

Please join us for worship at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

the LUMC January 2010

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



**"I AM THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD.**

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER
WALK IN DARKNESS,
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

JOHN 8:12

Epiphany Sunday, January 3



Christmas Every Day

I hope your Christmas celebration was a happy and holy one. I pray Christ was, indeed, born in you in new and wonderful ways.

By the time you read this, though, you may have already begun undecorating your tree and putting away your Christmas CDs. Perhaps you've even ventured up to the mall to return that sweater from Uncle Bob that's a bit too tight. Maybe you've even reached for the last Christmas cookie (perish the thought!!!!). What takes weeks (even months) to get ready for does pass so quickly, doesn't it?

But does it have to? I'm reminded of how our Othodox Christian brothers and sisters save their biggest celebration for January 6, the feast of the Epiphany. This is the day the visit of the Wise Men is remembered. As the Gospel of Matthew tells the story, the Wise Men from the East, having followed the Star to Bethlehem, knelt before the Christ Child and "paid him homage."

I think there's something powerful and poignant about celebrating Epiphany in the first week of the New Year. Its like the Star of Epiphany leading us forward, reminding us that the joy and awe of Christmas mustn't be left behind in the previous calendar year. What began (or found new birth) on December 25 is meant to continue into the New Year. While we need to get the decorations packed and stowed

away, the message and transforming power of Christmas ought to be a year round experience.

One way to help make this so is to participate in the life of the church during the season of Epiphany, beginning with Epiphany Sunday, January 3. Regular worship is a great way to ensure that the blessings of Christmas deepen and last. Or maybe you'll want to start a regular routine of daily Bible readings using the *Upper Room* or some other resource. Or perhaps you'll want to work into your week some sort of regular community service, like volunteering with the Sunday school program, the food pantry, or another community program.

You don't need to "pack away" the joy of Christmas. It's a gift you can keep unwrapping if you really attend to your soul's true needs. Helping us do that is what church is all about.

+Happy and Blessed New Year

Pastor B. In



Stewardship and Finance Report

As of December 1, we had received 136 pledges for 2010 totaling \$232,932, an average increase of 5 percent for those who pledged for both 2009 and 2010. Thank you for submitting these estimates of giving to help us plan our budget for the year. We recognize that this has been a difficult year financially for many. If you have not submitted a pledge for 2010 and still want to do so, you can communicate your estimate of giving directly to our financial secretaries, Bill and Sandy Dhimitri, by email to sandy.dhimitri@cornell.edu or by dropping it off in an envelope to the Church Office.

At its December meeting, the Church Council approved a budget of \$329,130, an increase of 4.1 percent over budgeted expenses for 2009, pending approval of the Pastor's compensation at our Charge Conference in January.

At this writing, it appears that we will have run a deficit of about \$15,000 in 2009, and that we will run another significant deficit in 2010 (\$15,000 to \$20,000). Largely due to staff vacancies a couple years ago, we do have reserve funds that will enable us during these difficult financial times to continue staffing levels that support our ministries and mission. In 2011, we will need to face catching up annual income to our level of expenses.

Copies of the 2010 budget and updated results of the stewardship campaign will be available in the narthex in January. Call the church office if you want to be mailed a copy.—*Dave Stoyell, on behalf of the finance committee*

Prayer Requests

Judy Aguirre
Gaylord Besemer
Betty Butler
Sid Cleveland
Jeylan (Bidlespachers' granddaughter)
Karen (Hinderliter) Edwards
Keith Hansen
Katy Prince
Valda Valmond, in Haiti
Mourning family of Eddie Paulus Southard

Lansing Food Pantry served a record of over 100 families in December. Every family received a ham or turkey, thanks to the generosity of many donors. Needed in January: hats, scarves, and mittens, and blankets.

Rulers rule for Church World Service. Many school kits were ready to go last month, except that they needed rulers marked in both inches and centimeters. Here are other school kit items:

- One pair of blunt scissors
- Three spiral or tape-bound pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" (or 8" X 10 1/2"), containing 200 sheets of paper. No filler paper, please.
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser
- One box of 24 crayons (no more, no less)
- One 12" x 14" cloth bag with cloth handles, to hold the above items

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

Here's a way you can support our Youth Mission team as they raise money for their next mission trip to Johns Island. On the third Sunday of each month, bring your deposit cans and bottles to the basketball hoop on the south side of the church. This month, the can and bottle drive is January 17. Youth mission is also sponsoring a flapjack fundraiser at Applebee's on January 10, from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Buy your \$5.00 tickets in advance from a youth missionary.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30	4 Staff Parish 7:00	5 Quilt Bee 9:30 Disciple Bible Study 6:30	6 EPIPHANY Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	7 Senior High Youth 7:00	Happy New Year 1 Church Office Closed 8	Mens' Breakfast every 2 Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 9
10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Acolyte Training 10:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Caregivers 11:30 Children's Ministry 11:30 K.A.N. 4:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00 Youth Mission Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's 8:00-10:00	11 Fireplace Planning 7:00 Trustees 7:30	12 Quilt Bee 9:30 Church Council 7:00	13 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	14 Senior High Youth 7:00	15 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight	16 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
17 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00	18  Church Office Closed	19 Quilt Bee 9:30 Membership 7:00 Nominations 7:00 Youth Ministry 7:00 Worship 7:30	20 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	21 Senior High Youth 7:00	22	23 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
24 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00	25 Food Pantry 3:00	26 Quilt Bee 9:30 Finance 7:00	27 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	28 Senior High Youth 7:00	29	30 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
31 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Note: This calendar is current as of December 22. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.</p> </div>			January 2010		<i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i>



Worship in January

January marks another time when the liturgical calendar is out of sync with the secular calendar. The days will continue to be short. Even without snowy weather, the afternoon cold and darkness will descend before many have even left work or school for home. But the Church celebrates a season of light. January is all about Epiphany and Epiphany is all about God's light shining into the world through Jesus and his Church. Each Sunday in January we'll sing, pray, and listen for this message of light, aiming to absorb enough to be able to radiate some loving light back again into the world.—*P.B.*

January 3—Epiphany. The sermon this morning will focus on the message contained in the most popular hymn sung on this Sunday every year: "We Three Kings." We hardly need to look at the printed lyrics to sing this hymn, but are we sure we know what we're singing? Holy Communion will also be served this Sunday. Read Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; and Matthew 2:1-12.

January 10—Baptism of the Lord. On the Sunday where we remember and celebrate our baptisms, we'll also take the opportunity to recognize persons who are "living out their baptism" by serving Christ through the Church. Read Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

January 17—Second Sunday after the Epiphany. "Everybody is who loves a wedding," so the saying goes. But why did Jesus show up at this particular wedding in Cana of Galilee? Was it to do more than bless

the happy couple and eat a piece of cake? Come find out. Read Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; and John 2:1-11.

January 24—Third Sunday after the Epiphany. How can becoming a "vision-driven people" help us become a less "anxiety-ridden" people? Read Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and Luke 4:14-21.

January 31—Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. Jesus was (and is) pretty clear: it's not about us! His disciples are expected to be "other-focused" people—servants, in other words, constantly on the lookout for ways to bring outsiders closer to the circle of God's love. As we see in this Sunday's gospel lesson, this message isn't always welcome. Come hear it again and discover how you can respond. Read Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; and Luke 4:21-30.

The Sunday Evening (@ 6 p.m.) Fireplace Contemporary Worship Services begins again January 10th. Come to sing new songs and hear a fresh message in an upbeat, informal setting. We meet in the fellowship hall. Bring a friend. Arrive cold, leave warm!

Faith

Are there aspects about your faith that challenge you? Do you ever think that God intentionally challenges you on your faith journey? Is that why our faith journey takes a lifetime? As we begin a new year together, it is our hope that you will feel God stirring inside you to grow further in your faith—even when it doesn't feel comfortable, even when it stretches you beyond your comfort zone. God doesn't want us to become complacent. As Christians we are called to live according to God's word. That's easier said than done. Take, for example, the Bible. When you read your Bible, there are so many different versions with many translations—all of which are supposed to help us understand God's word.

Are there Bible passages that challenge your understanding? Beginning Sunday, January 10, we will explore excerpts from the book **Troublesome Bible Passages** in the adult Sunday School. Come and join us for three consecutive weeks as we discuss such topics as forgiveness: What does scripture say about it? How many times are we expected to forgive a person who continues to inflict the same injustice? (Matthew 18) Is God's view of what's fair the same as ours? (Matthew 20) We will choose some "troublesome" passages that deal with ethical and practical issues. The class will be facilitated by Sharey Travis, and we hope that you will join us.

The children will tour through **the seasons of the church year**. They will explore the col-

ors, symbols and seasons that bring meaning to their faith experience. We will show them some of the symbols and colors in the sanctuary that identify the church season.

New acolyte training will be held on Sunday, January 10, for 3rd graders and older kids who are interested in participating in this ministry. On Sunday, January 17, the children meet with Diane Withiam in the sanctuary during Sunday School hour to **explore the hymnal** and the role it plays in worship. These are just a few opportunities for the children to deepen their faith.

As we begin a new year on a continued journey, we hope that you allow God to challenge you to a new and perhaps deeper understanding in your faith. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Mission Trip to Gowanda

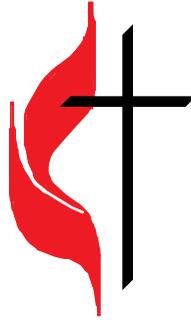
Cattaraugus Creek flows into Lake Erie south of Buffalo, not far from Dunkirk. Flood stage is about 10 feet. On August 10, 2009, Cattaraugus Creek swelled to nearly 13.5 feet, destroying homes and buildings in a swath from Gowanda to Silver Creek, on Lake Erie. This flash flood was not as famous as Hurricane Katrina, but the results were similar, with much damage.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with many other churches to repair the damage. Members of the Hammondsport UMC are organizing two teams to help with the repair work this year. One team

is scheduled from February 14 to 20, and the other, from April 18 to 24.

I'll be working with the April team. Would you like to join us? Food and housing is provided. These are the same people with whom I worked on the Gulf Coast last year. All things considered, the NYS location seemed to be a better choice for a mission trip this year.

At this writing, 20 homes in Gowanda and Silver Creek remain in need of repair, as does the Presbyterian Church. People are still coming forward to ask for help, so we won't run out of work! The team welcomes more members. Let me know if you are interested.—*Glenn Withiam, 533-4791, grw4@cornell.edu*



The Sunbeam

January 2010

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship 9:00 AM
and 6:00 PM (STARTING JAN. 10)

Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
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South Lansing.

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
at grw4@cornell.edu, or use the Sunbeam folder
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Deadline for the next issue is January 15, 2010.