



# *The Messenger*

## *First United Methodist Church of Mexico*

### *March 2020*

#### *From the Pastor*

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First United Methodist Church,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our beloved Savior, Jesus who is the Christ.

The two major Holy Days on the Church calendar are Christmas and Easter. They mark the Incarnation – Jesus coming to earth as a baby – and the Resurrection – Jesus rising from the dead after his death on the Cross. These days remind us that God deeply loves us and provided a Savior so we can live freely.

We spend a lot of time during the weeks of Advent getting ready for Christmas by purchasing gifts and hosting parties. We remember the people we love and spend time with them during that season. We think of December as a busy, yet exciting time of preparation.

What about preparing for Easter? How do we do that? The six weeks before Easter are known as Lent and commemorate the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness prior to starting his ministry. You can read about them in Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; and Luke 4:1-13. In the Early Church, Lent was the final days of preparation before Baptism and becoming a member. We continue to use Lent as a time to be more intentional about our own spiritual life and to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter.

Are you looking for some new ideas for Lent? Something more than giving up chocolate (or other favorite food) and picking up a new devotional book? Here are a few ideas I found online.

- Read the Sunday scriptures before coming to church each week. My sermons during Lent will be drawn from Psalms and the texts are listed in the newsletter.
- My personal favorite - join the "Lent Madness" online devotional and participate in the competition between 32 saints to win the Golden Halo. [www.Lentmadness.org](http://www.Lentmadness.org)
- If you don't own a decorative cross, buy one and hang it in a place you will see often.
- Let others know you love them – make Lent 40 days of writing notes to people or perform 40 acts of kindness.
- Turn off your phone or the car radio for an hour each day and spend the time in silence.
- Identify a habit that keeps you from being the person God designed you to be and intentionally give it up.

Be creative this Lent. Ask God to show you something you need to work on in order to draw closer to Christ and trust the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Mark your calendar – we'll be hosting the Mexico community Good Friday service on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This service reminds us of the final 24 hours of Jesus' life and is a good preparation for Easter.

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Grace*

## **MARCH IMPORTANT DATES**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Admin Council Meeting 6:30 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Choir 6:00 pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
9 <sup>th</sup>	Monday's Meal 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Choir 6:00 pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	UMMen's Club Breakfast Meeting 8:30 am
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
16 <sup>th</sup>	SPPRC Meeting 6:30 pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Day
18 <sup>th</sup>	Choir 6:00 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Monday's Meal 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Trustee's Meeting 6:30 pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am

## *Thank You, Thank you...*

- to all who helped with Rita DeLong's memorial lunch, by donating food, or serving.
- to those who took flowers to shut-ins after worship service on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- to everyone who contributed to the 100 for 100. We reached our goal. A heartfelt thank you!



## Food Pantry Collection Barrel Gets a Makeover

Elaine DeLong

During Children's Church, I discussed the parable of Jesus feeding the 5000, and how we can help our own Mexico Food Pantry.

I pointed out our church collection barrel had been used for many years; and asked if the children would like to help update it. We looked at it together and saw that it didn't even have all the letters, "Food Pantry" on it.

Getting started was like peeling layers of wallpaper off a wall in an older house. There were 4 or 5 layers of paper previously used to decorate it.

Now, how can we make it look new again?

They decided fresh white plain paper would look the best.

Then we looked at store ads and discussed which items were non-perishable. (The kind we can donate.)

Also, it is important to remember pets need help too.

Dog and cat food and litter are appreciated at the pantry.

Besides donations for pets, clients at the food pantry appreciate health and beauty products as well as paper products. To finish, they decided to spell out the food pantry letters with pictures of the suggested items.

Each person took a couple of letters and made them their own way.



We also thought it would be a good idea to go visit the new facility in Mexico and talk to the people who coordinate such a worthwhile local mission.

## Newsletter

In order to save on the expense of mailing the newsletter, you can either pick up a copy in the Narthex, have a copy emailed to you or view it on our website. We appreciate your understanding and help during this transition. Please give Diane Sokolowski your email address if you would like it sent to you, 315-963-3066, email: [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmexico@gmail.com).

Website: [facebook.com/fumcmexico](https://facebook.com/fumcmexico)

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jeff Beardslee
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob Linerode
6 <sup>th</sup>	Barb Lindovski
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jenna Behling
12 <sup>th</sup>	Haylee Gibson
18 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Barbur
20 <sup>th</sup>	Marcia Albrecht
20 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin Parker
20 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Jackson
26 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Tupper
28 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Marks
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Freihofer



## Scout Greeters



On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, church goers had the privilege of being greeted by some very energetic and respectful scouts and their leader. Pictured handing out bulletins are left to right: Ben Parker, Noah Spencer, Ryan Jackson, and Chase Parker with leader Chuck Parker.

## Lake Effect Cooperative Ministry

The next LECM Dinner meeting is Tuesday, March 17th at The Lycoming Methodist Church. Meal at 6:00 P.M. St. Patrick's Day meal theme – Please bring a dish to pass

OUR SHARING & LEARNING THEME:



We will have different learning and sharing stations to help your Sunday School and VBS planning.

All are invited especially those involved in Sunday School and VBS.

On March 29th we will once again be sharing a meal and fellowship at Brown Memorial Methodist Church in Syracuse. Donations will be requested once the menu has been finalized. Also, anyone wanting to go would be warmly welcomed.

Thank you,  
Marcia Albrecht

## *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.mex1umc.com](http://www.mex1umc.com)**

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

*Please Join Us For Worship at 10:00 am.*

*Children's Church at: 10:15 am Sunday School at: 8:45 am*

### *Did you know...*

We offer The Upper Room booklets, small and large print, for you to take and read or to share with others. You can find them in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

In the Fellowship Hall there is a rack of Spiritual DVD movies for you to sign out. We have different pamphlets and Prayer Notes on various subject matters that you can also take. The DVD, *Miracles From Heaven*. has been highly recommended by several people.

### Have a Heart

Our church's annual February "Have a Heart" program brought many favorable comments both from the recipients of any correspondence and the people who sent out cards or made phone calls. Here are a few of the comments heard from recipients:

From Al and Angela LaBoda, "Thanks for thinking of us. We miss our Mexico church family. We are doing well here and keeping busy with our twin grandsons who we see most every day. We do miss our friends in Mexico...but not the weather. We hope all is well at church and give our best to everyone. God bless you."

Alice Nykaza remarked how pleased she was that she had been remembered. She is now Visitation Chairperson at the Methodist Church she attends near her home in Raddison.

*Our Sympathies  
to the family and  
friends of  
Rita DeLong who  
passed away  
February 10, 2020*



Painting Fun with Youth Group

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 16 youths from the Youth Group had a great time doing an acrylic painting with instructor Diane Sokolowski. The event was sponsored by the UMMen's Club which was greatly appreciated. All the kids did a super job on their painting.

## Halfway Night Fun

Halfway Night sponsored by the Men's Club was a great success on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Many crockpots of chili, mac & cheese and goulash accompanied by hot dogs and desserts helped to keep the party going for the almost 40 attendees. Many cans of non-perishable foods were donated to the local food pantry. Seen below are photos showing the activities that evening.



Card Games – Addison Lenhart, Hope Lenhart, Diane Sokolowski, Cathy Stock, and Jim Sokolowski



Ping Pong – Jeremy and Noah Spencer



Cornhole – Skip and Daniel Hall

## Easter Flower Sale

There are four different flowers to choose from. If paying by check, please make it payable to:  
First United Methodist Church

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(and/or)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark which flower you would like. Your name will be put on the flower of your choice to be picked up after Easter Sunday.

\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily \$12      \_\_\_\_ Tulip \$12      \_\_\_\_ Mums \$12      \_\_\_\_ Pansy Bowl \$16

Total number of flowers \_\_\_\_ x \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_

Total number of flowers \_\_\_\_ x \$16 = \$ \_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_

Please mail to PO Box 255 Mexico, NY 13114 or place in the collection plate (please mark your envelope Easter Flowers) by **March 15, 2020**.

## Serving Our Church

Jim Sokolowski

When we look at our church's members, it is evident that each of us has different gifts to offer whether it is hospitality (think of all the people who prepare the spread for fellowship, cook for Monday's Meal, or prepare a luncheon for a memorial), preaching (Liturgists and Lay Speakers), teaching (Sunday School, Bible studies), Communion servers, ushers, greeters, all who serve on various committees and those who take care of the business of the church (Administrative, trustees, and custodial.) The list can go on and on.

As the Finance Chairperson, I am appealing to you to serve a need we have now. Currently there is a shortage of 5 counters for the Sunday offering. The counting job is relatively easy, and you will be paired up with a partner to help make the task even smoother. If you are interested, please contact Diane Sokolowski, the office Coordinator at 315-963-3066. A time will be arranged when we can meet and have an informal training session. Thank you.

### March Sermons

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God (Colossians 3:16, NRSV).*

The Psalms are the songbook of the Bible, expressing a wide range of emotions and ultimately turning our eyes back to God as the source of our hope. The word "Selah" is in many psalms and seems to indicate a place to pause or rest during the reading. Our sermon series during Lent is titled: "Selah" and examines several Psalms as a reminder to intentionally attend to our soul and relationship with God.

- March 1:** "Selah: Happy are Those"  
Psalm 32  
What does it mean to be happy?  
Does God want us to be happy?
- March 8:** "Selah: Going Out and Coming In"  
Psalm 121  
The word 'keep' appears several times in this short psalm. What does the psalmist mean by saying God keeps us?
- March 15:** "Selah: Worship and Bow Down"  
Psalm 95  
How is worship a gift from God to us?
- March 22:** "Selah: In Right Paths"  
Psalm 23  
How does God comfort and care for our soul? What exactly is a soul anyway?
- March 29:** "Selah: Out of the Depths"  
Psalm 130  
Where is our hope in despair?

## SERVING in MARCH

### GREETERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> George & Mary Grants  
8<sup>th</sup> Lori Behling  
15<sup>th</sup> Sue & Duane Morton  
22<sup>nd</sup> Hope Lenhart  
29<sup>th</sup> Joan Phelps

### LITURGISTS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sue Morton  
8<sup>th</sup> Jim Sokolowski  
15<sup>th</sup> Carol Watros  
22<sup>nd</sup> Lori Behling  
29<sup>th</sup> Christy Hall

### USHERS

Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

### COUNTERS

Mary Grants & Kathy Rose

### TRASH REMOVAL

Andy Ross