



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

April 2020

From the Pastor

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First UMC,

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

I am writing this in mid-March as the response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus is beginning. We are in the midst of dramatic changes as store shelves are stripped of merchandise, businesses are reducing services, schools are closing, and people are beginning to spend less time together. This is a strange season with unexpected changes for us all.

We reluctantly closed our building doors late in the afternoon on March 15th and will reopen at a later date. This was a heart-breaking decision to make after consulting with the leaders in our church and I appreciate their support in the process. I strongly believe that part of loving our neighbor is doing our part to control the spread of the virus so people stay healthy.

However, even though the building is closed and we are not holding meetings and events, we are still the body of Christ planted in the village of Mexico to love our neighbors! This is an opportunity for people to see the church reaching out and helping others even as the CDC calls for social distancing. That is avoiding crowds and places where people gather, as well as standing a slight distance apart from other people in an effort to avoid spreading germs.

But in this time of being socially distant, I urge you to stay connected with others. Text and call people to check in. Renew neglected relationships by writing letters or friendly emails. If you are running to the store, check with your neighbor to see if they need anything. If you have an abundance of something in your cupboards, share it with someone else. If you are able, donate to the food pantry or other local non-profits that feed the hungry. Be creative in reaching out to others.

If you need help yourself, call me and I will do what I can to help you. My cell is 716-490-3708.

One of my colleagues posted a note on Facebook. Unfortunately, I am not sure where it originated, so cannot give credit to the original author. It states: "*Dear Everyone – Since I've **NOT** pastored people thru a pandemic before, I don't know **all** the answers. But I'm paying attention to science and praying for wisdom. Together, we'll take courage, be patient, consider the least of these and press onward while loving our neighbors. Your Pastor.*"

P.S. Wash Your Hands!!!!!!"

Now, let's continue to be disciples of Jesus Christ showing God's transforming love to the world.

Praying for all of you during this season of uncertainty,

Pastor Grace

Although our building is closed, our ministry continues. We realize that COVID-19 has created economic hardship for some of you and understand that may affect your giving. If you are able to continue sending tithes and offering to help fund our church ministries, please mail them to the church at PO Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114. Thank you for your support.

A huge thank you to Ben Parker and Dotty Parker for the beautiful quilt to hang in the Sunday School room. Thank you also for us.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Barbara Campbell
7 th	Daniel Hall
9 th	Marlea Munger
9 th	Julie Shulsky
11 th	Sue Morton
13 th	Wayne Myers
14 th	Connie Day
14 th	Jacquie Taylor
19 th	Leeann New
28 th	Clinton Smith

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

23 rd	Jim & Mary Smith
28 th	Connie & Bob Ellison

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 nd	Connor Revette
4 th	Kathy Rose
5 th	Duane Morton
	Everett Robinson
7 th	Hope Lenhart
10 th	Aaron & Eric Albrecht
13 th	David Hubbard
17 th	Sharon Anderson
18 th	Jim Barbur, Marybeth Turo
20 th	Dana New
27 th	Alex Linerode
28 th	Rebecca Hall
29 th	Leslie Sherman, Sparky Rector
31 st	Jane Hollister, Cooper Sheldon

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

4 th	Cliff & Priscilla VanGorder
23 rd	Connie & Gary Day
24 th	Niles & Jonita Greenhouse
25 th	Richard & Leslie Sherman
27 th	Jim & Brenda Hotchkiss
30 th	David & Marlea Munger
31 st	Gary & Gail Hurlbut

Need to Contact our Church?

The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: 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

Our FACEBOOK is: 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

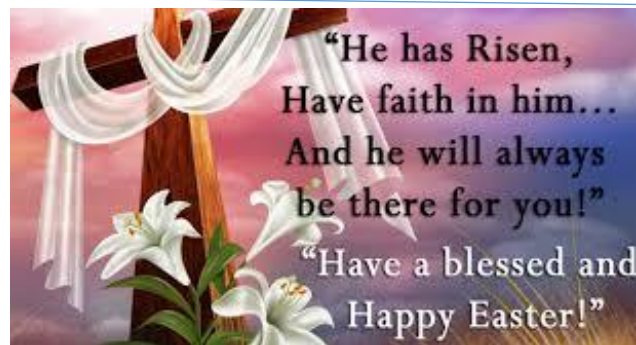
DVD's Available

Cool spring days are a great time to enjoy a movie with your family! Did you know that our church has DVD's that you can sign out and borrow? Be sure to check them out. They are located in the Fellowship Hall, and anyone is welcome to sign them out, just be sure to return them so someone else can have a chance to enjoy them. There are several titles in our collection ranging from classics, to modern Christian movies, like the DVD below. We hope you enjoy whatever you decided to watch!



*Welcome back to our snowbirds.
See you all soon!*

*At the end of the day,
give it to God
and go to sleep.*



Keeping In Touch

Pastor Grace will be using e-mails to keep you informed about prayer requests and some information. All of Pastors videos are public, so anyone on the internet can view them. We want to do our best to maintain people's privacy, so we will not mention names or personal information on the videos. Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Grace and, as always, let her know if they can be shared with the entire congregation.

In order to stay in touch with as many folks as possible, please make sure Pastor Grace has your email address. If you know someone who is not receiving these update e-mails, would you please send their address as well. Thank you!

Blessing Box

Take what you need, bring what you can - Above all be blessed....The Mission Outreach committee has placed a **Blessing Box** in the church parking lot for our community members to anonymously pick up goods they might need for themselves or their families. The Blessing Box was made by a local Amish man in the fall and is now stocked with staples that might help others navigating uncharted waters. We thank everyone for supporting this project and ask you to share this information with others.

