

# *News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico January, February and March 2023*

*New Year's Blessings to my Family,*

*What a year 2022 has been! All of us had our ups and downs. There are several lessons we can learn from 2022:*

- Trials come to all of us. They seem to be custom designed for each of us.*
- Every trial has a life cycle. Kind of like the flu!*
- The outcome may not be to our liking, but God can bring beauty out of brokenness.*

*God is faithful. He always has been and He always will be. He will never forsake His people.*

*As we look to 2023, it can be easy to become discouraged and negative. Let me urge you to trust God to make it the best one ever! In fact, Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Just when things seem to be hopeless, God does His miracles! He wants to do that in your life, your family, your work, and even our nation.*

*He is already doing some exciting things here at Mexico FUMC! As you read this, our ministries continue to grow! Our Outreach Committee's new food wall collection in the front of the sanctuary is filling our pantry for our food ministries and our Growth Committee's new open mic night continues to grow each time we share it. As we move into the new year, we look forward to new activities with our youth group such as "Cardboard Village" to raise money for the hungry and homeless in our community and a new ministry with our men's group collecting coats for a free handout and chili bowl dinner in the fall in downtown Mexico. It is about lifting Jesus Christ up so that people may see Him and be saved. Our goal at Mexico is to "Make Christ Visible."*

*Let me urge you to do the following:*

- Pray that God will use us in new and exciting ways in our community.*
- Resolve to know Christ better in 2023 through more increased involvement in our church's ministries and study opportunities.*
- Further resolve to lean upon Him and trust Him.*
- Remember to reach out to people with the Good News of Christ every day and remember if you never try, the answer will always be "No".*

*April and I pray for you daily and we can't wait to see what God has planned for us in 2023!*

*- Pastor Brandin*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 1** - Happy New Year!  
**January 9** - Administrative Council 6:00 p.m.  
**January 12** - Open mic night 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**January 15** - Growth Group meeting right after worship  
**January 22** – Trustees meeting right after worship  
**February 9** - Open mic night 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**February 14** - Valentine’s Day  
**February 19** - Growth Group meeting right after worship  
**February 22** - Ash Wednesday  
**February 25** - Half Way Night 5-8 p.m.  
**March 9** - Open mic night 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**March 12** - Daylight Savings Time begins  
**March 20** - First Day of Spring!

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

~ Sue Morton for organizing our annual Christmas in Mexico craft show.  
~ Rick Sherman for keeping our church sidewalks shoveled and salted during the winter months.  
~ All those who volunteer their time to serve on church committees.  
~ Our prayer warriors who pray for our church, its’ members and our extended church family throughout Mexico and beyond.  
~ Everyone who faithfully works behind the scenes doing things that help keep our church running smoothly.

*“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:16*

## Half Way Night

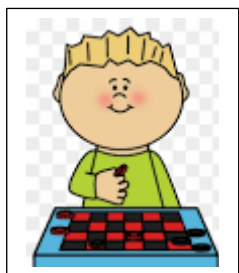
### Sponsored by the Men’s Club

Our annual half way night will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 25 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This is a time to get together in fellowship and celebrate the fact that winter is halfway over (we hope!).

Join us for chili, hotdogs and other assorted snacks and drinks. There will also be a variety of games. This is a free event.

See you there!



## Address Updates

Hope Lenhart’s new address is 8 Clinton St., Mexico, NY 13114

Millie Murray’s new address is 1949 East-West Parkway, Apt. 3103, Fleming Island, FL 32203  
(352) 638-2675 (text is best)

Ann Schipper’s winter address is 1357 Craig Drive, Iron Station, NC 28080 (through mid-March)

Drop them a card or note to let them know we’re thinking of them.

## Movie Nights to Resume

Movie nights sponsored by the Church Growth Group will return for the months of January, February and March.

Come join us for an evening of fellowship and watch a good, wholesome movie while enjoying some popcorn and other snacks. More details to follow.



## Baptisms

We celebrated the baptisms of **Luke Warren** and **Kyler Landphere** on November 27, 2022.



## Reminders

In the Narthex at church, we have the following available to pick up:

- **Care Notes** are small, inspirational booklets about coping with such things as grief and illness with a focus on spiritual healing.
- **Jigsaw puzzles** to help you pass the time on a cold wintry day (so many are cheerful-showing green grass and sunshine and flowers!)
- **Upper Room**, a bi-monthly devotional publication

## Friendship Unit's Giving Tree

Again this Advent season, the women's Friendship Unit sponsored a "GIVING TREE". An artificial Christmas tree was set up in the narthex ready to be decorated with donated hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves that will then be given to the local food pantry and placed in our Blessing Box for distribution to needy families in our community.

Thank you for the following donations: four knitted pairs of mittens, 11 warm knitted scarves, 15 pairs of colorful knitted gloves, 16 knitted or flannel hats and one hat and mitten set.

## In Sympathy

Please continue to pray for the families and friends of:

**Nancy Albrecht**

**Shirley Bogart**

**Barbara Campbell**

**Grant DeLong**

**Harold Hurlbut**

**Mark Ross**



Photo of the giving tree

### *Mission Outreach Committee News*

**Blessing Box:** A BIG THANK YOU for your generosity in filling Reverse Advent Boxes for the month of December! We collected almost 300 pounds of food, hygiene and household items. This community is so blessed with the tremendous outpouring of love for others and the Outreach Committee extends our deep gratitude for your kindness.

For the January food wall, we ask you to consider donating soup and sip items (all types of soups, shelf-stable milk, juice, tea, bottled water, hot chocolate, evaporated milk). As always, any item is welcome. Again, thank you!!!

**Mayan Hands Bracelet Fundraiser:** Thanks to everyone who purchased bracelets; we raised \$132 and supported Guatemalan women in their fair-trade business which helps them send their children to school. We purchased totes for Operation Reindeer at a cost of \$100 - a fundraiser that clearly made a local and global difference.

**Brown Memorial United Methodist Church Christmas Store:** We talked with our liaison at Brown Memorial a few weeks before Christmas and as of then, donations were minimal and they were wondering if they were going to be able to have enough items for children and families to 'shop'. With \$300 from Mission Outreach, individual donations from a few church members who ask to remain anonymous, along with some other Central New York churches, the Christmas Store was able to happen and they are very grateful for our support. As a reminder, if you have any blankets that are gently used and no longer of use to you, we will take them to Brown. There is a rising homeless population and blankets are always welcome.

**Save the Date!** Yes, we will be hosting the Attic Treasure Sale (ATS) Saturday, May 6, 2023. As you begin for what some of us is a 'January Clear Out', think about labeling a box or two "ATS" and donating it to our biggest fundraiser of the year. As a reminder, please do not send electronics or large appliances our way; they typically don't sell and disposing of them is a challenge.

**What's New:** By the time you read this, our group will have met for the first time in 2023; we will keep everyone posted of upcoming activities in the bulletins. If you have any ideas, please share them. We welcome new members. Feel free to contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at [cbwatros@gmail.com](mailto:cbwatros@gmail.com) or 315.529.0930 if you have any questions. Again, on behalf of the committee, we thank you for everything. It is a privilege to be a part of this group and church.



## HAVE A HEART TREE

On Sunday, February 5, approximately 20 red paper hearts will adorn a decorative tree branch in our sanctuary. On each paper heart will be the name and address of a person associated with our church or the Mexico community who is either recuperating from a hospital stay, in a nursing home, away from home in college or who may live alone and would appreciate some communication with a member of our congregation. There may even be some names and addresses of our “snow birds” who would love to hear from a member of the congregation and catch them up on what they are missing by not being here!



We hope you will be encouraged to take a heart (or two) and make a phone call, write a letter, send a card or go visit that person. The goal is to have all hearts taken by February 5 and make some connection with that person by Valentine’s Day.

This is an excellent way to spread God’s love to everyone.

If you wish to participate in this ministry, but are unable to come to church on February 5<sup>th</sup> to choose a heart, please call Sue Morton at 315-963-3566.

### If you need to contact the church:

Phone – (315) 963-3066

E-mail – [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmexico@gmail.com)

Website – [www.mex1umc.com](http://www.mex1umc.com)



Mailing address: P.O. Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114

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

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### January birthdays

2 – Cliff VanGorder  
3 – Deb McCoy  
8 – Chuck Parker, Jr.  
14 – Jewell Fultz  
16 – Richard Barnes

### February birthdays

1 – Orion Behling  
4 – Faith Hubbard  
6 – Jeremy Spencer  
11 – Elaine DeLong  
18 – Chuck Parker, Sr.  
24 – Stephanie Martin  
25 – David Anderson

### March birthdays

1 – Jeff Beardslee  
2 – Bob Linerode  
9 – Jenna Behling  
12 – Haylee Gibson  
18 – Diane Barbur  
20 – Marcia Albrecht, Benjamin Parker, Scott Jackson  
26 – Diane Tupper  
29 – Bill DeLong  
30 – Mike Freihofer  
31 – April Greco

### January anniversaries

10 – Terry and Karen Grimshaw  
25 – Wayne and Rose Ann Myers  
31 – Richard and Kathy Rose



### February anniversaries

14 – Eric and Jennifer Spaulding  
18 – David and Faith Hubbard

### March anniversary

25 – Pastor Brandin and April Greco

*\*\*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.\*\**

