

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

February 2017

Dear Friends in Faith,

“Shalom to You” is a song we’ve sung at the end of worship for many, many Sundays. It is, now and always, what I desire for all people and what I hope to help you work toward as your pastor. Shalom is often translated as “peace”. The translation is not entirely wrong, but is incomplete. Really, shalom means well-being, wholeness. Shalom is the state of being wherein our broken parts are pieced back together and the holes in our lives are filled to the brim by the love and mercy of God.

By definition, there is not a part of our lives that shalom excludes. When one experiences true shalom, they are full well – in mind, body, and spirit. Their relationships are healthy and their overall wellbeing is the best it could possibly be. Of course, purest shalom is not attainable in this life, so we rejoice that it is the essence of the next. There are many factors we must fight against to reach for shalom, and not all of them are within our grasp. My hope and prayer for each one of you, though, is that you will make it your life work to reach for shalom in your own life and to make it possible for others to do the same.

Shalom to you now.

Shalom, my friends.

May God’s full mercy bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom.

Christ be your shalom.

May it be so. Amen.

OUR CHURCH MISSION...

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

IMPORTANT DATES...

- Feb. 6: 6:30pm Administrative Council Meeting
Feb. 14: 6:30 Trustees Meeting
Feb. 18: 8:30am UMMen's Breakfast Meeting. All men invited.
Feb. 18: 5 - 9pm, Half Way Night!
Feb. 24: 12 - 2pm Food Sense Distribution
Feb. 24: 6:30pm, Movie Night
Feb. 27: 6:30pm, Church Growth Meeting

In Gratitude...

The family of LouAnn Britton wishes to extend heartfelt thanks for all the prayers during her illness and subsequent passing.
Thank you for your food donations for LouAnn's Memory Party
Hope Lenhart

Our Sympathy to...

The family of...

Zenola Beardslee

Who passed on...

January 13, 2017

CONGRATULATIONS to...

Dennis and Sue (Jackson)
Madge

WHO WERE WED IN MARRIAGE ON...JANUARY
14, 2017
IN SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA.

UMMEN'S HALFWAY NIGHT!!

SATURDAY ~ FEBRUARY 18, 2017 ~ 5-9pm

Come and celebrate getting halfway through winter!
Chili, games, friends and fun! All free! Bring a friend or two!

Special Door Prize!!

The UMMen will hold a door prize drawing for two tickets to the "MISSION POSSIBLE" Dinner Theater.
Must be present to win!





Mission Outreach Committee Project Updates: **Have a Heart and Fill the Ark!**



By: Carol Watros

Fill the Ark!

Each year, we distribute arks for individuals or families in the congregation to collect change. Our committee adds to the collection, then donates this money to Heifer International (<https://www.heifer.org>). Please note in the past we have promoted this project during the Christmas holiday, but have now shifted it to the Lenten season. More to come in the March newsletter; in the meantime, visit the website and learn how the Heifer project helps individuals families, and communities a coin at a time.

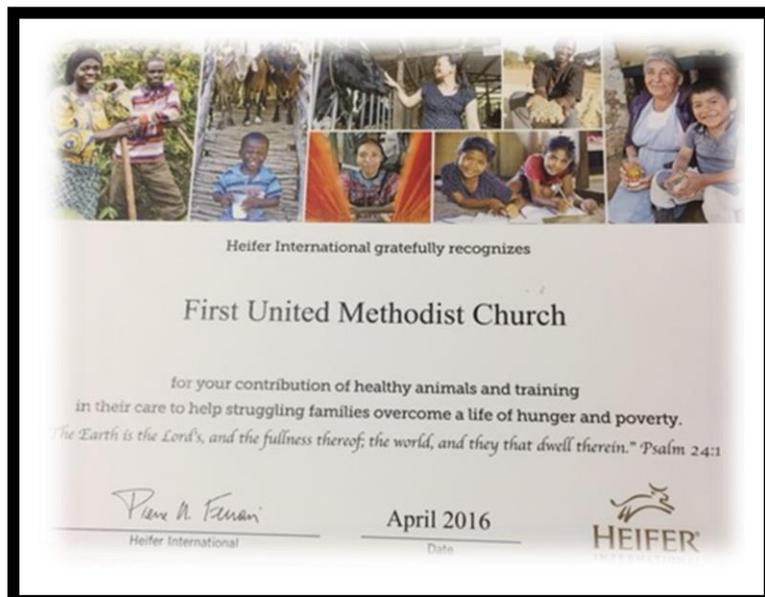
Have a Heart!

We are currently seeking Valentine's Day donations of winter socks and 8-16 ounce bottles of shampoo for the residents of Unity Acres, a "House of Hospitality" in Orwell that provides a safe, caring and permanent home for men (www.unityacres.org). These donations are in addition to liquid laundry detergent and other necessities purchased by the Outreach committee to assist our neighbors to the north. Look for the collection bin labeled Socks and Shampoo in the narthex.

As always, thank you for you continued support in our efforts to reach out locally and globally.



Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness. Ephesians 4:1-2



SAVE the DATES...

- March 26: Our church will serve the meal at Brown Memorial, Syracuse.
- 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 will serve the picnic at Unity Acres, Orwell.

DINNER MISSION: POSSIBLE THEATER

MISSION: POSSIBLE is the name of this year's dinner theater sponsored by our Church Growth Committee and our United Methodist Men's Group. The date is Saturday, June 10, 2017.

There are 12 roles to be filled:

Pastor Evan Keal: The resident minister whom is humble, nervous and nerdy.

Mrs. Molly Devaro Keal: The Pastor's wife who speaks with a southern accent. She is bold and flamboyant, and she secretly doesn't like being a Pastor's wife and has always dreamed of being an actress in New York City.

Philosopher: The resident truth-seeker. PHYL dresses all in black and carries a battered book or two.

Tess T. Honcho: The matron of the church, *Tess* is the one who is the head of every event. She organizes everything, but she takes her power too seriously.

M.T. Socket: Head trustee, MT is a specialist in electronics and computers. He is a computer geek complete with pocket protector.

Professor Erbs: He is a typical professor, complete with tweed jacket and briefcase. They call him Prof for short and he quotes scripture at every opportunity with a dry, disdainful air.

Stuart Ship: A PR consultant, *Stuart Ship* is flamboyant and a bit full of himself.

Tipper Toes: Personal assistant to *Stuart Ship*, *Tipper Toes* has bustling energy and a tidy appearance and serves as a gopher, bodyguard and publicist.

Dr. Phyllis: A famous TV talk show personality whose guests are in need of personal advice. *Dr. Phyllis* is not one to mince words.

Ann Ouncer: Announcer and assistant for the DR. PHYLLIS show, *Ann Ouncer* wears a gaudy suit, always flashes a wide smile and speaks in her best game show voice.

Musician: The *Musician* for this play will choose an appropriate theme song for each character and can play dinner music between scenes.

Assistant: drums up audience participation during the infomercial using cue cards.

If you can see yourself in one of these characters, or think it would be a hoot to be one of these individuals, if only for a short time, then your talents are required! You only need to possess a desire to have fun and entertain others. Please contact Grace Shetler or Hope Lenhart for further information. Rehearsals will start soon, so do not delay!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 1- Orion Behling
4- Michael Barnes, Faith Hubbard, Harold Hurlbut,
And Judy Backus
5- Bill Hiler
6- Jeremy Spencer. A: George & Cindy Monson
8- Patrick New
9- Keitha Gayne
10- Andy Ross
11- Elaine DeLong, and Had Hinman
14- A: Dana & LeeAnn New
15- Emery Sheldon
18- Chuck Parker, Brindsley Hughes.
A: David & Faith Hubbard
19- A: Robert & Susan Linerode
24- Stephanie Martin
25- David Anderson
26- Emily Miller



RECIPE CORNER

Snow Cream

4 slightly heaping cups of fresh snow

¼ cup heavy cream

2 Tablespoons sugar

½ to 1 teaspoon vanilla



In a small bowl combine the cream, sugar and vanilla. Mix very well. Bring snow in from outside and pour cream mixture over it. Quickly whisk the snow and cream mixture together with a whisk. Divide into serving bowls. Eat immediately. More or less sugar, vanilla, or cream may be used.

SERVING in FEBRUARY

GREETERS:

2/5 Marty/Lori Smith
2/12 Nickie Kidder and Kaylynn
2/19 Tom and Judy Farr
2/26 Had and Linda Fravor

COFFEE HOUR:

Muriel, Mary Beth, Kathy R.
Muriel, Mary Beth, Sue M.
Muriel, Mary Beth, _____
Muriel, Mary Beth, _____

MONDAY'S MEAL:

2/6 Lori B. _____
2/13 Myers and Shermans
2/20 Lori B. and Barb L.
2/26 _____

COUNTERS: Dotty Parker and Had Fravor. TRASH DUTY: Mike Freihofer

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.mexlume.com

Please Join Us For:

“The Story the Musical”

To be performed in cooperation with
Lake Effect Co-operative Ministries.

First Rehearsal will be Sunday February 5th @6pm.

Lycoming UMC Corner of Minor Rd and Rt 29.

Books will be available for purchase \$9.00.

Performance to be tentatively set for a Sunday in May.

Preview YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYezOdfmwCQ>

Group Facebook page for questions and information:

"The Story" The Musical Lake Effect Cooperative
Team.

For more info call: Pastor Brandin 315-378-7963

MOVIES of the MONTH!!

***Get ready! Get set! Come to the
movies!***

*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.*



February 24: Faith Like Potatoes

March 31: Where Hope Grows

April 28: Flywheel

NEWS from our Covenant Relationship Missionary...*

December 29, 2016

Dear friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas to you all! I pray that these days have been filled with joy and thanksgiving, as you have gathered with loved ones to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am happy to say that my family and I safely arrived in Ukraine a few days ago, and are now settling in our apartment here in Kyiv. Although the celebration of Christmas in the U.S. has now passed, here in Ukraine we are just entering the holiday season. As many of you know, most Christian communities in Ukraine, including the majority of our United Methodist congregations, follow the tradition of the Orthodox churches and celebrate Christmas on January 7, in accordance with the ancient Gregorian calendar.

So, we have arrived here in Ukraine at the start of the holidays! The city of Kyiv will ring in the new year at midnight on January 1 with a festive concert and fireworks display. Then on January 7, Ukrainians of many Christian traditions, including United Methodist, will gather in local churches to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With the start of the new year, I will begin my new assignment as coordinator of international ministries in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Ukraine. I look forward to staying in touch with you all, and keeping you up to date on the ministry of our church.

In the meantime, I wish you all a joyous Christmas season, and a happy and safe New Year's celebration. I thank you for your support and prayers, as I hold you in prayer as well.

Yours in Christ,

John

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

***Note: This message arrived just after the January 2017 Newsletter went to print, but in time for this February issue.**