

*The Messenger*  
*First United Methodist Church of Mexico*  
*March 2017*

*From the Pastor ...*

Beloved,

Lent is a season often misunderstood. When I was a child growing up in the church I committed each year to “give something up” for Lent. Sometimes it was a food that I loved (giving up chocolate was the worst!), sometimes it was a behavior or habit, sometimes it was even a particular TV show. Whatever it was, the practice of self-discipline seemed to have a grip on me. Guilt would surge through me every time I fell off the wagon. Upon successful completion of the season, pride would burst forth from me as I would brag about how committed I had been. Actually, Lent was always about me – a personal challenge to see how strong-willed I could be.

As I grew older, I came to recognize the spiritual significance of the season. I knew that whatever I gave up, I was supposed to replace it with something that would draw me closer to God. Pining for chocolate? Grab an apple instead, but pray before you eat it. About to do that thing you promised not to? Go do something good for someone else. Reaching for the remote? Reach for a Bible instead. I was beginning to understand Lent to be a time of replacing a less-holy act with a more-holy one. I was starting to get the idea – use the season to draw closer to God.

I’m starting to move into a new era of Lenten seasons now, though. The more I spend time in God’s Word and in God’s world, the more I see the depths to which Lent calls us. I am coming to think of Lent as a time of preparation, much like Advent. During Advent, we prepare our hearts again for the indwelling of the Christ-child. We wait, we anticipate, we work to welcome Jesus. During Lent, we prepare our hearts for the death and resurrection of Christ. We acknowledge that when Good Friday comes, we must revisit the terrible story of Jesus’ ultimate act of love and mercy. We use Lent to prepare ourselves – heart, soul, mind, and body – for the sting of death. But we do so with the eager anticipation of a joy even greater than that pain. That glorious day, that miraculous resurrection, that brilliant hope and peace and joy await, just on the other side of the pain of Good Friday.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again, and again, and again as we call to him and draw nearer to him through all our Lenten disciplines.

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

## IMPORTANT DATES...

- March 1: Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm  
At First Presbyterian Church
- March 6: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- March 14: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm
- March 15: Outreach Meeting, 6:30pm
- March 18: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am  
At Mapleview Truck Stop Restaurant
- March 24: Food Sense Distribution, Noon - 2pm
- March 26: Our Church Serves the Meal at Brown  
Memorial Church, Syracuse.
- March 31: Movie Night, 6:30pm

### **Save the Dates...**

- April 29: Annual Attic Treasure Sale.
- June 3: Annual Church Conference, Syracuse.
- June 10: Our Church Dinner Theater
- June 17: Our church will participate in the  
Community-Wide Yard Sale.
- July 22: Our Church Picnic at Unity Acres
- August 19: Annual Church Auction

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

- ~ Elaine DeLong for changing our outside church sign to reflect our activities
- ~ Mary Mack for leading the Friday Morning Bible Study at her home.
- ~ The United Methodist Men's Club for a fun-filled Half-Way Night on February 18, 2017.
- ~ Wayne and Rose Ann Myers who transported the church donations to Unity Acres in Orwell.
- ~ Our prayer warriors amongst us.
- ~ All those who have shoveled snow to make it possible for safe entry into the church.

## CELEBRATING the BIRTH of...

*Nolan James Daniel Crowell*  
Born on February 11, 2017  
To Parents ...  
*Rae Marie Smith & Austin Crowell*

## OUR SYMPATHY TO...

*The Families of...*

*Mogens Hansen*

*June Herrington*

*Thomas Miller*

*Who passed on...*

*Who passed on...*

*Who passed on...*

*January 25, 2017*

*February 5, 2017*

*February 7, 2017*

*"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" Psalm 23:4*

"Oh St. Patrick was a gentleman, who came of decent people;  
He built a church in Dublin town, and on it put a steeple." Henry Bennett

## *Easter Flower Sale*

The flowers will be \$12.00 each. If paying by check, please make it payable to:  
First United Methodist Church of Mexico

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

(and/or)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_



Please mark which flower you would like. Your name will be put on the flower of your choice to be picked up after Easter Sunday.

\_\_\_ Easter Lily

\_\_\_ Tulip

\_\_\_ Hyacinths

Total number of flowers \_\_\_ X \$12 = \_\_\_

Please mail to: PO Box 255 Mexico, NY 13114 or place in the collection plate (please mark your envelope Easter Flowers), by March 26, 2017.

### ***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.mexlume.com](http://www.mexlume.com)**

***Please Join Us For:***

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

### **VISITATION TRAINING CLASS Coming Up...**

On March 11, and March 18, from 9am to noon, a Visitation Training Class will be held at Fulton UMC. The class will be taught by Rev. Vivian Summerville and Rev. Mike Weeden. This will be a basic training class for those who wish to develop a lay visitation/care team to visit those who are homebound, in nursing homes, and hospitals. The training will use the Discipleship Resources Book, Lay Pastoral Care Giving as the training guide. If you are interested in attending these two training classes, please call Pastor Emily or Sue Morton (963-3566), by March 5. This is a great opportunity!

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

March 1- Jeff Beardslee  
2- Bob Linerode  
6- Barb Lindovski  
9- Jenna Behling  
12- Haylee Gibson  
18- Diane Barbur  
20- Benjamin Parker  
22- Alice Nykaza  
24- Dana Huyge  
26- Diane Tupper  
28- Marilyn Marks  
29- Bill DeLong  
30- Mike Freihofer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## **MOVIES of the MONTH!!**

*On the last Friday of every month, a movie will be shown in the fellowship hall. Popcorn will be served and there is no cost to attend! All movies start at 6:30pm.*

**MARCH 31: *Where Hope Grows***

**APRIL 28: *Flywheel***

## **Downsizing? Cleaning? Sorting?**

Save all those treasures for the annual Attic Treasure Sale on April 29, 2017. Items may be dropped off at the fellowship hall April 28, starting at noon. Please no clothes unless vintage or children's.

## **MARCH SHOEBOX COLLECTION ITEM...**

The items being collected for the month of March are **TOOTHBRUSHES**. As of this year, toothpaste is no longer allowed in the shoeboxes. Thank you.

## **SERVING in March...**

### **GREETERS**

Mar. 5: Marilyn Marks  
Mar. 12: Nicki & Kaylynn Kidder  
Mar. 19: Marcia Albrecht & Barb Lighthall  
Mar. 26: Mary Beth & Sparky

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Mar. 5: Mary Grants and Muriel DeLong  
Mar. 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mar. 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mar. 26: \_\_\_\_\_

### **MONDAY'S MEAL**

Mar. 6: Rose Ann Myers and  
Leslie Sherman  
Mar. 13: Jane Backus and  
Leslie Hensen  
Mar. 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mar. 27: \_\_\_\_\_

### **COUNTERS**

All Month:  
Mary Grants and Jennifer Spaulding

### **TRASH DUTY**

Jeremy Spencer

## **THANK YOU ALL!!**



## WHAT IS LENT??

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencen*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

WWW.UMC.ORG

## MONDAY'S MEAL CELEBRATES 7 YEARS!

Our church is celebrating seven years of serving soup at Monday's Meal. Thank you to all who have made this mission possible. Every worker and every donation is appreciated. Thank you!



Cooks and servers are invited to volunteer in the kitchen and dining room. Desserts are always welcome. If interested, please contact Barb Lindovski at 315-963-3510 or 315-956-5059. Thank you again.

RECIPE CORNER: 'Tis a good thing to try a new recipe from Ireland around about St. Patrick's Day. From *Favorite Irish Recipes...*

### CHAMP



1 lb potatoes, peeled and quartered  
8 spring onions, trimmed, but retaining their green tops

¼ pint creamy milk  
Salt and black pepper  
4 oz. butter, melted

Boil the potatoes in lightly salted water and drain very well. Cover with a clean tea cloth to absorb the steam and keep warm. Chop the spring onions finely, add to the milk and boil together in a pan for a few minutes. Mash the potatoes and season well, then pour in the milk and spring onions and beat well together. Divide the mashed potato between four warm bowls, make a well in the center of each and pour in melted butter to make a pool.



“Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them...”  
Jesus

### **OUR FRIENDS at UNITY ACRES**

*By: Rose Ann Myers, Outreach Committee*

On Valentine’s Day, Wayne and I delivered shampoo and winter socks to Unity Acres, thanks to our congregation. From the Outreach Committee, we gave them 500+ pounds of cat litter, enough laundry detergent to do 600 loads of laundry and \$100 worth of underwear.

These may seem like unusual gifts, but this is what they asked for. As we were unloading, one of the directors came out and said they had just been discussing the high cost of cat litter the day before at lunch. God delivers, with help from the people from First United Methodist Church of Mexico. The director said our church was wonderful. Thank you, Rose Ann

### **The LITTLE ARK BANKS...**

*By: Carol Watros, Outreach Committee*

This Lenten season, the Mission Outreach Committee asks you to support Heifer International's Fill the Ark program. The mission of Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. Your donations will add to the 22.6 million families in more than 125 countries that have moved toward greater self-reliance through gifts of livestock and agricultural training. Arks will be distributed Sunday, February 26, and available in the narthex and fellowship hall. Thank you for helping our church contribute to a project that provides renewed hope to those who live in hunger and poverty throughout the world.

### **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

- Our church will soon offer the well-known and increasingly popular Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course. This is a 9-week course designed to help individuals and couples take control of their financial future. Over 4.5 million people have taken the class worldwide, and on average people save \$2,700 and pay off \$5,300 of debt in the first 90 days! Mark your calendars and tell your friends about this truly life-changing opportunity. Check out [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com). Specific details will follow.

### **The Lent Schedule**

**ASH WEDNESDAY ~ March 1, at 7pm**

Service at: The Presbyterian Church

**MAUDY THURSDAY ~ April 13, at 7pm**

Service at: First United Methodist

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE ~ April 14, at 7pm**

MACS Clergy Association will host.

Service at: North Mexico Union Church.