

The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
January 2019
From the Pastor...

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First United Methodist Church;

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

Are you, like me, surprised when you look at the calendar and see that 2019 is here? It seems like not that long ago we were celebrating the beginning of 2018. What a lot has happened in that year! We as a church community have gone through a smooth transition from one pastor to another by the grace of God. Many of us have had other changes in our lives as well because our lives do not remain stagnant; God is always working in them to bring change and to grow us into the people God intends us to be. We become people who show Christ to the world in a myriad of ways.

When we were baptized, God adopted each one of us as a Child of God and grafted us into the Christian family. Each one of us is given “gifts and graces” – abilities and opportunities – to engage in ministry with other people. Our specific ministry is unique to each one of us as God equips us and puts us in places to show Christ’s love. In John 20:21, Jesus appeared to his disciples after his Resurrection and said “*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.*” We are included in that group of disciples who are equipped and sent out to share the Good News of Jesus with the world around us.

Pastors are called by God to prepare church members to perform ministry. Ephesians 4:11-13 says “*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*” We who are pastors begin as congregation members and are called out by God to perform this work of preparing others to perform ministry.

Within our denomination, pastors can choose to remain a Licensed Local Pastor or become an Ordained Elder. A Licensed Local Pastor is someone who functions as a pastor within the confines of the local church where they are appointed. They can only offer Communion and perform Baptisms and weddings to people directly connected to their congregation. If a Licensed Local Pastor does not serve a church, they are no longer considered to be a pastor. Ordained Elders undergo an intensive evaluation process before Ordination, the ritual asking the Holy Spirit to bless their ministry and marking them as a pastor in all times and places, even if they are not serving a church.

Some of you have heard that I have been working on papers for Commissioning, which is a major step towards becoming Ordained. By writing papers, recording a sermon, creating a Bible Study, and participating in a multi-day series of interviews, I am allowing the Conference to evaluate me as a pastor. They are examining my theology and beliefs about God; how I function as a pastor; and who I am as a person. If all goes well and I am approved, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry will affirm God’s Call in my life and Commission me as a Provisional Elder in June 2019.

After Commissioning I will enter into a residency program with the Conference while remaining as the pastor here at Mexico First UMC. They will make sure I have sound theology and help me learn effective practices so I can be the pastor God is calling me to be. After that, I will be eligible for Ordination within the United Methodist Church.

If I am Commissioned at our Annual Conference in June 2019, my target date for Ordination will be June 2022. This is not a quick and easy process – many of the things that God calls us to are not. They generally take time, allowing God to work in our lives to perfect us so that we can shine the light of Christ to the world in our lives.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Grace

IMPORTANT DATES...

Jan. 7: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
Jan 14: SPPRC Meeting, 6:30pm
Jan 15: Outreach Meeting, 6:30pm
Jan 17: Finance Committee Meeting, 6pm
Jan 19: UMMen's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am
Jan 21: Church Growth Meeting, 6:30pm
Jan 24: Church Calendar Planning Meeting,
6:30pm
Jan 28: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

~ to Jessica Parker for her many years as our church office coordinator. Her devotion, time, and skills are appreciated.
~ Gary and Ann Schipper for sponsoring this issue of *The Messenger*.
~ Cathy Stock for changing the church sign outside in every kind of weather.
~ the Sunday School and Children's Church teachers for teaching the children in our church about Jesus.

ANNOUNCING... OUR NEW OFFICE COORDINATOR...

Diane Sokolowski

Diane will begin in this position on January 1, 2019, with general office hours on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Our Sympathy to the Families of...

Stella McCabe

Who passed on November 30, 2018

And...

Ron Granger

Who passed on December 1, 2018

NEW ADDRESSES...

Gary and Ann Schipper
30 Shady Lane
Oswego, NY. 13126
315-602-0293

Jewel Fultz
Room 110
Bishop Commons
4 Burkle Drive
Oswego, NY. 13126

Rev. Joe and Jean Wallace
290 Hendry St.
LaBelle, Fl. 33935.

~~~~~  
And a holiday message from Rev. Joe...

*"Jean and I send our wish for a blessed Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. God bless from your old pastoral family!!"*

## OUR CHURCH MISSION:

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

## SERVING in JANUARY...

### GREETERS

Jan 6: Hope and Addy Lenhart  
Jan 13: Joan Phelps  
Jan 20: Duane & Sue Morton  
Jan 27: Spencer Family

### LITURGISTS

Jan 6: Phil Kugler  
Jan 13: Ernie Warren  
Jan 20: Lori Behling  
Jan 27: Hope Lenhart

### MONDAY'S MEAL

Jan 7: Shermans and \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 14: Ernie Warren and \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan 21: No school, no meal served.  
Jan 28: Mary Grants and \_\_\_\_\_

### USHERS

Sparky Rector  
Alicia Weber  
Gary Weber  
Donna Hooge

(Ushers serve all month.)

### AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM

Team #2: Chuck Parker and Mary Grants  
(Team #2 serves all month.)

### COUNTERS

Had Fravor and Dotty Parker

### TRASH REMOVAL

Ernie Warren

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 2: Jean Wallace, Cliff VanGorder  
3: Deb McCoy  
8: Chuck Parker Sr.  
10: A: Terry & Karen Grimshaw  
14: Jewell Fultz  
16: Richard Barnes  
24: Georgia Halstead  
25: Marion Hinman  
A: Wayne & Rose Ann Myers  
26: Connie Ellison  
31: A: Richard & Kathy Rose

### Special Administrative Council Planning Meeting

By: Carol Watros, Administrative Council Chairperson

#### **Special Meeting Date: 1/24/19**

January greetings to everyone on behalf of the Administrative Council and thank you in advance for your patience as I transition to chairing facilitating these monthly meetings. We are very fortunate to have such an active congregation committed to serving this church and God's people in a multitude of ways; so many just make annual activities, events and projects seamlessly happen because of this deep commitment. That being said, there was a discussion at the December 2018 meeting regarding creating an annual timeline of typical projects so that we have a roadmap for the church, newcomers, and committee chairpersons to assist with both sustainability and planning. We are asking a representative from each committee to join us at a special meeting **Thursday, January 24, at 6:30pm** at the church to create this activity matrix. Please bring a 12-month outline of typical activities/projects sponsored by your group to the meeting; if you are unable to attend then please email either: Pastor Grace ([pastorgrace16@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgrace16@gmail.com)), or myself ([cbwatros@gmail.com](mailto:cbwatros@gmail.com)), your outline by January 20. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if you would like a calendar template; thank you for helping us with this project.

### *Friendship Circle Christmas...*



Several women gathered around the Christmas tree while enjoying the Annual Friendship Circle's Party at Norma Griffith's home in December. The women collected useful items that were then donated to the Mexico Food Pantry. All women of the church are invited to join the of the church are invited to join the Friendship Circle. The group meets four times a year, with a summer picnic and the Christmas party as two main events.

### 2018 Children's Christmas Program

By Hope Lenhart

Our Sunday School children led us in worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We were called to worship by Ben Parker and Alexis Jackson. Alexis Jackson, Addison Lenhart and Jackson Kelly led us through the readings and lighting of the Advent Wreath. Noah Spencer and Jackson Kelly led us in the Prayer of Invocation and then all the children played 'Stump the Pastor and Mr. Jeff' as they presented a pencil and pencil sharpener and asked them "How are we like the pencil and God like the pencil sharpener?" After conferring, they answered correctly!

Our special music was provided by Avery Mack as she was accompanied by Eric Spaulding on guitar and sang a beautiful rendition of *Mary Did You Know*. And Delaney Mack was lovely playing *Silent Night* on the piano.

Addison Lenhart, Ryan Jackson and Chase Parker were splendid reading the poems *The Angel's Song*, *The Nativity* and *The Matchless Name*. Each of these poems were followed by the congregation singing carols that related to each poem. And the scripture readers, Delaney Mack and Ben Parker, added to these making a beautiful flowing story.

The program was wrapped up with the children singing *One Little Candle*, with Eric Spaulding accompanying on the guitar. What a bright world, indeed, it would be if everyone lit just one little candle!

I am so very proud of these young people and the wonderful job they did! You brought me to tears of joy. What beautiful children of God you all are!

## *Need to Contact our Church??*

*The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.mex1umc.com)

Our FACEBOOK is: [www.facebook.com/fumcmexico](http://www.facebook.com/fumcmexico)

*Please Join Us For: Children's Sunday School at: 8:45am. Worship at: 10am. Children's Church at: 10:15am*



### *CHRISTMAS COOKIE DELIVERY 2018*

By: Sue Morton, Visitation Committee Chairperson

On Sunday, December 16, 30 containers, each filled with a dozen or more delicious Christmas cookies, were delivered throughout Mexico, and into Oswego, to home-bound members, recently relocated members, and those church members in nursing homes. Larger containers of cookies were given out to the three group homes in the village of Mexico. All recipients were appreciative that our church remembered them at this time of year. Thanks again to all who baked and delivered the cookies! Pictured left: Jewell Foltz, of Oswego, on Christmas cookie delivery day.

Spouses joined the men for a special Christmas breakfast in December, bringing the total number feasting to 14. The next UMMen's Club breakfast meeting will be **Saturday, January 19, at 8:30am** at the church. All men in the church are invited to attend. Pictured at right: Guests at breakfast.



**RECIPE CORNER:** *As temperature drop, stoves heat up. Thank you to Pastor Grace for sharing this soup recipe - one that has also been served at Monday's Meal.*

#### *HAMBURGER SOUP*

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 lb ground beef                      | ½ tsp salt                     |
| ¼ tsp pepper                          | ¼ tsp oregano                  |
| ¼ tsp basil                           | dash nutmeg                    |
| 1/8 tsp savory                        | 1 8 oz can tomato paste        |
| 1 TBSP Soy Sauce                      | 1 C sliced celery              |
| ¼ C celery leaves in large pieces     | 1 C sliced carrots             |
| 1 C green beans or 1/3 C split peas   | Potato's or 1 C elbow macaroni |
| Optional: ½ head cauliflower, chopped | Optional: ½ bay leaf           |

Brown ground beef in large pot. Add 6 C water, tomato paste and soy sauce. Simmer 15 minutes. Add celery, celery leaves, and carrots. Cook an additional 30 minutes. Add beans or peas, potatoes or macaroni. Simmer 30 minutes