

The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
April 2018

From the Pastor ...

Beloved,

This is the third time I've sat down to write this piece. The trouble is, I keep coming up with things I want to say to you, topics I want to address. I guess now that I know the limit to the time I have with you, I feel eager to say all of the things before I go.

But God keeps telling me what to say. It's not a "hot topic". It's not even witty or metaphorical. God is speaking to me about the very foundation of my job as a pastor, and really of all of our jobs as Christians.

"Emily, tell the people that I love them."

Beloved, God loves you.

When was the last time you reminded yourself of that? Is it a truth that you live into regularly? Just as my little boy says, "Wuv you!!!" to me every day, God is daily declaring God's love for us. Have you noticed?

Have you seen the sun breaking through the clouds or the smile on a loved one's face? Have you tasted the bounty of food that comes from the earth? Have you been blessed by a visit or a phone call from a friend, witnessed a child delighting in the sweetness of life, or heard a piece of music that touched your soul? God uses all of these ways and countless more to say, "I love you."

What does it mean to be loved by God? First, we have the full inheritance of the kingdom of God. We have access to all of Heaven for all of eternity, and to a fullness of life in Christ here and now. Second, we have the assurance that when all else fails, God is with us and is holding us close. When all is dark, God's love is our light. When all is cold, God's love wraps around us. When we find ourselves broken, God's love is the glue that glues us back together.

This truth should overwhelm us with hope and purpose. As we find ourselves filled with God's love, we know that Love will spill out of us and touch those around us. And this, beloved, is how we, "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Beloved, God loves you.

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

Words from Paul...

I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know the Messiah's love that surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17b-19

IMPORTANT DATES...

April 1: Easter Sunrise Service at the First Presbyterian Church, 8am. Breakfast to follow.

EASTER Sunday, Worship at 10am

April 2: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm

April 8: Heifer arks float back to church.

April 14: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am

April 15: Outreach Lunch at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church, Syracuse

April 19: Church Growth Meeting, 6:30pm

April 28: UMMen's Club Italian Dinner, 4pm

Save the Date...

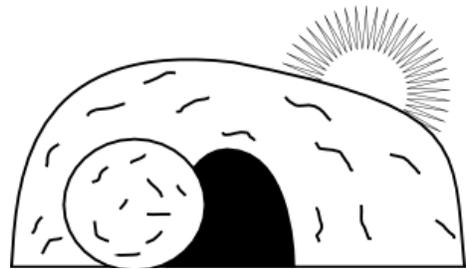
May 5: Annual Attic Treasure Sale, 9-3pm.



Thank You, Thank You, to...

Jesus Christ our Lord

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39*



OUR SYMPATHY TO...

The Family of...

Jill Campbell

Who passed away on March 7, 2018

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

The Family of...

Stephen Lynch

Who passed away on March 16, 2018

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

For...

Zayden Tyler Levia

Who was baptized on Sunday, March 18, 2018

Zayden is the son of Tyler Levia and Danielle Parker.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

Easter Sunday

Worship at 10am

April 1, 2018

UMMen's Annual All-You-Can-Eat Italian Dinner



The United Methodist Men's Club is ready to prepare and serve the famous:
Annual All-You-Can-Eat Italian Dinner!
Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ 4pm - Sold-Out



The menu includes: lasagna, spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, vegetable, bread, desserts + beverages.
The cost for adults is \$9.50; seniors - \$9; children 6-12 years - \$6.
Local deliveries are available by calling the church at 315-963-3066.

The DINNER THEATER - MUST GO ON!!

A dinner theater is in the works! The date of the 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 **DESPIRATELY** needed to pull this endeavor off; three men, four women and either a man or woman to play the role of the detective. 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!

ANNUAL ATTIC TREASURE SALE!!

Happening: Saturday, May 5, 2018

**Donated items may be
delivered to the church on
Friday, May 4, from noon on.**

*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.*

OUR CHURCH MISSION...

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

**TIME For CHURCH CAMP
REGISTRATION!**

By: Sue Morton

We are very fortunate in the Upper New York Conference of the Methodist Church that we have five awesome camping sites with over 200 programs. The two sites that our church members are most familiar with are **Aldersgate**, in the western Adirondacks, and **Casowasco**, in the Finger Lakes on Owasco Lake. To learn more about these two camps, come to their Spring Work Day to ready the camp, or the Open House where you will see what a day at camp might be like. Aldersgate Spring Work Day is May 19th, and Open House/Day at Camp is June 16th. Casowasco's Open House/Day at Camp is June 10th. For more information, or to search the 2018 programs and register go online to:

campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2018. As the brochure states: "Summer camps provide endless laughs, meaningful worship and important friendships."

Several **discounts** are available:

Early Bird-\$10.00 if registered before May 1st.
Sibling- \$20.00 per camper. Refer-A-Friend-\$40.00 for the referring friend. There are events for persons of all ages, including children and teens ages 6-18, families, adults, and persons with special needs.

Local **scholarships** are also available from our UMMen's Club.

SERVING in APRIL...

GREETERS

April 1: Jeff & Carol DeLong
April 8: Duane & Sue Morton
April 15: Marty & Lori Smith
April 22: Bob & Georgia Halstead
April 29: Joan Phelps

COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to all who contribute in any way to make our fellowship time following worship successful. To those who donate refreshments and to those who serve them, thank you. To those who happily visit together and enjoy each other's company, bless you.

April 1: Happy Easter ~ NO COFFEE HOUR

MONDAY'S MEAL

April 2:
April 9:
April 16: Jane Backus and Alicia Weber
April 23: Myers and _____
April 30: Nancy Evale and _____

COUNTERS:

Muriel Delong / Lisa Spencer

TRASH DUTY:

Mike Freihofer

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

*Address of Barb Campbell for sympathy cards with the passing of her daughter, Jill. Both were longtime members of our church.
Barb Campbell,
2225 West Morton Ave.
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650*

OUTREACH NOTE...

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. Thank you for your contribution to this mission.

Brief Overview of Recent Meeting with Bishop Webb

By: Pastor Emily Huyge

The General Conference of the Methodist Church meets every four years (2016 was the last time). The last time General Conference met, they asked the Council of Bishops to lead the denomination through a battle over the church's position on homosexuality in regard to ordination and marriage. The Council of Bishops called together a diverse group of leaders to help inform their work.

Thirty-two people from around the world comprise a group called The Commission on the Way Forward. This group has been researching and reporting to the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops is referencing the Commission's reports as they draft a resolution which, if passed, would respond globally to the issue at hand.

The General Conference will meet in 2019 to vote on a resolution (the only one on the agenda).

The resolution will be whether to have a One Church Model where the restrictive language is deleted from the Book of Discipline. Every conference area would choose for themselves whether they permit the ordination and credentialing of persons who identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer). Every local church would choose for themselves whether they permit same-sex marriage.

In the Multi Church Model there would be three branches:

1. Traditional, which retains the current denominational position, thereby disallowing ordination and marriage of persons who identify as LGBTQ.
2. Contextual, which mirrors the One Church Model
3. Progressive, which fully permits ordination and marriage of persons who identify as LGBTQ.

On July 8th the Commission of the Way Forward and the Council on Bishops will release what resolution has been chosen.

Recipe Corner: Straight from the kitchen of Barb Lighthall!

HOT CROSS BUNS

1 cup sugar	2 cups of milk
1 tsp. salt	1 cup butter or margarine
1 tsp. cinnamon	2 large eggs
3 pkg active dry yeast	1/3 cup citron (optional)
8 – 9 cups flour	½ cup currants or raisins

In a 2 quart saucepan slowly warm milk and butter to 120 to 130 degrees F. Butter does not need to melt. In a large mixer bowl combine sugar, salt, cinnamon, yeast and 2 cups of flour. With mixer on low speed gradually beat liquid into dry ingredients. Increase speed to medium; beat 2 minutes scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Beat in eggs and 2 cups of flour continue beating for 2 minutes. With a spoon, stir in enough additional flour (about 4 ¼ cups) to make a soft dough. Turn dough on lightly floured surface; add currants and citron, knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes. Shape into a large ball, turn over in a large greased bowl to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm place until dough is doubled, about 1 hour. Punch dough down on lightly floured surface, divide into 24 pieces shape into balls; place evenly in pans. With scissors cut a small cross in the top of each bun. Cover with towel and let rise until double, about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake 30 minutes or until brown. In a small bowl mix 1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar, 2 tbsp. milk, 2 tbsp. butter, softened, ¼ tsp. lemon flavoring, adding more sugar or water to make icing thin enough to spread. Let buns cool for about 20 minutes then spread icing in the cross cuts on the buns.

HEADED To The MOVIES???

*Currently there are
three Christian movies
in the public theater:*

- 1: *I Can Only Imagine*
- 2: *Paul*
- 3: *God's Not Dead:
A Light in Darkness*



INTRODUCING...
Incoming Pastor...
Grace Warren



March 19, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of First UMC of Mexico,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

I am excited to be answering God's call to become your next pastor, effective July 1st! My husband Ernie and I are beginning the preparations to move and establish new connections in Mexico. Our current home is in Jamestown in the western corner of New York, very close to Pennsylvania. Walking with God often brings us to new places and experiences which can be daunting, yet we know that God will always take care of us on the journey.

Being a pastor is a second career for me. Prior to answering the call to professional ministry, I owned a small custom quilting business. I have also been a tutor and an administrative assistant. In 2008, I began the process to become a Certified Lay Minister and then a Licensed Local Pastor. I served a small rural church for two years before I stepped away from the pulpit to focus on seminary, graduating from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2016. Since then I have been the pastor of both Forestville and Gowanda UMC near my home.

Ernie and I have been married for 26 years. Although we have no children, we do have an opinionated cat named Heidi.

I have known for a few weeks that I would be receiving a new appointment this year. As Ernie and I prayed about this we began to pray for you, even though we did not know where we were going. We have and will continue to pray for you and Pastor Emily during this time of transition.

I look forward to meeting you all in July!

Be Blessed!

Pastor Grace E. Warren



2018 Easter Flower Remembrances



IN MEMORY OF.....

All Who Have Gone Before US
Beatrice Larobardiere
Charles White
Donald Lighthall
Ethyl Chipperfield
Frances "Pat" Kellogg
Frank Baldwin
Frank, Mary, Doug & Linda Rose
Geraldine Sokolowski
Jerry Nurse
Jodi Vautrin
John Greenway & Gill Family
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones

GIVEN BY....

Anonymous
Larry & Donna Woolson
George & Mary Grants
Ed & Barbara Lighthall
George & Mary Grants
The Collin Family
Jim & Diane Sokolowski
Richard & Kathy Rose
Jim & Diane Sokolowski
Ellen Nurse
Paul Vautrin
Ruth Greenway
Chuck & Jessica Parker
David & Stephanie Martin
Eric & Lori Behling
Jim & Diane Barbur
Joseph & Carleen Talamo
Chuck & Dotty Parker
Janice Gregory



2018 Easter Flower Remembrances



IN MEMORY OF.....

Loved Ones

Mary Babcock

Margie Vautrin

Our Parents

Our Parents

Sean Finney Kugler, Linda Kugler Neely, &
David Mark Kugler

Velma, Frank, & Randy Smithers

GIVEN BY....

Nancy & Miok Murray

Joan Phelps

Paul Vautrin

Mike & Kelly Freihofer

Ed & Barb Lighthall

Phil & Flora Kugler

Al Smithers

IN HONOR OF....

Chase & Ben Parker

Children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandchild

Family & Other Loved Ones

Jewell Fultz

Loved Ones

My Grandchildren: Haylee, Evan, & Addison

Our Custodian, Timothy

Our Families

Our Family

GIVEN BY....

Chuck & Jessica Parker

Chuck & Dotty Parker

Duane & Sue Morton

Joseph & Carleen Talamo

Eric & Lori Behling

Hope Lenhart

The Congregation

Rick & Les Sherman

Jim & Diane Barbur

