



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Mexico

September 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.

How are you doing in your walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you know Jesus Christ better today than you did a year ago? What about five years ago? Our salvation is more than a ticket to heaven; our salvation is part of our everyday life as we follow and grow closer to Jesus. God has chosen believers to show Jesus Christ to the world, so that the Kingdom of God can flourish in the world and provide hope to people.

We do this by intentionally living as disciples of Jesus Christ. I've been preaching on the basics of discipleship this summer. We looked at the who, what, how, and why of discipleship. The **who** are all believers who profess Jesus Christ as Savior. We each have unique gifts that allow us to reveal Jesus Christ to people. The **what** of discipleship is choosing to love the people around us. When we love someone, we prioritize their needs over our own, which can be very difficult to do. The **how** of discipleship is seeing and respecting the people we encounter in our daily lives. As we develop a relationship with someone else, we can tell our story of following Jesus Christ. The **why** of discipleship is because we see Jesus Christ's vision of transforming people's lives. The Holy Spirit is the One who changes people's hearts and lives. God invites and expects us to be a part of this process by telling others about Jesus so they can find love, hope, forgiveness, and grace. It is a privilege and exciting journey to work with God!

A group of us have been meeting on Thursday nights in August and learning more about discipleship. We have used the curriculum from "See All the People" by Junius Dotson as the basis for our conversations. We learned that discipleship begins with relationships. And we also realized that our energy is better spent making disciples than trying to fix the church. If you were not able to attend our conversations and want to know more, check out the website seeallthepeople.org for more information.

Our church discipleship plan will be finished in a few weeks. We will be using this to help us stay on track to be faithful to Jesus Christ's commission to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). The people who attended the discipleship conversations have been helping me discern how God is calling our church to engage with our community. Our plan also contains ideas for each one of us to grow closer to Jesus so we can be more effective disciples. We cannot make disciples if we are not disciples ourselves.

So how are you doing in your walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Grace

SEPTEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

- 1st Worship Service at Presbyterian Church
- 4th Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 pm
- 5th Discipleship Group Meeting 6:30 pm
- 8th Brown Memorial Luncheon
- 9th Admin Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11th Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 pm
- 14th UMMen's Breakfast 8:30 am
- 14th Private Party 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- 16th SPPRC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 18th Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 pm
- 23rd Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
- 25th Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 pm
- 27th Worship Meeting 10:00 am
- 27th Food Sense 12:00 – 2:00 pm

THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

- to the members of our choir who sang at Dempster Grove the evening Pastor Grace preached.
- to everyone who helped at the luncheon following the memorial service for Marge Perth.
- to the people who attended the Discipleship conversations and helped Pastor Grace create a discipleship plan for our church.
- to Chuck Parker for labeling and placing the stuffed animals in the church pews
- to all those who helped with the community pork dinner.
- to all those who went and served lunch at Unity Acres.
- to John and Kay Meyers for donating and roasting the Pig for the community dinner on August 24th.

September Christmas Shoebox Items...

The September items sought for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes that our church will fill in November are:

School Supplies and Nylon Book Bags

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

Community Dinner

Our first community dinner was held on Saturday, August 24th. We served 107 people, many of which were from our surrounding community. We shared a time of fellowship and good food.

Due to generous donations, expenses were only \$60. Although this was a free dinner, many people gave donations. We were able to give \$181 back to the church after expenses.

Thank you to all who served or donated in any way. This would not have been possible without us working all together. A special thank you to John and Kathryn Meyers and their family for the donation of the pig and spending their whole Saturday roasting it for us.

We showed the love of Jesus to our neighbors. Let's keep it going!

Sunday School Begins

Sunday School will start on September 8th this year. As in years past we will start at 8:45 in the upper rooms. We have a lot of fun games, snacks and crafts planned for this year. We are hoping to see you there!!

All children should bring their backpacks to church on September 8th as Pastor Grace will be Blessing the Backpacks during worship.



Robert, William, Franky and Andrew DeLong Invite you to help celebrate the



of their parents

Rita and Grant DeLong

Saturday, September 14th

1:00 to 4:00 pm

at

The United Methodist Church

4372 Church Street

Mexico, NY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1st David DeLong
- 6th Rose Ann Myers
Maggie Palmer
- 8th Brenda Hotchkiss
- 11th Cindy Monson
Nellie Roberts
- 16th Gary Day
- 18th Linda Fravor
Cindy Ross
George Grants
- 24th Lisa Spencer
- 26th Bill Butman
- 27th Diane Sokolowski
Victoria Ross
- 29th Jenn Jackson
- 30th Zianna Gorton

*Happy
Birthday !*

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5th Bill & Maggie Palmer
- 6th Duane & Norma Griffin
- 13th Grant & Rita DeLong

*Happy
Anniversary*

Church Picnic Fun

On August 4th we held a church Picnic at the Community Park. Many people attended the picnic and enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs cooked by Jeremy Spencer and Mike Freihofer along with many delicious dishes people brought to share. The kids were having fun playing soccer and cornhole games. The weather was very nice but quite windy that day and we had to make sure our plates and cups were not flying in the breeze. A great time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who attended. Below people are fixing their plates with all the great food.



Friend Me Bible Study

In the Friend Me Bible Study, the group has had some meaningful learning experiences, fellowship and great fun.

They are a group of friendly women that genuinely care about Christ and you.

The group is still meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 am on September 3rd and the 10th.

Please feel free to join them. Usually there are about 8 – 9 women who attend. This is held at Carol Aldrich's house at 125 Spring Street.

Reminder

The September 1st Service is at the Presbyterian Church at 10:00 am.

Any ideas for the Newsletter?

- Have you attended a bible study and want to share how it went?
- Did you go to the Dempster Grove Camp Meetings? Share with us your time there.
- Would you like to have your family featured in a newsletter – come on – who will be first!
- Any church historians want to share with us history of our church?
- What inspires you? Share a short story with us.
- How about a Children's Corner – any kids out there want to contribute something?

If you have anything you would like to share with us for the Newsletter, let Diane Sokolowski know. She will even help you write it. Call Diane at 315-963-3066 Tuesdays 9:30 – 12:30 or Fridays from 8:30 to 1:30. We would like to hear from you.

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 Sunday School at: 8:45 am

Outreach

Brown Memorial Community Meal

Brown Memorial luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, September 8th. This is our opportunity to make, bake and take a meal to our 'southern' Syracuse neighbors. Brown Memorial United Methodist Church offers a free meal each Sunday prior to a 4 pm praise and worship service. The meals are provided and served by various churches and groups, with our church being one of many assisting a ministry which feeds and provides fellowship to upwards of 150 community members. More details will be announced during church service but please save the date to help assist with providing food and/or serving. Thank you to everyone who help with our efforts to reach out to others.

Sympathies

*Our sympathies and prayers are with
the friends and family of
Marge Perth who passed away
August 6, 2019*

Admin Council Notes

Our Admin Council met in August and discussed many aspects of our church. Some highlights include:

- Approved a memo regarding building usage policies for all the groups who use our building
- Approved discontinuing the Vanco electronic giving because it is neither well-utilized nor cost effective.
- Began a discussion about church security issues so we can maintain a safe environment.

Everyone is welcome to attend Ad Council meetings, although only elected members of the Council may vote. Our next meeting is Monday, September 9th at 6:30 pm.

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.

Bible Trivia

1. Who were the first 2 apostles to follow Jesus?
2. How many books are in the New Testament?
3. Who was thrown into the lion's den by Darius?
4. After Jesus' crucifixion, who took his body down from the cross?
5. Before he became a King, what was David's job?
6. Jesus was baptized in the water of which river?
7. Which biblical figure was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar?
8. Name the Author of the book of Revelations.
9. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for how many years.
10. In which Garden did Jesus pray before his arrest?
11. Which angel told Mary she would give birth to Jesus?
12. What was the first bird that Noah let go from the ark?
13. According to the Old Testament, on what day did God create man?
14. After his resurrection, to whom did Jesus appear first?
15. What miracle did Jesus perform at the Marriage of Cana?

Find the answers on the last page of the Newsletter.

Unity Acres Picnic

On Saturday, August 17th, three cars left our church parking lot in a caravan heading for Unity Acres on Co. Rt 2 in the Town of Orwell. The cars were loaded with food for a picnic for the men at the Acres. The picnic consisted of grilled hamburgers, hotdogs and conies, macaroni salad, salt potatoes, potato chips, cookies, cupcakes and watermelon and a special anniversary cake commemorating Unity Acres' 50th year in operation.

In one of the vehicles were bags of kitty litter and 75 lbs. of cat food donated by our Outreach Committee. The men enjoy having the cats there to help comfort them as well as keep the mice population down to a minimum!

Unity Acres is home to approximately 48 homeless men from Central New York. As it states in the new Unity Acres Brochure: "For fifty years, people of faith and our residents have together put into practice the works of mercy; feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, burying the dead."

Three staff members were there on Saturday to enjoy the bountiful picnic.

Nine members of our congregation went to assist with the picnic. All were glad to have gone, and see for ourselves what a peaceful, serene place Unity Acres is, and how grateful the men were to have us there.



Grilling Team:
Jeremy Spencer &
Jeff Sherman



Servers: Eric Behling, Mary Grants,
Sue Morton, Lori Behling, Connie Day
Grace Shetler and Duane Morton



Staff Members with cake
Bear Foote, Peg McCarthy
and Steve Dickhout.

SERVING in September

GREETERS

September 8 th	Marcia Albrecht & Barbara Lighthall
September 15 th	John & Carol Aldrich
September 22 nd	Connie Main & Kathy Rose
September 29 th	Macks/Fox

LITURGISTS

September 8 th	Jim Sokolowski
September 15 th	Earl DeLong
September 22 nd	Joan Phelps
September 29 th	Hope Lenhart

USHERS

Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

COUNTERS

Connie Day & Diane Tupper

TRASH REMOVAL

Ernie Warren

CHURCH is my **COLLEGE**
HEAVEN is my **UNIVERSITY**
JESUS is my **PRINCIPAL**
THE HOLY SPIRIT is my **TEACHER**
ANGELS are my **CLASS MATES**
THE BIBLE is my **STUDY BOOK**
TRIAL & TEMPTATIONS are my **EXAMS**
WINNING SOULS are my **ASSIGNMENTS**
PRAYER is my **ATTENDANCE**
CROWN OF LIFE is my **DEGREE** and
PRAISE & WORSHIP is my **MOTTO**
ENROLL today there is room for all
and tuition is **FREE**

Back to School Lunch Ideas

PBJ on a Stick

Ingredients

- 2 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches
- 4 wooden skewers (5 to 6 inches)
- 1 cup seedless red or green grapes
- 1 small banana, sliced

Directions

- Cut sandwiches into 1-in. squares. Alternately thread grapes, sandwich squares and banana slices onto each skewer. Place in container or baggie.



Tips on making school lunches for kids

1. Make a bunch of PBJ sandwiches ahead of time and freeze. Pull one out the morning of school and it will thaw by lunch time.
2. Freeze drink boxes and take out in the morning and it will double as an ice pack.
3. Create a snack station in a big plastic container with packages of, applesauce, crackers, goldfish, granola bars, pretzels, or any snack they like and let the kids pick their snack for lunch each morning.
4. If your kids aren't into sandwiches, try skewers of fruit, cheese, ham, turkey or chicken.
5. Surprise your child with notes in their lunch bags either a funny joke, words of encouragement and praise or just telling them to have a great day.

Pictures from Community Pig Roast Dinner



Special Shower and Cake for Joelle Hutson



Trivia Answers: 1. Peter & Andrew, 2. 27, 3. Daniel, 4. Joseph of Arimathea, 5. Shepherd, 6. River Jordan, 7. Abraham, 8. John, 9. 40, 10. Gethsemane, 11. Gabriel, 12. Raven, 13. 6th day, 14. Mary Magdalene, 15. Turned water into wine.