

News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico October, November and December 2023

Greetings My Church Family,

I pray that the coming fall weather finds all of you blessed and well. The season of fall just happens to be my favorite of all times of the year. The colors, cool weather, aromas, and weekend trips to farms and orchards, not only bring back fond memories but also bring brand new ones. It reminds me of a conversation and email that I shared with a pastor friend that I would like to share with you.

“The changing leaves this morning reminded me that God’s beauty is all around us every day. And as I watched the burgeoning reds and yellows - the golds and oranges, I did think about how they would all turn brown soon. Rather, God turned my heart to the way the tree began. From a simple sapling which, over time, has broken free from the hard seeds that confined it. Released from its prison, the sapling started to grow - force its way from the ground. It withstood storms and weather year after year until it grew into a magnificent giant tree with multicolored leaves, which fly past us as we speed down the highways.

In all this glorious beauty, I wondered why the sapling grew, climbed from the ground, broke free of the shell which bound it in birth? Did the sapling grow out of duty or from inspiration?

I wondered for a moment and thought, it is just a tree. That is what trees do, right? But then again, I looked to witness the trees bending to the light. Each limb climbing higher and higher. Struggling to find its way to the sun, or maybe I was wrong, and the tree is inspired by the sun - by the light - by the love God created in the world.”

At this point I typically share all the good things that the church has been doing over the previous months and the months to come and although God is doing amazing things through us, I would like to take this opportunity to share a little message.

It is no secret that my family and I have a fondness for a certain farm in the Adirondacks. While spending some time there recently, I began to realize how truly detached we are from God’s creation. God not only made us stewards of His creation but also gives us the opportunity to learn from it, to walk beside it, to be in communion with it. We have become so consumed by a “ME” centered society and culture, that we have forgotten the truly blessed gifts that God has given us, and I speak to all of God’s creation not just the natural world but our brothers and sisters in this world. As we move our way through fall and into the Advent and Christmas seasons, I ask that you step back, take a breath, and observe. Go somewhere and leave your phone in the car and take a walk, listen. There is still so much beauty in this world and God has made it for us, His children.

My family and I wish all of you the best of autumns and we look forward to all that God has planned for us this season. May God bless each and every one of you. We love you all.

With Much Love, Your Pastor Family, The Greco/Gilmores

IMPORTANT DATES

October 7 – Coat and chili giveaway sponsored by Lycoming and Mexico's Men's Clubs

October 12, November 9, December 14 – Open Mic Nights

October 17 – Charge Conference

October 21 – Mystery Dinner Theater

October 31 – Halloween candy giveaway

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

December 2 – 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.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

~ Everyone who donates to the Blessing Box and those who work diligently to keep it filled for our neighbors in need.

~ Those who provide our coffee hour after church each Sunday. Thank you for the delicious goodies and the time for fellowship.

~ Everyone who helped in the church clean-up on September 26.

~ The Worship Committee for creating a warm and inviting space for us to worship in.

~ Our family members that work behind the scenes to get things done that seem to "just happen". Your dedication is noticed and appreciated.

Note from Elyse Skiles

Rev. Elyse Skiles, former member of Mexico First United Methodist Church has been elected to serve as an Elder in the Allegheny West Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

Rev. Elyse served as a Local Licensed Pastor in the Upper New York Annual Conference in the Oswego area at Journey Faith UMC and Lycoming UMC prior to her retirement in 2018. After her move to the Cincinnati, Ohio area, she served God while at Mt. Moriah UMC as the Ministry Team Leader which oversaw the 13 program areas of our faith journey's.

In January of 2013 she joined the Amelia Methodist Church, a Global Methodist Church congregation and transferred her clergy membership to the Global Methodist Church. At that time Rev. Elyse was elected to Elder status. On Saturday, October 14, 2023 during the Allegheny West Convening Conference, she will participate in the formal service of Ordination.

You are invited to join Rev. Elyse, her son David, her sister Jean and brother-in-law Kurt, and her faith sister Cindy Stone who will stand with her during this very special and meaningful time in her faith journey at 1pm by joining the livestream of the service on the www.alleghenywestgmc.org website.

I thank you for your support and prayers over the years and being the congregation of sisters and brothers in the faith that started me on my journey of serving our God back in 2007. I ask for your prayers now as I listen to where God is calling me during this new time in my ministry.

God bless each and every one of you!

Rev. Elyse



Methodist Quilters by Sue Morton

Since 2007, over 80 lap robes have been lovingly made and given to people associated with our church that are hospitalized or shut-ins. Our own Carolyn Hiler was the very first recipient. These cozy lap robes are a tangible reminder that God loves them. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a lap robe, please contact Sue Morton.

Women's Friendship Circle by Sue Morton

Our small, but stable, friendly group continues to support activities of our church and work toward helping those in need. If you are a woman of any age and want to join our "small band of women helping others", please contact Lori Behling.

The annual Advent giving tree where we collect hats, gloves, socks, and scarves to be donated to local charities will be coming soon.

Recently, the Friendship Circle assisted our Youth Group in their Cardboard Village fundraiser in collecting money for Oswego's Victory Transformation and the Mexico Food Pantry.

Our annual Christmas party will be held the first part of December. If you would like to join us, please let Lori Behling know!

Open Mic Nights Continue!

After a brief break for the summer, open mic night is back, sponsored by the Church Growth and Discipleship Group. These fun-filled evenings are held the second Thursday of the month in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming dates are:

October 12

November 9

December 14

If you wish to showcase your talent, sign-ups begin at 6:00, with the entertainment starting at 6:30. Refreshments are available.

Halloween Candy Giveaway

Again this year, we will be handing out candy in front of the church. This event is sponsored by the Church Growth and Discipleship Group. This is another way we can show our love to our neighbors. We will be asking for donations of wrapped candy soon!



Let a member of the Growth Group know if you can help hand out candy or assemble bags.

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 we 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, December 3.

We are accepting candle sponsorships through December 15. 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.



Advent Candle Lighting

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Sponsored by: _____

Number of candles sponsored at \$15.00 each: _____

Mystery Dinner Theater



Who dunnit? Be a spectator or participate! The Outreach Committee is hosting our very first interactive Italian mystery dinner theater. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The drama is directed by Donna Leigh, famous for interactive dinners throughout the county. Opportunities abound to test your investigative skills and be awarded prizes.

Cost is \$35, pre-sale only. See someone from the Outreach Committee or contact Donna at 315-907-8713 for tickets.

Proceeds to benefit outreach and mission projects in our community and beyond.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Our Youth Group, combined with the Lycoming Youth Group has had a busy summer!

In July, we went to The Wild in Chittenango to enjoy God's creations in the form of many different animals. We also enjoyed a trip to Enchanted Forest in Old Forge in August.

We made the newspaper in September for our Cardboard Village fundraiser that was held in June to support Victory Transformation and the Mexico Food Pantry.

We will be meeting once a month for fun activities as well as some learning.

Some things we have planned include a campfire/hot dog roast to kick off the year, a game night, a possible camping trip and a lock-in at the church. We are also talking about going to Kingdom Bound in July at Darien Lake.

Check out our new bulletin board in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall to see some great photos and keep up to date on what we're doing!

Charge Conference to be held October 17

Our annual charge conference will be held on Tuesday, October 17 in our sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. We will be hosting eight other churches as well as our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood.

We will need help preparing and serving refreshments before the charge conference. More details to come.

Blessing Box

The blessing box in our parking lot continues to be a great help to our neighbors in need. The box is often bare from day to day which speaks of the need right here in our community.

If you are donating, please remember no glass items and no expired items.

Thank you to everyone who keeps this ministry going.

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

Christmas in Mexico 2023

We will host our annual craft show in the community-wide Christmas in Mexico event on Saturday, December 2 from 9-3. This event is sponsored by the Greater Mexico Chamber of Commerce.

We need help with set up, clean up, baking, selling baked goods and serving food in the kitchen.

Please give Sue Morton a call at 315-447-6056 to let her know how you can help.



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



October is Pastor appreciation month. Thank you, Pastor Brandin and family, for all you do to make our church and community a better place. We appreciate you!

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Thank the almighty, for all that He gave in life, for the food that you eat, for the people you greet, for the love in the heart, for that wonderful start. Thank the Lord for everything because it is Thanksgiving Day. - Author unknown



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

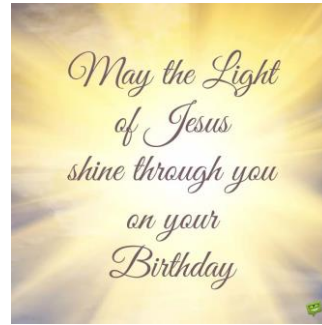
Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

2 – Charles Bateman
3 – Bill Palmer
8 – Norma Griffin
10 – Judy VonZagorski
12 – Carol Watros
15 – Tonaya Gorton
16 – Merrilee Gorton
18 – Deanna and Liz Spencer
21 – Had Fravor, Phil Kugler
27 – Carol Aldrich
29 – Rick Sherman
31 – John Aldrich

October anniversaries

6 – Gary and Alicia Weber
9 – Don and Shirl Field
18 – David and Sharon Anderson
26 – Doug and Jean Irwin



November birthdays

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

December birthdays

4 – Dotty Parker, Alexis Jackson
11 – Judy Butman
13 – Sue Loysen
22 – Gary Weber
24 – Mary Loysen
25 – Happy birthday Jesus!
26 – Jeff Sherman
26 – Carol DeLong
26 – Connie Main

December anniversaries

1 – John and Carol Aldrich
10 – Phil and Flora Kugler



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