

The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
March 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 Christ.

It seems like Christmas was just a couple weeks ago, yet we are already beginning to think about spring! The Worship Committee met recently to plan our services for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

This season is a significant time in the Christian year because without Easter, Christianity would not exist. The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ allows God and humanity to enter into a new covenant relationship allowing people to be freed from sin and born anew into eternal life with God.

The season of Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that lead up to Easter. In the early days of the Church, Lent was the end of several years of preparation for new converts to join. This final season of fasting and study culminated in baptism and the opportunity to take Communion for the first time. Over time, Church members began to join in the 40 days of penance and fasting as a means of renewing their baptismal vows. It was an opportunity for people to acknowledge areas where they had turned away from God so they could repent and turn back to God. Lent allows people the opportunity to recognize our need for a Savior.

Many people use the season of Lent as a time to be a little more intentional about their faith. Traditionally people will give up something in order to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for humanity. Sometimes rather than giving up something, people will take up a new spiritual discipline. Perhaps they spend more time reading the Bible, or praying, or using silence and solitude as a means to hear God's voice.

We have scheduled two special worship services to allow you to celebrate Lent. They will provide opportunities to reflect, repent, and draw closer to God. Both services will be held in our sanctuary.

March 6 – 6:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service. This service will include the traditional Imposition of Ashes as a sign of repentance.

April 19 – 7:00 p.m. – Community Good Friday Service. We will worship together with other churches from Mexico as we remember the final week of Jesus' life on earth.

April 21 – 10:00 a.m. – Easter Morning Service celebrating Christ's resurrection

I look forward to sharing our Lenten journey together this year!

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Grace

IMPORTANT DATES...

- March 3: Distribution of Heifer Arks.
- March 4: Deadline for Pizza Orders (page 3).
- March 4: Administrative Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- March 6: Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm.
- March 12: Outreach Meeting, 6:30pm.
- March 16: UMMen's Club Breakfast Meeting, 8:30am.
- March 18: Church Growth Meeting, 11am.
- March 19: LECM Meeting at Lycoming UMC
- March 20: Gathering with Bishop Webb, Liverpool United Methodist Church, 6:30-8:30pm.
- March 25: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm.
- March 27: Worship Meeting, 11:30am

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

- ~ Thank You to Rick Sherman for setting up and organizing our new digital CD Library that includes an electronic version of our three hymnals.
- ~ The Trustees for their service given to maintain our church and parsonage so well.

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

The Families of...

Ruth Greenway

Who passed on...

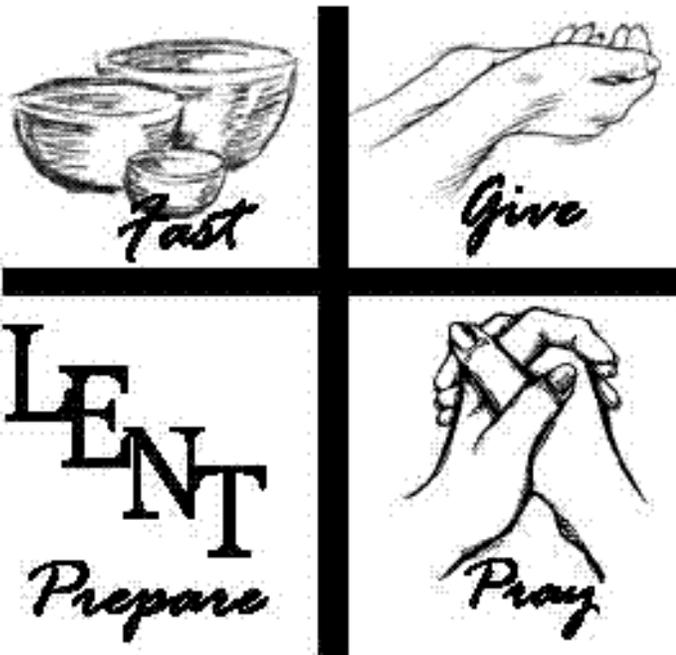
February 8, 2019

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*Rev. Dr. Robert Pennock*

*Who passed on...*

*February 10, 2019*



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE...

First United Methodist Church

Mexico, NY

Wednesday, March 6, 2019,

6:30pm

## **GATHERING with BISHOP WEBB**

March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Liverpool United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church held a Special Session of General Conference February 23-26 with the intention of settling the conflict within the church regarding human sexuality. Clergy and Lay delegates from around the world gathered to vote on the future structure of our denomination. To help us understand the decisions and actions that took place at the Special Session, Bishop Webb is hosting regional gatherings. There will also be a time of worship and prayer at each meeting. Everyone is invited to attend the gathering at Liverpool UMC on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### **MANY THANKS...**

Thank you to everyone who graciously supported our church in 2018 by giving your time and other resources. We ended the year in a financially solid position, enabling us to continue sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the village of Mexico and beyond.



### **EAT PIZZA and... CONTRIBUTE to the STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPAIR...**



Our Trustees Committee is currently holding a Pizza Fundraiser for the benefit of our Stained Glass Window Repair Project. The pizzas will be from Dashnaw's Frozen Pizzas. They are homemade and come frozen and shrink-wrapped. The pizzas are \$10 each and the choices are: Cheese, Pepperoni, Italian, Garlic, or Supreme. Order forms and payment can be returned to Tom Farr, Had Fravor, or Jeff Sherman until March 4<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks out to Mexico First United Methodist Church. The pizzas will be delivered to the church for pick-up April 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.

## **Paul's Directions to the Philippians...**

For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose. Do everything without grumbling and arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.

Hold firmly to the message of life.

*Philippians 2:13-16a;*

## **HALFWAY NIGHT WAS GREAT FUN!!**

**OUR CHURCH MISSION:** To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



## Growth Committee

By: Hope Lenhart, Co-Chair

Our church's Growth Committee has met three times in this new year and we have decided to slow down, step back and re-evaluate who we are and where we are going as a church. One of the decisions we made was to be more active within our own community. Much is done by our church by reaching out into the larger community and the world. So it was decided that more effort needed to be put right here in our own yards.

The first initiative toward this was by sponsoring a food drive at the Men's Club Halfway Night on February 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a wonderful turn out for Halfway Night with close to 60 people in attendance. The food was delicious as we had all kinds of chili; mild chili, medium chili, hot chili, super-hot chili AND alligator chili. There was goulash, chicken wing dip, hot dogs and chips. And of course there were plenty of yummy desserts!

Games of backgammon, scrabble, cribbage, ping pong, corn hole and more were played amidst friendly competitions and much laughter. And the food donations were generous! On Monday afternoon, 100 pounds of non-perishable food was delivered to the Mexico Food Pantry. All of this food will be distributed right here in our own community.

Thank you to all who contributed food items and those who attended this event and thank you to the Men's Club for allowing us to have the food drive.

The Growth Committee welcomes anyone whom wishes to participate and attend meetings to do so. Watch your bulletin for meeting dates and times.

**MORE HALFWAY NIGHT PHOTO FUN...**

**As SEEN on CHURCH SIGNS...**

## **MISSION OUTREACH NEWS...**

**By: Carol Watros, Outreach Committee Member**

**Fill the Ark: Heifer International's Fill the Ark** program is a daily coin collection mission project our committee annually sponsors during the Lenten season. This program provides our congregation the ability to offer hope and reduce hunger for families in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe with gifts of livestock and agricultural training along with the ability for recipients to pass on their gifts to other families. Arks will be available March 3 along with a calendar of ideas with talking points to help everyone understand how our 'cents make sense' and our efforts positively impact the global community. More information on Heifer International can be found at <https://www.heifer.org/>. Thank you in advance for your support.

**April 7, Brown Memorial Community Meal:** Our next opportunity to make, bake and take a meal to our 'southern Syracuse neighbors' is Sunday, April 7. As described in previous newsletters, Brown Memorial United Methodist Church (<http://www.umc.org/find-a-church/church/19344>) 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 food and fellowship to upwards of 150 community members. More information regarding the community meal will be shared the latter part of March.

**May 4, Annual Attic Treasure Sale:** A reminder to save your treasures for our sale – details regarding the sale forthcoming in a bulletin insert; we welcome your donations of children's toys, books and clothing in good condition to size 14, collectibles, house and kitchen wares, linens, jewelry, craft and holiday items, and CDs/DVDs/ Blu-ray discs. This event includes a bake sale!!

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

March 1 - Jeff Beardslee  
2 - Bob Linerode  
6 - Barb Lindovski  
9 - Jenna Behling  
18 - Diane Barbur  
20 - Marcia Albrecht,  
Benjamin Parker,  
Scott Jackson  
26 - Diane Tupper  
28 - Marilyn Marks  
30 - Mike Freihofer

## **LECM Report...**

**By: Marcia Albrecht**

Six members of the Lake Effect Cooperative Ministry (LECM), served approximately 100 people at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church, in Syracuse, on Sunday, February 17th.

On the menu was lasagna, green beans, tossed salad, cookies and assorted beverages.

As always the diners were very appreciative. Thank you to all those who generously donated the tossed salad ingredients.

Our next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup>, at Lycoming United Methodist Church.

## **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**



## **Easter Flower Orders**



The flowers for the church altar on Easter Sunday will be \$12.00 each this year. Please write the name of the person/s for whom the flowers are in memory of or in honor of below, as well as your name in the 'Given by' space. Selections of flower type are also below. If paying by check, please make it payable to: Mexico First United Methodist Church.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(and/or)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark which flower you would like. Your name will be put on the flower of your choice to be picked up after Easter Sunday.

De-scented Easter Lily \$12       Tulip \$12       Mums \$12       Pansy Bowl \$16

Total number of flowers \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of flowers \_\_\_\_\_ X \$16 = \_\_\_\_\_      TOTAL Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Mexico First United Methodist Church, PO Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114, or place in the collection plate by March 20, 2019. (Please mark your envelope Easter Flowers). Thank you.

## HAVE - a - HEART

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, over 30 red paper hearts adorned an artificial tree in the sanctuary. On each paper heart was the name and address of a person associated with our congregation 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. Members were asked to take a paper heart and make a phone call, write a letter, or send a card or go and visit that person.

We are happy to report that all remaining paper hearts were selected off the "tree" after the Ad Council meeting the next day. Thank you all who will take time to spread the Love of God.

## RECIPES from CHURCH MEMBERS...

### Crock Pot Chicken Wing Dip

Recipe submitted by: Carol DeLong

Carol made this dip for a January Coffee Hour, and was asked to make it again for the UMMen's Club Halfway Night. It was a hit both times!

#### Ingredients:

3-4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts-cooked  
2 (8 oz.) packages of cream cheese- softened to room temperature  
6 oz. of hot sauce  
1 bottle of ranch dressing  
2 cups of cheddar cheese

#### Directions:

Cook chicken breasts and then cut or shred chicken. Add to crock pot. Add hot sauce to chicken until all is covered (you may add more hot sauce if you like). Add cream cheese. Add bottle of ranch dressing. Set crock pot on low for 2-3 hours. Add 2 cups of cheddar cheese ½ hour before serving. Serve with corn chips like Scoops.

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Gator Chili

Recipe submitted by: Ernie Warren

Ernie made this chili and served it at UMMen's Club Halfway Night. A success – the recipe was requested for this newsletter!

Ingredients:

1 lb alligator andouille sausage (bulk or links may be purchased at Scriba Meats)
1 TBSP Chili Powder
½ tsp crushed red pepper (can be omitted)
½ tsp salt
1 pint tomatoes
1 14 oz can great northern beans
1 14 oz can dark red kidney beans
½ bag pepper and onion mix (frozen)

Directions:

Cook sausage until done breaking into chunks (if using links remove skin). Meanwhile combine canned tomatoes, beans, seasonings, and pepper and onion mix. Place all in a crockpot and cook on low for 6 hrs. or so. Serve with choice of bread, biscuits, or rolls.



SERVING in MARCH...

GREETERS

March 3: Sarah Mack and Mary Fox
March 10: Jeff and Carol DeLong
March 17: Barbara Lighthall and Marcia Albrecht
March 24: Jeff Sherman and Mary Mack
March 31: Marty Smith and Lori Giverson

LITURGISTS

March 3: Ernie Warren
March 10: Lori Behling
March 17: Grace Shelter
March 24: Rick Sherman
March 31: Sue Morton

MONDAY'S MEAL

March 4: Barb Lighthall & Barb Lindovski
March 11: Jane Backus and _____
March 18: No school and no meal will be served.
March 25: The Shermans and Ernie Warren.

USHERS

Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

AUDIO-VIDEO TEAM

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

COUNTERS

Mary Grants and Kathy Rose

TRASH REMOVAL

Andy Ross



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A Note from Pastor Grace...

Thank you to Kelly Freihofer for faithfully creating and editing our church newsletter for the past ten years. She has kept us well-informed of the many activities and opportunities to serve Christ through our church.

We are very appreciative of all Kelly and her husband Mike have done during their years at Mexico First UMC. We pray for God's blessings on Kelly and Mike as they go on to new adventures!



Save the Date!

Be included in the new
First United Methodist Directory

Photography dates:

- Monday 5/6/2019 2-9pm
- Tuesday 5/7/2019 2-9pm
- Wednesday 5/8/2019 2-9pm

Lifetouch.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019!!!

Get ready! Get set! ROAR!!!

July 22-26, 2019. 5:30-8pm

Kids discover that when life is wild,
God is good!!