

# News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico April, May and June 2024

*Greetings To My Beloved Church Family,*

*April and I wish you an early Happy Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord! This announcement will soon resound in churches throughout the world, together with singing 'Christ, the Lord is Risen Today. Alleluia!' This good news will be lit like a new flame in the hearts of believers, even in the face of the challenges in our world due to climate change, war, and increased divisions among the brothers and sisters of this world.*

*We can be so grateful and joy-filled to gather as an open community of faith in the Lord's resurrection, when many do not welcome people because of their differences. This gratitude and joy grown in the love of God in the Risen Christ, is contagious, transmitted from heart to heart, because every human heart hungers to be wholly loved. It is not a magic formula that makes challenges disappear. It is love and a hope that binds us up to face the challenges that arise. Christ is with us, indeed!*

*Giving witness to the love of God in the Risen Lord is one of the many attributes of the faith community of Mexico First UMC. We give witness in opening our space to community organizations, in raising funds to alleviate suffering from hardships in our community and the world, supporting those who serve missionally in devastated areas and continuing to live and fulfill our mission of "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." through providing worship that is relevant, inspiring and emotionally connective, along with making available opportunities to learn through studies and to give through missional engagements. We are proud to be members of a family and faith community that is so vibrant and vital in a time where darkness can be such a norm.*

*April and I look forward to all the opportunities we will have to spend together over Holy week starting with Palm Sunday at normal worship times of 9am at Lycoming and 11am at Mexico UMC. We will continue with Maundy Thursday at 7pm in the sanctuary at Lycoming and Good Friday to be held at the Mexico First UMC at 7pm where we will welcome the return of the traveling crosses. We are excited to again host an easter egg hunt at the Pastor's family home, the Parsonage at 48 Wayne Street in Mexico on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am. This event is open to all children of the community, not just members of either church. We will then celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> at both churches, 9am at Lycoming UMC and 11am at Mexico First UMC.*

*Throughout this season of reflection and remembrance of God's never-ending love for us, April and I wish all of you all the love we can give and hope that you find yourselves as blessed as we do.*

*Many Blessings and Much Love, Pastor Brandin and April*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**April 6** – Youth Group bowling at Lighthouse Lanes

**April 7** – Baby shower right after church

**April 11** – Open Mic Night

**April 13** – Lasagna Dinner fundraiser for Youth Group

**April 20** – Movie night

**April 28** – Church Growth meeting after church

**May 9** – Open Mic Night

**May 12** – Mother’s Day

**May 27** – Memorial Day

**June 13** – Open Mic Night

**June 16** – Father’s Day

**June 20** – First Day of Summer!

**June 23** – Church Growth meeting after church

## Note from our Church Historian, Penny Howard

Please forward photos from church events to Penny at [pennyh4732@gmail.com](mailto:pennyh4732@gmail.com). Printed copies (preferred) can be left in the folder in the kitchen marked “historian folder”.



## Baby Shower for Kaylee and Ben Gilmore

Our talented music director, Kaylee Gilmore, and her husband Ben are expecting a “bundle of joy” in May. As a grateful congregation, we want to bless Kaylee and Ben with a baby shower for their soon-to-be-born baby boy. The co-ed shower will be held after the **April 7th** worship service. It will be a combination coffee hour/baby shower. After a sumptuous meal, we will watch Kaylee and Ben open the shower presents, then end the celebration with a special cake made by Priscilla VanGorder.

## **JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY! FOR A NEW WORSHIP SERIES**

*A New*  
**CREATION**

**EASTER IS ALL ABOUT CELEBRATING THE NEW LIFE  
JESUS MAKES POSSIBLE FOR US! JOIN US AS WE DELVE  
INTO SCRIPTURE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE RENEWED  
LIFE JESUS OFFERS SHAPES OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO  
CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT AND ALL ITS  
INHABITANTS.**

## **Open Mic Nights**

The Church Growth Committee is happy to sponsor the Open Mic Nights at church in the Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity for you to showcase your God-given talent, whether it’s singing, dancing, playing an instrument, storytelling, etc. Each of the following Thursday nights you can sign up from 6-6:30 to participate. The entertainment starts at 6:30 and is usually finished by 8pm. **Upcoming dates are April 11th, May 9th and June 13th.**

## ***Call for “Methodist Quilters” to reorganize!***



There is much need for the dedicated Methodist quilters to schedule some “sit down together and sew time” over the next few months. Since October of 2007, 90 cuddly lap robes have been made by members of this group for members of our church who are experiencing medical problems or are caregivers to people experiencing medical problems. All of these small quilts have been lovingly received and it helps to show that God’s love is for everyone. If you would like to join in making these small quilts (or even pillowcase dresses or stuffed toys for Operation Christmas Child), please contact Sue Morton at 315-447-6056. No expertise in sewing is required, just a willingness to follow directions. Meeting times will be announced soon.

### ***Traveling Cross***



The traveling cross made its’ Lenten journey from the parsonage, all throughout the village and town of Mexico and then to the church for Good Friday. In total, the cross travelled 35 miles and visited 11 different homes.

The United Methodists of Upper New York Facebook page shared a story about the travelling crosses of Mexico and Lycoming and what they represent, which is a visual reminder that God is with us and God loves us.

## *News from the Mission Outreach Committee by Carol Watros*

Happy Spring! We met twice in 2024 and will be meeting again Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 at Barb Lighthall's house. We welcome new members and would love to have you join us!

*The Blessing Box* has been serving the community for four years this past March; we are grateful for your contributions, assistance and hosting various collections to keep the pantry stocked. We especially need peanut butter, shelf-stable milk, cereal, pasta, canned goods and personal hygiene products, but we appreciate anything you donate, providing it is unexpired, sealed and in a non-glass container.

*Mission Hub Kits* We contacted Kristina Clark, Director of Missional Engagement for United Methodists of Upper New York, and she indicated there is a high need for menstrual hygiene and cleaning kits. The group decided, in partnership with the Friendship group, to purchase the items for menstrual hygiene kits in recognition of Mother's Day. We will be assembling the kits after a church service sometime in May or early June, date to be determined. These kits will be delivered to the UNY Mission Central HUB in Liverpool. The Hub assists local churches so they can provide relief to their communities when challenged by a socio-economic or natural disaster.

*Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry* In August, we will start collecting items to pack shoeboxes for children ages 2–14. While we won't have a bin in the narthex until late July, if you see any of these items on sale and you want to tuck them aside, they are great additions to the shoeboxes. Items such as foam or small bouncy balls, hacky sacks, marbles, toy cars, finger puppets, slinkies, small frisbees, socks, flip flops, school supplies, combs, brushes, washcloths/towels, plastic cups/plates/silverware and personal sewing kits are items that you may come across on sale.

Contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at 315.529.0930 or [cbwatros@gmail.com](mailto:cbwatros@gmail.com) if you have any questions or ideas to share.



## Youth Group Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser

On **Saturday, April 13 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**, the Youth Group (and parents) will be holding a lasagna dinner fundraiser. Menu will include homemade lasagna, tossed salad, Italian bread and dessert. Desserts will be homemade by our youth group members.

Cost will be \$14.00 per dinner with all proceeds to benefit Youth Group activities, in particular, our trip to Kingdom Bound at Darien Lake from July 28 – August 1.



Kingdom Bound is a three-day Christian music festival with four stages, 50 plus artists, special experiences and more! We will be camping, enjoying Darien Lake and the music festival together.

**Coming up...** the youth group will be camping together at Selkirk Shores State Park August 23-25.

## VBS news

We're going to try something a bit different for VBS this year. We are having a one-day VBS extravaganza, likely the first week of August.

A food truck, bounce house and more may be part of the fun! Stay tuned for more details.



As a church family, we have raised the \$2,500 needed.

to purchase an AED (automated external defibrillator) for the church. A short-term committee is being formed to purchase the AED, decide on the best location for it, set up training and an on-going maintenance schedule.

## Movie Night

The Church Growth Committee will sponsor a family movie night on **Saturday, April 20th** starting at 6pm. As always, the feature will be an inspirational movie for the whole family. This is the last movie night this Spring. If attending, feel free to bring a non-perishable food item for the Blessing Box. Free refreshments are available. Movie nights will resume again in October.



## Coat Drive

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

Once again, coats will be given away in the fall along with a free, hot meal.

A collection bin will be placed in the narthex to collect coats.

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



Our annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, July 14** at Selkirk Shores State Park. We will have a combined worship service with Lycoming that day at the park and enjoy our church picnic afterward. More details to come.

### 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

### 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  
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. \*\****