

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

August 2018

From the Pastor...

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First UMC;

As my first month as your new pastor winds down, I realize that I have spent a lot of time in meetings during July! Many of our church committees have graciously met this month so I can learn what each one of them is discussing and planning. Some individuals have dropped in during my office hours to chat as well. We have discussed church business, community events, and dreams for the future.

I appreciate everyone who has taken time away from their summer plans to help me learn about the church. I've enjoyed talking, listening, and spending time with each of you. It is exciting to learn what God is doing in the lives of the people and this community!

I think it is important for us to develop healthy lines of communication with each other. Talking and listening is how we develop our relationships. As we share those things on our hearts and minds, we get to know each other from the inside out. We learn about each other's gifts, values, ideas, and dreams. We begin to discover how God is working in our lives as we come together to share our faith with the people around us.

Not only is talking and listening to each other important, but the other Person we need to spend time with is God. You don't need an appointment because God is always available through prayer. Whether you pray alone or with a group, God is listening. And God is speaking.

As we pray, we come to know both God and ourselves better. Maybe it is just me, but sometimes when I pray I say things to God that I might not say to other people. Sometimes I pray about areas where I am confused or searching for an answer. And in the midst of my prayer, a whole pile of questions, thoughts, and ideas all fall neatly together as God shows me how they all fit together. Those things that seemed so complicated and mysterious become things I can accept more easily because I know God is in the midst.

Ephesians 1:16-17 says "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God." This verse tells us that when we spend time with God, we will be rewarded with a better understanding of God. We can build our relationship with God over time, in the same way many of us are creating a relationship with each other by talking and listening.

Pretty exciting stuff – that our awesome Creator God wants to have a close relationship with us! And all we need to do is pray – just talk and listen to God!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Grace

IMPORTANT DATES...

- August 1: Annual Friendship Unit Picnic, 5pm
Mexico Town (Community) Park
- August 4: Unity Acres Picnic
- August 6: Administrative Council, 6:30pm
- August 9: Alzheimer's Research and Hope for
the Future Presentation, 7pm
- August 20: Church Growth Meeting, 6:30pm
- August 26: UMMen's Family Picnic, Noon
At Mexico Town (Community) Park
- August 26: LECM Mystery Progressive Dinner
Four mysterious stops! Contact Marcia
Albrecht for more information.
- August 27: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm



NOTES...

~ Special thanks to all who assisted with this year's successful Vacation Bible School. Your contributions made this important week possible!

~ Flip-flops and t-shirts are the items to be collected for the month of August for this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Thank you!

~ The Wednesday night Bible Study is taking a break for the rest of the summer. Pastor Grace will begin leading the study in September and invites everyone to attend. More details will be coming in the September newsletter.



FAMILY PICNIC!!

Sponsored by: The United Methodist Men

Sunday, August 26, Noon

At: Mexico Town (Community) Park

Please bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and paper products will be provided. Join us for the annual whiffle ball game. This is always a great time of fun and fellowship. **Everyone is welcome!**

How to Contact Pastor Grace



E-Mail: pastorgrace16@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 716-490-3708 (yes, I text)

Mailing Address: PO Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114

Mondays: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Wednesdays: 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Fridays: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Or by appointment



My weekly Sabbath is on Tuesday, so I can spend time by God's still waters to refresh my soul.

Pastor Grace

Prayer Before Worship...

Each Sunday before the morning worship service, Pastor Grace, the liturgist of the week, and a few other people pray for the service. You are invited to join them in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary. Prayer begins around 9:55am.



OUR CHURCH

MISSION:

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

100 for 100 Campaign

By: Rose Ann Myers, Finance Committee Chairwoman

For the past 25 years we have supplemented our general fund by having an auction in the latter part of the year. Madelyn Schmidt did an outstanding job of heading this committee, as did the people working on the auction by donating many, many hours of their time. However, each year it has become increasingly difficult to acquire the donations needed to have a successful auction.

This year, and after much thought, the Finance Committee has decided to resurrect a project from the past. The 100 for 100 campaign. Connie Day and Elaine DeLong have kindly agreed to co-chair this project. This will run during the month of August.

To explain, 100 for 100 means that we are asking the members of our congregation to give an extra \$100 to replace the amount that had been raised by the auction. This sounds like a great deal of money. If you can't give this in a lump sum, perhaps you can give as a family group. If \$100 is not possible, and we know for some people it may not be, please give what is in your heart. Some of the leadership of the church have already donated their \$100 and we are on our way to our goal.

Please make your checks out to The First United Methodist Church and note that it is for 100 for 100, or cash, and place in the envelope provided with this newsletter. The envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at P. O. Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114

The Finance Committee would like to thank you in advance, for supporting this project and for everything else you do for our church. We are fortunate to have such a supportive congregation. If you have questions, please contact Connie or Elaine.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS for LITURGISTS...

Pastor Grace requests that the liturgist of the day meet with her in the church narthex to pray for the worship service then walk with her down the aisle and step up to the left pulpit. After the liturgist announces the hymn, he or she will step out to the side and return to the pew for the remainder of the service.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

August 1- Niles Greenhouse, Mary Mack
3- A: Everett & Linda Robinson
4- George Monson
6- Jessica Parker
 A: Chuck & Dotty Parker
7- Noah Spencer
 A: Jim & Diane Barbur
11- Gary Hurlbut
 A: Jeff & Marcia Albrecht
12- A: Eric & Lori Behling
14- Elyse Skiles
17- David Munger
19- Rich Revette
20- Gail Hurlbut, Ernie Warren
21- A: Duane & Sue Morton
23- Katelynn Spaulding
24- Missy Gorton
 A: Ed & Barbara Lighthall
26- Cathy Stock
 A: Bill & Carolyn Hiler
27- Duane Griffin
28- Eric Behling, Muriel DeLong
29- Nancy Albrecht
30. Ryan Jackson

BABY BOTTLE REPORT...

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Friendship Unit's Annual Baby Bottle Collection.

A total of \$703 was donated in the baby bottles.

This amount will be distributed between:

- 1: Blessings in a Backpack.
- 2: Dawn LaFlamm's Library in Ghana, Africa.
- 3: Vacation Bible School
- 4: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The Friendship Unit will host Dawn LaFlamm during an upcoming worship service, to share about her children's library mission in Africa.

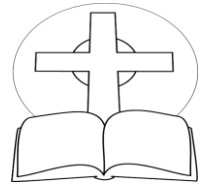
SERVING in AUGUST...

GREETERS

August 5: David & Stephanie Martin
August 12: Millie Murray
August 19: Jim & Diane Sokolowski
August 26: Wayne & RoseAnn Myers

LITURGISTS

August 5: Bill Butman
August 12: Mary Grants
August 19: Sue Morton
August 26: Jeff Sherman



USHERS

Team #1: Rose Ann Myers, Mary Grants, Jim Sokolowski, and Daniel Hall.
(Team #1 serves all month.)

AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM

Team #1: Marty Smith and Jeff DeLong
(Team #1 serves all month.)

COFFEE HOUR

Ongoing thanks to the team who continues to provide coffee hour week after week, and to all who happily bring in food donations to be served.

COUNTERS

Connie Day and Mary Grants

MONDAY'S MEAL

Monday, August 27, 11:30am

TRASH DUTY

Had Fravor

2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WRAP-UP...

By: Mary Grants, VBS Coordinator

What a wonderful week we had! We had 33 children and they all had a wonderful time, as did everyone. Miss Hope (Lenhart) and Pastor Brandin (Greco) got them all worked up with stories and singing before letting them loose for their classes.

Each year the kids at VBS are encouraged to raise money for a mission project. This year we selected the Lycoming UM Church's lunch ministry. The challenge was on! If the kids filled a bucket with change, Pastor Brandin would get a pie in the face (preferably coconut cream). Well the bucket overflowed with \$339.24 of donations! Not only did Pastor Brandin wind up wearing a banana cream pie (no coconut to be found!), but our VBS organizer Jen Jackson got a chocolate pie in the face as well! The children loved it. All in all, it was a very successful VBS week."



The Little Children and Jesus...

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. *Mark 10: 13-16*

RECIPE CORNER: *This recipe comes to us from the recipe collection of the late Jeannette Backus, who was a long-time, devoted member of our church.*

Heavenly "5 Cup" Salad

1 cup each: Marshmallows, small
 Mandarin oranges
 Coconut
 Sour Cream
 Crushed pineapple, drained

*Combine ingredients. Make one day ahead.
Keep refrigerated.*

Need to Contact our Church??

*The phone is: 315-963-3066.
mailing address: PO Box 255, Mexico,
NY 13114*

The email address is:

fumcmexico@gmail.com

**PLEASE VISIT OUR
CHURCH WEBSITE:**

www.mexlume.com

Please Join Us For:

Worship at: 10am.

Children's Church at: 10:15am.

ATTENTION "CHURCH LADIES"...

By: Sue Morton

FRIENDSHIP

UNIT

On Wednesday, August 1st, the Friendship Circle of our church is having their annual summer picnic beginning at 5:00 (eating at 6) at the Mexico Town (Community) Park, located on Route 104 just east of the village.

We (12 remaining of the original 15 women in the "Women's Unit"), would like to increase our membership by extending a sincere, friendly invitation to any woman of the church –no matter the age or marital status. We meet four times a year and it is mostly for social events...or for working on projects to help the church.

In the past 15 years of our existence as a group, we have donated financially to many worthwhile projects: New Life Crisis Pregnancy Center, Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, Blessings in A Backpack, supplies for our Sunday school and Vacation Bible Schools, remodeling of our church nursery room and the lullaby room in the sanctuary balcony, camperships for our youth attending Christian summer camps, and the donation of money towards a new dishwasher for the parsonage. We have hosted several coffee hours after worship services and have helped collect items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, Unity Acres and Brown Memorial Church in Syracuse.

If you want to be a part of a great group of women helping others, this is a group for you. Bring a dish to pass and join us at the picnic on August 1st. If that time is not convenient for you, please give Lori Behling (315-963-8160) or Sue Morton (315-963-3566) a call and we will let you know when our next meeting will be.

**Alzheimer's Research and Hope for the Future
Presentation...**

Who: Everyone in the area is welcome to attend
When: Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 7pm
Where: First United Methodist Church, Mexico, NY
Cost: The presentation and conversation are completely free!



Alzheimer's disease is statistically the most common type of dementia, affecting millions of Americans. By 2050, it is estimated that over 13 million people in the US will have the disorder **IF** no medical breakthroughs are discovered and implemented. Thankfully, there is a significant amount of solid scientific research underway, much of it right here in Central New York.

Christy Hall, MS, CCRP, is a researcher with Clarity Clinical Research, LLC. She will speak with us about Alzheimer's disease, healthy aging, and about the latest memory research. Whatever questions you have, bring them with you. Christy will also share about opportunities for participation in clinical trials, and about access to free baseline memory testing. No reservations required.