

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

July 2019

From the Pastor...

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First United Methodist Church,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our beloved Savior, Jesus who is the Christ.

Have you ever noticed the sign in Fellowship Hall that states our mission? The sign says our church mission is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Some of us can rattle that mission statement off without a pause or stumbling over any of the words. We know it by rote, but do we think about what it means for each of us as individuals or for us as a church?

This mission statement comes from ¶120 in the United Methodist Book of Discipline and introduces the section on the purpose of the Church as a whole. We are a community of people called by God to make disciples of Jesus Christ. It is the disciples going out (and that includes us!) who change the world to reveal God's grace, mercy, and love to the people around us.

The United Methodist Church didn't come up with this out of thin air. It is drawn from Matthew 28:18-20, which is known as the Great Commission. After the Resurrection and before the Ascension, Jesus met with the eleven original disciples and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The concept of "making disciples" is the main instruction in both of these statements. The Book of Discipline goes on to say that "Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs." That means our church community in Mexico has an important part in this mission that comes directly from Jesus!

But what is a disciple? How do you know if you really are one? And how do you make one? I haven't seen any recipes for disciples in the cookbooks on my kitchen shelf, nor do craft magazines include diagrams and instructions. Perhaps it isn't that simple, yet with the Holy Spirit leading and working through us, disciple making is less overwhelming than we think.

We will be spending time this summer looking at discipleship. I'll be preaching a sermon series during July and August on "Living as Disciples" so we can all grow in our understanding of discipleship.

I invite you all to join me on Thursday nights in August to dig a little deeper into the concept of making disciples. Together we can begin thinking about how God is calling Mexico First to make disciples of Jesus Christ. It is always helpful to have a plan for our work and all the churches in Upper New York Conference have been asked to create one to present at our annual Charge Conference this autumn. We can work on this plan together so that it is filled with the different ideas and viewpoints of our church. Our plan will be richer and better with all of us working together.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Grace

Important Dates...

July 3 rd	Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 pm
July 7 th	Presbyterian Congregation Joins us for worship
July 8 th	Admin. Council Meeting 6:30 pm
July 10 th	Church Growth Meeting 1:00 pm
July 10 th	Outreach Meeting 4:00 pm
July 10 th	Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 pm
July 15 th	SPPRC Meeting 6:30 pm
July 22 – 26 th	Vacation Bible School 5:30 – 8:00 PM
July 23 rd	Methodist Night at the NBT Stadium
July 26 th	Food Sense 12:00 – 2:00 pm
July 27 th	Had Hinman Memorial Service Noon
July 28 th	Harborfest Worship Service 9:30 am
July 29 th	Children's Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm
July 29 th	Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm



THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

- ❖ to Communion Stewards who help during Communion.
- ❖ to everyone who has helped keep Monday's Meals going each week. We will be taking July and August off. Have a blessed Summer!
- ❖ to all the ladies who help fold and stuff the newsletter!

Save the Date – August 4th

The UMMen's Club Picnic

The Men's club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages. What delicious dish will you be bringing to share?

This will be at noon at the Mexico Community Park.



On June 9th during coffee hour we celebrated our Children assisting in worship and celebrated Pastor Grace's commissioning that took place on June 8th.



Prayer Partners

Just as our Snowbirds have returned from the South so too are our furry prayer partners joining us in the church pews on Sunday. While few in numbers, they are steadily growing. Soon their presence shall be seen in all the pews. The purpose of these Furry Prayer Partners is to serve as a symbol of community love and a reminder of the grace and love of Jesus Christ. Each furry prayer partner comes with a selected verse or scripture as well as an introduction. These animals are here to offer comfort if needed and are free to go home with whoever may wish to have them.

All are welcomed to select a furry prayer bear and scripture / verse card, from the many animals and cards available, to be placed in the sanctuary. Below is a form you can use for your favorite scripture. If you have questions or need more information you can contact Pastor Grace, Diane in the Office, the Growth Committee, or Chuck Parker.

Do you have a favorite scripture you would like to submit to have on one of our prayer bears?

Fill out the section below and place it in the offering plate or give it to Diane or Chuck. You can write it out or just put the scripture number and we can look it up. Thank you!

Scripture:

July Christmas Shoebox Items...

The July items sought for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes that our church will fill next November are:
Cups and water bottles

The donation box is in the church narthex.
Thank you to all who contribute to this ministry.

Disciple-Making Conversation

Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

August 1, 8, 15, 22

You are invited to join Pastor Grace for conversation and learning more about making disciples while we discuss how Mexico First UMC can answer the Great Commission to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Then we will draft a plan so that together we can live into our mission.

Play Ball!

UMMen’s night at the Syracuse Mets Stadium on Tuesday, July 23rd. If you are interested in tickets to the game, please see Jeremy Spencer as soon as possible.

Vacation Bible School- 2019!!

Get ready to have fun, games, food and song!

Get ready to ROAR!

July 22-26, 2019 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Kids discover that when life is wild, God is good



**Sunday School Children
assist in the worship
service on June 9th. Great
Job to all the Children!**

Firemen’s Parade Float

Sue Morton is trying to put together a float for the Firemen’s Parade on July 18th. If you are interested in working on this with her or maybe riding on the float, please call Sue at 315-963-3566.

Service at Harborfest

At Harborfest, on Sunday, July 28th, there will be a worship service at 9:30 am at the Children's tent at West Park/Franklin Square. The theme is "What is Your Story."

LECM will be handing out bookmarks at the service, so if you would like to make some it would be appreciated. They could be paper, cloth, knitted or crocheted. Give them to Marcia Albrecht if you made them. LECM is also in need of small notebooks, small pencils that will fit into a sandwich size bag. Marcia would like these items by July 15th.



This beautiful banner made by Dotty Parker and given to Pastor Grace was shared in the sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday.



Penny Howard is researching church archives for the history of our treasured stained-glass windows. In addition, she is seeking out grant opportunities available to churches to help offset the cost of repairs and preservation of these windows.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| July 1 st | Jean Irwin |
| July 2 nd | Joanne Barnes
Mildred Murray |
| July 3 rd | Chase Parker |
| July 4 th | Paul Vautrin |
| July 5 th | Patricia Smith |
| July 7 th | Doug Irwin |
| July 9 th | Bill Lindovski |
| July 10 th | Linda Robinson |
| July 11 th | Joan Rouse |
| July 13 th | Terry Grimshaw
Wayne Weber |
| July 14 th | Doanne Hurlbut |
| July 16 th | Jim Sokolowski |
| July 19 th | Jonita Greenhouse
Karen Grimshaw
Jeannette Spicer |
| July 20 th | Robert Halstead
Barbara Lighthall
David Coonrod
Shirley Tourot |
| July 21 st | Alyssa & Andrea Ross |
| July 22 nd | Don Field |
| July 23 rd | Bill Herrington
Madelyn Schmidt
Jim Smith |
| July 25 th | David Hurlbut |
| July 29 th | Kaitlyn Linerode |
| July 31 st | Skip Hall |

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| July 7 th | Earl & Muriel DeLong |
| July 11 th | Mike & Kelly Freihofer |
| July 16 th | Skip & Christy Hall |
| July 20 th | Chuck & Jessica Parker |
| July 22 nd | Jeremy & Lisa Spencer |
| July 28 th | James & Carol Watros |
| July 20 th | Jeff & Carol DeLong |

Nancy Murray's new phone is now

315-963-2566

Need to Contact our Church?

The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: 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

Our FACEBOOK is: www.facebook.com/fumcmexico

Please Join Us For Worship at 10:00 am.

Children's Church at: 10:15 am

Serving our Church

On May 19, 2019 Bill Butman and Mary Grants were received and questioned by the Crossroads District Committee of Lay Servant Ministries. Their journey started when Pastor Bill Palmer was Pastor of Mexico First UMC, so you can see it was a long time coming. They didn't take all classes together but enough so that they became good friends and helped each other along the way. We are happy to announce that they both have been accepted and are now Certified Lay Speakers. Bill and Mary would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers.

Missions Outreach

The Mission Outreach Committee thanks everyone who supported our annual Heifer project. We collected \$584; the committee contributed an additional \$216 and a check for \$800 is being sent to Heifer International. Through Heifer's May Match program, that \$800 is being matched and providing \$1600 for projects that support sustainability with the goal of ending world hunger and poverty. Heifer prides itself in transparency and we are happy to have received 97% on Charity Navigator's accountability transparency rating. Again, thank you for making a difference in the lives of others.

Admin Council Notes

Our church continues to remain active with numerous projects and our gratitude is extended to everyone who makes 'church happen' in and outside of the building's walls. Here are a few highlights from June's meeting, and as a reminder to all, our next meeting is **Monday, July 8 at 6:30**. Please note it is the second Monday of the month due to the holiday week.

- Church Directory: Joelle Dimon-Hutson expressed her gratitude to everyone who assisted her with this project; she reported that all of the information has been submitted to the LifeTouch and the directories will most likely be available by mid-July. Many thanks were extended to Joelle on behalf of the council and church members for her commitment, time and willingness to organize and implement this huge project.
- Tom Farr has been appointed as Trustee Chair; he is replacing Marty Smith who has stepped down from this position due to his pending relocation. Thanks to each of you.
- Several committees will not meet again until September; however, summer activities and events will be noted in the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

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

Meeting Minutes are available for review in the church office.

Diane's Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.;
Fridays 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Grace's Office Hours: Mondays 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.;
Wednesdays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Fridays 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Hours may fluctuate due to off-site meetings.

Pulpit Exchange

There will be a pulpit exchange with the Presbyterian Church. A combined service will be here on July 7th and at the Presbyterian Church on September 1st. What a great way to bless the Lord by sharing our worship with others.

Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to
Tonaya Gorton
2019 High School Graduate!
Best of luck in your future endeavors!

Keep an eye out for new signage that will be placed around the church soon! Thank you Sue Morton for working on this.

LECM Update

The LECM (Lake Effect Cooperative Ministries) Committee decided to hold four meetings each year that will consist of a brief business meeting along with a potluck dinner. Anyone from church may attend. Each meeting will have a theme for dinner and a discussion topic to share. The schedule for the upcoming year 2019-20 is:

October 15th – Theme – Oktoberfest, Topic – Advent/Christmas Activities, Host church – Pennellville

December 17th – Theme – Christmas, Topic – Lent/Easter Activities, Host church – New Haven

March 17th – Theme – St. Patrick's Day, Topic – VBS/Sunday School/Youth Activities – Host church – Lycoming

July 21st – Theme – Summer Picnic, Topic – Bible Studies/Small Group Activities, Host Church – Mexico

We would like our church members to let us know what things in the following categories, you feel that LECM could accomplish that your church may not be able to do on its own. Listed are some of the discussions we had as a group.

Worship – Harborfest, Other community worship, pulpit exchange.

Mission – Brown Memorial, Blizzard Bags, Health Kits, Mission Hub Service Day

Spiritual Formation – VBS

Fellowship – Potluck dinners for sharing ideas,

Children's Ministries

Our Sunday School teachers and Children's Church workers are invited to a meeting on Monday, July 29th at 6:30 pm to discuss our Children's Ministries for the 2019-2020 school year. Anyone interested in our Children's ministries is invited to attend.

SERVING in July

GREETERS

July 7 th	Nancy Murray
July 14 th	Chuck & Dotty Parker
July 21 st	Spencer Family
July 28 th	?

MONDAY'S MEALS

There will be no Monday Meals during July and August

LITURGISTS

July 7 th	Phil Kugler
July 14 th	Mary Smith
July 21 st	Christy Hall
July 28 th	Diane Tupper

USHERS

☪ Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM

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

COUNTERS

Cindy Ross & Rita DeLong

TRASH REMOVAL

Andy Ross

RECIPES FROM CHURCH MEMBERS

Diane Sokolowski

Bar-B-Que Pulled Pork

In a crock pot place 2 pork tenderloins. Pour in one bottle of coke and one bottle of your favorite barbeque sauce. (I use Sweet Baby Rays Honey BBQ).

Let it cook for 6 – 7 hours, stirring occasionally. Pull the pork apart and add ½ cup more of BBQ sauce and let it cook for another 30 minutes. Then it's ready to place on a bun and enjoy.

Coleslaw

6 cups shredded green cabbage
2 cups shredded red cabbage
1 cup shredded carrots
3/4 cup mayonnaise
3 tbsp apple cider vinegar
1 tbsp mustard - optional
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Place the cabbage and carrots in a very large mixing bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk to combine the mayonnaise, apple cider vinegar, mustard if using, salt, and pepper.

Pour the dressing all over the cabbage and toss well to combine.

Note: We need recipes for upcoming newsletters. Would you share one of yours?