

News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico October, November and December 2022

"The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands." Psalm 19

Dear Church Family,

It's the time of year to take a trip to the mountains or to the glorious color of the fall in the Adirondacks, where trees are adorned in God's colors of yellow, orange and red. St. Irenaeus once said, "The glory of God is man fully alive". The past three months have shown our church is alive with the life of Christ. We are the hands and feet of God, and it is to God we turn for ongoing growth and renewal. What a delightful time of year, when children have settled into learning in the classroom. Parents are back to work without the distraction of virtual learning and watching over the children. Our Sunday attendance is up, Sunday school will soon be starting, and our ministries and programs are growing. Activities that had dwindled because of the pandemic are starting to thrive again and as I write this letter, we are looking forward to over 20 youth going on a day trip to Moose River Farms, our first 'Open Mic Night', the return of mens' breakfasts, and the coming of Advent, Christmas in Mexico, and our Longest Night and Christmas Eve services.

As I have the opportunity to meet with our new Worship Committee this week, we will start the planning for our first Advent and Christmas together as Pastor and church. This year as a theme I look to sharing the names and light of Christ with all who will hear. We will continue to train our focus upward and outward and are reminded that Christmas is not just for one time of year, but for every day of the year. I am reminded of a quote by Howard Thurman:

*"When the song of the angels is still,
When the star in the sky has gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When shepherds are back with their sheep,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To build the nations, to make peace among the people,
To make music in the heart."*

My family and I are truly blessed to be your Pastor family and as we start to move into the parsonage, we hope that you gain a sense of permanence and stability. We look forward to sharing the fall and Advent season with our new church family and can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the new year. We wish all of you a bountiful harvest season of autumn, an exciting season of anticipation that Advent brings, and the hope and light that Christmas is.

Much love and many blessings,

Pastor Brandin, April, and Family

IMPORTANT DATES

October 22 – Men’s Club breakfast – 8:30 a.m.

October 31 – Halloween candy give away at church (see page 3 for more information)

November 10 – Open Mic Night – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (see page 3 for more information)

November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

December 3 – Christmas in Mexico (see page 6 for more information)

December 25 – Christmas Day

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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

~ All of those who donated breakfast items during the month of September for the Blessing Box.

~ Everyone who helped in any way for the lunch we provided to Brown Memorial on September 18.

~ Those who worked to get the parsonage ready for Pastor Brandin and his family to move in.

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

***“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”
Colossians 3: 23-24***

New addresses

Rev. Joe Wallace has moved. His new address is:

*15674 Eimicke Place
Apartment #110
Watertown, NY 13601*

Jewell Fultz has also moved apartments at Bishop’s Commons.

*Her new address is:
Bishop’s Commons
Apartment #120
4 Burkle Street
Oswego, NY 13126*

Send them a card or note to let them know their Mexico family is thinking of them.

In Sympathy

Please keep the family and friends of Robert Hooge, husband of Donna Hooge, in your prayers.



Welcome!

We have a new church Treasurer. Bettie Jo Cronk is currently training to assume the duties of Treasurer for our church. If you see her in the office, please welcome her!

Church Discipleship and Growth Group by Sue Morton



We strive to be active and visible members of our community. For several years, we have handed out candy on Halloween night in front of the church.

Your help is needed. We are accepting donations of bagged candy (individually wrapped please) during the month of October. There will be a receptacle in the Narthex to place your donations in.

Just prior to Halloween, the Growth Group will bag up the candy in snack-sized bags that will include a note with information about our church, including service time, Facebook page and website. We will also include information about our youth group for kids in grades 5-12.



The Growth Group enthusiastically announces that we will have our very own open mic night in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 10 from 6-8 p.m. This was planned after the group took a “field trip” to an open mic night at Christ Community Church near Baldwinsville. After experiencing this, they have decided to bring this opportunity to Mexico!

If you haven’t heard of an open mic night before, it’s an opportunity for members of our community and church of all ages to showcase their talents whether it be singing, playing an instrument, dancing, reading poetry or telling jokes (church-appropriate of course). 😊

The Fellowship Hall will be transformed into an entertainment center for the evening with professional lighting and a professional sound system. Come and showcase your talent. If you think you don’t have talent, come on out and enjoy an evening of entertainment!

Sign-ups will be at 6 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available.



Mission Outreach Committee News by Carol Watros

Blessing Box

The Blessing Box is accessed frequently and we are grateful for the donations of breakfast foods and other non-perishable items during the month of September. The food wall in the sanctuary is a visual reminder of how much of a difference our united efforts make in helping to feed hungry people. For October, in recognition of National Chili Month, we will be collecting anything and everything chili, including canned chili along with chili ingredients such as canned beans, corn, tomatoes, chicken, beef, soup, soy crumbles along with spices, seasoning mix, soup crackers and parmesan cheese. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. We are reaching out beyond the walls of our church to make a difference in our community.

Brown Memorial United Methodist Church Community Meal

We had the opportunity to make, bake and take a hearty meal to our Syracuse neighbors on Sunday, September 18. Each Sunday, prior to their 4 p.m. praise and worship service, a meal is provided to church and community members. The meals are provided by various churches and groups, with our church being one of many assisting in a ministry that provides food and fellowship. Everyone was very appreciative of the meal. No one left hungry; takeout dinners were distributed to more community members, after school programs were provided with snacks, kids were hugged and there were many smiles – all because of you! Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this outreach opportunity.

Shoe boxes for Red Bird Mission

This year we are filling adult and children's shoeboxes for Red Bird Mission, located in Beverly, Kentucky (<http://rbmission.org/>) Red Bird Mission serves an isolated, rural region of the Appalachian Mountains which is impacted by persistent poverty, inadequate employment opportunities, insufficient housing and geographical challenges.

Items needed for the adult shoe boxes include a comb/brush, shampoo, hand lotion, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, chapstick, full size bath soap, wash cloth, disposable razors, shaving cream, nail care supplies, mittens, scarf, hat, socks and work gloves. Please indicate if the box is for a man or woman.

Items needed for the children's shoe boxes include two or three toy items, two or three school items, bar soap, children's toothbrush, children's toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, wash cloth, comb/brush, chapstick, mittens, hat, socks and small flashlight. Please indicate if the box is for a boy or girl.

Christian bookmarks, wrist bands or other spiritual items can also be included and all items must be placed in a **clear** shoe box. Some clear shoe boxes will be available for individuals to fill along with a collection bin for items in mid-October.

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 13 at the church. New members are always welcome. Feel free to contact Carol Watros at cbwatros@gmail.com or 315-529-0930 if you have any questions.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40)

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, November 27.

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: _____

Christmas in Mexico 2022

We will host our annual craft show, showcasing 20 different vendors, in the community-wide Christmas in Mexico event on Saturday, December 3 from 9-4. 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 315-963-3566 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



October is Pastor appreciation month. Take a moment to thank Pastor Brandin and his family for all they do for our church family. Give them a word of encouragement or praise, share a hug, send a text.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

For all your gifts of nature and of grace,

For health and strength,

For homes and family,

For true friends and wise teachers,

For all the blessings of this life and our hope of a better life to come.

Rachel Marie Stone, adapted from *Good Graces*, based on a Church of Scotland prayer

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

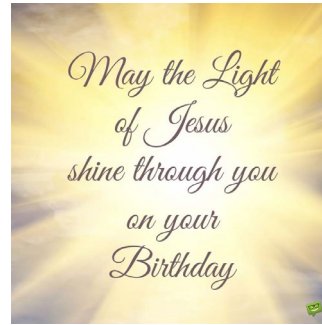
Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

2 – Charles Bateman
3 – Bill Palmer
8 – Norma Griffin
10 – Judy VonZagorski
12 – Carol Watros, Evan Lenhart
15 – Tonaya Gorton
16 – Merrilee Gorton
18 – Deanna and Liz Spencer
21 – Had Fravor, Phil Kugler
25 – Addison Lenhart
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
22 – Andy and Cindy Ross
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
20 – Richard Rose
28 – Mary Grants
29 – Ashley Lenhart
30 – Flora Kugler

December birthdays

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

December anniversaries

1 – John and Carol Aldrich
10 – Phil and Flora Kugler
23 – Bill and Judy Butman

