

*News from the
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
October, November and December 2026*

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” 1 Peter 4:10

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the final quarter of this year, I find myself looking back with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. God has been at work among us in so many ways, and sometimes it is important for us simply to stop and notice.

This year we have welcomed new people through our doors. We have celebrated new members becoming part of our church family. We have stood together at the baptismal font, by the river side and celebrated the promises of God and the beginning of new chapters of faith. We have watched ministries grow, new ideas take shape, people step forward to serve, and opportunities arise for us to reach beyond the walls of the church and into the community around us.

None of those things happen simply because we have a building or a calendar full of activities. They happen because people pray, serve, give, and quietly do countless things that may never receive public recognition. I am deeply grateful for every person who has offered their time, talents, prayers, presence, gifts, and witness to the ministry of this church.

As we give thanks for what God has done, however, faithful stewardship also asks us to look honestly at where we are. Over the past several years, our church has experienced a continuing challenge: our operating expenses have regularly exceeded our general income. There is not one simple explanation for this. The cost of utilities, insurance, supplies, maintenance, and other basic operational needs has increased. At the same time, many people have generously supported particular ministries, mission projects, special offerings, and community needs. Those gifts have made wonderful ministry possible, but designated gifts cannot always be used to pay the everyday expenses that keep the church operating. We have also relied less on general fundraising than churches sometimes have in previous seasons.

None of this diminishes the generosity that already exists in our congregation. In fact, I am continually humbled by the ways our church family gives. But it does mean that we need to begin having faithful and prayerful conversations about what sustainable ministry looks like moving forward.

Before anything else, I am asking our church family to pray. Pray for clarity and wisdom. Pray that God gives our leaders discernment as we make decisions about ministry, mission, and resources. Pray that God leads each of our hearts in the ways we are being called to serve and to give. Pray that we do not approach stewardship from fear, guilt, or obligation, but from gratitude and trust.

That conversation will be especially meaningful as we move into our upcoming worship series, **Gifted**. Throughout the series we will explore the truth that stewardship is about far more than money. God has entrusted each of us with gifts, our time, abilities, spiritual gifts, resources, relationships, experiences, and opportunities. Scripture reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10, “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” Stewardship begins with recognizing that what we have is a gift. Faithful stewardship asks what we will do with what God has placed in our hands. During *Gifted*, we will talk honestly about our time, talents, spiritual gifts, and yes, financial resources. My hope is not that we simply talk about how much people give, but that together we ask a deeper question: **How is God calling us to use what we have been given for the work of the Kingdom?**

And as we move from fall toward Advent, we will begin an even larger journey together with our upcoming series, **What If...** Beginning with Advent and continuing through Trinity Sunday, we will imagine the story of Jesus with fresh eyes. What if the events of the Gospel unfolded in our world today? What if Mary received the angel’s message now? What if Jesus were born into our communities? What if He walked our streets, entered our churches, challenged our assumptions, died, rose again, and called disciples in the world we know? The goal will not be to rewrite the Gospel, but to allow the Gospel to challenge us again. Sometimes familiar stories become so familiar that we stop being surprised by them. *What If...* will invite us to hear those stories again and ask what they demand of followers of Jesus today.

There is much ahead of us, and there is also much for which we should already give thanks. Thank you for the ways you support this church. Thank you for every meal prepared, every hour volunteered, every prayer whispered, every person invited, every ministry supported, every financial gift given, and every act of service offered in Christ’s name. Some gifts are seen by many. Others are known only to God. Every one of them matters.

As we move into this next season together, may gratitude shape our hearts, prayer guide our decisions, and faithfulness direct how we use everything God has entrusted to us.

April and I are grateful to be walking this journey with you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brandin Greco

IMPORTANT DATES

October 8 – Open Mic Night

October 24 – Roast Pork Dinner

October 31 – Halloween candy giveaway

November 7 – Coat and chili giveaway sponsored by Men's Club

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 21 – Charge Conference

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

December 5 – Christmas in Mexico

December 25 – Christmas Day

Look for more information on special services for the upcoming advent season on our website and your e-mail.

Welcome Isabella Rose Gilmore

Isabella Rose Gilmore was born on Monday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m. She weighs 8 lbs. 1 oz and is 19 inches long. Proud parents are Ben and Kaylee Gilmore. She joins big brother Graham.

Chase Parker's address at college

Chase is off to college at Niagara University. If you would like to write to him or send him a little something, his address is: 11 Vincentian Drive, P.O. Box 1154, Niagara University, NY 14109.

Charge Conference to be held

Our annual charge conference will be held on **Saturday, November 21 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Pennellville United Methodist Church, 389 County Route 54, Pennellville, NY 13132.**

Halloween Candy Distribution

As is our tradition, we will hand out Halloween candy in front of the church on Halloween night. We will soon be accepting donations of wrapped candy. This is another way we can reach out to our neighbors and show God's love.

Roast Pork Dinner

The United Methodist Men's Club and friends will hold their famous roast pork dinner on ***Saturday, October 24 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.***

Menu will include slow-roasted pork, mashed potatoes, squash, homemade stuffing and delicious desserts.

Bring the whole family out for a delicious meal and support our church!

The "Methodist clipboard" will be coming around in church soon for opportunities to sign up to help with the dinner and make desserts. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Advent Candle Lighting

As is our tradition, we will let our Christmas spirit of love and hope shine in our church's windows this Advent season.

We invite you to sponsor a candle in one of the church's windows in memory or honor of a loved one. This is a visible way to show our community the love and light of Jesus.

The cost of sponsoring a candle is \$15 per candle. The electric candles will be lit for the first time on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29.

We are accepting candle sponsorships through December 13. Please make checks payable to Mexico First United Methodist Church and note "candle lighting" in the memo section. Your check and the coupon below can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114 or you can place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Proceeds will go to the general church fund.



Advent Candle Lighting

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Sponsored by: _____

Number of candles sponsored at \$15.00 each: _____

The Centennial Poem

**Shared by Penny Howard **

Our fathers worshipped on this
ground.
And we have Hope's Consolation
found.
Casting bread upon the waters
Doing it with generous hand,
Giving measure full and brimming,
Heeding well our Lord's command;
Reaching out a hand of greeting
To the weak ones and the low,
Gathering the rich fruitage
For the Church in Mexico.
May we feel that we are guided
By a strong unerring hand,
Till we reach the shores celestial
In that upper better land.

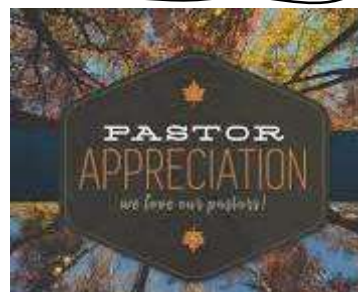
This was quoted from the Mexico
Methodism Continued, 1934. Believed to be
written by Mrs. Martha Robbins and
reprinted by Hattie Howard Munson.

Blessing Box Ministry

The blessing box continues to be accessed on a
daily basis. Your donations are so appreciated.

Suggested donations include cereal, pasta, water,
canned chicken/tuna/ham/beef, corned beef,
sausage, beans, peanut butter, cheese spreads,
seasonings, shelf stable milk. We also try to
include hygiene products.

Your donations help those in need in our
community.



October is Pastor appreciation month

*Dear Pastor Brandin, April, and family,
From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all
the love, dedication, and faith you pour into our
church and community. Your leadership,
compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving
others make a lasting impact on everyone around
you.*

*We are incredibly blessed to have you as our Pastor
family. Your presence, prayers, and guidance truly
make our church a place where all are welcome.*

In Sympathy

Please continue to keep the
family and friends of

Doug Irwin

in your prayers.

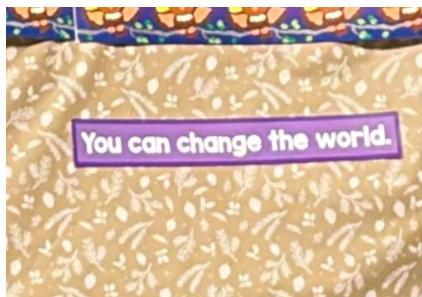


With
Deepest
Sympathy...

Cardboard Village 2026

Cardboard village was held on Saturday, September 19 – Sunday, September 20. Although the weather did not cooperate and the village was moved inside the fellowship hall, it did not dampen the spirits of those that participated. They stepped out of their “comfort zones” and got uncomfortable sleeping in a cardboard box overnight.

Please enjoy some photos from the event.



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.

Welcome new members!

At a combined worship service at Selkirk Shores State Park, we officially welcomed three new members to our church. Pictured below with Pastor Brandin are Katrina Relyea, Jeff Albrecht and Billie Turner on the right and two new members of the Lycoming UMC on the left.



Baptisms held “down by the river”

Recently, three members of the Hotaling family were baptized by the Little Salmon River behind their grandparents’ house. Their parents asked Pastor Brandin if this would be possible, and of course, he said yes!

With a few members of the congregation gathered as well as the Hotaling family, Emily, Audrey and Colton were baptized.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

3- Bill Palmer
7 – Shawn Mills
8 – Norma Griffin
10 – Judy VonZagorski
12 – Carol Watros
15 - Tonaya Gorton
16 – Merrilee Gorton
18 – Deanna and Liz Spencer
19 – Tom Farr
27 – Carol Aldrich
29 – Rick Sherman
31 – John Aldrich

October anniversaries

6 – Gary and Alicia Weber
18 – David and Sharon Anderson



November birthdays

2 – Kelly Freihofer
3 – Molly Freihofer-Mellace, David Rose
4 – Lori Behling
7 – Carleen Talamo
8 – Jennifer Spaulding
10 – Priscilla VanGorder
12 – Mary Smith
14 – Jennifer Albrecht
18 – Jeffrey DeLong
20 – Richard Rose
28 – Mary Grants
30 – Flora Kugler, Lori Alesci

December birthdays

4 – Dotty Parker, Alexis Jackson
11 – Judy Butman
13 – Sue Loysen
19 – Denise Kelly
22 – Gary Weber
25 – Happy birthday Jesus!
26 – Carol DeLong, Connie Main



December anniversary

1 – John and Carol Aldrich

*****If your special day is not listed and you would like it added, please contact the church office.*****