

The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
May 2018
From the Pastor ...

Beloved,

The day that I'm writing this is a snowy mid-April day. Folks are becoming increasingly frustrated with the weather. We are eager for signs of spring: flowers blooming, birds singing, weather warming, sunlight dancing. Winter seems to be relentless.

Have you ever felt the weight of relentless winter? Have you ever been through a season in life when it seemed that there were few (if any) signs of hope or life or joy or promise available? Each of us has (or will at some point) endure such a time.

These are the moments when many tend to fall away from faith. Some do so with spiritual fanfare, yelling and cursing God for allowing such pain to befall a beloved. Others (like me) tend to do so more subtly. I am rarely angry with God, but when the weight of life overwhelms me my spiritual practices are among the first things on the chopping block.

I am learning more and more, though, that this is not as it should be. Relentless winters are when we need God the most.

These are the times when we are unlikely to find hope in our circumstances, and so we must cling to the hope that God has been redeeming for all of human history and will continue to do redemptive work in our lives. Often we can't imagine how any good could possibly come out of the mess we're in, but God is full of surprises.

Spiritual winters make joy hard to muster. True joy, though, is very different from happiness. Joy is abiding, not circumstantial, and it comes from trusting fully in the promises of God. Knowing who God is and that we are God's beloved children is cause for deep and eternal joy.

Beloved, we know that even in the valley of the shadow of death, the God of Life is with us. As we draw ever-closer to God, Love invades our being and surrounds us completely. There is nothing, nothing, nothing that can separate us from God's love. And this, dear ones, is biblical promise.

Shalom,

Pastor Emily

OUR CHURCH MISSION

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

IMPORTANT DATES...

May 3: 10am, Finance Committee meeting
May 5: 9am-3pm, Attic Treasure Sale
May 7: 6:30pm, Administrative Council Meeting
May 12: 8:30am, UMMen's Breakfast Meeting
May 13: Mother's Day
May 14: 6:30pm, Church Growth Meeting
May 21: 6:30pm, Trustees Meeting
May 23: 6:30pm, Outreach Committee Meeting

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## 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:**

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

**Please Join Us For:**

***Sunday School at: 8:45am. Worship at: 10am.***

## Our Sympathy to...

*The Family of...*

*Arthur "Joe" Gorton*

*Who passed on...*

*April 23, 2018*

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The Family of...

June Henry Hansen

Who passed on...

April 25, 2018

THANK YOU TO...

- ~ All who cooked and served the recent meal at Brown Memorial UM Church in Syracuse.*
- ~ All who assisted with the dinner following Joe Gorton's services.*
- ~ All who donated to and/or worked during the UMMen's Italian Dinner Night.*



Annual Attic Treasure Sale

The Outreach Committee's Annual Attic Treasure Sale is:
Saturday, May 5th, from 9am to 3pm
in the church fellowship hall.

Everyone is welcome to come, browse, and shop!
Items include, but are not limited to: housewares, vintage clothes, jewelry, books, candles, toys, decorations, puzzles, dishes and more. A **bake sale** will take place as well.

Any **donations** may be dropped off starting at:
12 noon, until 5pm on May 4th.

This year we prefer: No Clothes except children's to size 14 or vintage. No computers and printers. No technical or text books. No TVs unless flat screen. Sorry, but we have no place to send these items if not sold and disposal is difficult or costly.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sunday School News

By Hope Lenhart

Our Sunday School year is coming to an end so very quickly! It was decided to wrap up Sunday School for the 2017-2018 year at the end of May as many of the children are involved in school and community sporting activities. This lessens the burdens on parents and children alike.

Our last day of Sunday School will be on May 27th. The Children's Program will be held on June 3rd and we are planning a lovely program for the congregation. Children will need to come in at 8:45 on June 3rd for our final rehearsal before worship.

It has been such a pleasure working with these children and I am so very proud of each of them! Please join us in worship on June 3rd to witness our youngest Disciples of Jesus Christ transforming the world right before our eyes!

Lake Effect Cooperative Ministry (LECM) Update

By: Marcia Albrecht, Mexico First UMC Representative

~ **Safe Sanctuary Training:** To take place in Baldwinsville on May 12th.

~ **Brown Memorial UMC – June 10th:** Mexico First UMC will provide tossed salad/dressings. We will need donations! If anyone is interested in going or donating salad, please contact me.

~ **Collecting Migrant Health Kits for Oswego County Opportunities:** Anyone interested can make up the kits and give them to me. Put the following contents into a gallon zip lock bag:

A Washcloth; Toothpaste; Toothbrush; Dial Soap; Dental Floss; Comb; and a Note of Welcome.

~ **Harborfest 2018:** We plan on doing a Sunday morning worship at one of the parks as in the past.

~ **July LECM Meeting:** We will be hosting the July meeting of LECM at our church.

~ **Progressive Dinner:** The date is August 26th and the theme will be "Life is a Mystery". Each church that is providing will host at a mystery spot, and will choose their offering plus a Mysteries of the Bible devotion. Anyone interested in either helping to plan this or just wishing to attend, please contact me.

~ **Pastor Elyse Skiles:** Pastor Skiles, who was a long time member of our church and is currently the pastor at Journey of Faith Church in Oswego, will be retiring at the end of June. Pastor Elyse has been a tremendous force behind LECM and she will surely be missed! Thank you Elyse!

1,2,3 The Trustees in Action!

Church Member Sue Morton noticed the ceiling in the fellowship hall had a sag in it. Sue brought this situation to the attention of the Church Trustees.

Had Fravor and Tom Farr did an initial inspection and promptly arranged to get a contractor to fix the problem.

The problem was that the fasteners that were used to anchor the wires which hold the suspended ceiling frame were under sized and were pulling out. A couple of boards that the anchors were attached had actually pulled out.

Thanks to the work of the Contractor the sag in the ceiling was fixed and more importantly all the ceiling anchors were inspected and replaced as necessary. This proactive work prevented a possible collapse of the ceiling tiles and possible related injuries.



**With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember**

Memorial Day, May 28, 2018

PHIL'S FLOWERS

Flowers and vegetable plant sales for the Sean Finney Kugler Memorial Scholarship will be held at Kinney Drugs on May 19th, and at Tops on May 26th.

RUMPS Enjoy Visit to Mexico First United Methodist Church

The Retired United Methodist Preachers and Spouses (RUMPS) group enjoyed a luncheon and outing hosted by Mexico First UMC on April 10, 2018.

The RUMPS group has been meeting together for at least 40 years and all members are part of what was then the North Central Conference. The group meets four times a year for a luncheon and a program of interest. On this day, the group enjoyed lunch at the church and a field trip to the Starr Clark Tin Shop and Underground Railroad Museum on Main Street in Mexico.

Marilyn Marks, church member and spouse of the late Rev. Charles Marks, organized the gathering and led three fellow church members in preparing and serving the luncheon. These workers were Mary Beth Turo and Chuck and Dorothy Parker.

The RUMPS guests attending the gathering had all served in the Watertown and Syracuse areas. The oldest member in attendance was Duane Morton's aunt, at 96 years old. The youngest was Pastor Emily Huyge, currently serving Mexico First UMC, who joined in on the luncheon and field trip. Several positive compliments were made regarding our church building.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 2- Connor Revette
4- Kathy Rose
5- Duane Morton, Everett Robinson
7- Hope Lenhart
10- Aaron and Eric Albrecht
13- David Hubbard
17- Sharon Anderson
18- Jim Barbur, Marybeth Turo
20- Dana New
23- A: Connie & Gary Day
24- A: Niles & Jonita Greenhouse
25- A: Richard & Leslie Sherman
27- Alex Linerode
 A: Jim & Brenda Hotchkiss
28- Rebecca Hall
29- Leslie Sherman, Sparky Rector
30- A: David & Marlea Munger
31- Jane Hollister, Cooper Sheldon
 A: Gary & Gail Hurlbut

RECIPE CORNER: *This recipe, from the kitchen of Lucy Emery, of Mexico, makes a pretty dish for a dinner table in springtime - and it tastes as good as it looks.*

PINK SALAD

1 can condensed milk
1 can cherry pie filling
1 large can crushed pineapple, semi-drained
1 container Cool Whip

Place the condensed milk in a mixing bowl. Fold in the cherry pie filling. Fold in the crushed pineapple. Finally, slowly fold in the Cool Whip. Refrigerate overnight and serve.



SERVING in MAY...

GREETERS:

5/6: Kathy Rose
5/13: Marcia Albrecht and Barb Lighthall
5/20: Spencer Family
5/27: David and Faith Hubbard

COUNTERS:

Mary Smith & Barb Lindovski

COFFEE HOUR:

5/6: Muriel DeLong and Helpers
5/13: Muriel DeLong and Helpers
5/20: Muriel DeLong and Helpers
5/27: Muriel DeLong and Helpers

MONDAY'S MEAL

5/7: Rose Ann & Wayne Myers and _____.
5/14: Connie Day and _____.
5/20: Alicia Weber and the Shermans.
5/28: No meal in recognition of Memorial Day.

TRASH DUTY

Jeremy Spencer

A FISHY EXCUSE...

Saint Peter halted a man at the entrance to Heaven. "I'm sorry," the saint told the man, "but I cannot admit you. You've told too many lies."

"C'mon, Pete, give me a break," the man pleaded. "After all, you were once a fisherman yourself!"



"A Laugh a Day!" Hallmark

Transition and Change

By: Chuck Parker Sr., Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee Chairman

We all know that the Upper New York (UNY) Conference of the United Methodist Church has to deal with the well-being of all the churches under its charge. This at times requires that hard decisions be made. Through their decision making process and prayer, Pastor Emily Huyge has been selected, and she accepted the position, to serve First United Methodist Church in Geneva.

Neither Pastor Emily nor our church requested this change. It was the decision of the UNY Conference that Pastor Emily's skills are needed in Geneva. Pastor Emily's presence in our church will be missed.

The new minister selected for our church is Pastor Grace Warren, from west of Buffalo. Pastor Grace is highly respected by the UNY Conference Leadership, her profile shows that she is more than qualified, and we can look forward to the blessing of another good leader for our church. I had the opportunity to attend a church in Gowanda, New York on the 22nd of April, where Pastor Grace is the current pastor. Her sermon was excellent. During the church service, in Gowanda, I was introduced as a member of our church. At this point in time, Pastor Grace has served as pastor in the Gowanda UM Church for just under a year. She was called upon due to the passing of their long time pastor (23 years) of that church. After the church service, I was approached by several members of that church and they all stated that they hope we realize that we are getting a "great" pastor. These statements, by those within the congregation that Pastor Grace presently serves, did more for me than anything else that could have been said to confirm that we will have another good leader for our church. We are going to be okay.

The "Transition Process" from our present minister to our new minister will be guided and supported by the UNY Church Conference. We will have a "consultant pastor" to help us through the transition. The consultant pastor's name is Pastor Jack Keating. There are guidelines set to be followed through the Pastoral Transition Manual. Our Mexico First UM Church SPPRC Committee will be heavily involved in the transition process. Also, our church membership is invited to participate in the transition process. This process will involve our goodbyes to Pastor Emily and the welcoming of Pastor Grace Warren.

During the process of change there are two meetings scheduled. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23rd at 7pm. Consultant Pastor Jack Keating, Pastor Emily, Pastor Grace, and representatives from our SPPRC Committee will be in attendance. Others within our church are also invited to attend. What will be covered is at the direction of Pastor Keating, using the Pastoral Transition Manual as a guideline.

If you plan on attending this meeting please let Pastor Emily or myself know so that the appropriate meeting area can be reserved.

As we go through this transition together as a church, we know that God is with all of us.

Thank you,

Chuck Parker Sr., SPPRC Chairman

MOTHERS...

God took the fragrance of a flower...
The majesty of a tree...
The gentleness of morning dew...
The calm of a quiet sea...
The beauty of the twilight hour...
The soul of a starry night...
The laughter of a rippling brook...
The grace of a bird in flight...
Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other,
And when His masterpiece was through
He called it simply - Mother.

~Herbert Farnham



Psalm 146

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD,
O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I
live; I will sing praises to my God
while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes, in a son
of man, in whom there is no
salvation.

When his breath departs, he returns
to the earth; on that very day his
plans perish.

Blessed is he whose help is the God
of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD
his God,

who made heaven and earth, the
sea, and all that is in them, who
keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the
oppressed, who gives food to the
hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners
free;

the LORD opens the eyes of the
blind. The LORD lifts up those who
are bowed down; the LORD loves the
righteous.

The LORD watches over the
sojourners; he upholds the widow
and the fatherless, but the way of the
wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your
God, O Zion, to all
generations. Praise the LORD!

WELCOME TO...

Nathan Hutson and Joelle Dimon

Who became members of our church on...

Sunday, April 29, 2018

We Aim to Please Him...

So, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight, and we are confident and satisfied to be out of the body and at home with the Lord. Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the tribunal of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or worthless.



2 Corinthians 5:6-10

A CHURCH SIGN...

*What would you do today
if you knew*

Christ was coming tomorrow?

Letter from Rev. John Calhoun, United Methodist Missionary in Kyiv, Ukraine

Mexico First United Methodist Church Covenant Relationship Missionary



April 1, 2018

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, and Happy Easter! I pray that you and your loved ones have celebrated a joyous day of resurrection, and that you are well and blessed in the Lord. In the words of the traditional Russian-language Easter greeting, “Христос воскрес! Во истину воскрес!” (“Khristos voskres! Vo istinu voskres!”) Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Because the Orthodox Church sets the date of its observance of Easter in accordance with the ancient Julian calendar, this year most Christian communities in Ukraine and Russia will celebrate Easter next Sunday, April 8. Thus here in Kyiv, only a small number of churches marked Easter today. One of these communities was Christ Church, the local English-speaking congregation of the Church of England. This small ecumenical congregation in the heart of Kyiv comprises believers from a variety of nations, races, and Christian traditions. As a member of the English-speaking Christian community in Kyiv, I was asked to deliver the Easter sermon and assist in celebrating the Eucharist. It was a great blessing for me to share the gospel on this most holy day, and to distribute the bread and wine, the body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus.

Meanwhile, for Orthodox Christians here in Ukraine (and others who follow the Julian calendar in observing Easter), today is вербное воскресенье (“verbnoye voskresen'ye”), or Willow Sunday. As palm branches are not indigenous to lands this far north, Christians have for centuries celebrated the Sunday before Easter (Palm Sunday in our tradition) by bringing willow branches to church to be blessed by the local priest; the willow tree is one of the first to blossom in the early spring. Unfortunately, in Kyiv our early spring has been marred by heavy snow, piles of which still line the streets today, thus preventing the willows from blossoming. Still, those who celebrated вербное воскресенье today found a way to praise Jesus in remembrance of his triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Amidst the joyous celebrations of our religious traditions, the people of Ukraine recently marked a painful date--the fourth anniversary of the annexation of Crimea by Russia. This act of aggression sparked a war in eastern Ukraine that to date has claimed the lives of more than 10,000 people, and has displaced more than one million from their homes. In recent months, the streets of Kyiv have been clogged with protesters; ordinary citizens are taking to the streets to condemn corruption in government and the ongoing conflict in the east of the country. In a season of hope and new life, the people of Ukraine feel the heavy weight of political and economic turmoil. I ask you to continue to keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers, that the fighting in the east would cease and that all those scarred by war and suffering would find healing.

Finally, I ask you to continue to pray for our young adult medical students from Africa who participate in the ministry of the United Methodist Church in Ukraine. Here in Kyiv, we continue to gather each Sunday for a time of Bible study and fellowship, before joining the Ukrainian United Methodist congregation for worship. It's a blessing to be in ministry with young persons who are dedicating their lives to the healing of bodies and souls.

I thank you for your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your partnership in ministry. It is an honor to represent you as a missionary of the United Methodist Church.

May God bless you in this season of Easter!

Yours in Christ, John

Rev. John Calhoun Coordinator of International Ministries, Kyiv, Ukraine Global Ministries