

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

October 2018

From the Pastor...

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First UMC;

At the end of a recent Sunday morning worship service, we sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth." By the end of the song, a few little circles of people holding hands and singing together had spontaneously popped up. It was a beautiful sight that portrayed unity within our congregation.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" proclaims the psalmist in Psalm 133:1. One of my study Bibles refers to this verse as a celebration of community – a proclamation of a good thing that is occurring within a group of people.

It seems hard to live in unity sometimes. We can always find things about which to disagree and things that we would like different. Sometimes it seems like there are more things to separate us than to hold us together! Yet, unity is not being "cookie-cutter Christians" who are all identical. We can be united without all thinking or doing the same things. In fact, our differences make life more interesting and allow us to experience new ways of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world around us.

So if we all have different ways of thinking and doing things, what (or more accurately who) does hold us together in unity? Jesus Christ is the one who unifies us as Christians. Just think about our name for a moment – Christian. The word means someone who follows Jesus Christ and his teachings. Our spiritual life is focused on Jesus Christ, the Savior.

If we all are focused on the same person – Jesus – then our differences can provide different ways of seeing and knowing Jesus' teachings. Sometimes another person's perspective helps us understand better. Sometimes the way someone else does something helps us learn a new way of loving others. Following Jesus Christ can be difficult and we all need each other on the journey!

Think about some of the different committees in our church, each one focused on their part of fulfilling our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We have different committees to plan worship, organize outreach events, and help our church grow stronger. Each one of those three areas is part of following Christ. We worship; we help others; and we build the body of believers. Each committee has a part in our overall mission as a church – helping other people know Jesus Christ.

That is unity that pleases God. We allow our differences to enhance our lives with each other, rather than separating us. We follow Jesus together, rather than separately. Unity means we love each other, because God loved us enough to give us a Savior.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Grace

IMPORTANT DATES...

- Oct. 1: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Oct. 2: Pillowcase Dress Workshop, 9am-Noon
- Oct. 4: Finance Committee Meeting, 10am
- Oct. 8: Church Growth Group, 6:30pm
- Oct. 11: All the Places to Go Bible Study, 10am
(Details on page 4.)
- Oct. 13: UM Men's Club Pork Roast Dinner, 4pm
- Oct. 20: Annual Charge Conference, 10am
- Oct. 21: Commission on the Way Forward
Information Meeting, 4-6pm,
Liverpool UMC. (Details on page 8.)
- Oct. 26: Outreach Committee Dinner-to-Go
- Oct. 27: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am
- Oct. 29: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm

Looking Ahead:

- Nov. 3: Christmas Shoebox Packing Party, 10am

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

- ~ Hope Lenhart for arranging for the special music during worship services this past summer
- ~ Mary Smith for making 17 beautiful pillowcase dresses for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.
- ~ All who contributed in any way to the dinner following Bill VonZagorski's funeral service on September 15, 2018.

OUR CHURCH MISSION:

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ALL YOU CAN EAT ROAST PORK DINNER!! Saturday, October 13 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and
gravy, squash, homemade stuffing,
homemade pies and beverages.**

Take-outs available.

**Adults - \$9.50 . Seniors \$9.00.
Children 6-12 - \$6.00. Under 5 - free**



DINNER - TO - GO

Friday, October 26, 2018

4pm - until sold out

One Dinner - To - Go

Ships One - Christmas - Shoebox!!



Serving: Meatloaf, macaroni and
cheese, glazed carrots, homemade
rolls, and dessert.

\$9 each, delivered to your car when
you pull up to the door.

Sponsored by: The Outreach Committee



PILLOWCASE & TEDDY BEARS BEING MADE...

The next Pillowcase Dress Workshop will be **Tuesday, October 2**, from 9am to noon, in the fellowship hall. These dresses are being made by a small group of dedicated women to be placed in the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Small fabric teddy bears are being made as well. Sewing skills not necessary...Come join in the fun! For more information please contact Sue Morton at 963-3566.



Pastor's Bible Study Continues...

Pastor Grace will continue to lead a seven-week Bible study on the seven "I am" statements on **Wednesday evenings through October**. The time is 6:30pm.

The study focus is: 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?

Everyone is welcome to attend.



HELP WANTED:

Church Music Director

If you are interested in this position please contact the church office at:
313-963-3066.



Annual Church Charge Conference

Saturday, October 20th, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Nola Anderson, our District Superintendent, presiding.

This is our annual meeting to elect leaders for 2019, approve the budget, and discuss church business.

All members are welcome. Church leaders are strongly encouraged to attend.

ALL THE PLACES to GO Bible Study...



What: A six week Bible Study

When: Thursdays, at 10am

Starting: October 11, 2018



Where: John and Carol Aldrich's Home, Spring Street, Mexico

Who: Everyone is invited to attend.

Overview: God has placed you at an open door. What will you do?

Please contact: Carol Aldrich (963-8802) or Cindy Ross (963-7678)

if you are interested in participating. Thank you.

Note: This Bible Study is authored by John Ortberg.

Upper Room Devotionals Available...



The Upper Room bi-monthly devotional is now available on the DVD lending table in the fellowship hall. There is no cost.

NEED a CHRISTIAN MUSICAL BOOST??

You may want to try:



101.7 K-Love (Contemporary)

OR:

102.9 MARS Hill (Traditional)

RECIPE CORNER: *This seasonal cake will be the dessert served at the DINNER~to~GO, at the church, on Friday, October 26.*

Applesauce Cake

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
2 cups flour
2 tsp baking soda

1 1/2 cups sweetened plain applesauce
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon cloves



Mix well with mixer. Pour into 9x13 greased pan. Bake on 350 until cake springs back. (Approx. 35 minutes). Sprinkle confectioners' sugar on top.

Need to Contact our Church??

The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: fumcmexico@gmail.com
The mailing address is: First United Methodist Church, PO Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114

PLEASE VISIT OUR CHURCH

WEBSITE: www.mexlumc.com

Our FACEBOOK is:

www.facebook.com/fumcmexico

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

October 2- Charles Bateman
3- Bill Palmer
5- A: Joe and Jean Wallace
6- A: Gary & Alicia Weber
8- Norma Griffin
9- A: Don & Shirl Field
10- Judy VonZagorski
12- Carol Watros, Evan Lenhart
13- Marjorie Perth
15- Tonaya Gorton
A: Had & Linda Fravor
16- Merrilee Gorton
18- Deanna and Elizabeth Spencer
A: David & Sharon Anderson
21- Had Fravor, Philip Kugler
22- A: Andy & Cindy Ross
25- Addison Lenhart
26- A: Doug & Jean Irwin
27- Carol Aldrich
29- Rick Sherman
31- John Aldrich



SERVING in October

GREETERS

Oct. 7: Nancy Murray
Oct. 14: Sparky Rector and Mary beth Turo
Oct. 21: David and Faith Hubbard
Oct. 28: Mary Mack and Jeff Sherman

LITURGISTS

Oct. 7: Ernie Warren
Oct. 14: Cindy Ross
Oct. 21: Bill Butman
Oct. 28: Rose Ann Myers

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 Christy Hall

MONDAY'S MEAL

Oct. 1: Cathy Stock and Kathy Rose
Oct. 8: Barb Lindovski and _____
Oct. 15: Nancy Evale and Jane Backus
Oct. 22: Myers' and Shermans
Oct. 29: Lori Behling and Barb Lighthall

TRASH DUTY

October - Andy Ross; November - Terry Grimshaw;
December - Fravors; January - Ernie Warren

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE...

By: Rose Ann Myers

As of September 22, all shoebox items donated have been sorted and stored. Those items that are in good supply are pencils, pens and stuffed animals and crayons. All other materials are still needed, but the most dire item is toothbrushes. As of this date I have 30 (yes, thirty) toothbrushes. We can use soap, washcloths, small toys, socks, band aids, hair ribbons, combs, tools, trucks and cars, hats and mittens, and t-shirts – as well as elastic thread for making bracelets. The collection item for October is light-weight backpacks and anything else you think a child between 2 and 14 years old could use. Sorry, no toothpaste, candy, or anything liquid can be sent.

I am also looking for volunteers to divide packages of loose leaf paper into groups of 35, and rolling them into toilet paper or paper towel rolls. This can be done at home. I will bring the paper and rolls to church on September 30. Anyone can pick up the materials and return them to us before October 28.

Thank you for all the support you provide the church with this project. Who knows what effect you may make on a child's life? God does.

Dinner to Go – October 26, 4pm on.



Packing Party – November 3, 10am.

Was Christopher Columbus a Christian?

“During Columbus’s voyages, the ships’ crews observed religious rites. Every time they turned the half-hour glass (their primary means of keeping time), they cried: “Blessed be the hour of our Savior’s birth / blessed be the Virgin Mary who bore him / and blessed be John who baptized him.” They finished each day by singing vespers together (although reportedly they sang out of tune).” www.christianitytoday.com/history



Safe Sanctuaries Training

We want our church to be a safe place for children of all ages and vulnerable adults; and have a “Safe Sanctuaries” policy to maintain a safe atmosphere. Our policy requires people who work with our children, youth, and vulnerable adults (including doing visitation) to take the Conference Safe Sanctuaries training.

We will be hosting a Safe Sanctuaries training on **Saturday, November 10th, 9am – noon**. If you work in any capacity with the above groups and have not taken this training, please plan to attend.

Please contact Pastor Grace with any questions or concerns or to register for the training.

CHURCH GROWTH TEAM OFFERS T-SHIRTS!

The Church Growth and Evangelism Team is offering t-shirts, crewneck sweatshirts, and hooded sweatshirts for sale.

The purpose of this endeavor is to allow members and friends of our congregation to wear t-shirts and sweatshirts with the name of:

Mexico First UMC *

embroidered on the t-shirts and sweatshirts, similar to any of the many articles of clothing available today with messages on them. Our message is our church with the cross and the flame, and our faith beyond the symbols and the wording.

Since this is not a fundraiser the t-shirts and sweatshirts are offered at cost. The price of the varying sizes is on the order form below. The sizes are unisex and the colors are gray and navy.

Please return completed order forms with cash or checks to John Aldrich or order forms and checks to the church office.

*Please note that although the word 'First' is not pictured at right, the word will be on the t-shirts/sweatshirts that are ordered.



NAME	
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PHONE	
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T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Order Form

ITEM	COLOR		SIZE				Price Each	Total
	GRAY	NAVY	SMALL	MED	LG	XL		
T-Shirt (SM - XL)							\$ 10.00	
T-Shirt (2XL, 3XL)							\$ 14.00	
Crew Neck Sweatshirt (SM - XL)							\$ 20.00	
Crew Neck Sweatshirt (2XL, 3XL)							\$ 24.00	
Hoodie Sweatshirt (SM - XL)							\$ 30.00	
Hoodie (2XL, 3XL)							\$ 34.00	
TOTAL								

Commission on the Way Forward

By: Pastor Grace Warren

Meeting: October 21, 4-6 PM: Liverpool UMC, 604 Oswego Street, Liverpool, NY 13088

The United Methodist denomination was formed in 1968 by the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Churches and the Methodist Churches. Almost from the beginning, the United Methodists have been debating the issue of human sexuality, specifically what we now refer to as same-sex attraction. The debate about marriage and ordination of people who are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” is currently dividing the denomination.

Every four years our denomination has a General Conference which is the decision-making body of the United Methodist Church. The Commission on the Way Forward was formed following the 2016 General Conference to find a way to resolve our differences. The Commission is composed of eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members. They will present their report at a special world-wide General Conference that will take place in February 2019. More information about the Commission is available here: <http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/the-commission-on-a-way-forward>

The Upper New York Conference Bishop Mark Webb is holding informational meetings about the Commission, their report, and the special General Conference. Bishop Webb will provide more information about the 2019 Conference process, a reminder about our mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world, and a time of worship and prayer. This meeting is **October 21, 4-6pm**, at Liverpool UMC, 604 Oswego Street, Liverpool, NY. The meeting is open to everyone who is interested in this topic and the future of the United Methodist Church.

OUR LIVES...

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and came to life for this: that He might rule over both the dead and the living. But you, why do you criticize your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before the tribunal of God. For it is written:

As I live, says the Lord,
every knee will bow to Me,
and every tongue will give praise to God.

Romans 14: 7-11



As seen on our church sign 9/2018.