

*News from the
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
October, November and December 2025*

*"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God..."
—Romans 8:28*

To My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This scripture has always been a go-to for myself when faced with hardship in the lives of those whom I have been called to journey with and within my own personal life. Amidst the fear, sadness, and anger I sometimes feel towards those for how they are treating the least of these, I am still holding onto hope that soon, in God's time, all things will indeed work together for good. The apostle Paul is describing in Romans 8 that we will endure all kinds of pain, suffering, exhaustion, and misery while on this earth. But it's not for nothing. Not only does God use our pain as a tool to make us stronger in our faith and character, but he also promises that our endurance will pay off. He will use it for our good and we will reap the benefits of our patience and faithfulness.

As we move deeper into fall, we will continue working together for good and discovering God's blessings in surprising places. In the weeks ahead, we will be reflecting on what it means to follow Jesus today. How do we journey faithfully on the path God sets for us? How do we strengthen our community and never waiver in fighting for love and justice in the world? I encourage us to step outside of the boxes we create for ourselves, the places where we feel comfortable, and step into new ministries in ways of giving that push us to fulfill what God is calling us to do and be. There are many opportunities both within our church and outside our four walls to grow biblically, spiritually, and socially. To not only make disciples but to also become complete disciples ourselves. I encourage all my church family to read the announcement inserts, Facebook posts, emails, and to listen to the announcements for these opportunities. Also, it is my plan and hope to have within the bulletin, on the Facebook page, and placed throughout the church a list of opportunities to not only give through the church but through community programs or programs within our denomination.

Family, you give me hope in all that I see that you do each and every day, but there's so much more that needs to be done and that we can do as a family. April and I look forward to all the opportunities that are before us throughout this fall season and into Advent, Christmas and the New Year. We both feel so blessed to be a part of this church family and can't wait to see what God has in store for us next.

Pastor Brandin

IMPORTANT DATES

October 25 – Men's Club Roast Pork Dinner

October 31 – Halloween candy giveaway

November 1 – Coat and chili giveaway sponsored by Men's Club

November 8 – Charge Conference

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

December 3 – Chrismon Service

December 6 – Christmas in Mexico

December 25 – Christmas Day

Look for more information on special services for the upcoming advent season on our website and your e-mail.

Charge Conference to be held November 8

Our annual charge conference will be held on **November 8 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Fulton First United Methodist Church, 1404 State Route 176, Fulton, NY.**



News from the Worship Committee by Marcia Albrecht

With the conclusion of the Summer Worship Series, the committee prepared the sanctuary for the new season with our Autumn banners and decorations. We welcome any donations of pumpkins, gourds and winter squashes. These will be donated to the Blessing Box once we are done with them.

The week after our Thanksgiving Sunday service we will prepare for Advent and Christmas. ***This year we will have a special Chrismon service on Wednesday December 3rd at 6 pm.*** Anyone interested in participating either with the readings or music, please contact Marcia (mja320@gmail.com) or Pastor Brandin.

We will be adding acolytes on our worship assistance clipboard. Adults and children are welcome to sign up. Younger children will be offered guidance if needed. We thank everyone who continues to sign up to assist in our services.

The Worship Committee welcomes new members as we are always looking for new ways to enhance our church's worship services. Please contact Marcia or Pastor Brandin if interested.

Open Mic Nights

Open mic night is back, sponsored by the Church Growth and Discipleship Group. These fun-filled evenings are held the second Thursday of the month in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming dates are:

October 9
November 13
December 11



If you wish to showcase your talent, sign-ups begin at 6:00, with the entertainment starting at 6:30. Refreshments are available.

Over the last few months, we have been blessed to celebrate several baptisms within our church. Those baptized were:

Beckett Mahoney

Madison Meyer

Raegan Mahoney

Olivia Meyer

Christopher Meyer

Wyatt Shannon



Halloween Candy Distribution

As is our tradition, we will pass out Halloween candy in front of the church on Halloween night. We will soon be accepting donations of wrapped candy.

This is another way we can reach out to our neighbors and show God's love.



Advent Candle Lighting

As is our tradition, we will let our Christmas spirit of love and hope shine in our church's windows this Advent season.

We invite you to sponsor a candle in one of the church's windows in memory or honor of a loved one. This is a visible way we show our community the love and light of Jesus.

The cost of sponsoring a candle is \$15 per candle. The electric candles will be lit for the first time on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30.

We are accepting candle sponsorships through December 14. Please make checks payable to Mexico First United Methodist Church and note "candle lighting" in the memo section. Your check and the coupon below can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114 or you can place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.



Advent Candle Lighting

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Sponsored by: _____

Number of candles sponsored at \$15.00 each: _____

Men's Club Roast Pork Dinner

The United Methodist Men's Club will hold their famous roast pork dinner on **Saturday, October 25 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

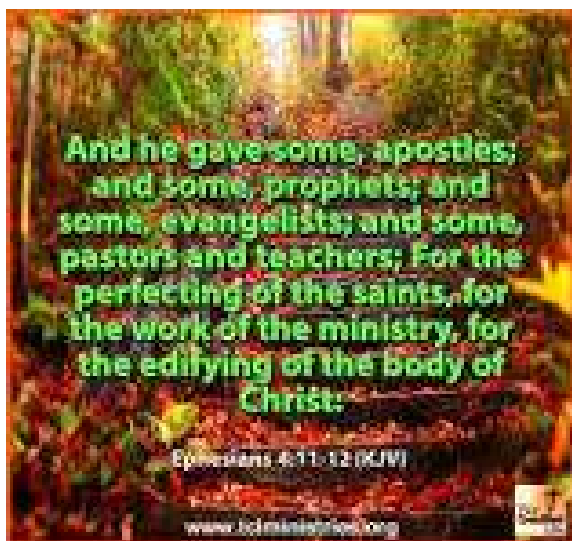
Menu will include slow-roasted pork, mashed potatoes, squash, homemade stuffing and delicious desserts.

Bring the whole family out for a delicious meal and support our Men's Club.

The "Methodist clipboard" will be coming around in church soon for opportunities to sign up to help with the dinner and make desserts. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Church Growth Group by Sue Morton

This fall will be a busy time for our small, but spirited and active committee. Much help from our congregation is needed to make our events successful and filled with Christian spirit.



Mexico Methodist Quilters by Sue Morton

Our group has been working on sewing 50 adorable pillowcase dresses as well as 10 cuddly teddy bears to be placed in shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Beautiful lap robes have been made for many of our members who are or have been ill.

This ministry started in 2007, with Carolyn Hiler receiving the first lap robe.

To date, 98 lap robes have helped share God's love.

Mission Outreach Committee News by Carol Watros

We met in July; voted to financially assist Operation Reindeer, Brown Memorial Church's Christmas Store, and those helping two local families with immediate needs. We also purchased various food and personal hygiene items for the Blessing Box, which continues to be a staple in the community.

- **Operation Christmas Child**: We are collecting items to assemble gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Collection week will be November 17-24 and boxes we pack will be taken to a local collection site. These shoeboxes are distributed to children around the world; we will offer the congregation an opportunity to fill boxes during coffee hour later this fall. You can also fill a box and bring it to church. When packing a shoebox, please include a "wow" item, school supplies and personal care item, and if possible, a personal note and a prayer for the recipient.
- **The following items are not allowed in shoeboxes**: soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds, fruit rolls or other fruit snacks, drink mixes (powdered or liquid), liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers, aerosol cans.
- **Blessing Box**: We appreciate any and all donations; please consider purchasing the following items as we broach cooler days:
 - Canned goods: chili, meats, soups, stews, tuna
 - October is National Apple, Corn and Seafood Month
 - November is National Gluten Free, Peanut Butter and Skin Safety Month
 - December - think about filling a box with one item a day and bringing it to church at the end of the month to greet the New Year. More to come in the bulletin.

Outreach matters because it matters to God. Jesus clearly stated His mission statement when He said: "I have come to seek and to save the lost." His mission should be our mission. He looked at the crowds and had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

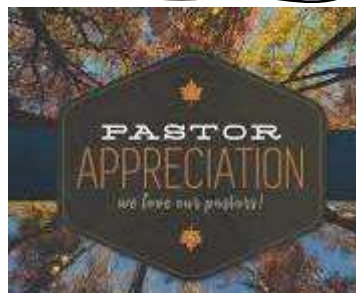
Christmas in Mexico 2025

We will host our annual craft show in the community-wide Christmas in Mexico event on Saturday, December 6 from 9-3. Twenty crafters will be set up in our Fellowship Hall.

Come and purchase your unique Christmas gifts!

We will need help in the kitchen as well as setup the day before and clean up after the event.

Please give Sue Morton a call at 315-447-6056 to let her know how you can help.



October is Pastor appreciation month

*Dear Pastor Brandin, April, and family,
From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all the love, dedication, and faith you pour into our church and community. Your leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving others make a lasting impact on everyone around you.*

We are incredibly blessed to have you as our Pastor family. Your presence, prayers, and guidance truly make our church a home.

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.

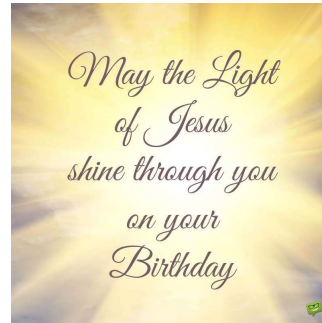
Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

3- Bill Palmer
8 – Norma Griffin
10 – Judy VonZagorski
12 – Carol Watros
15 - Tonaya Gorton
16 – Merrilee Gorton
18 – Deanna and Liz Spencer
27 – Carol Aldrich
29 – Rick Sherman
31 – John Aldrich

October anniversaries

6 – Gary and Alicia Weber
18 – David and Sharon Anderson
26 – Doug and Jean Irwin



November birthdays

2 – Kelly Freihofer
3 – Molly Freihofer, David Rose
4 – Lori Behling
7 – Carleen Talamo
8 – Jennifer Spaulding
10 – Priscilla VanGorder
12 – Mary Smith
18 – Jeffrey DeLong
20 – Richard Rose
28 – Mary Grants
30 – Flora Kugler

December birthdays

4 – Dotty Parker, Alexis Jackson
11 – Judy Butman
13 – Sue Loysen
22 – Gary Weber
24 – Mary Loysen
25 – Happy birthday Jesus!
26 – Carol DeLong
26 – Connie Main

December anniversary

1 – John and Carol Aldrich



*****If your special day is not listed and you would like it added, please contact the church office.*****