The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

May 2019

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.

Are you continuing to celebrate Easter this month? Or has the Easter lily dropped its leave, the candy consumed, and the new Easter clothes pushed to the back of the closet? Has Easter and the excitement of the Resurrection been set aside until next year? Or are you still overcome with the thrill of the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen!

Charles Wesley wrote the hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” as an expression of his joy.

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!*

*Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!*

*Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!*

*Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*

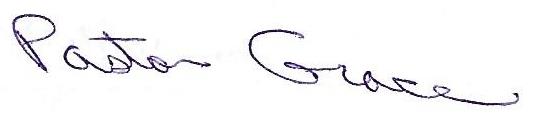
When the Church created the liturgical calendar to help the believers remember the life of Jesus Christ, they established Easter as a season, not a single day. The Easter season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days until Pentecost Sunday (June 9th this year.) The season reminds us that the resurrected Christ remained on earth 40 days before ascending to Heaven. The Church itself was birthed ten days later when the Holy Spirit descended. A lot happened during that roughly seven-week season – Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost!

Remembering the Resurrection for a season helps it become ingrained in our lives so that we live and breathe the confident faith that Jesus is triumphant over death. Rather than death having the final word and obliterating God’s plan for humanity’s salvation, Christ has the final word over death. The force we think is so powerful because we cannot stop it was helpless against the power of Christ.

And we live in that victory, following the One who loves us and provides eternal life with God. Every Sunday is an Easter Sunday when we worship the risen Christ. Perhaps most Sundays are not as grand as our Easter Sunday was with a processional, flowers, and triumphant music. However, every Sunday is an opportunity to remember Who we follow and to be excited!

*Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.* ***Do you believe this?****”* John 20:25-26

Celebrating Jesus!



**Simon Peter: Flawed by Faithful Disciple (Bible Study)**

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That’s one way to describe Peter. Here’s another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn’t even sound like the same man. And that’s the point of Simon Peter, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God’s extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. Please join us:

**When:** Monday’s May 6 – June 17 (Not meeting Monday, May 27th)

**Where:** Mexico First UMC – upstairs in open area

**Time:** 12:30 PM **Facilitator:** Jeff Sherman

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

We are looking for volunteers to help at the blood drives that we are hosting. Volunteers would sign people in or offer snacks to people after. Let Diane in the office know if you are interested. The dates are as follows:

May 25th 9 to 12:00

June 19th 11 am to 2 pm

August 24th 9 am to 12 pm

October 26th 9 am to 12 pm

December 28th 9 am to 12 pm

Vacation Bible School- 2019!!

*Get Ready! Get Set! ROAR!*

*July 22-26, 2019 5:30 – 8:00 pm*

***Kids discover that when life is wild, God is good!***

***THANK YOU, THANK YOU…***

* to all the people who supported and worked on the UMMen’s Italian Dinner night.
* to the individual who donated the stand so we can display the Bible on our Communion Table.
* to everyone who participated in our Easter processional!
* from a member of Brown Memorial Church after we served dinner there on April 7th: “*Mexico ROCKED at dinner. It was AMAZING. And connecting with folks was great. Thank you for serving.”*
* to everyone who has supported our recent fundraisers with your time and other resources. Whether purchasing a pizza, enjoying a dinner, painting a picture, filling a Heifer Ark, or other activities, your generosity is greatly appreciated.
* to the members of the Men’s Club who faithfully take out our garbage each week.

***IMPORTANT DATES…***

May 1st Growth Meeting 11:00 am

May 2nd Finance Meeting 6:30 pm

May 3rd Set up for Attic Treasure sale 11:00 am

May 4th Attic Treasure Sale 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

May 6th Life Touch, Directory Photos 2:00 – 9:00

May 6th Admin Council Meeting 6:30 pm

May 7th Life Touch, Directory Photos 2:00 – 9:00

May 8th Life Touch, Directory Photos 2:00 – 9:00

May 11th UMMen’s Breakfast 8:30 am

May 13th Regional Gathering with Bishop Webb 6:30 pm

May 13th Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm

May 17th Worship Meeting 11:00 am

May 19th Youth Group 5:00 pm

May 20th SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm

May 25th Blood Drive 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

May 27th Memorial Day

Hello! We are continuing to collect information for the new church directory. If you have not already, but wish to have your photo taken, please contact Joelle Hutson at your earliest convenience. Spots are filling fast.

Even if you are not planning to have your photo taken for the directory, we would still like to have our directory as complete as possible and we need your help to do so! If you could contact Joelle Hutson (315-420-9673/ [joelledimon@yahoo.com](mailto:joelledimon@yahoo.com)) to provide her with your most up to date contact information, it would be greatly appreciated! Our directory is only as good as the information we put into it, so the more folks who submit information, the more complete of a directory we have. Don't wait! Contact Joelle today!



**OUR SYMPATHY TO…**

**The families of**

**Richard Revette**

**Freda Castle**

A group of people preparing food in a kitchen

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*Italian Dinner Night*

Serving the delicious dinners are Bill Butman, Jeremy Spencer, David Martin and Lisa Spencer.

**Regional Gathering with Bishop Webb**

**Monday, May 13th; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**at Cicero UMC**

The United Methodist Church held a Special Session of General Conference this past February around the issue of same-gender marriage. The resulting decision to continue our denomination’s long-held policy of not performing same-gender weddings was approved. This decision was very controversial and some parts were sent to the church’s Judicial Council to determine if it violated our denomination’s constitution. The Judicial Council’s decision will be published around the end of April.

Upper New York Conference’s Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting regional gatherings to focus on explaining the Judicial Council's decision regarding the constitutionality of sections of the Traditional Plan that was approved. The meetings will also be a time to help attendees to understand what becomes part of the *Book of Discipline* on January 1, 2020 and what does not.  These times will include an opportunity for questions and conversation about what God might be doing in and through The United Methodist Church in the future. There will be a brief time of worship at each gathering as well.

Our closest gathering is **May 13, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Cicero UMC.**

Pastor Grace is available for conversation and prayer if you have any questions or concerns related to the Special Session of General Conference.

A group of people sitting at a table in a room

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**Discipleship Training**

We are called to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

What does that mean? How do we do that?

The Upper NY Conference is sponsoring a training session to help churches develop a system. Pastor Grace invites you to join her at the training and to develop a plan for Mexico First.

**Upper NY Conference Center, Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21st from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.**

Welcome Back to any of our snow birds!

Please let the office know you are back so your address can be updated.

Call Diane at 315-963-3066

Thank you!

**Nineteen people attended the painting fundraiser held on Sunday, April 14th. Painting a sunset cross was a lot of fun. Everyone did a great job on their painting.**

**The instructor, Diane Sokolowski (back row, far left) promised that no one would go home without loving their painting. She was right!**

At the end of the day,

give it to God

and go to sleep.

**After God created 24 hours of alternating darkness and light, one of the angels asked him, “What are you going to do now?”**

**God said, “I think I’m going to call it a day.”**

*God of the past, accept the people we have been and the baggage we drag behind us.*

*God of the present, accept the people we are now and the potential that lies within us.*

*God of the future, accept the people we could be and by your Spirit transform us.*

Written by: John Birch and posted on Faith and Worship

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

May 2nd Connor Revette

May 4th Kathy Rose

May 5th Duane Morton

Everett Robinson

May 7th Hope Lenhart

May 10th Aaron & Eric Albrecht

May 13th David Hubbard

May 17th Sharon Anderson

May 18th Jim Barbur, Marybeth Turo

May 20th Dana New

May 27th Alex Linerode

May 28th Rebecca Hall

May 29th Leslie Sherman, Sparky Rector

May 31st Jane Hollister, Cooper Sheldon

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

May 4th Cliff & Priscilla VanGorder

May 23rd Connie & Gary Day

May 24th Niles & Jonita Greenhouse

May 25th Richard & Leslie Sherman

May 27th Jim & Brenda Hotchkiss

May 30th David & Marlea Munger

May 31st Gary & Gail Hurlbut

**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/>.



**Brown Memorial Luncheon**

Many thanks to everyone who shopped, donated, cooked, served and provided prayers for our neighbors to the south. We served over 80 people April 7th and not only had extra food to send home with folks after the service but some extra treats for the after-school program. They were very grateful and emailed Pastor Grace saying FUMC Mexico rocked the luncheon! Again, a big thank you to everyone!

**Attic Treasure Sale**

The big day is just around the corner! Not only is May 4th Kentucky Derby Day but it is also your opportunity to find great bargains and support our many outreach ministries. Doors open Saturday the 4th at 9 am; be sure to bring a few extra dollars to purchase some homemade baked goods. Donations of gently used items will be accepted until 4 pm Friday, May 3; we welcome collectibles, candles, household item, linens, jewelry, books, craft and holiday items, children's toys and clothing to size 14, decorations, CDs/DVDs/Blu-ray discs, games, and for our ‘boutique’ …gently worn, semi-formal and vintage clothing, contemporary prom attire including dresses, purses, and shoes. Thank you in advance for your support.

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*Free to the first caller*

*Ink replacement cartridges*

*a full set HP932 that fit HP Printer #6100, 6600, 6700, 7110m, 7610 and 7612*

*Call Rita Delong at 315-963-7621*

**OUR CHURCH MISSION:**

**To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the**

**transformation of the world.**

**Admin Council April Notes**

We want to keep you all informed about conversations and decisions Ad Council is making. Each month a few highlights from our meeting will be included in the newsletter.

* There are continued concerns regarding heating bills and the variant temperatures in the church during cooler months; prior to the 2019-2020 heating season the Trustees will explore how to ensure groups using the church leave the building with the temperature turned back to the required thermostat setting.
* Monthly income is not always matching the amount needed to meet expenditures; various reasons were discussed, and the topic will be addressed at Finance Committee meetings and discussed at further Administrative Council meetings.
* July Administrative Council meeting will be held Monday, July 8th due to the holiday week. (Second Monday.)
* A reminder that the minutes from the meetings are available in the office for anyone to review. Folks can stop in during Pastor Grace’s or Diane’s office hours.

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

Office Hours are:

Pastor Grace: Monday 9:30 – 1:30; Wednesdays 1:00 – 5:00; and Fridays 9:30 – 1:30 (May fluctuate based on offsite meetings)

Diane: Tuesday 9:30 – 12:30 and

Fridays 8:30 – 1:30

 **PRAYER BEARS**

A few members of our church recently visited Cicero UMC and were greeted in the pews with Prayer Bears. Without exception each of us eventually picked up one of these stuffed animals, looked at it, and read its tag. More than one of us held onto that animal at times during the presentation we were attending. These prayer bears were a welcoming gesture that offered a calming and peaceful atmosphere on different levels, to different people, of all ages.

The church encourages people to take the bears home and keep them as a tangible sign of God’s love.

Our Growth Group would like to start a similar stuffed animal ministry – providing people with a furry prayer partner that sat in our worship services, hearing the scriptures and our prayers while being surrounded by the love of our community of faith.

Here’s where you have an opportunity to participate in this ministry!

* Our initial supply of prayer bears has already been donated, but as bears leave the building, we will need replacements.
* We want to add **your** favorite scriptures to the bear’s tags. Please give them to the church office or Chuck Parker.
* The bears may need help finding new homes, so we encourage you to share them with people who may need a bear hug, a little comfort, or an act of kindness, as a sign of God’s love. We do not expect the bears to return!

***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

***Please Join Us For: Children’s Sunday School at: 8:45 am. Worship at: 10:00 am.***

***Children’s Church at: 10:15 am***



***From Rev. John Calhoun, United Methodist missionary in Kyiv, Ukraine***

April 15, 2019

Dear sisters and brothers,

As St. Paul began many of his letters to his fellow believers: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the past months, our ministry with international students and other young people here in Kyiv has entered a new phase of development, under the leadership of Pastor Yulia Starodubets and her husband, Pastor Oleg, the new district superintendent of Ukraine. Pastors Yulia and Oleg and their two daughters moved to Kyiv last year from Kyrgyzstan, and it’s been a blessing for me to partner with them in ministry. Several months ago, we started a new international bi-lingual worship service that now meets every Sunday in the apartment of Pastors Yulia and Oleg in central Kyiv. Each week more than a dozen young people gather in their living room to worship and praise God; we sing hymns, read and reflect on Scripture, and pray for one another’s needs. This growing ministry is truly a microcosm of the Kingdom of God: we are women and men of all ages (including teenagers and young adult students) and all colors, from countries on four continents, speaking many languages, united in our faith in Jesus Christ. I ask you to pray for this ministry, that we may expand our reach and welcome more young people here in Kyiv to join this community of Christian fellowship.

Once again, I thank you for your prayerful partnership and support. May God bless you and your loved ones in this holy season and may your celebration of the resurrection of Christ be joyous!

Yours in Christ,

John Calhoun

**RECIPES from CHURCH MEMBERS…**

**Marcia Albrecht**

Chicken/Turkey Club Ring  
  
INGREDIENTS  
  
2 8-oz packages refrigerated crescent rolls  
3 cups chopped cooked chicken or turkey  
4 slices of crisp bacon, chopped  
1 cup shredded Swiss Cheese  
1/3 cup mayonnaise  
1 tsp Dijon Mustard  
2 tbsp snipped fresh parsley  
  
  
DIRECTIONS  
  
  
Preheat Oven to 375F. In bowl, combine chicken, bacon, 1 cup of the cheese, mayonnaise, mustard, parsley; mix well.  
  
Unroll crescent rolls; separate into 16 triangles. Arrange 8 triangles in a circle on the Large Round Pizza pan with the ends 3 inches from the edge of the pan and points towards the outside. (points will extend off the edge of the pan). Arrange remaining triangles in the center of the pan, matching wide ends with triangles already in place. (points will overlap in center)  
  
Press down on seams of triangles where the wide ends meet, creating a smooth surface for filling. Do not seal center triangles. Spoon filing evenly over dough in a continuous circle.   
  
Beginning with last triangle placed in the center of pan, bring point of triangle straight across filling. Next, bring point of opposite outside triangle diagonally across filling covering point of previous triangle. (filling will show) Repeat, overlapping points of inside and outside triangles to form a wreath. Tuck last end under first.  
  
Bake 25-30 minutes or until golden brown.

A map with text

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**SERVING in May…**

***GREETERS***

May 5th Joan Rouse

May 12th Cathy Stock

May 19th Hope Lenhart & Grace

Shetler

May 26th Doug & Jean Irwin

***LITURGISTS***

May 5th Avery Mack

May 12th Mary Grants

May 19th Rick Sherman

May 26th Ernie Warren

***MONDAY’S MEAL***

May 6th Mary Grants

May 13th Connie Day

May 20th Rick & Leslie Sherman

May 27th No Meal – No School

**USHERS**

Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

**AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM**

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

***COUNTERS***

Mary Smith & Barb Lindovski

***TRASH REMOVAL***

Ernie Warren

Seated at the sewing machines are Nancy Smith and Linda Matthews.

Standing left to right are:

Cathy Stock and Sue Morton. Missing is Donna Hoagie

**Pillowcase Dress Workshop**

At a recent pillowcase dress workshop at our church twelve pretty dresses were made by 5 busy seamstresses.  These dresses will be put into Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes along with other dresses, shorts and small teddy bears to be made by this group between now and November. Toys, school supplies and other items will also be in these shoe boxes to be distributed to children around the world.

A group of people in a room

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