

*News from the
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
July, August, September 2025*

To My Church Family,

I hope this letter finds you able to enjoy the summer, maybe finding some respite, and being able to get some quality family time in. The summer months for some of us offer the opportunity to take a break and enjoy the gifts and blessings that God has to give and for others they may not see a difference than any other time. I pray that you, my family, get to take a breath, for even just a moment.

As I write this letter, I have just finished for the day, one of my Course of Study classes, and am taking a moment to reflect and share a few words, all be it, maybe not wise for some, but words I feel moved to share. We find ourselves in a day and time, where we, not only as Americans and a family in Christ, but also as worldly neighbors, brothers and sisters are becoming more distant from each other due to our hyper focus on the things that make us different. Far too often, because of this, we build walls that keep others out and unfortunately also get in the way of us reaching out.

We, as a church family, have been moving in a positive direction that strives to create a home where people feel welcome and where they can be themselves to worship, learn, grow, and give. Our teams work hard together to create worship experiences, opportunities to learn and grow in fellowship and ways to give to our community that in so many ways that are needed. But, as I have shared in the past, the evil in this world doesn't take a break and we need to be vigilant in our efforts to not only continue the work that we have been doing, but to also come up with new ways to evolve as the world around us changes. Change is a difficult thing for all of us in different ways and if we take a moment to learn from the past, we will see that it is necessary. As we come up with new ways to serve, my prayer is that we do it as one family. A lot of times the way churches give are only band aids for the real troubles in this world and if we are to be catalysts for change as Jesus has called us to be, we must adapt and work together to focus on the causes of these troubles.

My family and myself are truly blessed to be your pastor family, and we are ready and willing to be on this journey together with you for as long as God sees fit to bless us. We look forward to continuing our current ministries and growing into new ones. Celebrating our youth and young ones through VBS, Sunday School, and Confirmation and being in worship with all of you celebrating the gifts from God. We cannot wait to see what God has planned for us next.

*Many Blessings and Much Love from your Pastor Family
Pastor Brandin, April, Noreen, and the Kids*

IMPORTANT DATES

July 4 – Independence Day

July 16 – Cake baking/decorating for Mexico Fireman's Field Days

August 10 – Combined worship service and picnic at VFW pavilion

August 12 – 14 – Vacation Bible School

September 1 – Labor Day

September 18 – Open Mic Night returns

September 22 – First day of fall

Calling all bakers

The Mexico Volunteer Fire Department has asked for our assistance again this year with their cake booth. They will provide all ingredients, we just need to bake and decorate the cakes.

We will get together on **July 16** in the church kitchen from 11:00 – 1:00 and then again from 6:00 – 8:00.

Combined Worship Service and Church Picnic

On **Sunday, August 10** at 10:00 a.m., we will join our brothers and sisters from the Lycoming UMC for a combined worship service followed by a church picnic. This will be held at the VFW, 5930 Scenic Ave., Mexico at the outdoor pavilion.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and table service will be provided.

Please bring a dish to pass.



Vacation Bible School

Come and join us for Discovery on Adventure Island! Dates will be **August 12, 13 and 14 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** each day.

More information to come!

New members

On Easter Sunday, we welcomed 10 new members into our church family. Welcome to:

Jennifer Albrecht

Chris Meyer

Katie Meyer

Kelly Meyer

Angie Mills

Shawn Mills

Sharon Montgomery

Priscilla VanGorder

Cliff VanGorder

Sylvia Wallace



A note from the family of Jewell Foulz

“Thank you so much for the overwhelming support and love we received from my sisters and brothers in Christ during and after the death of our mom, Jewell Foulz. She was one of His jewel's for sure.”



Barrett Edward Guile, son of Danielle (Parker) and Mac Guile and great grandson of Chuck and Dotty Parker was baptized in May.

Mission Outreach Committee News

Greetings from the Outreach committee. As we move into the summer heat, please consider bringing in water and other beverages for the Blessing Box. We recently purchased a number of items to stock the pantry, but can always use peanut butter, pasta sauce, and cereal. In addition, personal hygiene items are especially important this time of year including deodorant soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

We were very blessed to have a successful mystery dinner theater netting almost \$1300 to use in ministry projects and your generous donations of \$640.00 towards Heifer International were matched 10 times making our gifts work wonders providing HI with \$6,400! Thank you - this congregation is amazing.

Moving forward, we will be announcing new projects in upcoming bulletins. Thank you for all you do to support people locally and globally.



Open Mic Nights are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. We feature local talented people singing, playing musical instruments and asking the audience to sing along!

Sign-ups to perform are from 6-6:30 with the program starting at 6:30. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.

After a break for the summer, we will resume on **Thursday, September 18.**

Chase Parker – Eagle Scout



Chase earned his rank of Eagle Scout after completing numerous merit badges and an Eagle Scout project. Chase's Eagle Scout project was to clean up the Primitive Cemetery. This consisted of removal of sticks/debris from the cemetery grounds, raking leaves, and cleaning headstones. He entered pictures and over 500 GPS coordinates for headstones onto the Find a Grave app. Chase replaced old signs that had been falling apart with new signs.

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](https://www.facebook.com/mexicofirstumc)

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July birthdays

1 – Jean Irwin
2 – Joanne Barnes, Millie Murray
3 – Chase Parker
4 – Paul Vautrin
5 – Patricia Smith
7 – Doug Irwin
10 – Linda Robinson
13 – Terry Grimshaw, Wayne Weber
14 – Doanne Hurlbut
19 – Jonita Greenhouse, Karen Grimshaw, Jeanette Spicer
20 – Barb Lighthall, Shirley Touro
23 – Jim Smith
25 – David Hurlbut
29 – Katie Linerode

August birthdays

1 – Niles Greenhouse, Mary Mack
4 – George Monson
5 – Pastor Brandin Greco
6 – Jessica Parker
7 – Noah Spencer
11 – Gary Hurlbut
14 – Elyse Skiles, Al Smithers
20 – Gail Hurlbut
21 – Noreen Greco
23 – Nick Spaulding
26 – Cathy Stock
27 – Duane Griffin
28 – Muriel DeLong
29 – Joan Phelps

July anniversaries

7 – Earl and Muriel DeLong
11 – Mike and Kelly Freihofer
20 – Chuck and Jessica Parker
22 – Jeremy and Lisa Spencer
28 – James and Carol Watros
30 – Jeff and Carol DeLong

August anniversaries

3 – Everett and Linda Robinson
6 – Chuck and Dotty Parker
7 – Jim and Diane Barbur
11 – Jeff and Marcia Albrecht
12 – Eric and Lori Behling
21 – Duane and Sue Morton
24 – Ed and Barb Lighthall

September anniversaries

5 – Bill and Maggie Palmer
6 – Duane and Norma Griffin
25 – Benjamin and Kaylee Gilmore

September birthdays

1 – David DeLong
6 – Rose Ann Myers, Maggie Palmer
8 – Brenda Hotchkiss
12 – Cindy Monson
16 – Gary Day
19 – Benjamin Gilmore
24 – Lisa Spencer
29 – Jenn Jackson