

*News from the
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
April, May, June 2025*

Dear Church Family,

Grace and joy to you in this beautiful season of renewal!

As we distance ourselves from a winter to remember and Easter fast approaches, we find ourselves surrounded by the signs of spring—trees budding, flowers blooming, and the world awakening from the worst winter in recent years. This transformation in nature is a reflection of the deeper renewal we celebrate in Christ's resurrection. Just as spring brings new life, Easter proclaims the greatest renewal of all: the victory of life over death through Jesus Christ.

Shortly we will gather together to celebrate the Lord's resurrection, while not forgetting the journey that led Him there. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heartbeat of the church. It is the message we were given to proclaim, the "Good News". It is the very mission of the church. It's what we were made for. This Holy Week I would like to ask all of my church family to invite at least one person to come to one of the Holy Week services. I ask you to talk to your neighbors, co-workers, friends, family, even strangers, and invite them to come and hear the good news. That's the mission. But beware as you do. For there is no other time when the evil in this world will seek to exploit our weaknesses, insecurities, and our sins to throw us off track. It will agitate us, press us where it hurts, enflame our passions and our pride, scratch at old wounds and dredge up long-settled conflicts. It will seek to divide us and stifle us. It wants to drown out the message of hope and push people back into the darkness. Don't take the bait! Pray for one another! Pray that each one would have the strength to stand and the confidence in the mission and kingdom of God. Pray that we would act in love and unity toward one another (1 Corinthians 1:10) and that we would be gracious towards outsiders (Colossians 4:5). Pray that we might be the example of the grace of God in Jesus Christ that we are meant to be as the church. Pray that we might resist the evil in this world, that it would flee from us (James 4:7).

As we move through this season of renewal, reconnection, and recommitting, let us strengthen our connection to one another, long and strive toward that closer relationship with our God, strengthen our current missions and ministries, and search for new ways to be Gods' hands and feet in this world.

Your Pastor family continues to be blessed to be a part of this church family and we can't wait to see what God has for us next.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 10 – Open Mic Night
April 12 – Family Fun Night
April 13 – Palm Sunday
April 18 – Good Friday service at Lycoming 7 p.m.
April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt at the Parsonage
April 20 – Easter Sunday
May 3- Interactive Dinner Theatre
May 8 – Open Mic Night
May 11 – Mother’s Day
May 26 – Memorial Day
June 15 – Father’s Day
June 20 – First day of Summer

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been busy during the Lenten Season and preparing for the upcoming Holy Week. We have been displaying black and white pictures throughout our Sanctuary of our Church Family. This is in collaboration with Pastor Brandin’s Worship Series, Good News People.

We are excited to create a welcoming, fresh look for Easter Sunday!

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the parsonage located at 48 Wayne Street in Mexico.

Bring your children and grandchildren for a "hunt" for plastic eggs filled with treats! Thanks to our church members and the Growth Group for the candy filling the eggs.

Kid-friendly entertainment will be provided by the Greco family.



Open Mic Nights are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. We feature local talented people singing, playing musical instruments and asking the audience to sing along!

Sign-ups to perform are from 6-6:30 with the program starting at 6:30. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.

Upcoming dates are **April 10** and **May 8** before we break for the summer.



Since July of 2024 six more colorful, cheery lap robes have been made by members of the "Mexico Methodist Quilters" for church members who are sick or are experiencing medical or mobility issues.

This group, organized in 2007, has now made 96 lap robes. All of these small quilts have been lovingly received and it helps to show that God's love is for everyone.



Hosea 6:3. 3 Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."

Upcoming Women's Bible Study Series

We will be starting a Women's Bible Study Group after Easter. It will be a one-hour, six-week study by Jennifer Cowart titled Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes.

From the author: "Together we will examine the stories of five wonderful but messy people and one messy parable character: Rahab, the Prodigal Son, Josiah, Mary, David, and Daniel. From their stories, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, give us the power to handle our critics and help us deal with the hard moments of life. Along the way we'll discover that we don't have to just endure messy lives but can actually learn to thrive with God's guidance and help. In the hands of God, our messes can become His masterpieces!"

Tentative meeting times will be Thursdays at 4:30 or 5:00 at the Church. Please contact Marcia Albrecht, either after worship service or at mja320@gmail.com for further information or questions.



In Sympathy

Please continue to pray for the families and friends of:

- Alfred Greco
- Philip Kugler
- Barbara Lindovski
- David Munger
- Nancy Murray
- Alice Spencer



Mission Outreach Committee News

Blessing Box

Continued thanks for your generosity in keeping the pantry stocked for the Blessing Box. Your support is a blessing and we hear from those obtaining items from the Blessing Box what a blessing this community staple is to them. April's food wall theme will be personal hygiene products and pantry staples of peanut butter, shelf-stable milk and cereal. However, we welcome any and all donations. A reminder to bring in items that are not expired.

Run for the Roses and then a Murder at the Derby Party: Saturday, May 3

We are off and running to our second interactive dinner theatre! Come help us find the culprit while enjoying a southern themed meal including salad, entrees, dessert and beverages and engaging in some 'derby fun' with contests, selfie stations, and entertainment provided by Donna Leigh Aaserud, a locally talented writer and director of this show. Selected guests will read their scripts while the audience uses their deductive skills to try and solve the 'murder'. Doors open at 6 pm with dinner being served at 6:30. Tickets are limited, pre-sale only and \$40 per person. To purchase tickets, call Donna at 315.907.8713 or contact anyone from the Outreach committee (Lori Behling, Barb Lighthall, Sue Morton, Kathy Rose, Carol Bradlinski-Watros). Proceeds will be used to support mission outreach projects. We would appreciate anyone who can assist us with a bit of your time in either cooking, set-up/clean-up, promoting the event, and other activities associated with this endeavor.

Fill the Ark!

Mission Outreach is providing us with the opportunity to donate to Heifer International (www.heifer.org), an organization that for 75 years has provided 36.7 million families throughout the world support to build sustainable farming businesses transforming lives and communities. They believe ending poverty begins with agriculture, and thus focus on farming. Boxes are available in the narthex for those interested in participating; consider keeping a box either in your vehicle or on the kitchen counter to place some spare change. Please bring in your boxes by Easter Sunday.

We will continue to keep you informed about upcoming activities. If you have any ideas, please share them and as always, we welcome new members. Feel free to contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at cbwatros@gmail.com or 315.529.0930 if you have any questions. Again, on behalf of the committee, thank you for everything.

Church Growth and Men's Club To Host



Remember what FUN we always have at the Halfway Night sponsored by the Men's Club? Because of the wintry weather this past February, we were unable to have our half-way through winter event. Since this event drew a large crowd, the Church Growth committee voted to host a FAMILY FUN NIGHT in April when hopefully all wintry driving conditions would be gone.

Last September the Church Growth Committee sponsored a similar event and drew a large crowd of people and families enjoying board games, card games, hot dogs and chili. Besides our own church members, there were several people from the Mexico community who stopped by the church to partake in the festivities.

With the blessing and help from the Men's Club, our Church Growth and Discipleship Committee voted to sponsor another "FAMILY GAME NIGHT " in our Fellowship on **Saturday, April 12th** from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Similar to half-way night, we will feature board games, hot dogs and chili.

More information on this event will be forthcoming.

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](#)

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April birthdays

4 – Alyssa Greco
9 – Marlea Munger
11 – Sue Morton
13 – Wayne Myers
14 – Connie Day, Jacquie Taylor
19 – Leeann New
25 – Kaylee Gilmore
28 – Clint Smith

May birthdays

4 – Kathy Rose, Donna Hooge
5 – Duane Morton, Everett Robinson
10 – Aaron and Eric Albrecht
13 – David Hubbard
17 – Sharon Anderson
18 – Jim Barbur, Mary Beth Turo
20 – Dana New
27 – Alex Linerode
29 – Leslie Sherman

June birthdays

3 – Olivia Linerode
9 – Earl DeLong
11 – Anna Mae Bateman, Susie Linerode
13 – Jackson Kelly
17 – Gary Weber
19 – Alexia Russell
24 – James Watros
28 – Andrew Munger, Alicia Weber,
Jessica DeLong

April anniversaries

23 – Jim and Mary Smith

May anniversaries

4 – Cliff and Priscilla VanGorder
23 – Gary and Connie Day
24 – Niles and Jonita Greenhouse
25 – Rick and Leslie Sherman
27 – Jim and Brenda Hotchkiss
31 – Gary and Gail Hurlbut

June anniversaries

16 – Charles and Anna Mae Bateman
26 – Clint and Patricia Smith

***If you don't see your birthday or anniversary on this list, it's because we don't know about it. Please let the church office know so that we can include you next time. ***