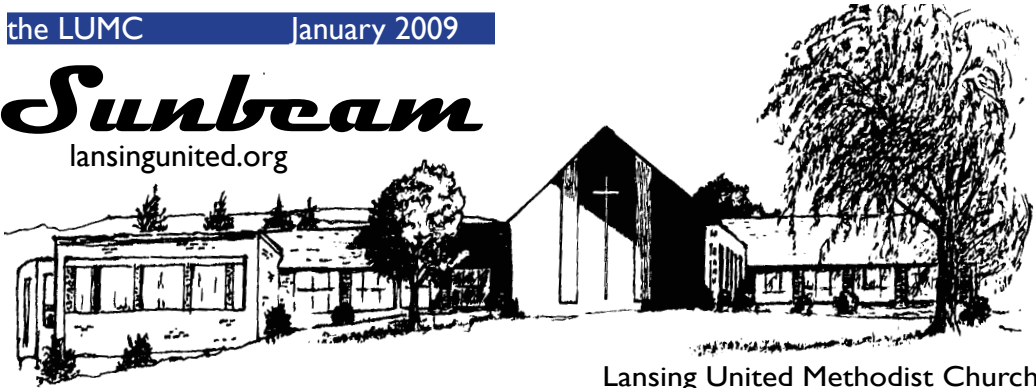


Please join us for worship at 9:00. Sunday school at 10:30.

the LUMC January 2009

Sunbeam

lansingunited.org



Lansing United Methodist Church
Route 34B and Brickyard Road, South Lansing

Pastor: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn



Epiphany

Epiphany Sunday
January 4



A New Schedule for the New Year

From the Pastor

By now you've probably heard that LUMC's Church Council has voted to move to one worship service on Sunday morning, to begin at 9:00 am. This decision, made on recommendation of the Worship Committee, was aimed at reducing the burdens two services placed on the choir and addressing the impression of many that two services divided our community and our sense of unity. The Council asks the congregation to try out this change until the end of June at which time the situation will be re-evaluated by the Council.

People have asked me what I think and feel about this change. I told the Council just before the vote was taken I would support whatever decision was made. I meant that and still do. Worship at LUMC is always fun and fulfilling for me, so wherever and however we worship, I'll be glad to give my 100 percent.

As I told the Council, my primary concern is that we act in accord with our purpose as a congregation, that is, we must be clear about why God has called us together. You may recall how often I've written about our mission and purpose as a congregation: to invite, connect, equip and send out disciples of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world. Another way I've been saying that recently is our purpose is to grow deeper in faith and reach broader in hospitality and service. I understand that mission to be our bottom line as a congregation.

"Yeah, but what do you think and feel about this change." Well, first off I believe worship services aren't ends in themselves, but means to an end. They help us fulfill God's purposes. I think

we can be flexible about times, days, and styles of worship and still be living into our purpose. I trust the folks on the Church Council who feel this change will enable us to grow deeper and reach more broadly. I'm grateful for the Council members who said, when it gets crowded again, they'll be the first to sit in the narthex to make room for newcomers. I have no doubt they will.

Do I have concerns or reservations? Sure. Let me try to name them clearly so you know where my heart and mind are. I think God has big plans for this congregation. I believe you and your sisters and brothers who make up this wonderful church are just the people God intends to use to bring huge blessings to an ever-widening circle of people in the greater Lansing community. That's why we exist as a church. But to fulfill this purpose and live into these big plans, we must continually become a new people. This "becoming" involves change, growth, transformation, letting go, discomfort, pain, and struggle. I hope and pray we'll be able to accept the burdens with the blessings. The Church Council was clear that we must always be a people ready and able to welcome newcomers. If our one service is the magnet many believe it will be, we may find ourselves "bursting at the seams" again, and that will bring challenges you and I will need to face with God's help.

But, frankly, there's no other group of friends I'd like to share such challenges with.

God bless and Happy New Year!

Pastor B.M.



Youth Mission will be hosting a Sweetheart spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at All Saints Parish Hall from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Look for sign up sheets posted in the Narthex for food donations. For more information contact Sandy Dennis-Conlon 533-7698 or Steve Palladino at 533-4114.



Thanks to all who contributed or bid on baked goods in the Haiti Dessert Auction. The event raised \$1,800 for LUMC's effort to fund the Haiti Canteen, which provides hot meals for each child in our school program. Thanks to the auction proceeds, the canteen will feed all 325 children one meal on three days of the week. This begins to fill the gap created by a loss of other food supplies.

Children's Musical

Planning will soon begin for the Children's Musical, which will be performed in spring. Watch for announcements. In addition to the actors and actresses, parents are needed to help with scenery, costumes, and other production assistance. See Diane Withiam for more information and watch the choir room door.

Prayer Requests

Brian Cleveland, 7358 Cedar St., Akron, NY 14001
 Susan Davidson, 1812 Ridge Rd.
 Bill Earl, 2000 East Shore Dr.
 Patrick Erdman (Welches' son-in-law)
 Carol, friend of Karen Bishop
 James Hall
 Barb Hebert, sister of Karen Bishop
 Diane Hoag (cousing of Loretta Biddlepacher)
 Bonnie Huff, Judy Butman's friend
 Sheyanne Loveless
 Karen Lee Marquis, friend of Sharon Bowman
 Sheryl Mattoon, friend of Barb White
 Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
 Dave and Beverly Restey, Lakeside Nursing Home, 1229 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca
 Marge Rundle (grandmother of Melissa Ferris)
 Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. (Groton)
 Vaughn Selby, 105 Ludlow Road
 Don Shreve (Jim's brother)
 Jean Thorn
 Kylie Walley, friend of Anne Czymmek
 Marian Wilson, Cortland Memorial Hospital, Room 2C241, 134 Homer Ave. Cortland 13045

The mourning family of Charles Howell.
Please pray for those in our armed services:

Ken Allen	Andrew Jacobsen
Mike Beaudoin	Daniel Jacobsen
Richard Butler	Trevor Judd
Shawn Butler	Matt McDonald
Matthew Cornell	Travis Potter
Scott Cowles	Nick Prabhavat
Steven Cowles	Josh Randles
Thomas Deis	Matthew Ravas
David Ferris	Joan Sullivan
Jason Halton	Adam Ward



Worship in January

We start the New Year with some wonderful opportunities for worship and reflection: Epiphany Sunday, January 4, where the scriptures of the day challenge us to expand our understanding of who belongs to God; Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 11, where we reaffirm our commitment to share in God's outreaching work; and then the remaining Sundays of January, when we begin an exploration of a prayer-full life. Looking forward to sharing worship and this new year together.—PB

January 4—Epiphany Sunday: With a star in the night sky, God goes “public” about Jesus and his desire to draw the whole world to the babe in the manger. Just how inclusive is God's vision? Just how inclusive are we? Read: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; and Matthew 2:1-12.

January 11—Baptism of the Lord: Baptism is God's way of “deputizing” people to serve on his team. As we remember and reaffirm our baptism, we'll wonder together about our particular callings and ministries. Read: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; and Mark 1:4-11.

January 18—Second Sunday after the Epiphany: This Sunday begins a five-week emphasis on prayer called “The A.C.T.S. of Prayer.” This morning we focus on Adoration, loving God with all we are. Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; and John 1:43-51.

January 25—Third Sunday after the Epiphany: We continue our exploration of prayer this morning by examining Confession, revealing to God who we are and what we do. Read: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; and Mark 1:14-20.



Dining Hall Addition at Casowasco Is Under Construction

To ensure that Casowasco can minister to the over 1,300 campers who use the facility each year, the camp is expanding its dining hall. Thanks to many donations (including from LUMC), the addition is expanding the south end and basement of the structure, based on a master plan made in 1994. Construction ain't pretty, but you can see the work in progress at www.casowasco.blogspot.com/.

God's Journey with Us

Life is a journey, and we are journeying people. As Christians, from the moment we enter the world until the time we leave for our eternal home, life unfolds as a spiritual journey. According to authors Mark Throntveit and Thomas Long:

The core affirmation of biblical faith is that God journeys with us. How we experience that companionship varies widely. For some, the journey with God seems an unbroken line from the earliest memories of a faith community to the present. For others, the journey with God resembles a landscape of hills and valleys—times of sensing God's closeness and other times of wondering where God might be. Although there is no universal experience, we can count on one important promise—that we do not journey alone.

As faithful people, the Bible is our source of witnesses describing the Hebrew people and the early Christian community and how they found God's presence visible in their lives. Biblical stories reveal people who are very much like we are—on a faithful path that is sometimes clear and sometimes obscure. You are invited to participate in a **new Bible study** entitled “Adult Crossings” that explores what biblical scholars consider eight core stories of the Bible. Core stories include: God's Call, The Exodus, Sinai Covenant, Promised Land, Davidic Rule, Jesus' Life, The Cross, and Resurrection Life. Theologian Walter Brueggemann says “by studying these ancient stories we see that these are also our stories. It is at the crossing points of our lives that we encounter God.”

Beginning Sunday, January 4, Jim Blair and Ed LaVigne will team-teach for eight consecutive Sundays, and we will listen, learn, and share these core stories hopefully coming away with a better understanding of the Bible and its application in our lives. To prepare for the first session, please read Genesis 12:1-9, 17 and think about the following question: How do we

discern in our own lives God's call to a relationship grounded in trust? Each week we will read a short bible passage and a reflection on a question. Join us.

Down the hallway, **the children will study** two new units over the next six weeks entitled “Jesus Is Baptized” and “Teach Us How to Pray.” They will have the opportunity to hear topics both during Sunday morning worship and during Sunday School. They will study the A.C.T.S. of Prayer—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication, as Pastor Bill offers his sermon series on these topics. They will learn how prayer is talking to God—telling God our needs, expressing thanks, confessing wrongs, and interceding for others. Prayer is that personal relationship between you and God. It is our hope that the children will take what they learn here at church, bring it home and into their lives.

So...we meet again in this new year and begin a new chapter on this journey called faith with God. Wishing all of you a Happy and Blessed New Year!—Marilyn Paradise

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



*Lansing United
Methodist Church*

*January
2009*

Note: This calendar is current as of December 18. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Church Office Closed

2

Church Office Closed

3

Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00

4

EPHANY SUNDAY
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Disciple Bible Study 2:30

Amahl and the Night Visitors 4:00 at All Saints Church

5

6

Quilt Bee 9:30

Staff Parish 7:00

7

Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

8

Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30

Senior High Youth 7:00
Trustees 7:30

9

10

Mens' Breakfast 7:00

11

Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Children's Ministry 12:00
Disciple Bible Study 2:30
K.A.N. 5:30
Youth Mission 6:00

12

13

Quilt Bee 9:30

Church Council 7:00

14

Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

15

Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30

Senior High Youth 7:00

SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight

16

17

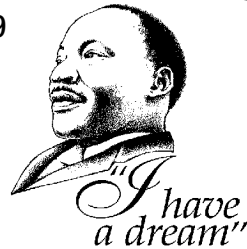
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

18

Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Disciple Bible Study 2:30

19



20

Quilt Bee 9:30

Membership 7:00
Worship Committee 7:30

21

Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

22

Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30

Senior High Youth 7:00

23

24

Mens' Breakfast 7:00

25

Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Food Pantry Setup
Confirmation Meeting 4:30

26

Caregivers 9:00

Food Pantry 3:30

27

Quilt Bee 9:30

Youth Ministry 7:00
Finance 7:00

28

Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

29

Bible Study at Woodsedge 2:30

30

31

Mens' Breakfast 7:00

The Kids of K.A.N.: Making a Difference

School supplies, toiletries, baby blankets, and Cookies—who would think these could be the vehicles to deliver hope and prayer? Well, Peg MacKenzie, Jeanette Reeves, and all of the people who contribute handmade baby clothes, notebooks, and crayons, and much more are well aware of their importance. In November, Peg and Jeanette were able to share that life lesson with the Kids in Action Now (K.A.N.) members. Peg explained how the World Service Kits program works, from our church, through a warehouse in Syracuse, to the international community. We saw a moving video that showed just how much those kits mean to the kids who receive them, especially because these kits deliver our prayers of hope into the hands of those that need them most. Then, it was time for the “action” part: the K.A.N. kids assembled 160 school kits, with supplies donated by church members and tote bags sewn by Fannie Welch and Billie Cook. They also put together 20 health kits, and played Church World Service Kit Bingo.

Packing Church World Service kits (from left): Grace Ferris, Emma Dhimitri, Drew Acoff...



December was the time when cookies were the vehicle for making a difference. We started our meeting by making about 30 dozen melted chocolate cookies. As they hardened in our handy outdoor freezer, we learned a bit about the Lansing Residential Center and Louis Gossett Jr. Center, the history of prison ministries in the Wesleyan tradition, and the Biblical references to helping those in prison. We also discussed what our church has been able to do in the past and share some thoughts passed on by Eleanor Barnard about her experiences leading worship for the residents. Using cookies so graciously donated by church members and K.A.N. families, we assembled plates of cookies and candy, along with a Christmas note, for 160 teens at the centers. Our hope is that these cookies will carry our prayers, as well as the message to the residents that people do care about them.

Many thanks to the congregation for your support of this program. The kids of K.A.N.

Continued at right

...Krista Taylor and Emily Sheerer assist Peg MacKenzie, assembling 160 school kits!



K.A.N. (concluded)

are a special gift—they are eager to help others in Christ’s service. Their boundless enthusiasm and open hearts are a blessing to everyone around them. Special thanks to the church leaders who have and will share their time and programs with the K.A.N. kids—you are instrumental in inspiring these giving souls. Also special thanks to the K.A.N. parents who encourage these wonderful children and assist in all of our activities.



Caroline Taylor (left) and Meg Thomas (above) set out melted chocolate cookies, while Emma Dhimitri, James Blair, Alicia Gottschalk-Fielding, and Sandy Dhimitri (from left) do the same in the kitchen (below).



We invite all 3rd to 5th graders to join us for our monthly K.A.N meetings in the New Year. The first one is January 11 and then we’ll meet on February 1, and March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7, all from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Friends are welcome too! Please contact Bonnie Blair (theblairs@twcny.rr.com), Sandy Dhimitri, (sd255@cornell.edu), or Marilyn Paradise, 533-4070 for more information.

—Bonnie Blair



Caleb Wilder (above) and Caroline Taylor, Colter Pinney, and Krista Taylor (below, from left) assemble cookie plates.



Stewardship Campaign Update: Encouraging News in Tough Times

As of December 10, 2008, 127 pledge (estimates of giving) cards for 2009 had been returned. The total amount pledged as of that date was \$228,477. This included 23 new pledges. For those who pledged in both 2008 and 2009 the average increase was 3.7 percent. Final results that include pledges received after that date will be included in the annual report submitted to the congregation in the spring.

With many donated hours of service by the trustees and other members, we have been able to get along on a small budget for maintenance and repairs. Such frugality along with your tithes and offerings enable us to dedicate more of our financial resources to staff support for the ministries of our LUMC congregation. In 2009, our giving has enabled us to expand the number of hours worked by our program associate and youth minister in support of children, youth, and adult ministries. Thank you for investing in God's work here at LUMC.

You can pick up a copy of the 2009 Budget for LUMC approved by the Church Council on the table in the narthex. If you would like a copy mailed to you, contact the church office to be sent a copy. If you have not turned in your 2009 pledge card, it is not too late to mail it to the LUMC church office.—*Finance Committee*

Gulf Coast Work Trip

Dear Friends: In February I will travel to Houma, Louisiana, to help with cleanup work from Hurricane Ike (and Katrina). If you would like to make a contribution for building materials for our friends, please see me. All donations go to help our neighbors in Louisiana. Thanks.—Glenn Withiam

Africa University Requests Financial Support

NASHVILLE—Zimbabwe's economic crisis shows few signs of easing, and United Methodist-related Africa University has issued another urgent call for financial support from the denomination.

Bishop Nkulu Ntanda Ntambo, chancellor of the 1,300-student university in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, released an open letter to United Methodists, asking churches and regional conferences to meet their financial obligations as soon as possible. Africa University is supported in large part by payment of apportionments, which provide \$2.4 million in operating funds. At this writing, the university had received more than 60 percent of those funds.

"The fact that Africa University is even open is a miracle from God," wrote Ntambo, bishop of the North Katanga Area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "The commitment of United Methodists from around the globe to Africa University allows us to remain open and thriving in Zimbabwe, a country enduring an unimaginable economic crisis.

"Without your support of this fund, our university's future would be at serious risk," Ntambo wrote. "To maintain our day-to-day operations, we have been forced to deplete our apportionment reserves."

For most of this fall, Africa University has been the only institution of higher education open in the entire country. Hyperinflation running into the millions of percent has paralyzed the economy.

"With the Zimbabwean currency out of control, much of the population is struggling to survive from day-to-day," wrote Ntambo.

Individuals can also donate directly to Africa University with a credit card at www.support-africauniversity.org.—*United Methodist News Service*

Amahl and the Night Visitors

The opera by Gian Carlo Menotti.

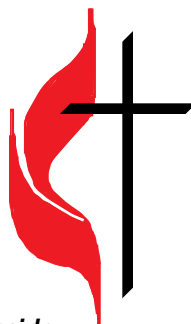
Sunday, January 4, 2009

4:00 PM

All Saints Roman Catholic Church
347 Ridge Road, Lansing



Presented free of charge, by arrangement with the publisher. A joint production of All Saints Roman Catholic Church and Lansing United Methodist Church.



The Sunbeam

January 2009

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS
JANUARY 4, 4:00 PM
AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
one mile north of the stoplight on Route 34B in
South Lansing.

Church office: 607-533-4070

E-mail: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com

Office manager: Kay Thomas

To reach the pastor in confidence:
pastor32@twcny.rr.com

www.lansingunited.org

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
at grw4@cornell.edu, or use the Sunbeam folder
near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is January 15, 2009.