

# *News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico April, May and June 2023*

## *A message from Pastor Brandin*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I send greetings and blessings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to wish a blessed and joyous Easter to you and yours.*

*I typically approach Resurrection Sunday with a sense of anticipation and wonder each year. Yet, when it comes to Easter Sunday over the years, I have had a difficult time remembering a message I shared on Easter Sunday. It is other things that I remember more. I recall other memories that show themselves in the "Befores and Afters" of Easter worship. I recall choirs singing and bells playing along with all of the other incredible songs that Lent and Holy Week bring. I recall all of the flowers where my family would take pictures after Easter Sunday services in front of the church. I remember taking home Easter lilies and planting them. But most of all I recall the journey that took us to Resurrection Sunday. The feeling of anticipation and majesty that Palm Sunday brings, the moments of self sacrifice and communion that come with Maundy Thursday, and the feeling of disparity and suffering that can come with Good Friday.*

*This year I have chosen to focus on the light that can be found by God using us, in spite of us and our imperfections. How he can use the least of us to do the greatest things to give to everyone. As we move into Maundy Thursday and reflect on the example that Jesus gave to serve others, I hope to see many of you as we share in communion and then the washing of feet or hands for any who would like to join the pastor as I serve you in an intimate and personal way. I would like to then focus on several individuals in scripture that most of the time do not get the most of attention. The first is the thief on the cross. I pray you join us for Good Friday worship with our brothers and sisters at Lycoming UMC as I share the story of the thief to help us see the most important part of our faith journey, belief. I then will turn to the women at the tomb on Easter Sunday to share the message that we are all worthy of God's salvation and in sharing that message with all.*

*Brothers and Sisters, it is a true blessing for my family and I to serve you and be a part of your family. We pray that this is the first of many Holy Weeks that we get to spend together. My family and I hope to see all the children for our first of many, "Annual Easter Egg Hunts at the Parsonage" and we wish all of you the most blessed of Easter holidays.*

*Pastor Brandin*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**April 2** – Palm Sunday

**April 6** – Maundy Thursday service at Mexico UMC  
7:00 p.m.

**April 7** – Good Friday service at Lycoming UMC  
7:00 p.m.

**April 8** – Easter Egg Hunt at the Parsonage 10 a.m.

**April 9** – Easter Sunday

**May 14** - Mother's Day

**May 29** – Memorial Day

**June 18** – Father's Day

**June 21** - First Day of Summer!

**June 25** – Church picnic at the Mexico Community  
Park right after worship

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

~ Everyone who helped in any way with the church's roast pork dinner. This was truly a group effort and we shared not only a delicious meal with our neighbors, but also the love of Christ.

~ All those who share their talent at our Open Mic nights and those who make these enjoyable evenings possible.

~ The Ariola's for building the free little library box and setting it up in the side yard of the church.

~ Those who continue to donate to the Blessing Box and those who keep it stocked to help our neighbors in need.

~ Chuck Parker for arranging to have the banners made to advertise Open Mic Nights.

## *Church Logo "swag"*

The Growth Group recently coordinated another order of t-shirts, sweatshirts and hats with the church logo embroidered on them.

Be on the lookout for these to come in soon, and if you ordered, wear it proudly!



## *In Sympathy*

Please continue to keep the family and friends of *Hope Lenhart* in your prayers.



## **Open Mic Nights**

The Church Growth group continues to sponsor Open Mic nights on the second Thursday of each month. Sign ups start at 6:00 and performances start at 6:30. We have enjoyed a variety of entertainment over the last several months.

Mark your calendars for the next Open Mic Nights on **April 13, May 11 and June 8**. We welcome new talent or just come and enjoy the entertainment! See you there!

## News from the Mission Outreach Committee by Carol Watros

**Blessing Box:** Continued thanks for your generosity in keeping the pantry stocked for the Blessing Box. Your generosity is a blessing. April's food wall theme will be personal hygiene products and pantry staples of peanut butter, shelf-stable milk and cereal. We welcome any and all donations. A reminder to bring in items that are not expired.

**Attic Treasure Sale (ATS) Date Change:** The Attic Treasure Sale (ATS) has been moved to ***Saturday, June 17*** and will be the same day as the Mexico Community Yard Sale. When donating your treasures, we kindly accept toys, games, linen, children's clothing and books, crafts, jewelry, curios and household and holiday items. All donations should be gently used and clean. We are not accepting electronics, large appliances or adult books as they typically don't sell and disposing of them is a challenge.

**Pork Roast Dinner with Men's Group:** A big thank you to everyone who supported this cooperative venture on March 11. Your assistance and donations are much appreciated and the food received rave reviews.

**UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery (Advance #982450):** Outreach has donated to help them support those impacted by international disasters. UMCOR provided funding to their partners, International Blue Crescent (IBC <https://www.ibc.org.tr/EN/main>) and The Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue ([https://www.globalministries.org/partner/regional\\_forum\\_for\\_development/](https://www.globalministries.org/partner/regional_forum_for_development/)) to help purchase emergency supplies like tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, food, and first aid for Turkey and Syria earthquake victims. More information about UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery can be found at <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/982450/>. If you decide to donate to this fund, please note Advance #982450 on your check and indicate you want our church to be credited for the donation.

**On the Horizon:** On Sunday, May 21 we will launch an opportunity for our church to purchase items to make Hygiene Kits for the Upper NY Conference Mission Central HUB; these kits help our conference address those navigating socio-economic and natural disasters and were used in the early stages to support those after this past year's Christmas Blizzard. Details will be noted in forthcoming bulletins but our plan is to assemble the kits after the June 4 service. More information regarding this and other projects can be found at <https://www.unyumc.org/mission/disaster-relief-kit-supply-list>.

We will keep everyone posted on upcoming activities. If you have any ideas, please share them and as always, we welcome new members. Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 pm at Barb Lighthall's house. Feel free to contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at [cbwatros@gmail.com](mailto:cbwatros@gmail.com) or 315.529.0930 if you have any questions. Again, on behalf of the committee, thank you for everything.

## Youth Group Update

Please enjoy some pictures from our recent game night at the Parsonage. Stay tuned for details on the upcoming Cardboard Village that the youth will be participating in.



## Free Little Library Box

Have you checked out the books in the Free Little Library Box in the side yard of the church? Books for all ages are available. Take one, read it and return it when you are done.

This is another way we are reaching out to our neighbors in the community.



## Save the Date for VBS

We will once again be hosting an exciting Vacation Bible School (VBS). Save the week of **July 17-21** on your calendars.

**More details to follow!**

## April Movie Night

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, April 29** at 6:00 p.m. for the next movie night. Popcorn, beverages and pizza along with an inspirational movie. See you there!

## **Note from Millie Murray**

As the longest member, not the oldest, of Mexico United Methodist church, I would like to thank all the volunteers that work for our lovely church.

Many churches are closing and they are needed now more than ever as our Country is experiencing a downturn.

Please invite people you meet to attend church wherever you are. Better yet invite them to join you at church or a church function.

It is more important now than ever to bring young people into the church.

God Bless,

Millie Murray                      1949 East-West Parkway  
Apt. 3103  
Fleming Island, FL 32003

## Coat Drive

The Mens' Clubs from both Mexico and Lycoming are collecting winter coats of all sizes that are in good condition.

Their plan is to distribute coats in the village of Mexico sometime in the fall along with a free hot meal.

A collection bin is in the narthex to collect coats.

Thank you for your help as we strive to "be the church" outside our four walls.



### If you need to contact the church:

Phone – (315) 963-3066

E-mail – [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmexico@gmail.com)

Website – [www.mex1umc.com](http://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  
13 – David Hubbard  
17 – Sharon Anderson  
18 – Jim Barbur, Mary Beth Turo  
20 – Dana New  
27 – Alex Linerode  
29 – Leslie Sherman, Sparky Rector

### June birthdays

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

### 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  
30 – David and Marlea Munger  
31 – Gary and Gail Hurlbut

### June anniversaries

16 – Charles and Anna Mae Bateman  
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.\*\****