

# *The Messenger*

## *First United Methodist Church of Mexico*

### *November 2018*

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends and Family of Mexico First UMC,

I have just returned from the Bishop's Retreat for pastors in the Upper NY Conference. Thank you for the opportunity to spend time with my colleagues, learning about Biblical Stewardship in connection with church finances.

One of my favorite parts of this type of gathering with other clergy is the opportunity to worship God together. We sing and pray as we remember the glory and majesty of God. Worship re-orientes us toward God, reminding us of Whose we are.

During each of our three worship times, the band played the song "Soul on Fire" by the contemporary group named Third Day. The first verse is:

*God, I'm running for Your heart*

*I'm running for Your heart*

*Till I am a soul on fire.*

*Lord, I'm longing for your ways*

*I'm waiting for the day*

*When I am a soul on fire*

*Till I am a soul on fire.*

I have thought about this song quite a bit this week. I've pictured what "running for God's heart" looks like. And I've imagined a soul on fire. This is a person who is completely and passionately in love with God. That individual is pursuing God through prayer and fasting, through reading Scriptures and attending worship. A soul on fire is responding to the grace of God who continually reaches towards us and draws us closer.

We run towards God's heart when we share our lives with God. We make space for God throughout our entire day. Running to God's heart starts by being a disciple of Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We follow Christ, who leads us to God the Father. It's not a one-time decision – it's a daily commitment to run toward God's heart.

Ready to have a soul on fire?

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Grace*

## IMPORTANT DATES...

- Nov. 2: Donations to fill shoeboxes accepted in the fellowship hall, noon – 5pm.
- Nov. 3: Operation Christmas Child Packing Party, 10am-noon.
- Nov. 5: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm.
- Nov. 6: Finance Committee Meeting, 6pm.
- Nov. 10: Safe Sanctuaries Training, 9am-noon.
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 12: SPPRC Meeting, 6:30pm.
- Nov. 14: Outreach Committee Meeting, 6:30pm.
- Nov. 17: LECM Blizzard Bag Assembly, 9am – 12:30pm.
- Nov. 19: Worship Committee Meeting, 6:30pm.
- Nov. 20: Community Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 22: Happy Thanksgiving.
- Nov. 24: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am.
- Nov. 26: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm.
- Nov. 30: Decorate the Church for Christmas, 10am.



## REGARDING BLESSINGS...

*“I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”*

*From the 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln.*



## Thanksgiving...

All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

2 Corinthians 4:15  
NLT



**Note:** Thank you to everyone for your outpouring of love recently. I appreciate the condolences and concern people expressed concerning the recent death of my Aunt Virginia. The preacher's robe from the Friendship Circle will always be special to me. And the generous financial gift for Pastor Appreciation Month will be set aside to use when Ernie and I celebrate our anniversary next February. You are a generous and special church and it is a delight to be your pastor.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Grace



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES!



*It is nearly time for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to be packed and sent on the way to be delivered to children in need around the world.*

*Throughout the year members of our congregation have been generously donating items to fill the shoeboxes. More recently, several devoted women have been sewing pillowcase dresses and small teddy bears to add to as many boxes as possible.*

*On October 26, a Dinner-to-Go was held to raise funds to supply the \$9 required to ship each shoebox. Many thanks to all who help with this dinner and to those who stopped by for a dinner or two. One hundred dinners were sold!!*

*The next step is packing the Christmas shoeboxes. Everyone is invited to the:*

**SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY**

**DATE: Saturday, November 3**

**TIME: 10am – Noon**

**PLACE: Church Fellowship Hall**

*Note: Additional items may be donated on Friday, November 2, from noon – 5pm.*

**THANK YOU!!**



## NEW SECURITY INTERCOM

You may have noticed a new device next to the door by our parking lot. We have installed a remote-access security system in our building, allowing our pastor and office staff to unlock the door from the office. When you press the doorbell, a monitor comes on in the office showing who is at the door. People in the office will use an intercom to speak with you and then unlock the door so you may enter. We do not keep any images that are captured by the system's camera.

## Conference Communications

Curious about what is going on with the Conference? The Upper New York Conference has many ways to let our congregations know about training events, opportunities to serve Jesus, and information about the church as a whole. You may subscribe to an electronic newsletter, or pick up a printed monthly magazine in our Narthex.

- **Crossroads District Newsletter:** A weekly e-mail with church events and other information for our district. Send an e-mail to: [crossroadsdistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:crossroadsdistrict@unyumc.org) to sign up.
- **UNY Notes:** Short e-mails on a variety of topics. Go to <http://www.unyumc.org/news/connect> to view the topics and sign up.
- **UNY Conference Advocate:** A monthly magazine covering a specific topic each month. A print copy is available in the Narthex or you can read the online version at: <http://www.unyumc.org/news/advocate>. Or, visit our website, [www.mex1umc.com](http://www.mex1umc.com), to link to and view previous Advocate Issues. This month's issue is about the pastor itinerancy system, which is the process that places pastors in each church.

## WORDS about WISDOM from PROVERBS...

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| ~ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.                 | Proverbs 1:7   |
| ~ <i>The sensible man's wisdom is to consider his way, but the stupidity of fools deceives them.</i>       | Proverbs 14:8  |
| ~ Wisdom resides in the heart of the discerning; she is known even among fools.                            | Proverbs 14:33 |
| ~ <i>The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness.</i> | Proverbs 15:2  |
| ~ Listen, my son, and be wise; keep your mind on the right course.   | Proverbs 23:19 |

## **NOTE: College Students**

We would like to be able to stay in touch with our college students. If you have a son or daughter in college, or know a college student who is connected with our church but unable to attend, would you please give their address to the church office?



## **From: UMMEN'S CLUB**

~ Thank you to everyone that helped with the roast pork dinner!

~ The November UMMen's Club breakfast meeting is **November 24, at 8:30am** at the church.

~ Upcoming trash duty lineup:  
November - Terry Grimshaw  
December - Had and Linda Fravor  
January - Ernie Warren  
February - Jeremy Spencer

## **Lake Effect Cooperative Ministry (LECM) Update**

By: Marcia Albrecht, Mexico First UMC Representative

LECM will be packing up Blizzard Bags for OCO (Oswego County Opportunities) Meals on Wheels program on **Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9am – noon**, at our church. Our church is providing 200 "Meal Item" – cans or cup a soup packets, microwave dish individual servings, ramen noodles packet, etc. All donations are welcome....a box will be in the narthex. Anyone wishing to help pack can meet us in the fellowship hall.

We will be going to Brown Memorial Church on **Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**, with our church donating two large pans of ziti.

## **November Pastor's Study**

By: Pastor Grace Warren

Our Wednesday night Bible study has spent several weeks learning more about Jesus by looking at the "I Am" statements in the book of John. We have had some interesting discussions and learned from each other. We will be switching to a new topic on **November 21<sup>st</sup>**, and begin studying about the Holy Spirit. We welcome new members to join us any Wednesday evening at 6:30.

New  
Bible Study...





## The Redemption of Scrooge

This Bible study is based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Cratchits, with an eye to Christian faith. Along the way we will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus.

An  
ADVENT  
BIBLE  
STUDY...

**When:** Tuesdays, Nov. 27 - Dec. 18, 2018

**Where:** The home of Andy & Cindy Ross

**Time:** 6:30 - 7:30 PM

### OUR CHURCH MISSION:

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

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

**Our FACEBOOK is:**

**[www.facebook.com/fumcmexico](http://www.facebook.com/fumcmexico)**

*Please Join Us For: Worship at: 10am.*

*Children's Church at: 10:15am*



**Pictured:**

Marcia  
Albrecht,  
Duane Morton,  
Sue Morton,  
and  
Carol Watros.

Many thanks for 100 Dinners - to - Go sold!  
All proceeds go to fund the \$9 shipping cost  
for each Operation Christmas Child Shoebox.

*"Self is the soul minus God."*

*Eugene H. Peterson*

*Pastor, Scholar, and Author of "The Message Bible"*

*November 6, 1932 ~ October 22, 2018*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 2- Kelly Freihofer  
3- Molly Freihofer, David Rose  
4- Lori Behling, Rita DeLong,  
Nancy Murray  
7- Carleen Talamo  
8- Jennifer Spaulding  
10- Priscilla VanGorder  
12- Mary Smith  
14- Robert Ellison  
20- Richard Rose  
28- Mary Grants  
30- Flora Kugler



## 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## SERVING in NOVEMBER

### GREETERS

Nov. 4: Spencer Family  
Nov. 11: Donna Hooge & Kathy Rose  
Nov. 18: Sarah, Avery & Delaney Mack & Mary Fox  
Nov. 25: Grant & Rita DeLong

### LITURGISTS

Nov. 4: Christy Hall  
Nov. 11: Sue Morton  
Nov. 18: Mary Mack  
Nov. 25: Cathy Stock

### USHERS

Sparky Rector  
Alicia Weber  
Gary Weber  
Donna Hooge

(Ushers serve all month.)

### AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM

Team #2: 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

Kathy Rose

### MONDAY'S MEAL

Nov. 6: Nancy Evale and RoseAnn & Wayne Myers  
Nov. 12: Veteran's Day, no meal.  
Nov. 19: Jane Backus & Ernie Warren  
Nov. 26: Mary Grants & Cathy Stock

### TRASH DUTY

Terry Grimshaw

## RECIPE CORNER:

The chilly days upon us mean that it is time to pull out our crockpots. Ernie Warren shares this hearty crock pot recipe and reports, "It is a good recipe and makes enough for several meals with two people or a pot-luck dinner."

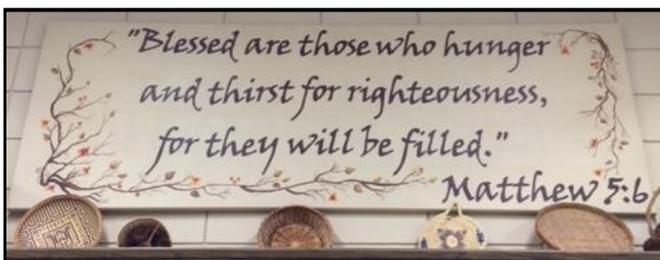
### Pasta Fagioli in the Crockpot

By Ernie Warren



- 2 lbs ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 (28 oz) cans diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 (16 oz) can red kidney beans, drained
- 1 (16 oz) can white kidney beans, drained
- 3 (10 oz) cans beef stock
- 3 tsp Oregano
- 2 tsp Pepper
- 5 tsp Parsley
- 1 tsp Tabasco sauce (optional)
- 1 (20 oz) jar spaghetti sauce
- 8 oz Pasta

Brown ground beef in a skillet. Drain fat from beef and add to crock-pot with everything except pasta. Cook on low 7-8 hours or high 4-5 hours. Add pasta the last 30 minutes. Serve with a nice crisp green salad and some garlic bread.



*Sign in the kitchen of Honey Creek  
New Providence Friends Church,  
in New Providence, Iowa.*



## Our Hurricane Response: UMCOR HYGIENE KITS!!!

Following worship on Sunday, October 7, members of our congregation assisted in assembling 67 hygiene kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This project was in response to the recent hurricanes that have hit the US. The kits contain: a hand towel, a wash cloth, a bar of soap, a comb, band-aides, nail clippers, and a toothbrush. Thank you to the Outreach Committee for providing \$500 to purchase the items for the kits. Thanks also to all who helped with the project.

