured angel food or Bundt pan. Sprinkle 1/2 of the topping on it. Swirl it through with a knife. Add remaining batter and then the topping, again swirling with a knife. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.



THANK YOU...

Through the Outreach Committee, our church sent support for the recent mission trip that Aaron and Katie Albrecht took to Mali, Africa.

The Albrecht's send their thanks with words and photos at left.

ANNUAL CHURCH AUCTION - AUGUST 19, 2017

By: Madelyn Schmidt

Last year's auction (including donations) raised approximately \$8,000, the very most ever.

Was it a fluke or the result of a very hard working committee? Can it happen again? If so, we'll need more workers for our committee. Can you help, even in a small way? If so, give me a call at 315-963-3646.

Our first committee meeting will be Friday, May 5, at 10 am at the church. Not all meetings will be during the day time, if some people prefer evenings. Whatever works.

Incidentally, last year the church budget was running behind - how much? About \$8,000!! Praise God!

OUR CHURCH DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER...

If you would like to receive our Church District Newsletter please send your email address to: crossroadsdistrict@unyum.org.

By subscribing to the newsletter you will be in touch with all the latest happenings in the district!

OUTREACH NOTES...

Are your Heifer Project International ARKS filling up at home? If so, please bring them to church. The Outreach Committee is ready to send the collection in to help provide livestock and more to those in need around the world.

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The Operation Christmas Child collection items for April are: Stuffed animals, hats and mittens.

Thank you for all you do!

RoseAnn Myers



**Looking for a piano??** Connie and Fred Kiesinger are generously contributing their piano to the Attic Treasure Sale. The cost? A donation. Please contact Sue Morton at: 315-963-3566.



## 2017 Easter Flower Remembrances



### IN MEMORY OF.....

Alice Robinson & Earl Munger

Beatrice LaRobardiere

Charles White

David Stone

Donald Lighthall

Grace Grants

Herb & Jean Dunn

Jack Stone

Jerry Nurse

Jodi Vautrin

John Greenway

Karl & Joseph Foltz

Kenny Gregory

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Margie Vautrin

Our Parents

Our Parents

Our Parents

Robert Mack

Russ & Doris Day

### GIVEN BY....

Dave & Marlea Munger

Larry & Donna Woolson

George & Mary Grants

Larry & Donna Woolson

Ed & Barb Lighthall

George & Mary Grants

Dave & Marlea Munger

Larry & Donna Woolson

Ellen Nurse

Paul Vautrin

Ruth Greenway

Gary & Connie Day

Chuck & Jessica Parker

David & Stephanie Martin

Eric & Lori Behling

Jim & Carol Watros

Nancy & Miok Murray

Paul Vautrin

Duane & Sue Morton

Ed & Barb Lighthall

Mike & Kelly Freihofer

Rick & Leslie Sherman

Gary & Connie Day



## 2017 Easter Flower Remembrances



### **IN MEMORY OF.....**

**Sarah White**

**Sean Finney Kugler & Linda Kugler Neely**

**Shirley & Nubby Harmon**

### **GIVEN BY....**

**George & Mary Grants**

**Phil & Flora Kugler**

**Janice Clark**

### **IN HONOR OF....**

**Chase & Ben Parker**

**Family & Friends**

**Jacque Taylor & Shane Rhinehart**

**Jewell Fultz**

**Marge Perth**

**My Grandchildren**

**Otto Freihofer**

**Our Children & Grandchildren**

**Our Families**

### **GIVEN BY....**

**Chuck & Jessica Parker**

**Jim & Carol Watros**

**Gary & Connie Day**

**Gary & Connie Day**

**Elaine DeLong & Family**

**Hope Lenhart**

**Mike & Kelly Freihofer**

**Duane & Sue Morton**

**Rick & Les Sherman**