

News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico July, August and September 2024

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Dear Blessed Family in Christ,

With the summer comes a lot of opportunity to rest and relax for many people. Many of these people are, of course, our children. I know many parents who laugh when they hear the words "summer break" because we are usually trying to find time to occupy our children, take them to camps, and go on vacation or make things different than the rest of the year. Of course, it's still often very busy.

I am writing this just a few weeks after what was the longest day of the year, when the sun rose at its earliest time and set at its latest. Part of the reason I love summer is because we get to be awash in that light.

This, of course, reminds me that Jesus says that he is the "light of the world." That light encourages us to be living in a Christlike manner in our lives. So, while we might be looking forward to some recreation, we also know that our call to follow Christ does not end.

We have journeyed over these past several years as a family, with darkness trying to creep in on all sides in the form of divisions over biblical interpretation, strong passions of vision for our church, and the inclusion of all people as children of worth. We have faced this darkness and risen above it to be the church that we have always been, God centered, Christ led, and Spirit filled. We will continue as The First United Methodist Church of Mexico, a church that worships together, teaches and learns together, and loves and gives together with God at our left, right, front, back, and center.

Later on in the year, we will go through the daylight savings changes and it will be dark at 5:00 or earlier. I personally loathe those days, but I am reminded in scripture that "the light was not overcome by darkness." Not only does that apply to the length of our days, but it applies to how God works in us as well. Sometimes we get frustrated and down about the darkness in this world. Even in trying to do good we confront it! But yet we know that God wants us to persevere.

Family, as long as we are living up to God's call in our lives, the darkness will continue to try and darken our light. I am confident in the good that is happening at Mexico FUMC. No matter what obstacles may come, as a family with God at our center, we will always overcome, and the light will continue to shine brightly. Your pastor family is blessed to be a part of your family and we can't wait to see what God has for us next.

With Many Blessings and Much Love,

Your Pastor Family, The Greco/Gilmores

IMPORTANT DATES

July 4 – Independence Day

July 13 – CPR/AED training in the Fellowship Hall

July 14 – Combined worship service at Selkirk at 11:00

July 17 – Friendship Unit picnic at Chuck and Dotty Parker's home at 5:30 p.m.

August 8 – VBS Extravaganza! 9:00 – 3:00

August 11 – Open house and picnic at the parsonage at 2:00 p.m.

August 23-25 – Youth group camping at Selkirk

September 2 – Labor Day

September 12 – Open mic night

September 21 – Family game night

Combined worship service, annual church picnic and a baptism!

*You won't want to miss church on **Sunday, July 14**. Don't come to the church, though. Join us for a combined worship service with Lycoming UMC and our friends from the Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. at Selkirk Shores State Park.*

We will enjoy an awesome worship service near the shores of Lake Ontario and will celebrate Graham's baptism.

There will be a picnic lunch after the service with meat provided by the Men's Club.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own chair if you wish.

Church Growth and Discipleship Committee to Sponsor Family Game Nights

Remember what FUN we had at the Halfway Night sponsored by the Men's Club last February? There was a large crowd of people and families enjoying board games, card games and hot dogs and chili. Besides our own church members, there were several people from the Mexico community who stopped by the church to partake in the festivities.

With the blessing of the Men's Club, our Church Growth and Discipleship Committee voted to sponsor several FAMILY GAME NIGHTS quarterly in our Fellowship Hall beginning with a game night on **Saturday, September 21st**. More information on this event will be forthcoming as the time gets closer.



Welcome Baby Gilmore!

*Graham Michael Gilmore born
May 10, 2024 to
Benjamin and Kaylee Gilmore*



Mission Outreach Committee News

by Carol Watros

Summer greetings! We are meeting at **6 p.m. Monday, July 8th** at Barb Lighthall's house - we would love to have you join us!

The Blessing Box continues to serve the community and is often close to bare if not completely empty. Recently, as I was filling it, a grandmother who is raising her grandchildren shared that it has been a Godsend for her; she only takes what she needs and when she can, will add to the box. She is raising teens; she is most appreciative of cereal, peanut butter and hygiene products. We recognize this is a big ask of the congregation as it is an ongoing mission; please know the 'pantry' is low and your donations help those of us who fill the box. Thank you many times over for supporting this community endeavor for the last four years.

Mission Hub Menstrual Kits The Outreach committee purchased materials and assembled 20 kits to be delivered to 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. You can learn more at this website: (<https://www.unyumc.org/mission/mission-central/>).

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry Ready, set, go - in August. We will be collecting items to pack shoeboxes for children ages 2–14. Collection bins will be in the narthex. As back-to-school sales abound this time of year, please consider purchasing the following school supplies: crayons, pens/pencils, sharpeners, rulers, scissors, composition books. Be on the lookout for clearance flip-flops and summer inflatable balls. Check out this website for more information: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Again, our gratitude is extended for your support of Mission Outreach. Contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at 315.529.0930 or cbwatros@gmail.com if you have any questions or ideas to share.

A scripture on mission and outreach:

1 Peter 4 10-11: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.



In Sympathy

Please continue to keep
the families of

Bob Ellison

and

Marion Popp

in your prayers.



With
Deepest
Sympathy...

Open Mic Nights to Continue in September!

Open Mic Night will resume on the second Thursday of each month beginning with **Thursday, September 12th**. Sign-up to perform is from 6-6:30 with the program starting at 6:30. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.



Mission in Action

Sewing to make a difference for our neighbors near and far

Pillowcase Dresses for Operation Christmas Child sponsored by Samaritan's Purse

Our own "Mexico Methodist Quilters" have completed 50 pretty dresses as of July 1st. We meet once a month in the Fellowship Hall and cut and sew the dresses. It is hoped that by November we have at least 80-100 dresses to pack in the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to be distributed to girls around the world.

Don't worry ... we haven't forgotten the boys! We are also making shorts for boys, as well as cuddly stuffed teddy bears for the smallest of children.

Lap robes

Since January of 2024, five more colorful, cheery lap robes have been made for members who are sick or are experiencing medical or mobility issues. All of these small quilts have been lovingly received and it helps to show that God's love is for everyone.

Vacation Bible School

The Vacation Bible school extravaganza will be held on **Thursday, August 8 from 9:00 – 3:00.**

We're going to have an awesome time filled with fun, food and learning about God!

Plans are to have a food truck, bounce house and a dunk tank. Our Pastor has volunteered to be dunked to raise money for a local charity that the children will choose. Start saving that change!



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



Coat and Chili Giveaway

For the second year, the Men's Club is collecting coats to be given to anyone in need.

The distribution will be held on Saturday, November 16. Chili will be served to go.

Thank you to all who have donated coats. We are still accepting coats in good condition.

The Men's Club would love some help prior to the distribution and the day of to get the coats set up, chili made, etc.

Last year, we were able to help quite a few people in need and those that were at the coat drive were blessed beyond measure to be able to help our neighbors.

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July birthdays

1 – Jean Irwin
2 – Joanne Barnes, Millie Murray
3 – Chase Parker
4 – Paul Vautrin
5 – Patricia Smith
7 – Doug Irwin
10 – Linda Robinson
13 – Terry Grimshaw, Wayne Weber
14 – Doanne Hurlbut
19 – Jonita Greenhouse, Karen Grimshaw, Jeanette Spicer
20 – Barb Lighthall, David Coonrod, Shirley Tourot
23 – Jim Smith
25 – David Hurlbut
29 – Katie Linerode

August birthdays

1 – Niles Greenhouse, Mary Mack
4 – George Monson
5 – Pastor Brandin Greco
6 – Jessica Parker
7 – Noah Spencer
11 – Gary Hurlbut
14 – Elyse Skiles, Al Smithers
17 – David Munger
20 – Gail Hurlbut
23 – Nick Spaulding
26 – Cathy Stock
27 – Duane Griffin
28 – Muriel DeLong

September birthdays

1 – David DeLong
6 – Rose Ann Myers, Maggie Palmer
8 – Brenda Hotchkiss
12 – Cindy Monson

July anniversaries

7 – Earl and Muriel DeLong
11 – Mike and Kelly Freihofer
20 – Chuck and Jessica Parker
22 – Jeremy and Lisa Spencer
28 – James and Carol Watros
30 – Jeff and Carol DeLong



August anniversaries

3 – Everett and Linda Robinson
6 – Chuck and Dotty Parker
7 – Jim and Diane Barbur
11 – Jeff and Marcia Albrecht
12 – Eric and Lori Behling
21 – Duane and Sue Morton
24 – Ed and Barb Lighthall

September anniversaries

5 – Bill and Maggie Palmer
6 – Duane and Norma Griffin
25 – Benjamin and Kaylee Gilmore

16 – Gary Day
19 – Benjamin Gilmore
24 – Lisa Spencer
29 – Jenn Jackson