

# *The Messenger*

## *First United Methodist Church of Mexico*

### *September 2018*

From the Pastor...

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico UMC;

As the hot humid days of summer wind down, autumn beckons around the corner with promises of cooler temperatures, beautiful leaves, apple cider, and the return to school. Vacations are nice, but it is often comforting to settle back into our routines after the activities of summer.

I've been preaching on John Wesley's "Means of Grace" during August. Those are spiritual disciplines we do as part of our regular routine, hopefully daily for some of them. They are actions that allow us to be still and hear God's voice speaking into our lives. John Wesley encouraged his followers to pray and study daily, as well as attend worship services and take Holy Communion as often as possible.

Sometimes we all struggle with spiritual disciplines like prayer, reading the Bible, or attending church. The prayer on this page speaks to our desire to walk faithfully with God each day, yet sometimes we may feel like our efforts to connect with God are not making a difference in our lives. And yet, our souls long for God. We know God will answer this prayer, because God desires relationship with us.

The beautiful thing about God's grace is that it is abundant in our lives! The Holy Spirit is always drawing us closer to God – whether to begin our faith journey or to continue to grow after months and years of walking with Jesus. Even when we don't feel like our faith is any stronger, the Holy Spirit continues to refine us. Trust God who is faithful to continue to work in your life. And keep pursuing the Means of Grace that provide opportunities for the Holy Spirit to speak to your soul, to nourish you, and to help you become more like Christ.

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Grace*

### **Prayer for an Ordinary Congregation**

Holy God, we come together to worship,  
a people who would like to think that we love you  
with all our hearts and souls,  
with all our might,

but there are so many other things in our lives  
that clamor for our attention  
that we often relegate you to Sundays  
and Wednesdays,  
and times when we want you to rescue us.

Most of us really do want you to be the one  
in whom we live and move and have our being.  
We really do want to hear your voice  
above all of the other voices in our lives.

But we get bogged down in the daily routine.  
We forget who we are.  
We forget who you are.  
We forget what the church is supposed to be.

So here we are, standing before you today,  
with our human foibles  
and our short attention spans,  
asking that you would make yourself known to us,  
that you would help us to recognize  
the presence of the Holy,  
that you would continue to challenge us,  
inspire us,  
and make us into the people you want us to be.

Amen.

~ written by Katie Cook,

in Sacred Seasons, Pentecost/Ordinary Time 2000.

## IMPORTANT DATES...

Sept. 3: Labor Day  
Sept. 6: Choir meeting, 6pm.  
Sept. 6: SPRC Meeting: 6:30pm.  
Sept. 9: Alzheimer's Presentation after our worship service, open to all.  
Sept. 9: Brown Memorial United Methodist Church meal.  
Sept. 10: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm.  
Sept. 12: Nominations Committee Meeting, 6:30pm.  
Sept. 15: UMMen's Club Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am.  
Sept. 17: Church Growth Meeting, 1pm.  
Sept. 17: Worship Committee Meeting, 6:30pm.  
Sept. 19: Bible Study, 6pm.  
Sept. 19: Outreach Committee Meeting, 6:30pm.  
Sept. 24: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm.  
Sept. 26: Bible Study, 6pm.

## Sunday School to Begin!!

Sunday School will begin on September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45am and run until 9:45am, giving time to gather with families for worship at 10:00am.

There will be music, lessons, crafts, and lots of fun learning about Jesus and what he told us to do in our lives. Please join us!

## Our Sympathy to...

*The family of...*

*William VonZagorski*

*Who passed on...*

*August 26, 2018*

## OUR CHURCH MISSION:

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

## WELCOME to..

*Ernie Warren*

*Who joined our church on*

*August 12, 2018.*

## Need to Contact our Church??

*The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmexico@gmail.com)*

*The mailing address is: First United Methodist Church, PO Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114*

**PLEASE VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.mexlume.com](http://www.mexlume.com)**

**Our FACEBOOK is: <https://www.facebook.com/fumcmexico>**

*Please Join Us For: Worship at: 10am. Children's Church at: 10:15am*

## Music Notes

Thank you to everyone who shared Special Music with us this summer! We have enjoyed hearing people's gifts of music during this time without a Music Director.

Our electronic piano has many songs recorded, but we do not have a master list of those songs. If we know what they are, the choir might be able to begin singing again during our worship service.

On **September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** the choir will meet to play "Name That Tune" to begin identifying these songs. All former and current choir members are invited.

Please continue to pray for a new Music Director for our church.



## 100 Thanks!!!

The Finance Committee wants to thank everyone who contributed to our fall campaign, *100 for 100*. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August, with \$5,270 donated, we are well on our way to our goal.

This project replaces our annual auction which seemed to have run its course. The amount raised goes into the general fund to help pay our end of the year bills. Right now we are financially stable, and this campaign will give us a cushion for year-end expenses. Thank you again for your generosity.

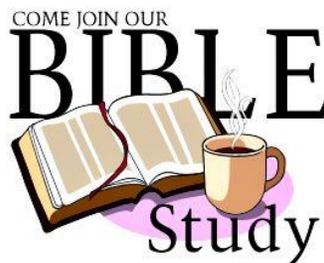
If you weren't able to give in the month of August, you can still give!

## Pastor's Bible Study

Jesus made "I am..." statements in the book of John to teach us about his identity. He said "I am the Bread of life" (6:35) and "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25). What did he mean by these statements? What do they tell us about Jesus?

Pastor Grace will be leading a seven-week Bible study on the seven "I am" statements beginning Wednesday, **September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend.

Our Wednesday night studies are re-beginning with a new format. We will spend several weeks studying a specific subject. When we are finished with that topic or book, we will begin a new one. People are welcome to come for just one topic or make our study a regular part of your Wednesday evenings!



# Update from the United Methodist Men

Our next meeting will be held **Saturday, September 15, at 8:30 a.m.**, at the church. We will discuss our plans for the year. Men of all ages are invited to join us for fun, fellowship and of course food!

Our group usually holds two fundraiser dinners a year (with a lot of help from the women of the church!). We use this money to support various projects within the church. Some of the projects we supported this year include: financially supported one church camper, paid for the replacement of the carpeting on one set of stairs in the church, donated money to the Outreach Committee to pay for the meat for the Unity Acres picnic, paid for the VBS start-up kit, hosted the annual summer picnic and winter's half-way night.

Men of all ages are welcome! Please contact Jeremy Spencer if you have questions.



## **The CHURCH GROWTH TEAM ANNOUNCES...**

The Growth Group Team is welcoming Cindy Ross into her new role as Small Group Coordinator.

In an effort to grow our church spiritually, we will be offering short-term learning opportunities throughout the year. These may include Bible and book studies as well as activities for youth and adults. Cindy will be working with Pastor Grace to coordinate these groups.

The first small group will begin in October, so save room on your calendar! Information will be forthcoming.

If you have questions or ideas for a study or activity, please talk to Cindy.

## ***Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Items for September...***

***School supplies, crayons, and nylon book bags. A collection box is in the church narthex. Thank you!!***

## ***More Nylon/Fabric Book Bags Needed....***

The children visiting the library that Dawn LaFlamm started in Africa have no way to carry their books. Nylon/or fabric book bags that have a drawstring at the top will work. The Friendship Unit has a box in the narthex, along with a sample book bag. Many thanks.

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

An Alzheimer's Research and Hope for the Future Presentation will be held at our church on **Sunday, September 9, 2018, at 11:30 am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 about Alzheimer's disease, healthy aging, and about the latest memory research.

Attendees are welcome to bring whatever questions they have to the event. Christy will also share about opportunities for volunteering in research, and about access to free baseline memory testing as well. No reservations required and there is no fee to attend.

**Those who want to have their memory screened, please call Christy at 315-412-3135 to make an appointment. Screenings will be done at the church on:**

**Saturday, September 8; Monday, September 10; and Tuesday, September 11.**

## **Mission Outreach**

### **Brown Memorial Community Meal**

Brown Memorial United Methodist Church is located in Syracuse and each Sunday, at 3 pm, they offer a free community meal followed by a worship time. The meals are provided by various churches and groups, with our church being one of many that assists with this important ministry. We will be traveling to Brown Memorial on Sunday, September 9, with meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls, fresh fruit, assorted desserts, and milk. Upwards of 150 men, women and children partake each Sunday in the opportunity to gather for food and fellowship. We thank you in advance for any support you can provide to the Mission Outreach Committee's endeavors so that we can "live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places", the Upper New York Conference's mission (<http://www.unyumc.org>).

Contact Carol Watros at [cbwatros@gmail.com](mailto:cbwatros@gmail.com) or 315.529.0930 if you wish to help.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.'

*Matthew 25:34-36*

## SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

### GREETERS

Sept. 2: Madelyn Schmidt  
Sept. 9: Joan Rouse  
Sept. 16: Joan Phelps  
Sept. 23: Sunday School Children  
Sept. 30: Cathy Stock

### LITURGISTS

Sept. 2: Jeff Sherman  
Sept. 9: Hope Lenhart  
Sept. 16: Mary Grants  
Sept. 23: Andy Ross  
Sept. 30: Jim Sokolowski

### USHERS

Team #2: Joan Rouse, Bill Butman, Lori Behling,  
Earl DeLong. (Team #2 serves all month long.)

### AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM

Team #2: Mary Grants and Chuck Parker  
(Team #2 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 Diane Tupper

### MONDAY'S MEAL Resumes!

Sept. 3: Labor Day, no meal.  
Sept. 10: Connie Day and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Sept. 17: RoseAnn and Wayne Myers and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Sept. 24: Mary Grants and \_\_\_\_\_.

### TRASH DUTY

Jeremy Spencer

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Sept. 1- David DeLong
- 5- A: Bill & Maggie Palmer
- 6- Rose Ann Myers, Maggie Palmer  
A: Duane & Norma Griffin
- 8- Brenda Hotchkiss.
- 11- Cindy Monson, Nellie Roberts.
- 13- A: Grant & Rita DeLong
- 16- Gary Day
- 18- Linda Fravor, Cindy Ross, George Grants
- 24- Lisa Spencer
- 26- Bill Butman
- 27- Victoria Ross
- 29- Jen Jackson
- 30- Zianna Gorton

## RECIPE CORNER:

### **Italian Apple Fritters Clara Tagliareni Fortier**

1 cup flour	1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup sugar	2 egg whites
1 1/4 tsp. baking powder	cooking oil
1/8 tsp salt	powdered sugar
2 beaten egg yolks	

Peel and core 3 medium apples; slice crosswise into 1/4 inch rings. Prepare batter by sifting together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Combine yolks and milk; stir into dry ingredients. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form and fold into flour mixture. Dip fruit into batter, one piece at a time. Cook in hot oil (375 degrees) for 2-3 minutes, turning once. Drain. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve immediately. Makes about 32.

This recipe appeared in the cookbook, "Know Your Apples", which was compiled by the Alumni Association of Mexico Academy and Central School for the school scholarship fund.