

*News from the
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
April, May, June 2026*

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

Dear Church Family,

After what has felt like a long and heavy winter, there is something sacred about watching the earth come back to life. The snow gives way, the ground softens, and suddenly, almost quietly, new life begins to emerge. Buds appear on trees that once looked lifeless. Birds return with their songs. The air itself feels different.

Spring reminds us of a truth we often need to hear again: **God is always at work bringing new life out of what once seemed dormant.** This season, I see that same renewal not just in nature—but in our church.

Over the past weeks, we have witnessed incredible moments of life and growth together. Our **Good Friday service** was the most well-attended we have experienced, a powerful reminder of the depth of our faith and the hunger for meaningful worship. Just one day later, laughter filled the air at the **Easter Egg Hunt at the parsonage**, where over 50 children and their families gathered. This was a beautiful picture of community, joy, and connection. And on **Easter Sunday**, we celebrated the resurrection together with over 100 members of our church family in attendance, proclaiming with one voice: *He is risen indeed!*

These moments are more than events; they are signs of resurrection life unfolding among us. And the movement of God continues.

As we step into this new season, we are excited for what lies ahead. We will soon gather for our trip to **Moose River Farms**, along with our **Animal Blessing**, celebrating God’s creation and the relationships that enrich our lives. We are launching a **New Members Class**, inviting those who feel called to make this church their home to take that next step. Alongside that, our **“How to Study the Bible” group** will help deepen our understanding of God’s Word and equip us to grow in faith together.

We are also especially excited to begin our new hiking fellowship, **“Faith on the Trail.”** This ministry will give us the opportunity to encounter God not only in scripture and sanctuary, but in creation—walking together, reflecting together, and growing together.

One of the greatest blessings in this season has been seeing **new faces walking through our doors**—and even more, seeing those faces become active participants in the life of the church. Watching people step into committees, ministries, and leadership roles is a powerful reminder that God is building something vibrant here. This is not just growth; it is transformation. Church family, God is doing a new thing among us.

As your pastor, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am—not only for what God is doing, but for each of you who make this community what it is. From the quiet acts of service to the visible moments of leadership, from the prayers spoken aloud to those whispered in faith—you are part of this story of renewal.

From our family to yours, **thank you** for your love, your faithfulness, and your willingness to walk this journey together. We are excited for what is to come. The seeds have been planted. The season is changing. And new life is already breaking through. — ***With gratitude and hope, Pastor Brandin and family***

IMPORTANT DATES

April 26 – Apparel order due date
May 2- Trip to Moose River Farms
May 10 – Mother’s Day
May 25 – Memorial Day
June 14 – Flag Day
June 20 – 200th Anniversary celebration of Mexico Academy and Central Schools
June 21 – Father’s Day
June 21 – First day of Summer



We are in need of a volunteer Sunday school coordinator for 2026-2027. We have an established group of people to rotate teaching duties, but need someone to coordinate. Please prayerfully consider serving in this role. If interested, please let Pastor Brandin know.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter egg hunt was held on Saturday, April 4. It was a beautiful day and a great turnout with around 50 kids joining in the fun!



Open Mic Nights are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. We feature local talented people singing, playing musical instruments and asking the audience to sing along!

Sign-ups to perform are from 6-6:30 with the program starting at 6:30. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.

May 14 will be the last open mic night before we break for the summer.

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class

Jackson Kelly, Chase Parker and Benjamin Parker all made the commitment to join our church on Easter Sunday, April 5. Congratulations to them and their families on this important milestone.



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Clothing with UMC Logo

The Church Growth Group is coordinating the sale of shirts and sweatshirts with the Methodist symbol of the cross and flame embroidered on the front of the shirt.

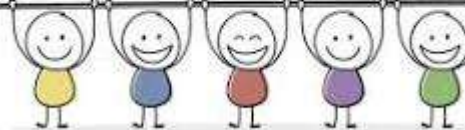
These are available in youth and adult sizes through 3x.

Please contact Shawn Mills at 315-806-7351 for details and order forms.

Orders are due April 26.



THANK YOU



On two different Saturdays in March, a small group of volunteers spent time deep cleaning certain areas of the church, including the sanctuary, kitchen, bathrooms and many upstairs rooms.

A special thank you to Marcia Albrecht for coordinating this and creating detailed lists of tasks to be completed.

Volunteer Visitors by Sue Morton

Sometime in March, it became apparent that we need to have better communication among our members. When a church member was absent from church for three weeks in a row, it was past time to get concerned. Checking in with that person, it was discovered he had fallen and injured himself so much that he needed a visiting nurse.

If we had known this sooner, we would have offered rides to doctor's appointments and provided meals to him. Thus, another opportunity to serve was born.

We have started a volunteer support group and asked people to sign up to be called when a member is in need of someone to make a meal, run errands, provide transportation to a doctor's appointment, send a get well card, or visit in person or by phone call.

Our pastor cannot be everywhere, so it's our job to show God's love to all.

Please contact Sue Morton at 315-447-6056 if you know a person in need or if you would like to be on the list of volunteers for this visitation team.

Trip to Moose River Farm SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, May 2, we will be taking a trip to Moose River Farm just outside of Old Forge. We will leave the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. that morning.

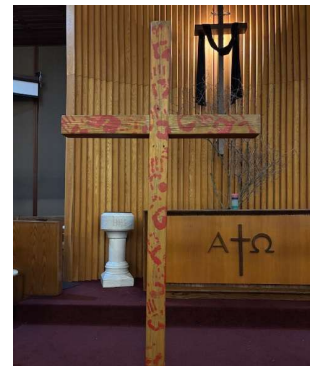
At the farm, we will take a farm tour, a llama trek and bless the animals.

More details to come.



Traveling Cross

The traveling cross journeyed to 13 houses during Lent. On Good Friday, it came back home to the church. During the Good Friday service, we were invited to place our painted handprints on the cross as a permanent reminder that Jesus died for us.



Mission Outreach Committee News

Blessing Box

Many thanks to all who continue to provide extra assistance filling the blessing box. We, more than ever, are a community staple. All donations of shelf-stable foods, paper products and non-expired foods are appreciated. Please avoid glass containers.

We could use a restocking of pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, protein products, shelf-stable milk and toilet paper.

April is National Pet Month. We invite you to purchase a can of dog/cat food, a small bag of litter, treats etc. Pets can be lifelines for some and they are part of the family. Sometimes, people will choose to feed their pets before themselves. When we stock pet food, it is always gone.

A church member recently stopped by the blessing box to stock it up and happened to add some kids' cereals to the box. As he was headed into the church to do something else, a car pulled up and when he came back out, there was a young boy in the back seat holding one of the boxes of kids' cereal with a big smile on his face. That made this person's day!

If you need to contact the church:

Phone – (315) 963-3066

E-mail – fumcmexico@gmail.com

Website – www.mex1umc.com



Mailing address: P.O. Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114

Facebook: [Mexico First United Methodist Church](#)

Church mission: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April birthdays

4 – Alyssa Greco
9 – Marlea Munger
11 – Sue Morton
13 – Wayne Myers
14 – Connie Day, Jacquie Taylor
19 – Leeann New
25 – Kaylee Gilmore
28 – Clint Smith

May birthdays

4 – Kathy Rose, Donna Hooge
5 – Duane Morton, Everett Robinson
10 – Aaron and Eric Albrecht,
Graham Gilmore
13 – David Hubbard
17 – Sharon Anderson
18 – Jim Barbur, Mary Beth Turo
20 – Dana New
27 – Alex Linerode
29 – Leslie Sherman

June birthdays

3 – Olivia Linerode
9 – Earl DeLong
11 – Anna Mae Bateman, Susie Linerode
13 – Jackson Kelly
17 – Gary Weber
19 – Alexia Russell
24 – James Watros
28 – Andrew Munger, Alicia Weber,
Jessica DeLong

April anniversaries

23 – Jim and Mary Smith



May anniversaries

4 – Cliff and Priscilla VanGorder
23 – Gary and Connie Day
24 – Niles and Jonita Greenhouse
25 – Rick and Leslie Sherman
27 – Jim and Brenda Hotchkiss
31 – Gary and Gail Hurlbut

June anniversaries

26 – Clint and Patricia Smith

***If you don't see your birthday or anniversary on this list, it's because we don't know about it. Please let the church office know so that we can include you next time. ***