

# *The Messenger*

## *First United Methodist Church of Mexico*

### *March 2018*

From the Pastor...

Beloved,

Pace yourself.

This is one of the most hard-learned lessons in our culture of busy-ness and productivity, yet it might be one of the most critical lessons the Lenten season has to offer us. There's a good, strong, biblical reason for us to follow this teaching, too:

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 2:1-2*

As we've been journeying through Lent together, we're looking at the things that comprise the Way of Christ. We'll complete our study of the Way of Christ on Easter Sunday, but our journey along that path will not end. This is a life-long journey, a race toward the prize on the other side of the finish line. It requires great endurance, and it requires some pacing.

All too often we find ourselves overwhelmed, overburdened, and overtired. These are not the conditions under which an athlete best performs, nor are they the ideal conditions for a lifelong journey along the Way of Christ. We tell ourselves that we have no choice – we *must* do all of the things that we do. I can't help but wonder, though, how often we misidentify what we think we *must* do, to the expense of our journey along the Way of Christ.

An example: My parents raised me to keep a reasonably clean home. As such, I too often identify housework as a "must do" item, even to the expense of my spiritual well-being. I'll clean until I'm too exhausted to pray before bed, lie in bed chastising myself for not finishing the job, and wake up the next morning to find myself disappointed in how little I did the night before. This does nothing for my faith journey except to burden me. Carrying this burden is the opposite of what the Bible tells us to do: "lay aside every weight..."

Beloved, this lifelong faith journey is much more of a marathon than a sprint. If we spend the rest of our days filling our lives and lists with things that weigh us down we'll find ourselves making much less progress in our spiritual lives than we could be. So join me this Lent in laying aside every weight and focusing on the prize that awaits: new life in Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

## IMPORTANT DATES...

- March 5: Meeting with Bishop Mark Webb at UM Conference Center in Liverpool, 6:30pm  
March 12: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm  
March 14: "The Way" Lenten Bible Study, 7pm  
March 17: St. Patrick's Day  
March 17: UM Men's Club Breakfast Meeting, Mapleview Restaurant, 8:30am  
March 19: Church Growth Meeting, 6:30pm  
March 21: "The Way" Lenten Bible Study, 7pm  
March 28: "The Way" Lenten Bible Study, 7pm  
March 29: Maundy Thursday Service, at First Presbyterian Church, 7pm  
March 30: Good Friday Service, 7pm



## SAVE the DATE

March 5, 2018, 6:30pm

On this date, Bishop Mark Webb will be meeting with clergy and laity at the UM Conference Center in Liverpool. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.



## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TOO...

- ~ the UM Men's Club for hosting Half-Way Night! Over 40 joined in for games, chili, and hotdogs!  
~ Sue Morton for delivering Valentine's Day flowers along with Monday's Meal soups to a dozen or more at their homes on February 12.  
~ Duane Morton for modifying a metal chair cart to hold folding tables in the fellowship hall. This cart is located next the east stairs in the fellowship hall.  
~ the youth who light the candles during worship.  
~ the children's verse recitations during worship.



## CHILDREN'S BOOKS HEADED To AFRICA!

Many thanks to all who supported the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dinner-to-Go fundraiser to support Dawn LaFlamm in the shipping of children's books and school supplies to the Rose Villa Library in Ghana, Africa. The books are due in New Jersey for shipment on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Dawn will follow soon thereafter, to be on location when the books arrive. The proceeds from the dinner totaled: \$1,545.62. Dawn attends Lycoming United Methodist Church. Check out the church website: [www.mexlume.com](http://www.mexlume.com) for photos. May God bless this worthy endeavor.



## Three Generations Serve At Monday's Meal!

On Monday, February 19, three generations teamed up to cook and serve the soup at Monday's Meal. Pictured, from left to right, are: Connor Revette (son), Jeanne Revette (mother), Barb Lindovski (grandmother), and Zachary Revette (son). Connor is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Mexico High School and Zachary is a senior. Thanks to all who take the time to serve at Monday's Meal.

### MICAH 6:8

Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

## OUR CHURCH MISSION...

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



### PASTOR ELYSE SKILES to RETIRE

"I have been a pastor for 11 years. The name of the church I serve is Journey of Faith UMC.

I am retiring effective August 31st. I began my studies for the ministry with Rev. Joe [Wallace], and then Loren took very ill and we put it all on hold as God had given me Loren to care for. Then after Loren earned his heavenly reward, Pastor Bill [Palmer] was there at Mexico and he was my mentor who worked me through the Candidacy Program and approval by the congregation.

I will be moving to Cincinnati, Ohio to be near my sister, Jean, and her family (six miles). My home technically is in Amelia, which is five miles from the Ohio River and the Kentucky border. I am very excited to see where God is taking me on this next chapter of my life. I have lived in the Mexico area since 1982, which is over half of my life, so I consider it my home."

*Congratulations Elyse!  
Your home church sends our very  
best to you as you go.*

## **Dinner Theater Coming Soon to a Church Near You!**

By: Hope Lenhart

A dinner theater is in the works! The date of the spring dinner theater has yet to be determined, thus allowing time to get our theater cast and crew together. The play, **The Case of The Show-Stopping Nun Nabber**, is a mystery. But what is a mystery without a little humor sprinkled in?

Eight budding thespians are needed to pull this endeavor off; three men, four women and either a man or woman to play the role of the detective. The **UM Men's Club** will prepare the meal and our youth are needed to be waiters serving the meal.

### **THE CAST:**

**James Madden**....A handsome, likeable actor who is in his 30s

**Colette Cordell**....A cranky, prima donna actress who is in her 20s

**Richard Dooley**....A wise, veteran thespian in his 60s

**Dedra Roley**.....An elegant, veteran actress in her 50s

**Sylvia Brown**.....A down-to-earth actress in her 20s

**Tye Burton**.....A high-strung director in his 40s

**Kelly Williams**.....A shy backstage manager in her 20s

**Detective Chris Smith**....An off-duty detective in his/her 30s



This play is designed so that no one has a tremendous amount of lines to memorize. So much fun is had rehearsing for these shows and the show itself is even more fun! So be brave, believe in yourself! This is your chance to do all the acting you always wanted to but never had the nerve to do!

Contact Hope Lenhart at 315-963-4074 or 315-454-2518 for more information and to secure *your* role!

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

**Please Join Us For:**

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

## BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

March 1- Jeff Beardslee  
2 - Bob Linerode  
6 - Barb Lindovski  
9 - Jenna Behling  
18 - Diane Barbur  
20 - Joe Gorton, Marcia Albrecht,  
Benjamin Parker, Scott Jackson  
24 - Dana Huyge  
26 - Diane Tupper  
28 - Marilyn Marks  
30 - Mike Freihofer



## District Training Day, Feb. 10...

By: Marcia Albrecht, LECM Representative

105 attendees from 37 churches, including 2 from FUMC.  
20 presenters and 7 workshops.

Feedback from the evaluations indicated that the day was a success and well-received.

Pastor Elyse Skiles from Journey of Faith Methodist Church in Oswego has done an excellent job for many years working to find presenters for the workshops. Elyse was recognized for her hard work and she will be missed as she will be retiring in August. However, LECM will still be coordinating the District Training along with the Conference Office next year. It's not too soon to let us know if there are any specific trainings you are interested in.

### **From Attendee Sue Morton:**

“All sessions were beneficial to me and it was difficult to choose which three to attend. The United Methodist Church Conference Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool, NY 13088, is beautiful and uses state-of-the-art technology.

I attended:

1. How to Tell Our Stories; *different platforms to share our church's story.*
2. Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body; *How to take care of ourselves as we age.*
3. Camps and Retreat Ministries; *an overview of the programs at the five Methodist camps.*”

## SERVING in MARCH

### GREETERS

March 4: The Shermans  
March 11: Jim & Diane Sokolowski  
March 18: The Fravors  
March 25:

### COFFEE HOUR

Many thanks to all who donate baked goods, fruit, and vegetables for the weekly coffee hour following our worship services.

### MONDAY'S MEAL

March 5: Kathy Rose and \_\_\_\_\_  
March 12: Jane Backus and Mike Backus  
March 19: Barb Lighthall and Webers  
March 26: Shermans and \_\_\_\_\_

### COUNTERS

Mary Grants and Jennifer Spaulding  
(April: Muriel Delong/ Lisa Spencer)

### TRASH DUTY

Had Favor  
(April: Mike Freihofer. May: Jeremy Spencer.)

## BILLY GRAHAM

**November 7, 1918 – February 21, 2018**

**“Faith, more than fighting, can change the course of events today. United, believing, self-humbling, God-exalting prayer now can change the course of history.”**

*“Life Wisdom from Billy Graham”*

## S/PPRC Update

Prepared By: Lisa Spencer, SPPRC Member

On Sunday, February 18, the Staff/ Pastor Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC) met with District Superintendent Rev. Nola Anderson. Rev. Anderson shared with us the pastoral selection process. The Bishop and his Cabinet meet each year to determine pastoral appointments for the upcoming year beginning July 1. As the pastor for Geneva UMC is retiring, their church was in need of a pastor. Rev. Anderson shared that the Bishop and his Cabinet review each pastor, and their particular gifts are prayerfully considered, as are the needs of each church. They decided that Pastor Emily's gifts and talents most closely met the needs of the Geneva UMC congregation. To be clear, Pastor Emily did not request this change of appointment nor did the District Superintendent receive any complaints from our church that would cause a change in appointment to be considered.

Moving forward, the Bishop and his Cabinet will meet at the end of February to begin discussing our church's needs and pastors that may be suited to meet those needs. The church profile that was completed by the S/PPRC at the end of 2017 will be used as a guide. We spent time with Rev. Anderson describing what we felt the needs of our church are so that she can better represent those needs when specific pastors are being considered. Rev. Anderson stated that they will choose a pastor for our church in time for a July 1 appointment. Under the appointment system, we do not get to choose our pastor or interview the person. The S/PPRC will have an opportunity to be introduced to the new pastor in advance of the announcement to the congregation, which will happen shortly after the introduction is made.

Rev. Anderson also clarified that no change in percentage of appointment will be made without the church requesting that change. This means that we will be assigned a full time pastor.

Rev. Anderson has asked that we keep her, the Bishop and cabinet in our prayers as they move forward with this difficult process. She stated that she will keep our congregation in prayer as well. Finally, please keep Pastor Emily and her family in prayer during this time of transition.

**RECIPE CORNER:** This recipe, for the month of St. Patrick's Day, gives a tip of the hat to the Irish. But, the history of the actual Reuben sandwich is debatable. As reported by: [www.nydailynews.com](http://www.nydailynews.com), "Bringing together **Irish** corned beef, **Jewish** rye, **German** sauerkraut, **Swiss** cheese, and **Russian** dressing, the sandwich was created in 1914 at Manhattan's now-defunct **Reuben's** Delicatessen, according to legend."

### **REUBEN LOAF** – Helen Murray, "Treasures from Heaven" Cookbook, Page 88

2 beaten eggs	1 – 8 ounce can sauerkraut, drained and chopped
2 cups soft bread crumbs (2 ½ slices bread)	½ teaspoon caraway seed
2 teaspoons parsley	1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
1 small clove garlic, minced	3 slices Swiss cheese, cut diagonally
2 – 12 ounce cans corned beef, finely chopped	



Combine eggs, bread, parsley and garlic. Stir in corned beef, mix well. On foil or wax paper, pat mixture into a 10 x 10 inch square. Combine sauerkraut, caraway and shredded cheese. Mound in center of corned beef. Wrap meat around sauerkraut mixture forming loaf. Seal seams and ends. Place loaf in greased 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Top with cheese triangles, bake 5 minutes more. Makes 8 servings.