

News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico October, November and December 2024

Autumn Blessings to My Church Family,

I wish you greetings in the name of our loving God. Here it is already the beginning of October, and our formal season of summer has come to a close and fall with its colors, smells, and temperatures has begun. Thus, we are beginning to look toward all that autumn brings from World Communion Sunday to Thanksgiving, leading up to the anticipation that Advent brings through the Christmas season. At the risk of rushing into these next few months, let us not forget all that has happened over the summer and how God has used us to be His hands and feet in this community and world.

It is a blessing to see new faces walking through our doors, and in a season where attendance tends to wane, we continued to have awesome moments of worship throughout the summer, finishing with a combined worship service with our brothers and sisters at Lycoming UMC. Although we continued to give and minister in many ways within our church building and in our community, I would have to say the highlights would have to be with our youth. This year's one day VBS Extravaganza "Food Truck Party" was an extreme success with close to 30 children attending. One of the greatest blessings was seeing our whole church family come together to make it happen. I am reminded often what a wonderful team this church family makes.

As we move toward the Advent season, we will be focusing on a theme that centers around the home. I look forward to what our worship team has planned to transform our sanctuary this year. This upcoming season also brings on opportunities to give in many ways through programs such as Operation Christmas Child, Operation Reindeer, and the men's group Free Coat and Chili Giveaway. At a time where many churches focus on stewardship campaigns to gather funds for ministries, let us instead focus on people and inviting them to join our church family.

My family and I continue to feel blessed by all that our Mexico church family does for us and we look forward to being your Pastor team for years to come. We cannot wait to see what God has in store for our future together and in this community.

Pastor Brandin

IMPORTANT DATES

October 10, November 14, December 12 – Open Mic Nights

October 17 – Paint Class by Heart of the Barn Creations

October 19 – Family Fun Night

October 23 – Charge Conference

October 26 – Men's Club Roast Pork Dinner

October 31 – Halloween candy giveaway

November 2 – Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 16 – Coat and chili giveaway sponsored by Lycoming and Mexico's Men's Clubs

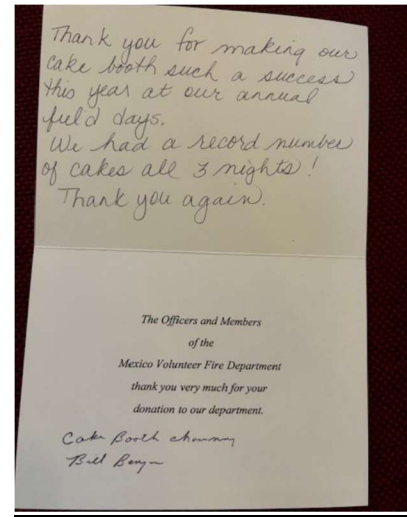
November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

December 7 – 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 NOTE FROM THE MEXICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Thank you to all of those who work behind the scenes to keep our church going. The church sign changers, the lawn mowers, the trash removers, the coffee hour kitchen and set-up crew, blessing box fillers, creative people who keep our sanctuary looking beautiful for each season and worship series and so much more. We appreciate you all!

Ann Schipper's new address

Ann Schipper has moved permanently to North Carolina and would like to share her address with her church family in Mexico.

*1357 Craig Drive
Iron Station, NC 28080
(315) 297-2151*

Charge Conference to be held October 23

Our annual charge conference will be held on **Wednesday, October 23** in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Once again, we will be hosting other area churches as well as our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood.

Open Mic Nights

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 10
November 14
December 12

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

Operation Christmas Child



We will host an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party on **Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 – 12:00** in the fellowship hall. We will be packing and filling shoeboxes with items that have been donated from both Mexico and Lycoming UMCs as well as the community.



A family fun night has been planned for **Saturday, October 19 beginning at 6:00 p.m.**

We will enjoy a covered dish buffet and lots of games will be available!

Bring the family out for a night of fun and fellowship!

Halloween Candy Distribution

As is our tradition, we will pass out Halloween candy in front of the church on Halloween night. We will soon be accepting donations of wrapped candy.

This is another way we can reach out to our neighbors and show God's love.



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 1.

We are accepting candle sponsorships through December 13. 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: _____

Men's Club Roast Pork Dinner

The United Methodist Men's Club will hold their famous roast pork dinner on **Saturday, October 26 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

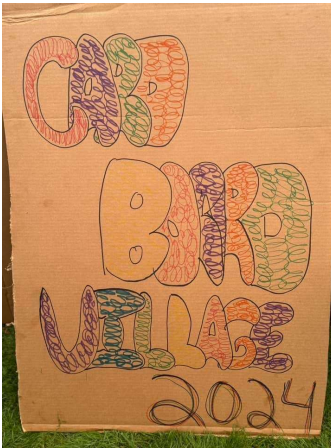
Menu will include slow-roasted pork, mashed potatoes, squash, homemade stuffing and delicious desserts.

Bring the whole family out for a delicious meal and support our Men's Club.

The "Methodist clipboard" will be coming around in church soon for opportunities to sign up to help with the dinner and make desserts. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

YOUTH GROUP HELD CARDBOARD VILLAGE

The combined Youth Group from Mexico and Lycoming held their annual cardboard village in September to raise money and awareness for homelessness in our communities. Please enjoy some photos from the successful event!



Mission Outreach Committee News by Carol Watros

Blessing Box: Continued thanks for your generosity supporting local hunger needs. Many stories have been shared regarding how this mission has made a difference for those 'we don't see but are struggling to just be'. Cereal, cereal and more cereal needed, peanut/nut butters, toiletries along with shelf-stable milk (the Dollar Tree oftentimes has it in stock for \$1.25 per box). Themes will be shared in forthcoming bulletins, however; as October, November and December lend themselves to change, gratitude and God's gift to us with Jesus's birth, consider donating anything orange, a Thanksgiving graciousness offering personal to you, or baby necessities (diapers, wipes, rice cereal, baby food, infant/child toothbrushes/toothpaste, shampoos/soaps, trash liners and cleansing wipes).

Operation Christmas Child / Samaritan's Purse: The Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child, collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/fact-sheet-occ/>

We continue to support this mission; feel free to pack a shoebox with school supplies, socks, underwear, washcloths/towels, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls (no glass, liquid, toothpaste, violent themes), We also welcome donations to purchase items and offset a \$10.00 per box shipping charge. Our shoeboxes will make their way to a final destination as the **National Collection Week commences from Nov. 18–25, 2024**, whereby Samaritan's Purse collects the gift-filled shoeboxes from more than 4,700 drop-off locations in the US/Puerto Rico.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Barb Lighthall's home, 47 Chapman Rd. Mexico.



Matthew 25:40

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Christmas in Mexico 2024

We will host our annual craft show in the community-wide Christmas in Mexico event on Saturday, December 7 from 9-3.

We will need many helpers to make this a success.

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



October is Pastor appreciation month

Thank you, Pastor Brandin, April and family, for all you do to make our church and community a better place.

We appreciate you and are so grateful to have you as our Pastor family.



Fall Paint Class by Heart of the Barn Creations



The Church Growth Group is sponsoring a paint class on **Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m.** There will be door prizes and refreshments. Please sign up in church or by calling Sue Morton at 315-447-6056. Cost to be determined depending on the project selected.

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.

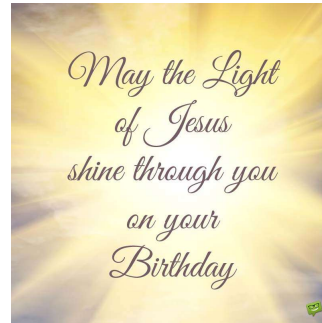
Birthdays and Anniversaries

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 – 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
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.*****