

# *The Messenger*

## *First United Methodist Church of Mexico*

### *April 2019*

*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.

As the cold, gray days of winter melt away, we're beginning to smile and relax as spring begins to appear. Although this was not a particularly long or harsh winter, many of us are relieved to put away our winter coats and stop battling ice and snow. We rejoice to feel the sunshine of spring, see the flowers peep through the ground and burst into blooms, and smile at the cute baby animals appearing in our yards. All of these are signs of new life after the dullness of winter.

Signs are objects that point us to something intangible in our faith. They often remind us of the bigger and deeper meaning behind the object. One of my seminary professors, Dr. Bob Stamps, would often say, "Faith needs something to do, and faith needs something to touch." Our faith is not just something we think or feel; it is lived out in action. Signs allow our faith to become tangible. Formal signs of our faith include: the bread and juice of Communion and the waters of baptism.

We can also see the new blooming flowers and baby animals as informal signs and reminders of the new life Jesus brings through his Resurrection from the grave. After his crucifixion on the cross, Jesus' disciples laid him in a tomb and were lost in grief and confusion. They did not see hope for the future now that their leader was dead. Yet in an awesome never-seen-before occurrence, Jesus rose from the grave completely and bodily resurrected. He wasn't merely resuscitated from a brief brush with death. Jesus was in the grave three days before returning to life. This is resurrection, proving Jesus is the Son of God and allowing us who follow Jesus to be given eternal life with God. This is something to celebrate!

But we don't get to the joy of the Resurrection without traveling through some darkness first. How can we know joy without first experiencing pain? Without realizing what we have lost we cannot celebrate finding. The six weeks of Lent are intended to help us face our sins and acknowledge that we do need a Savior. We cannot remove the sin from our lives, yet Jesus can and does so that we can enter the presence of God.

Holy Week begins April 14<sup>th</sup> with Palm Sunday. Our worship service that morning will begin with our children processing around the sanctuary with palms, reminding us that Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king. On Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we are hosting a community Good Friday service when the scriptures telling of Jesus' final hours will be read. This is a solemn service, ending in darkness. And on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ in a joyful celebratory service.

I invite you to join us for any or all of these services that remind us of the reality of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Grace*

## IMPORTANT DATES...

- April 1<sup>st</sup> Administrative Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- April 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm
- April 6<sup>th</sup> Pick up Pizza orders 1:00 – 2:00 pm
- April 7<sup>th</sup> Brown Memorial Luncheon 1:00 pm
- April 7<sup>th</sup> Youth Group Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- April 13<sup>th</sup> UMMens's Club Breakfast at 8:30 am
- April 13<sup>th</sup> UMMens's Club Italian Dinner 4:00–7:00 pm
- April 14<sup>th</sup> Painting Fundraiser Class 2:00 – 5:00 pm
- April 15<sup>th</sup> Growth Meeting 11:00 am
- April 16<sup>th</sup> May Newsletter Deadline
- April 18<sup>th</sup> Pillowcase Workshop 9 – 12:00 pm
- April 19<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Service 7:00 pm
- April 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Service 10:00 am
- April 21<sup>st</sup> Pick up Easter Flowers after Worship
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> Trustee's Meeting 6:30 pm
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> Mission Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm
- April 26<sup>th</sup> Food Sense 12:00 – 2:00 pm
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Youth Group Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm



## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

**The Audit Committee:**

**Lisa Spencer, Andy Ross, Hope Lenhart**

**Lori Behling and Jim Sokolowski**

## OUR SYMPATHY TO...

*The families of:*

*Donald Ross*

*Ed Lighthall III*

*Connie Kiesinger*



## Community Good Friday Service:

*Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>*

*7:00 pm*

*Mexico First UMC*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019!!!

Get ready! Get set! ROAR!!!

## UMCOR Appeal – We Can Do It From Our Website

Many of us have recently received an appeal from the UMC Global Ministries for a donation to UMCOR. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the “humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church (UMC), a non-profit organization operated under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries.”

Our congregation has long been recognized as strong supporters of UMCOR. Please consider making a donation today. If you did not get a letter request, please remember you can make a donation from our website [www.mex1umc.com](http://www.mex1umc.com).

UMCOR has long been recognized as an effective relief agency that reaches out to those in need. They are often the first on the scene and one of the last to leave. While UMCOR Sunday is March 31<sup>st</sup>, support is needed all year.

Chuck Parker

### UMMens’s Club Dinner

**All you can eat Italian Dinner  
Saturday, April 13th from 4-7 p.m.**

Menu includes lasagna, spaghetti, Italian sausage, meatballs, green beans, Italian bread and dessert. \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, kids 5 and under free. The men have voted to donate the proceeds from the dinner to the Trustees for the window project.

### Ad Council Notes



ep you all informed about conversations and decisions the Admin. Council is making. Each month a few highlights from our meeting will be included in our newsletter.

### **March Meeting Notes**

- Approved a weekly advertisement on the church page in the *Palladium Times*. Most other churches in this area are listed on this page.
- The UMMen’s Club Annual Picnic is scheduled for August 4.
- Approved an April Painting Class fundraiser for the stained-glass window restoration project.
- Approved Jim Sokolowski as the new Finance Chair.

Everyone is welcome to attend Admin. Council meetings, although only elected members of the Council may vote. Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.



**Do you know the names of the people sitting around you?**

Help us to build a tool that will put names with faces. Be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new family album complete!



Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and free directory for participating!

**Schedule your photography session today!**

Look for details in the bulletin

*LifeTouch*  
Connecting You through Family Photography  
[www.lifetouch.com](http://www.lifetouch.com)

Smile! Sign-ups for photos for the new directory will be after Sunday Worship in the Fellowship hall. Joelle Hutson will be there to assist you with setting up your time. Check your calendars...the dates are May 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **John 1:1-3**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.”

### **As Seen on Church Signs**

Life without Church  
Music  
would *b* flat

### **As Seen on Church Signs**

*If you are more fortunate  
than others, build a longer  
table, not a taller fence.*

### **As Seen on Church Signs**

*God always gives us enough strength  
for the next step.*

## **PAINTING FUNDRAISER**

### **FOR STAINED GLASS REPAIR PROJECT**

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

2:00 – 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Step by step instructions on painting your own

12 x 16 oil painting – Sunset Cross

\$30 per person

Sign up and payment deadline is April 12<sup>th</sup>

Refreshments will be served.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 pp Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Turn in Painting Registration forms to Diane Sokolowski by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Checks payable to: UMC Mexico



**OUR CHURCH MISSION:**

**To make disciples for  
Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the  
world.**

***PIZZA PICK UP***

*If you ordered Pizza's from the Trustee's fundraiser, they can be picked up on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in the church parking lot between 1:00 and 2:00 pm.*

## **MISSION OUTREACH NEWS...**

**By: Carol Watros, Outreach Committee Member**

### **Heifer International's Fill the Ark**

Thank you for supporting this project. Each Sunday the arks are filling the collection plates and we so appreciate the difference you are making in the lives of others throughout the world. We will continue to collect them through the month of April. More information on Heifer International can be found at <https://www.heifer.org/>.



### **April 7 Brown Memorial Community Meal**

Our next opportunity to make, bake and take a meal to our 'southern Syracuse neighbors' is Sunday, April 7. As described in previous newsletters, Brown Memorial United Methodist Church (<http://www.umc.org/find-a-church/church/19344>) offers a free meal each Sunday prior to a 4 pm praise and worship service. The meals are provided and served by various churches and groups, with our church being one of many assisting a ministry which feeds food and fellowship to upwards of 150 community members. Brown Memorial is very grateful for our support, and we are so very grateful for yours. Thank you in advance for your shopping and baking.

### **Attic Treasure Sale: Saturday, May 4**

Get ready to shop from 9-3 at our annual fundraiser for your very own deals and steals. In the meantime, we continue to welcome your donations of collectibles, candles, household items, linens, jewelry, craft and holiday items, books, CDs/DVDs/ Blu-ray discs, toys, games, puzzles and children's clothing in good condition to size 14. New this year is our 'boutique'- please remember us if you wish to empty your closets of any contemporary prom attire or semi-formal/vintage clothing and accessories. You can bring your gently used items to the church Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> between 12-5 pm. Feel free to contact someone from the Outreach Committee if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

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

## **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

23<sup>rd</sup> Jim & Mary Smith  
28<sup>th</sup> Connie & Bob Ellison

## ***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: Children's Sunday School at: 8:45 am. Worship at: 10:00 am.***

***Children's Church at: 10:15 am***

### **An Anniversary Observed**

#### **A Pastor's Journey to Share**

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we marked the one-year anniversary when our Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, SPPRC, first met our new Pastor, Grace Warren, or as we know her, Pastor Grace. How time flies by. It seems like only yesterday that it was July 2018, when Pastor Grace assumed full responsibilities of ministering to our Church. The journey in miles from her previous home, in Western New York, to our church was over 200 miles. A journey traveled and a position accepted and so thankfully appreciated by the members of our church.

For some it may be a simple observation, but for most it is with joy, support, and anticipation that we see the progress of another journey. Pastor Grace's journey toward becoming an ordained minister, a United Methodist Elder. This journey started prior to our knowledge in 2012 with her decision, schooling, and extensive training, and Grace's service as a local church pastor. Now we can see the further steps that are required of Pastor Grace for the completion of this journey. SPPRC, has been informed of required meetings, scheduled training, along with the vast amounts of study and papers to be submitted. The commitment required for this journey is impressive.

Within the last few weeks Pastor Grace accomplished a MAJOR milestone that validated her hard work and will lead to the goal of being a fully ordained Elder. On March 3rd Pastor Grace completed the process of the submission of a massive amount of paper work which included:

- Answering sixteen questions from paragraph 324.9 of the Book of Discipline that reveal her personal theology and understanding of pastoral ministry.
- Writing a 6 week Bible study.
- Completing miscellaneous forms verifying information needed by the Church.
- Completed a day-long interview process with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

At a ceremony on June 8<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Grace will be commissioned as a Provisional Elder and will no longer be considered a Licensed Local Pastor. The congregation is welcomed to attend this ceremony, which will be in Syracuse. The final Ordination process will be a minimum of two years and a maximum of eight years before Grace is Ordained as an Elder. In this provisional time, along with continued training, she will need to demonstrate that she is capable of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Grace's personal target date for Ordination is 2022.

Pastor Grace, may we share our joy in your success to date. We look eagerly (with God's Grace and Joy) toward the day, when we will celebrate your goal of becoming an Ordained Elder.

SPPRC

## General Conference Resources

A few people have stopped into my office to ask questions or talk about their questions and concerns after the recent Special Session of General Conference.

Bishop Mark Webb gave a presentation on March 17<sup>th</sup> to explain the petitions and decisions from General Conference. The Upper New York Annual Conference website has videos and information from that presentation.

- A recap of the information:  
<http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/ny-recap-and-reflections-of-special-session-2019-gathering>
- Specific Legislation:  
<http://www.unyumc.org/events/general-conference-decisions-2019>
- Frequently Asked Questions:  
<http://www.unyumc.org/events/special-session-resources-the-way-forward>
- Videos of the worship and presentation:  
<http://www.unyumc.org/events/post-special-session-videos>

I continue to be available if people would like to talk about anything related to General Conference.

Pastor Grace

*Spring is a lovely reminder how beautiful change can be.*



## RECIPES from CHURCH MEMBERS...

### Rosa Marina Salad

Submitted by Diane Sokolowski

#### Ingredients

1 (16 ounce) box Rosa Marina (orzo) pasta  
2 (15 ounce) cans mandarin oranges, drained and juice reserved  
1 (16 ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained with juice reserved  
3/4 cup white sugar  
2 large eggs  
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1 (16 ounce) container whipped topping (such as Cool Whip)  
1 jar of cherries (optional – for garnish)  
Walnuts (optional)

#### Directions

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook orzo in the boiling water, stirring occasionally until cooked through but firm to the bite, about 11 minutes. Drain and transfer to a large bowl.

Combine sugar, eggs, flour in a saucepan over medium heat. Stirring often, bring to a boil. Add 2 cups of the reserved juice and continue stirring and bring to a boil.

Pour cooked sauce over the orzo pasta, stirring well to incorporate. Cover with lid or foil and store in the refrigerator overnight. Store the pineapple and mandarin oranges in a container in the refrigerator overnight.

The next day, drain excess juice from mandarin oranges and pineapple in bowl, mix into the orzo mixture adding the whipped topping. Stir well.

Top with cherries and walnuts if desired.

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#### Recipe Tips

- Read the recipe fully before starting to make sure you have everything you need.
- Prep before you start makes cooking and baking easier.
- Test new recipes before making for a special occasion.
- Taste as you go – add seasoning if needed



## *SERVING in APRIL...*

### *GREETERS*

April 7: Ernie Warren and Earl DeLong  
April 14: Nancy Murray  
April 21: Rita & Grant DeLong  
April 28: Marcia Albrecht and Barb Lighthall

### *LITURGISTS*

April 7: Lisa Spencer  
April 14: Marcia Albrecht  
April 21: Jeff Sherman  
April 28: Denise Kelly

### *MONDAY'S MEAL*

April 1: Jane Backus and ?  
April 8: Barb Lindovski  
April 15: No School – No Monday Meals  
April 22: No School – No Monday Meals  
April 29: Barb Lighthall

### *USHERS*

Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

### *AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM*

Thank you to those who make our audio-video possible.

### *COUNTERS*

Muriel Delong and Lisa Spencer

### *TRASH REMOVAL*

Linda and Had Fravor

*Welcome Back to any of  
our snow birds!*

*Please let Diane  
Sokolowski know you are  
back so your address can  
be updated.*

*Thank you!*