

Church Profile

Save frequently because sometimes website servers timeout while working online.

Church name: First United Methodist Church

Building address: 4372 Church Street

City: Mexico

State: NY

Zip: 13114

Mailing address: P.O. Box 255

City: Mexico

State: NY

Zip: 13114

Parsonage address: 48 Wayne St

City: Mexico

State: NY

Zip: 13114

Phone: 315-963-3066

Fax: 315-963-3066

Email: fumcmexico@gmail.com

Web page URL: <http://www.mex1umc.com/index.htm>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/fumcmexico>

Worship times: 10:00 AM

Summer worship times: 10:00 AM

Average Worship Attendance: 100

Church Membership: 300+

Baptism (Last Year): 1

Confessions of Faith (Last Year): 2

Ministry Share (Apportionments) Paid (Last Year): 100%

Current Year gross salary (Line 3 of UNY clergy Compensation form): 42633.00

Housing Allowance: 0.00

Please list the last five pastors appointed to this church and the years they served (i.e. 2004 - Present Rev. Joe Smith) one per

line: Rev. Grace Warren (2018 to Present)

Rev. Emily Huyge (2015-2018)

Rev. William Palmer (1995-2014)

Rev. Joseph Wallace (1985-1995)

Rev. Myrna Foster

A. Describe your community:

1. Describe the identity of your community, (urban, suburban, town/village, rural, etc.)

Town, rural village, commuter employees, small agricultural presence. Major economic influence / base from electric power utilities, schools, and one industrial plant.

2. What have been its major characteristics for the past 10 years?

Beyond Local support businesses Workers commute to Oswego, Syracuse, Watertown areas. Slight to moderate loss of youth as they enter the work force. An aging trend to the local population but numbers remain relatively constant. Community does have an influx of new people as the result of their employment at local industry and businesses.

3. What are your community's current assets and challenges? What are its ministry needs?

For employment we are close to three nuclear power plants. We have a good school system, but school taxes are high. BOCES is located in our town. 2 year and 4 year colleges with in driving distance. Geographic location aid in commuting to work. Positive economic influence from outdoor recreation. Challenges poverty, drugs, lack of local employment opportunities.

4. Who are the people in your community not being reached?

Our community has a number of support agencies to reach out to those in need. The problem is those in need of help not reaching out for help or being identified as needing help, Many younger families no longer consider church attendance a priority.

5. What major trends or changes do you anticipate in your community?

While the faces and names may change those in need of help number wise seems to stay the same.

6. If there are new faces (persons or groups) in your community, who are they?

There is the normal attrition for individuals in leadership roles in businesses and other groups. Recently we have had a growth in the Amish community.

B. Describe your congregation:

1. What do you believe is God's vision for the congregation?

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". As a community member or reaching out to individuals our church and our members strives to serves God's will.

2. What is preventing your congregation from fully living into God's vision?

God's vision will always be a work in progress. The willingness of some or the ability to recognize or support the need for change will limit us from fully living in God's vision.

3. Describe the congregation's top three core values.

We believe in the word and the teaching of our Lord. We are learning to be more supportive and understanding of change. We support our church and its ministries.

4. What are the congregation's greatest strengths? List several.

We are caring, welcoming, compassionate, generous, as well as questioning and challenging when we do not understand.

5. What are your three greatest challenges?

Growing our membership in faith and numbers. Retention and building of our youth. Caring for and maintaining our infrastructure. (Buildings and grounds)

6. How does your congregation make decisions?

We will question and study when making decisions. We also rely heavily on our Pastor and the knowledge she has to offer. When a decision is related to an existing committee's responsibility we seek their input.

7. How does your congregation respond to change?

Fair at best. There is comfort with stability. For Change to be accepted the reason for the change needs to be understood. As people differ in personality so is the acceptance for the need of change.

8. How does your congregation seek transformation in conflict? (When your church has a disagreement, what happens?)

It varies, some accept the offered resolution of Conflict that is offered. While it rarely happens we have lost membership Others just do not accept what they see as conflict.

9. Describe your membership re: mix of age, ethnicity, affluence or poverty. How does your membership reflect the make-up of the community?

Median age ~55 a slowly growing 25 to 40, 60+ group stable in numbers as we all get older under 12 around 10 to 15, teenagers less than 5.

10. What events of the past 15 years have shaped the life of the congregation?

Strong ministry (leadership) for the past 20 + years. Two new ministers in the last 3.5 years. A \$325,000 bequest to the Church, in 2012, a handicapped assessable elevator, and a new remodeled kitchen. A new Parking Lot. the reaching out and help from individuals and groups within the church.

C. Describe your church's spiritual focus:**1. What is the purpose of the church?**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

2. How is the congregation living the mission statement of the UMC, that we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

A work in progress a work of dedication. Also the many ministries our Church supports.

3. How do you describe the congregation on the theological spectrum?

Traditional with contemporary leanings. Teaching according to the God's Gospel.

4. Describe the congregation's intentional plan for discipleship.

Reaching out through the principles of Outreach and Growth being a welcoming and friendly church.

5. Describe your style/styles of worship. What is the best part of your worship? How might the worship experience need to be strengthened?

Traditional with contemporary leanings. The strongest part of our Church worship is God's message as presented by our Pastor

6. How important is your lay leadership in the life of the church? How do you nurture, train, and support your lay leaders?

Lay leadership is very important. Annual training is offered regionally via district training day. Within our Church we promote new committee leadership as well as new participating committee members.

7. Name any current candidates for pastoral ministry, and share the ways the congregation is creating aculture of calling to pastoral ministry.

None. Over the past 6 years our church and pastor have supported one new local minister and two Lay Servants.

D. Describe your church's sense of mission and ministry:**1. What are the ways your congregation is moving beyond the walls of the church?**

Fellowship hall available for scouting, health, dance, a soup kitchen, etc. We are involved with the Salvation Army, Unity Aches, Brown Memorial Church, Operation Christmas Child, Heifer Project, support Methodist Church Missionaries.

2. How do your ministries allow church members to come into relationship with people they don't yet know?

Monday's Meals, home visits, nursing home visits, community dinners,

3. How are you using your building as a resource for mission?

A place for the Community to hold meetings, Bible Study, a special meeting like a recent meeting on Alzheimers. Guest Speakers presented by Growth and Outreach.

4. How does the church respond to, and follow up with, visitors? (Please be specific)

Guest welcoming bag, a guest registration form, fellowship during coffee hour, one on one contact.

5. If the church vanished, what would be the impact on your neighborhood?

A community void as we are the largest of the traditional protestant churches in Mexico.

6. Describe how the congregation is training people for evangelism in the 21st Century.

Through Scripture, by example, and invitation to participation in outreach and growth.

7. Who are the people your congregation weeps over?

Those effected by natural disasters, personnel loss and hardship, those affected by drugs and alcohol.

8. What are the new ministry possibilities for your congregation? What needs to change to help those possibilities become a reality?

Our Growth Committee is working toward building the capacity for small groups. Hopefully some of those groups will meet the needs of those in our community and people that don't currently attend church will attend.

9. How do you interpret and support Conference Ministry Shares?

We generally support at the 100% level as determined by Conference. We understand that at the Conference level that in certain areas more can be effectively done. Some times we question the size of Conference and District Staff.

10. How do you connect to Conference and District ministries and learning opportunities?

It is thought that we connected well. It has been questioned by some of us how does Conference and District connect with us.

E. Pastoral Leadership**1. How do you understand the partnership between pastor and laity? What has been the history of the pastor/lay relationship in the last several years? To whom do church members listen or grant authority?**

It is the Pastors responsibility to teach and lead the congregation according to the gospel. The organized laity in the Church duty is to, support the pastor and reflect the concerns of the Church's membership. Thin inner relationship has been good, at times it has been challenging

2. To what style of leadership does the church respond most positively? (i.e. parental, administrative, directive, collegial, nurturing, encouraging, teaching, coaching, modeling, challenging, managerial... or choose your own description.)**3. What have been the congregation's most important expectations of their pastor? Have those expectations changed over the last few years?**

There has been the expression of high expectation of the pastor from the Church Congregation. Committee attendance, event attendance / participation are some expectations expressed. This expectation has not changed from the past.

4. What personality traits best make the culture of the congregation?

Openness, honesty, willing to serve questioning when necessary.

5. List in priority order the critical skills needed from a pastor as the congregation seeks to respond to God's call in the community over the next five years. (i.e. missions, outreach, connectionalism, evangelism, community engagement, conflict transformation, team-building, lay empowerment, leadership development, visioning, teaching, stewardship, administration, strategic planning, counseling, pastoral care and visitation, spiritual direction, leading worship, communication, preaching) visioning, teaching, spiritual direction, leading worship, pastoral care. Also visitation, lay empowerment, and leadership development.

6. In addition to the pastor/senior pastor/lead pastor, list your other staff members by name, role and length of service.

Jessica Parker Administrative Assistant, Lori Behling and Sarah Mack Co Treasurers, Jeff Sherman Custodian, and Leslie Sherman Financial Secretary

F. Facilities**1. Describe the church building, including its strengths and liabilities, the level of accessibility, and attach a digital photo.**

The Church building is an aging building but maintained well. It is handicap accessible (one entrance) and one elevator. There is a flat roof over Sunday school and fellowship hall that has required extensive maintenance in the past. Stain glass window will need additional preventative maintenance. Good furnace no air conditioning. Siding and fascia subject to wind damage.

2. If applicable, does the parsonage meet the UNY parsonage standards? Please describe the parsonage -including its strengths and weaknesses, level of accessibility, and square footage - and attach a digital photo.

Yes, see parsonage Inspection

Form is complete to the best of my ability:

- ☒ No
☐ Yes

Profile prepared by: the SPPRC of Mexico First UMC

Date: 11/13/18