

News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico January, February and March 2024

Grace and peace to all of you, my church family,

As we put 2023 in our rear-view mirror and look forward toward 2024, Paul in his first letter to Timothy, encourages his friend to engage in what we might consider a New Year's resolution: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people." (1 Timothy 2:1) As we begin this new year, let us, first of all, join in this commitment to prayer.

As we begin this new year, we can look back to a year and a half as a church family and all that we have done sharing in ministry together. We have new faces walking through the door, we have started new ministries in giving in our community, our youth group has continued to be active in growing their relationships with one another and giving in their community, and our men's group has continued to grow and thrive as active participants in the ministries of our church and community. Our growth and outreach committees have continued to be a vital part in the growth of the greater church through community activities and giving. Our newly formed worship committee is working together to create some incredible worship experiences for all those who join us for worship on Sundays in our sanctuary and online. God has continued to bless us as we grow as a church family and as His hands and feet in this community.

As I shared this past Sunday as a theme for this year, I would like to see a "year of living intentionally". That is, keeping God first and at the center of everything we do each and every day. Intentionally living a life where we reflect and share God's light and love from the moment we all wake up to when we lay our heads on our pillows. As we do this, I pray that it will be evident that our own lives will reflect the blessings that come from that and the joy that it can bring to others.

Your pastor family is blessed to be a part of your family every day. As we continue to be your pastor family, we are committed to being a living example in the best way we can, sharing and giving in the church and community. We look forward to continuing to be a part of the Mexico FUMC family and we can't wait to see what God has for us next.

*Many Blessings and Much Love,
Pastor Brandin*

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1 – Happy New Year!
January 11 – Open Mic Night – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
January 27 – Men’s breakfast – 8:30 a.m.
January 28 – Church Growth meeting after service
February 8 – Open Mic Night – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
February 14 – Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday
February 17 – Movie night – 6:00 p.m.
February 25 – Church Growth meeting after service
March 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14 – Open Mic Night – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
March 16 – Movie night – 6:00 p.m.
March 19 - First Day of Spring
March 24 – Palm Sunday
March 24 – Church Growth meeting after service
March 29 – Good Friday
March 31 – Easter Sunday

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

Everyone who does so much for the church. There are so many people working behind the scenes to make things happen. From taking out the trash, changing our church sign, leading and serving on committees, making our worship space a beautiful place, serving as an usher, “clicking the clicker” during Sunday services, ringing the church bell, counting money, cleaning up, making beautiful music, reading scripture, providing a coffee hour after church each Sunday and so much more! Thank you everyone!!

Included with the newsletter is the nominations report for 2024 which lists all members of all church committees.

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.... You are serving the Lord Christ.” Col. 3:23-24

Halfway Night

Sponsored by the Men’s Club

Our annual halfway night will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 24 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 snacks and drinks. There will also be a variety of games. This is a free event.

See you there!



A Note from Ann Schipper

Dear Mexico Methodist Church Family,

I am enjoying time with my family in North Carolina. The weather is beautiful. I try to go for daily walks.

I have been attending church services with my daughter Linda and son-in-law Shawn. Mariposi Baptist Church has warmly welcomed me.

I am hopeful to spend time with my son, Todd, in Georgia also.

I do miss all of you and wish you happy holidays! I am thankful God has blessed me with your friendship.

Love, Ann Schipper

Friendship Unit's Giving Tree

Many thanks to all who donated hats, gloves, mittens or scarves for the Friendship Unit's giving tree. Half of these warm, wearable items were given to the Mexico Food Pantry to distribute, and the other half will be put in our Blessing Box.



New addresses

Doanne Hurlbut
2919 Freedom Drive
Evansville, IN 47720

Millie Murray
1949 East-West Parkway, Apt.
3115
Fleming Island, FL 32003

Ann Schipper (through April)
1357 Craig Drive
Iron Station, NC 28080

Have a Heart Tree



On February 4, approximately 20 paper hearts will adorn a "decorative tree branch" in our sanctuary. On each heart will be the name of a person associated with our congregation or the Mexico community who is recuperating from a hospital stay, in a

nursing home, away from home for the winter, in college or living alone and may appreciate some communication from our caring congregation. Contact information for that person will be on the back of the red heart.

Members are encouraged to take a paper heart or two and make a phone call, write a letter, send a card or go visit that person and spread God's love.

It is the hope that all hearts will be taken from the tree by February 14 and some connection has been made by that time.

If you wish to participate in this ministry but cannot make it to church to choose a heart, please contact Sue Morton at 315-447-6056.

In Sympathy

Please continue to pray for the families and friends of:

Scott Ellison

Donald Field

Claude "Had" Fravor

Laurence "Sparky" Rector



Mission Outreach Committee News by Carol Watros

Happy New Year! This past year was one of both new endeavors and mainstay outreach activities. We decided to not host the annual Attic Treasure Sale but rather sponsor a dinner theater. With many, many thanks to Donna Leigh, the congregation and the community, it was a huge success and helped raise nearly \$2,000 for the committee to use in various projects. We anticipate sponsoring another engaging, entertaining and exciting mystery dinner theater within the next year or so - date and theme yet to be determined. Most likely the Attic Treasure Sale will not be happening, though we have yet to make the final decision. We would love new members!!! Contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at 315.529.0930 or cbwatros@gmail.com if you want to join us.

Blessing Box: A BIG THANK YOU for your continued generosity in making weekly donations to help us keep the Blessing Box filled. As noted in the bulletin, it is hard to believe we are nearing the 4th anniversary of the Blessing Box initiative - (and COVID - Yikes!). January's focus will be collecting soup, oatmeal and fiber-based products in recognition of national soup, oatmeal and fiber month. As always, we welcome anything you give, including peanut butter, tuna, shelf-stable milk, pasta and personal items. Please be sure food items are unexpired and in sealed, non-glass containers.

Other 2023 activities included partnering with the Men's Group in March as they hosted their pork dinner - of which we are very grateful. We continued supporting Brown Memorial United Methodist Church's Christmas Store, along with Red Bird Mission and Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministries. We also collected, purchased and assembled hygiene kits for the Upper New York Mission Central Hub to distribute to those who are impacted in the Conference either facing or reacting to a socio-economic or natural disaster. We work hard at reaching out to our neighbors near and far and in 2024 this will continue. Look for details regarding our activities in the forthcoming bulletins and the spring newsletter. Again, thank you for everything.

“And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.” 2 Thessalonians 3:13

Youth group update

On a Friday night in December, members of the youth group got together to decorate sugar cookies that were donated by members of our congregation. The cookies were packaged and then delivered the next day during our church-wide caroling event.

A note was received in the church office from Mary Loysen: *"Thank you to the singers for their caroling and also all the delicious cookies. It was most appreciated. Happy New Year and hope it's a good one for all."*



Upcoming youth group events:

January 20 – Winterfest at Selkirk

February 10 – Candlelight hike at Selkirk

July 28 – August 1 – Kingdom Bound at Darien Lake State Park

August 23 – August 25 – camping at Selkirk

More meetings/events to be scheduled.

**Anyone is welcome to join in any of the above events. For more details, contact Jeremy or Lisa Spencer.

If you need to contact the church:

Phone – (315) 963-3066

E-mail – fumcmexico@gmail.com

Website – www.mex1umc.com

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

Facebook: Mexico First United Methodist Church



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
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 it next time.*****

