



Please join us for  
Worship at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM; Sunday school 10:30 AM

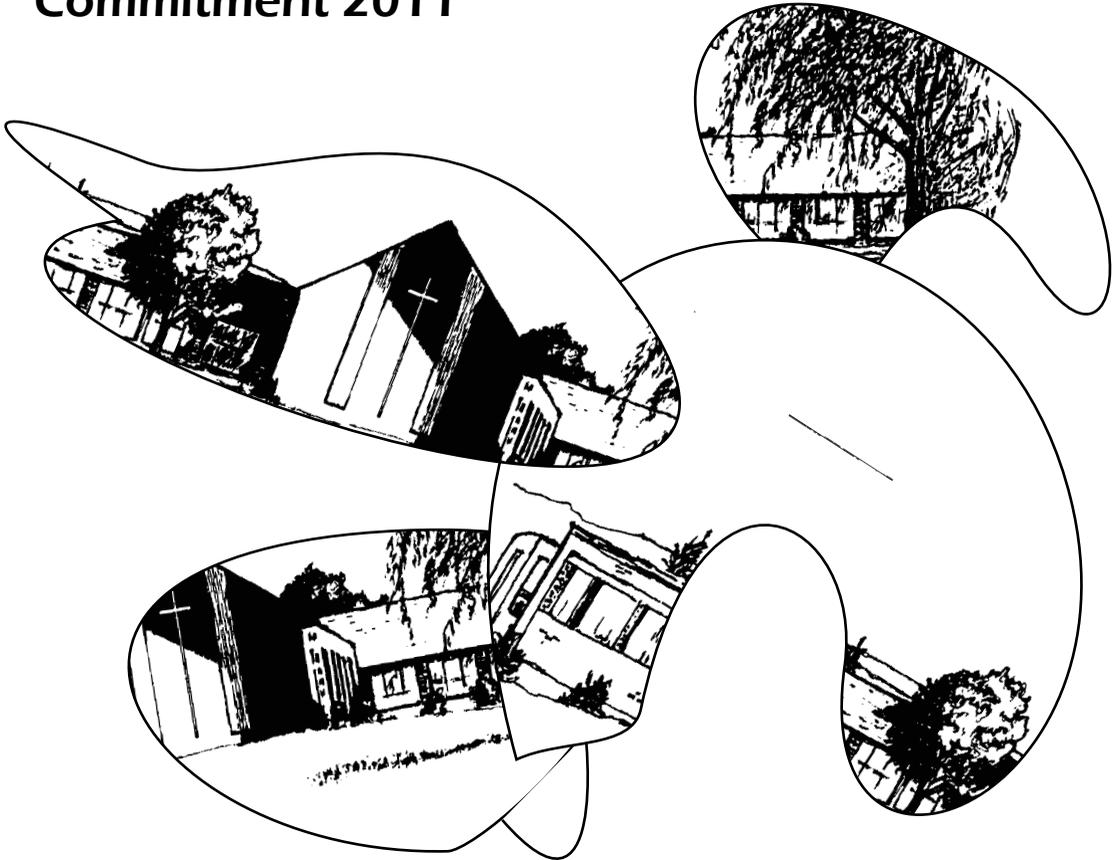
# The Sunbeam

November 2010

**Lansing United Methodist Church**  
[lansingunited.org](http://lansingunited.org)

Pastor: Jane Sautter • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn

## Putting the LUMC Puzzle Together Commitment 2011



### A Prayer of Thanks

As many of you know or have heard...I read a lot! In my devotional reading, I often go off the beaten path and find myself immersed in the prayers and poetry of some of my favorite authors. Walter Brueggemann is one of those favorites. He is Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and has been one of my favorites for a long time. A book of his prayers from the opening of his classes was compiled several years ago, and I find myself drawn to it repeatedly.

I would like to share this particular prayer with you as we enter into this season of gratitude:

The gratitude we intend

The witnesses tell of your boundless generosity,  
and the telling is compelling to us:  
You give your word to call the worlds into being;  
You give your sovereign rule to emancipate the slaves and the oppressed;  
You give your commanding fidelity to form your own people;  
You give your life for the life of the world...  
broken bread that feeds,  
poured out wine that binds and heals.  
You give...we receive...and are thankful.

We begin our days in gratitude,  
thanks that is a match for your self-giving,  
gratitude in gifts offered,  
gratitude in tales told,  
gratitude in lives lived.

Gratitude willed, but not so readily lived,  
held back by old wounds turned to powerful resentment,  
retarded by early fears become vague anxiety,  
restrained by self-sufficiency in a can-do arrogance,  
blocked by amnesia unable to recall gifts any longer.

Do this yet. Create innocent space for us these days  
for the gratitude we intend.

In thankfulness,  
we will give,  
we will tell,  
we will live,  
your gift through us to gift the world. Amen.

—from *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*,  
Fortress Press, 2003

May your season of thankfulness be holy!  
Blessings, *Pastor Jane*

### A Sincere Thank You to LUMC!!!

I am so completely overwhelmed by the generosity and support that has been shown to me in my time here in Lansing. In all my years of ministry, I have never received a gift of appreciation from a congregation... and you couldn't have picked a better way to show it! I spoke with Nancy Myers and she told me that this donation will help to make possible the purchase of turkeys for the Food Pantry. The flowers are beautiful and I will enjoy them tremendously. Again, thank you and bless you all...I am sooooo happy to be here! With much love, *Pastor Jane*

### November Worship Themes

*November 7*—**Consecration Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Communion Sunday**

Ephesians 1: 11-23

Luke 6: 20-31

It's okay to question God

*November 14*—**Children's Sabbath, Bible Sunday, Baptism**

Texts TBD

What is the meaning of baptism?

*November 21*—**Thanksgiving Sunday**

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

John 6: 25-35

Inheriting the bread of life

*November 23*—**Community Thanksgiving Service: 7:00 PM**

East Shore Christian Fellowship

(*Note:* We'll have a combined choir.

Come on Monday at 7:00 to rehearse.)

*November 28*—**First Sunday of Advent**

Greening of the Church

during 10:00 Worship

No Fireplace Service tonight.

### Prayer Requests

Becky Bills, daughter of Nelson and Barbara Bills

"Aunt Mary" Brennan, Marcia Lynch's aunt

Rev. Bill Cruikshank

Eugene Doe

Jim Juenger

Ruth Juracka

Paul Lutomski, relative of Sharon Bowman

Barbara Pease, friend of Pat Pryor

### Giving Tree Becomes the Giving Fireplace

As the holidays approach, it's once again time to think of the children in our community who are in need. In past years we've put tags on a Christmas tree, but this year we are going to attach the tags to the fireplace rather than have a tree. Each child will get two presents: an article of clothing and a toy. The tag will list the child's gender, age, and what they'd like for a toy or the size of clothing he or she wears. In the past we've generally had approximately 65 children for a total of 130 tags. The gifts need to be returned to the church (with the tag on the outside) no later than Wednesday, December 8. The gifts will be distributed at the food pantry on December 13. So, look for the tags on the fireplace, and thank you so much for your generous support.—*Diane Skroback*

## Blessed To Be a Blessing

Every Wednesday morning here at church we offer the **Weekday Prayer Service** (at 9:00). Faithfully, we pray for many persons and situations. We ask blessings upon our children and the children around the world. On Sunday, November 14, we will celebrate the gift of God's creation at **Children's Sabbath and Bible Sunday**. This is a special occasion where the children lead the worship service and the third graders are presented with Bibles. If you would like your child to receive a Bible, please let us know. "Blessed to Be a Blessing: Lifting Up the Next Generation" is the theme for this year's Children's Sabbath Sunday.

Celebrated nationwide, Children's Sabbath is sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and grew out of the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Marian Wright Edelman. The first Black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, Marian Wright Edelman directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. She worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and dedicated her career to defending the civil liberties of people struggling to overcome poverty and discrimination. Mrs. Edelman subsequently began the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm that monitored federal programs for low-income families and, out of that initiative, she founded the Children's Defense Fund in 1973.

The Children's Defense Fund has challenged the United States to raise its standards by improving policies and programs for children. They have conducted research on children's survival and protection, as well as

on development of federal and state policies that affect children, their families, and their communities. As a faith community, it is our responsibility to keep the awareness alive that every child is a child of God—precious and perfect in His image. We honor children of all ages and you are invited to come and celebrate that blessing with us!

### Back in the classroom...

The children will begin a new unit entitled **David, the Shepherd King**. David is a beloved biblical character who touches the heart of people of all ages. David is introduced as a young shepherd who is anointed as the future king. As king he struggles to understand God's will. David is also a wonderful musician who heals God's people with his music. We have invited Carol Dornbusch and Dave Stoyell to portray parts of David's life during Sunday School. Carol will lead the Gathering Time as David the musician on Sunday, November 14. Dave will lead as David the anointed one the following week. Pastor Jane will visit the classrooms to share how David's story teaches us about making choices and following God's will.

Parents are encouraged to read the mini newsletter that is sent home with the children at the beginning of every new unit. It is a way of carrying God's message from church to your home.

### Preparing the way for Advent: Elijah and Elisha

In the **Adult Sunday School** class Professor Ken Hover will be leading a three-week discussion of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. The Hebrew word *nabi*, translated "prophet," means "one who speaks for." In the Bible

Continued at right



## Putting the LUMC Puzzle Together: Commitment Campaign 2010

### Blessed To Be a Blessing (concluded)

*nabi* means "one who speaks for God" or God's messenger. The prophets spoke to the people for God and to God for the people.

Elijah and Elisha figuratively and spiritually preceded Christ. Familiar stories and bits of stories will come back to us as we explore the origins of "Fire from Heaven," "Taking up the Mantle," "Chariots of Fire," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and "A still, soft, voice." We will also understand why witnesses to many of Jesus' miracles might have said, "Something about this seems familiar," as these stories echo and reverberate throughout Christ's ministry. Be prepared to meet a couple of the most remarkable characters and servants of God to be found in the scriptures, and to see bits of ourselves at the same time. [Primary Text: I and II Kings.]

Elijah, for example, was the only prophet of his day who had the courage to challenge the influence of powerful people. He was also known for his miracles. Elisha carried on Elijah's spirit. Elisha is best known for his compassion for the poor and his ministry to foreigners. Join us for this special presentation! Blessed to be a blessing—that's what we are!—*Marilyn Paradise*

### Consecration Sunday, November 7

In the past few weeks, we've been seeing "pieces" of the LUMC puzzle, the many groups that constitute LUMC. On November 7, Consecration Sunday, we will put the puzzle together and collect pledge cards.

Pledge cards were handed out or mailed on October 24, so if you did not receive one, check with a finance committee member or the church office.

The church budget is the basis for all the other things we do. If we can support the budget adequately, that removes a source of concern that allows all hands to focus on our mission of making disciples for Christ.—*gw*

### Neighborhood Turkey Trot or Walk

#### November 25, 9:00 AM

Each Thanksgiving for the past several years, folks have gathered at LUMC for an informal 5K run or walk (okay, it's really 5.23K, which is 3.25 miles). This is a chance to get the day off to a healthy start. We encourage post-run recovery and fellowship, so you are welcome bring a (preferably healthy) snack to share, or better yet, bring a donation of food or funds for the food pantry. (Honestly we end up with more snacks than we can eat.) —*Glenn and Diane Withiam*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

*November  
2010*

1  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30  
  
Staff Parish 7:00

2  
Quilt Bee 9:30

3  
Prayer Service 9:00  
Women's Bible Study 9:30  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

4  
  
Senior High 7:00

5

6  
Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00  
Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00  
**Harvest Bazaar 2:00  
Dinner 4:00**  
  
Set Clocks Back Tonight  
Eat Pancakes in the Morning

7  
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY • COMMITMENT SUNDAY  
Worship 9:00 Eastern Standard Time  
Sunday School 10:30  
Christmas Pageant Planning 10:30  
Junior High Hike 11:30  
Junior Choir 11:30  
K.A.N. 4:00  
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00  
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

8  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30  
  
Trustees 7:30

9  
Quilt Bee 9:30  
  
Church Council 7:00

10  
Prayer Service 9:00  
Women's Bible Study 9:30  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

11  
  
Senior High 7:00

12

13  
Mens' Breakfast 7:00  
Blood Drive 8:30-2:00

14  
CHILDREN'S SABBATH  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30  
Caregivers 11:30  
  
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00  
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

15  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30  
Food Pantry 3:00  
SUNBEAM DEADLINE  
12:00 Midnight  
Haiti Committee 7:00

16  
Quilt Bee 9:30  
  
Finance 7:00  
  
Membership 7:00  
Youth Ministry 7:00  
Worship Committee 7:00

17  
Prayer Service 9:00  
Women's Bible Study 9:30  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

18  
Operation Christmas Child  
Wrapping Party 2:30  
  
Senior High 7:00

19

20  
Mens' Breakfast 7:00  
  
Youth Cookie Baking 4:00

21  
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30  
Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive  
Haiti Dessert Auction 11:45  
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00  
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

22  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
Choir Rehearsal  
East Shore Christian Fellowship  
7:00

23  
Quilt Bee 9:30  
  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
East Shore Christian Fellowship  
7:00

24  
Prayer Service 9:00  
Church Office Closed

25  
Thanksgiving  
Turkey Trot 9:00  


26  
Church Office Closed

27  
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

28  
STUDENT DAY  
GREENING THE CHURCH  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30  


29  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30

30  
Quilt Bee 9:30

Note: This calendar is current as of October 23. For updates to all LUMC events, visit [lansingunited.org](http://lansingunited.org), and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.



**Lansing  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

## LUMC versus the Earthquake: Supporting Haiti University Students

by Dean Benware

Peter Valmond and Marckens Austin are two young men who came into our lives and the ministry of our Haiti student sponsorship program as little boys in our Banique program. They have been excellent students. Peter was the first student in the Banique program since its start in 1999 to pass both the Rheto and Philo exams, which successfully complete a Haitian student's secondary education. A student cannot advance to their final year without passing Rheto, while the successful completion of the Philo exam brings secondary education to a closure. Two years later, Marckens followed in his footsteps.

Students in Haiti never see themselves as having even a slim hope of advancing to university studies. However, through the love and encouragement of U.S. sponsors, both Peter and Marckens saw a glimmer of hope for something which for most is beyond their reach—a university education. With a bright future, an exemplary work ethic, educational success, and hope for a better Haiti in their vision, these close friends and motivators of one another pursued, with the help of sponsorship money, a university education. In the fall of 2009, they attended preparatory classes at Quesqueya University in Port-au-Prince (PAP), which they successfully completed in early December 2009.

On January 12, 2010, Peter and Marckens had just completed day two of a three-day entrance exam at Quesqueya. As they traveled back to their room in PAP, the unthinkable happened—an earthquake! This sent the vehicle they were riding in out of control

causing head injuries to both young men. In

fear and desperation they ran back to the university only to find its building in ruins, falling down the mountainside. Still not knowing what to do, they ran to the room they had left only hours earlier and found it too was gone, now only a mountain of rubble. Without any options for shelter, Peter and Marckens slept in the street in PAP and in the morning made their way back to the hillside village of Banique.

Having lost all of their personal possessions, a year's rent, and all housing furnishings, their hopes seemed as shattered as the lives all around them.

Aniel Estime has been with our program since 2002 and is now in his mid 20s. He has a winning smile and attitude towards all things. His struggle to get a university education has been interesting. Upon completion of Philo, he did stage (an internship) at L'Ecole la Providence, our school in Verrettes, while money was being found to send him to university for civil engineering. After completing one year of university there were more problems and he stayed home last year. When we visited him in April 2010, he and his mother both thanked the program repeatedly for not having him in Port au Prince when the earthquake hit. He was the most fortunate of our university students.

Continued at right



### Haiti Connection (concluded)

Wilphane Minard and Clifford Cherisier did not experience such fortunate timing. Starting the program with 4th grade, Wilphane has been in the program since 1996, while Clifford entered the program in 1998 in the 8th grade. Both young men have been good students and have helped others along the way. After finishing Philo, Clifford had to wait to begin university at Lumiere for medicine. He completed one year, after which he had to sit out for a year as the program did not have enough money. When time came for university Wilphane and Clifford decided they wanted to study computers, as Esnel Cene did, and they enrolled in a five-year university program that would provide them with both a university diploma and Microsoft computer programming certificates. On the day of the earthquake, they had just left campus when the earthquake hit. When the shaking stopped they went to their apartment and, like Peter and Marckens, found the building and all their possessions gone. In April they met Dianne Walter, Donna Nassoij, and me outside Port-au-Prince, and we took them back to Verrettes. Now they have taken entrance exams in another city and are hopeful for finishing their education.

As organizations are coming together in an ongoing effort to rebuild Haiti, we at LUMC are attempting to gather people together to rebuild the lives of these young men. This is where we can reach out and touch someone personally, someone who is known to us, with resources that will not only fulfill dreams and make a better tomorrow a reality, but will ultimately filter down into personal lives in Haiti. These young men are endeavoring to do for their country

and people in Haiti what has been done for them by our love and sponsorship dollars. Their dreams are not for greatness or self-indulgence but for a future that will improve the lives of their people.

To respond to these students' needs, the Haiti Committee has created a new fund to support these university students. Pray for God's guidance as you ask whether this is where He wants you to return the blessings that He has given to you. Perhaps you cannot travel to Haiti, but you can touch Haiti in a personal and incredibly powerful way by assisting with the resources needed to further these young people's dreams. Don't let the earthquake of January 12, 2010, leave these lives in rubble. The Haiti university fund is your opportunity to make a difference and to rebuild lives. If you are led by prayer to give of your resources, please give to the Haiti University fund to help these young students achieve their dreams.

### An Opportunity to Raise Money for Haiti

#### The Fifth Annual Haiti Dessert Auction

On Sunday, November 21, 2010, auctioneer Charlie Cuykendall will once again auction off delicious desserts made by Lansing's finest bakers. Serve them that night or freeze them for the holidays. At 11:45, participants may taste all of the desserts for a five-dollar donation. Hot dogs and beverages will be available. Then at 12:15 pm the auction begins with a fresh set of baked goods. Proceeds from the auction will support LUMC's mission in Banique and Verrettes. It's a family event, it's fun, and it supports two education programs in Haiti.—*Judy Hinderliter*

More information on how you could help out in Haiti is on the next page...

### **The Haiti Partnership: A Different Kind of Haiti Mission**

Since 1995, the Haiti Partnership of the former Wyoming Annual Conference has been sending volunteer mission teams to Haiti to build schools and churches. This “Volunteer in Mission” approach stands in contrast to LUMC’s program of direct support of individual students.

The Haiti Partnership is sending six VIM teams to Haiti this year and next. Each volunteer raises \$1,100 for their expenses, and the Great Fifty Days Offering taken by local churches also helps to pay for project costs and other ministries. The Haiti Partnership is now an Advance Special for the Upper New York conference. Several trips are scheduled for 2011, but only the one scheduled for May 5-15, 2011, has openings.

For more information about becoming a Haiti Volunteer in Mission (VIM) volunteer, see [www.haitipartnership.com/](http://www.haitipartnership.com/) or email Roger Richards at [r-richards52@gmail.com](mailto:r-richards52@gmail.com).

#### **Baby Kits for Haiti**

A Haiti Partnership VIM team took layette and birthing kits when they went to Haiti earlier this year. The kits were much appreciated by the local missionaries there and were being used immediately to establish a relationship with mothers in a tent city that allows for education about breastfeeding, parenting and childcare.—*gw*



### **Operation Christmas Child: Pack a Shoebox for a Child**

**Bring in a gift box by November 16**

LUMC is again getting ready to stuff shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. You can participate in this program by donating a shoebox or two, preferably filled with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.

Here’s some examples of what can go in the shoebox: small toys (dolls, trucks, balls, jump ropes, games, stuffed animals), school supplies (pencils, sharpeners, rulers, pens, paper, notebooks), hygiene supplies (soap, wash cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush), tee-shirts, hats, almost anything that fits—except no military items, glass, or liquids.

Bring in your unwrapped shoebox (the kind with a separate lid, not the hinged kind) and the LUMC Youth will wrap it for you. It would also be helpful to include \$7.00 for shipping. If you can’t pack a shoebox, a donation for shipping would be most helpful.

Current goal is to beat last year’s tally of 51 shoe boxes.

#### **The Grey Barn Artisan Craft Fair to Benefit Haiti**

**Friday, December 3, 1:00-7:00 PM and  
Saturday, December 4, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Food, Jewelry, glasswork, photography, toys, knitted items, and unique gifts

Proceeds go to Haiti relief

The Grey Barn is at the corner of VanOstrandRd. and Rte. 34B (Peruville Rd.)



## **Harvest Bazaar and Dinner**

**November 6**

**Bazaar 2:00–7:00**

**Dinner 4:00–7:00**



**The Bazaar Craft Shop and the Bazaar Bake Shop  
need your donations!**

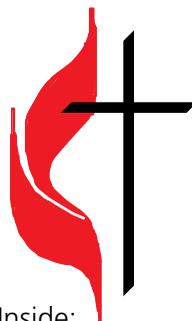
**Craft donations:** large, small, functional, decorative—whatever handmade craft you wish to donate would be most welcome. See Marilyn Paradise

**Bake shop donations:** You can donate: pie, bread and rolls, pie, cookies, brownies, pie, jams, jellies, or *cupcakes*, but for some reason whole cakes don’t sell! Who knew? Make sure to include your ingredient list on a label—especially if your item contains nuts. For more information, Peg MacKenzie or Janette Reeves.



**Dinner menu** includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, squash, pie, and all the fixings.  
Adults \$8.50, children, \$5.00.  
Preschool children eat free.





# The Sunbeam

November 2010

**Lansing United  
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**Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:30**

**Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM**

**ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR AND DINNER  
NOVEMBER 6**

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## **Lansing United Methodist Church**

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882  
one mile north of the stoplight on  
Route 34B in South Lansing.  
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E-mail: [lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com)  
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