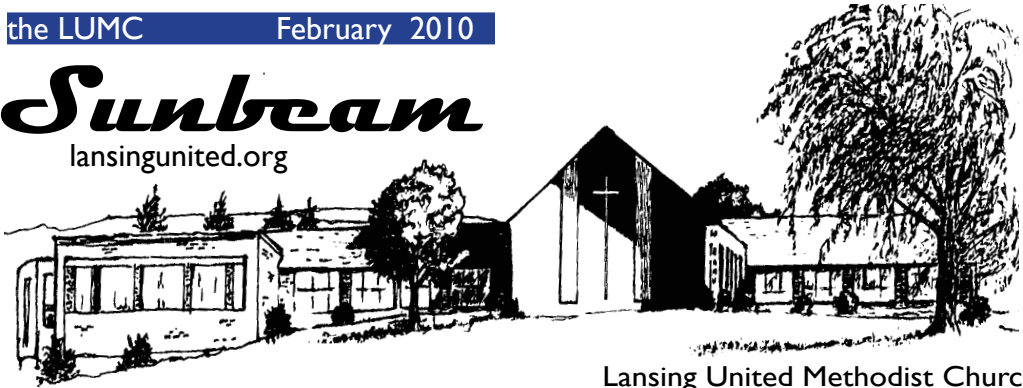


Please join us for worship at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Ash Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM

the LUMC February 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





What Jesus Said

“Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

—Matthew 25:37-40, *The Message*

I wanted to use this space to highlight one of our many “behind the scenes” ministries: the Caregivers Team. This team of 15 persons seeks “to offer Christian friendship (healing, encouragement, and resources) to home-bound and nursing home resident members and friends of the congregation.” Each month this dedicated group of volunteers visits one of these residents, who are connected with the congregation. Between visits, they also connect with persons with phone calls and notes. Once a month (the second Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM), the team meets with me and Rev. Dave Nicholls for support and guidance. At these meetings we share the joys and concerns of our home-bound and nursing home church friends. Confidentiality is always maintained as is the desire to be a voice in the congregation

and community for the needs and sacred worth of our home-bound and nursing home friends. I wanted you to know of this ministry for several reasons: first, so you can celebrate with me the good work these folks are doing; second, so you will know whom to contact if you learn of a need among our home-bound and nursing home resident members and friends; and third, so you might consider joining this team. The more persons we have doing this ministry, the more visits we can make. A visit is such a gift—to both visitor and resident. We’ll be offering training in the near future to help equip you for this ministry, but the basic requirement is a love of God and a love for people. If you can listen to a good story, smile with affection and hold a hand in prayer, you have all the basic skills. Why not come join us?

Pastor B. In

P.S. This column was planned prior to the January 12th earthquake in Haiti. Since that date, Haiti has been heavy on my heart and mind (as it has been for all of us). I considered writing another column, but decided Caregivers is such an important LUMC ministry, I didn’t want to replace it. That said, I want to tell this congregation how proud I am of how we are responding to the needs of our Haitian sisters and brothers and how confident I am that we will walk alongside them for the long haul.—P.B.

Prayer Concerns

Mia Avramis
Winifred Biddlepacher
Sid Cleveland
Connie
Donna Jean Darling
Sandra Davis
Bernie Douka
Jeylan
Lilliana, Timothy, and
Karen Edwards

Keith Hansen
Montas Joseph
Dr. James Juenger
Chris Larkin
Wayne Leonard
Leona Myers
Alfred and Janet
Passmore
Frannie Sampson
Mourning family of
Vivian Dedrick



News from Haiti

LUMC’s Haitian Doctor Treats Earthquake Victims

The following email was received by Barb Denhoff on January 13 from Haiti Connection’s young doctor Pierre, who is at work at Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Deschapelles, Haiti:

I am ok. We have a lot of people in the hospital, much more than we can take care (of); we are working all the day and night since yesterday and this night again to try to take care of all. I am ok thanks to God. We will talk later; Haiti continues to need your prayers!

In addition to Dr. Pierre, who was educated in our Haiti Connection Program, the controller of the hospital is another of our graduates: Esnel Sene, who visited Lansing two summers ago. Due to financial difficulties, HAS has been operating on reduced staff.

Contributions for this overwhelmed facility can be made to LUMC’s Haiti treasurer, Holly Hardie.

Gregg Forrester, coordinator of mission for the UM Northeast Jurisdiction added the following about this hospital:

Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti, located 40 miles NW of Port-Au-Prince, was able to withstand the earthquake. Due to the expertise developed over its 54 year history, HAS is one of the few institutions positioned to provide timely hospital care for the injured. As the flow of people urgently seeking care increases over the next few days and weeks, our resources will be pushed to the breaking point. It is critical that we receive support to help us continue with our mission.

Ever since the earthquake, a steady stream of vehicles, mainly the open-back pickups which serve as public taxis on Haiti’s roads, has come to the front of the hospital. In the back are one or two people, their legs or arms covered in bandages or clothes. Systems at HAS are working well; preparation and practice have paid off. The greatest resource, however, is the dignity and grace of people who have suffered a great shock and sometimes tragedy, and remain calm and show concern not just for the people with whom they have come here, but for others as well.

Visit www.hashaiti.org for news of relief efforts. You may also make a donations through this website. Thank you again for the many expressions of help and caring that are coming from around the globe.

One other specific thing you can do now for Haiti is to assemble hygiene kits. UMCOR and Church World Service will both be sending these kits to Haiti as fast as they come in. Feel free to donate a few dollars to help with shipping.

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

For the *hygiene kits*, please bring in any of the items listed below. Remember, please don’t bring in toothpaste, due to stale dating issues.

- One hand towel
- One bath size bar of soap
- One washcloth
- One toothbrush
- One comb
- Six Band-aids
- One nail clipper
- \$1 to buy fresh toothpaste

Worship in February

February is another of those “liturgical transition” months. We’ll conclude our reflections on God’s epiphany (i.e., manifestation) in Jesus and begin the season of Lent, a time of deep self-reflection, seeking to find where Jesus is (and isn’t) found in us. A scripture from John 17:21 comes to mind as I reflect on this transition: “As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” In worship we are always searching for where God is moving in ourselves and in our world. That’s what makes worship so potentially challenging and engaging.

February 7—*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany.*

Reading of Peter’s experience in today’s gospel got me thinking: whatever happened to “awe?” I don’t mean “awful”; most of us know something of that quality. I mean the experience, so often recounted in the Bible, of being in the presence of the Holy, the totally Other? Have we “dumbed-down” our expectations of our spiritual experiences that we’ve left no room for being awestruck? Read: Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, and Luke 5:1-11.

February 14—*Transfiguration Sunday.* Dave Dornbusch will be preaching on “The Most Difficult Passage in the Bible?!”

February 17—*Ash Wednesday Evening Service at 7:00 PM.* We will make our way to the front of the sanctuary tonight and allow our clean forehead to be soiled with burnt ash. Why? Because Lent is a season focused on “getting real” with ourselves and our God. The sooty cross we wear reveals our deep need for renewal and God’s commitment to work within us to achieve this renewal. Read: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.



February 21—*First Sunday in Lent.* Temptation is the theme this morning, and not the simplistic or moralistic understanding of temptation as some form of overindulgence. The devil offered Jesus several good possibilities: bread to fill a hungry stomach, political power able to enact a noble agenda, and a demonstration of miraculous power to prove God’s favor. But to have these things, Jesus would need to give up God. Where in your life do you feel a similar temptation? Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, and Luke 4:1-13.

February 28—*Second Sunday in Lent.* Among Jesus’ many functions was the role of prophet. He spoke truth to Power, often when Power wasn’t very interested. Where is the prophet today? Is his or her voice heard in the corridors of power? In the narthex of the church? Around the kitchen table? Rev. Dave Nicholls will preach. Read: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, and Luke 13:31-35.

Lent: The Perfect Time

I was recently reading through some new Lenten material sent to us here at church and I stumbled across an article that talked about how appropriate it seems that Lent begins in the dead of winter. Lent begins at just about the time when we feel the gray days of winter will never end. The articles suggested that perhaps this is the perfect time. The point was this was the time when Jesus went out to the desert to spend time alone and pray. It was a time of reflection and solitude. Winter can be a “desert time” for us—the days are long and dark and some may feel it provides more solitude. The season of Lent is also a time when we prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the sacred observances of Christ’s death on Good Friday and his resurrection of Easter.

Traditional Lenten practices include fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving, studying scripture, and participation in church worship services. Tradition suggests that occasionally skipping a meal or refraining from certain foods may give us an opportunity to spend more time feeding on God’s Word and being spiritually nourished through prayer and reflection. Abstaining from particular habits may allow us time to engage in activities that are more God-pleasing. Almsgiving gives us a chance to do something extra for the church, or an organization or for an individual. The Lenten season provides us with time to work on our spiritual journey and perhaps do a little more in the presence of God. We are reminded that Christ gave up everything for us. This is the “perfect time” to think about your Lenten journey.

We begin the month of February in the Adult Sunday School class with a presentation entitled “What If? Planned Giving at LUMC.” What if we as Church members supported our

Church’s missions beyond making pledges toward the annual budget—giving from our accumulated wealth—wealth that we have experienced due to God’s grace in our lives? Come to Adult Forum on February 7th to hear Melissa Ferris, Grant Wilder, and Dave Frahm talk about the topic of Planned Giving, and about the “what if’s” it could mean for our Church’s impact in the future. Caring for your faith includes caring for your church community.


The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 17 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

The Adult Sunday School Lenten study begins on Sunday, February 21, with Pastor Bill leading. Come and join us as we explore the meaning of this season, the time and place. We will take several weeks to reflect on how our own faith can be enhanced through the participation in various Lenten practices.

Lent is a special time. It is our hope that it is the “perfect time” for you to renew and refresh your vows of faith.—*Marilyn Paradise*

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 February 21.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	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 Youth 7:00	5 Happy New Year Church Office Closed	6 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00
7 HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30 Worship Committee 2:00 K.A.N. 4:00 Praise Singers 5:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00	8 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 Youth 7:00	12	13 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
14 TRANSFIGURATION Worship 9:00 Children's Musical Rehearsal 10:30 Fireplace Planning 10:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00	15 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight	16 Quilt Bee 9:30 Mardi Gras Dish-to-pass 6:00 Membership 7:00 Nominations 7:00	17 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 Choir Following Service	18 Senior High Youth 7:00	19	20 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
21 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Confirmatino Bible Study 3:30 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00	22 Food Pantry 3:00	23 Quilt Bee 9:30 Youth Mlnistry 7:00	24 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	25 Senior High Youth 7:00	26	27 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
28 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30 Confirmation Bible Study 3:30 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 January 26. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.</p> </div>			<i>February 2010</i>		<i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i>

Thank You

For almost forty years, we have been members of LUMC. Through the sharing of joys and concerns or prayers of the people, we have listened time and time again to people telling of the power of prayers and feeling God's presence when "troubles like sea billows roll." We too now join in thanking you for keeping our daughter Karen and her babies in your prayers. Karen gets stronger every day, and Lilliana the mighty (at 6 pounds) and Timothy the brave (at 7 pounds) are recovering from RSV, a serious respiratory disease.

In God's never ending love and grace,
—Judy and Bill Hinderliter and family



Mardi Gras Dinner

Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" on February 16 with a Mardi Gras potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass and your table service to Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. Membership committee will provide beverages. Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Children's Musical

Rehearsals are under way for the children's musical, "Once Upon a Parable," by Tom Long and Alan Pote. This production, which will be performed in March, presents the parables of Jesus, including the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the Vineyard.

Emergency Response Training

You may have thought that you'd like to go to Haiti to help out. As you may have heard, Haiti's government will not welcome volunteers until mid-March. To begin with, the people who will be most helpful are those who have special skills and who are trained in emergency response. UMCOR is already supporting emergency responders in Haiti (as is the Red Cross and other agencies).

You can become one of UMCOR's early responders, in this case, for domestic disasters—a specially trained early response volunteer who will be first on the scene to help people who have been stricken by storms or other disasters.

You do not need special skills to become a trained disaster responder (although it doesn't hurt). If you can offer caring listening, basic cleaning, or simple carpentry skills then you can connect in a most meaningful way with survivors putting their lives back together.

Emergency responders help make people's homes safe, sanitary, and secure until the rebuilding can begin. An Emergency Response Team typically works for three days and then goes home. So your time commitment is limited but critical to rebuilding confidence and restoring hope.

Here's how you could become an UMCOR early responder for domestic disasters. The next UMCOR Emergency Response Training is March 13, at Clifton Springs United Methodist Church (about 20 minutes northwest of Geneva). Register by February 28 by phone or email to Roger Cullen, rcullen1@rochester.rr.com (585-582-6375). Go to www.ncnyumc.org/email/ertregistration.pdf for a registration form.

Open Letter to the Congregation:

An Invitation to Our Contemporary Service

Last summer while on vacation, I found myself sitting in my aunt's home church marveling at how much our denominational worship services had in common. That got me thinking I've had the good fortune of experiencing church in a lot of different places over the last 25 years. Living in different areas in this country exposed me to many different worship experiences both within and outside of the Methodist Church. While I've always felt most at home with the traditional services of my youth (all of the hymns and liturgy that I know), I treasure each of these different worship experiences, either because they challenged me spiritually or enhanced my faith.

The point of this letter is to encourage each of us to try a new worship experience at least once during the month of February, right here in our own church, at **The Fireplace** service. I can only hope that you will find it as enriching as I did last spring. If so, you will experience something wonderful and unexpected. At the risk of embarrassing a wonderful young man, I'll tell you that this service gave me my first real insight into the gem that we have at LUMC in Kevin Dunn. If you're like me and don't have kids in the "youth" bracket, you probably don't know much about Kevin. But in one short and simple message about an uncle watching a child learning to tie a shoestring, I received a gift of insight into a concept that had been bothering me most of my adult life and into the depth of faith that Kevin brings to our congregation.

This service, while informal, is intimate. There is something new and different to experience, from the joy in the praise music (and on our gifted singers' faces), to the fellowship, to the simple sincerity of the messages. Please come out to **The Fireplace** one Sunday evening to see what it's about.



- Bonnie Blair

REVOLVE TOUR 2009

Eight young women (and two not-so-young women) representing three different churches in Tompkins County and hosted by the Lansing United Methodist Church Youth Ministries had the privilege of attending the 2009 REVOLVE Tour in Philadelphia, on November 6-8, 2009. An extension of the nationally renowned Women of Faith Conferences, REVOLVE Tours focus on presenting and reaffirming Jesus Christ in the hearts and lives of young women between the ages of 12 and 19 through music, drama, and inspirational speakers. Below are the personal reflections of these eight young women's REVOLVE experience.

As the "not-so-young women" who experienced the 2009 REVOLVE Tour with these eight beautiful young women, we felt not only the energy of the Holy Spirit during the tour but also saw and experienced the beauty and presence of Christ in the lives of these young women. Their outward and inward beauty was a true joy to observe as they connected with each aspect of the tour, related to one another and most importantly grew in their faith in Christ. We were also drawn to the realization that much of what was being revealed to our young girls regarding their relationship with guys, as well as their faith in Christ, is timeless and pertinent to women of all ages. Making a decision to follow Christ in our youth lays a solid foundation for a lifetime of spiritual bounty. Time spent with these young women while growing in our own walk with Christ made this weekend a long lasting treasure within our hearts.

Youth Reflections

—REVOLVE has been an awesome experience in reaffirming my faith. It's difficult at times

to focus on the one thing that truly matters—God—amidst the many busy things in a teenager's life! Spending this weekend away from homework and everyday life allowed me to think about why I am a Christian and what God means to me. It also helped me to discover who I am and who I want to be! The speakers were awesome and left me with words to hold on to and ideas I can relate to. The music was fun and kept things upbeat. There is nothing as amazing as worshipping God among over 5,000 other women—all rejoicing and believing in the same God! I feel so blessed to have been given the opportunity to go.

—For me the REVOLVE Tour was a really great experience. It was a great opportunity for me to hang out with nine other really cool people. As for the tour itself, I thought that the music was AMAZING and the talks were inspiring!

—REVOLVE was so incredibly awesome. There were more girls there than I could ever have imagined, and the speakers were amazing and what they said made sense and the music was great. It was the first concert I've ever been to. I definitely want to go again next year.

—I've struggled a lot in the past with self-confidence and being insecure. The REVOLVE Tour helped me realize that I'm God's creation and that disliking myself is disliking something that He made. He made me exactly the way I am with a PURPOSE. It's hard to accept that at first, but REVOLVE made me see and understand how special I am to God. It was such a wonderful experience, and I'm so glad I got to spend this time with such amazing girls.

continued on page 11

REVOLVE TOUR (concluded)

—The REVOLVE Tour was amazing this year! Besides learning new things from the speakers it's always refreshing to get away from our busy lives for a weekend and to be reminded of God's love for us and even simple verses and concepts we may have forgotten or have been distracted from. Coming to REVOLVE motivates and tells us how to keep God as the most important part of our lives and reminds us to make sure He is the main priority over other aspects of our lives.

—The REVOLVE Tour for me was an incredible experience. Oftentimes many of us get too caught up in the busy-ness of our lives and forget who God is to us. This Tour was a great reminder of how much God loves us and helped me to redefine who God really is. I have taken away from this experience many words of wisdom and a realization of how cool God really is.

—I loved being around 5,000 girls (only!) my age. That feeling was awesome. The speakers all had very funny and meaningful things to say. Some of the video clips they showed moved me so much. The music was great! The atmosphere in the room was great; everyone was so excited. The trip was a great experience! I really feel like I connected with God there.

—REVOLVE was an amazing experience. I can honestly say I thought I wasn't going to like it...and now I feel silly for even letting that thought cross my mind! It was such a unique worship experience, and the music was awesome. I hope that I can go to REVOLVE again next year!! I wouldn't miss it for the world.

2009 REVOLVE Tour Team: Teens: *Megan Mapes, Marisa Paradise, Casey Phlegar, Caroline Prybl, Kathryn Shaw, Sally Stoyell, Shanna Swanson, and Allison Veaner*; Adults: *Kathy Lee and Dianne Walter*

New Member Orientation Session Saturday March 13th (9:00-11:30 AM)

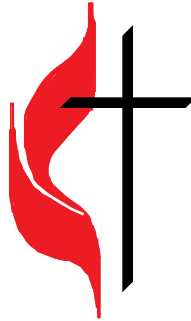
Are you interested in exploring what becoming a member of LUMC might mean for you? Then sign up to attend our "New Member Orientation" on March 13th. At this session we'll explore:

- How is church membership part of my spiritual journey?
 - What are the blessings and challenges of church member?
 - What is the mission of Lansing United Methodist Church?
 - How is the church organized to carry out its mission?
 - What gifts and skills do I have to share?
- Attending in no way obligates you to become a member, but will help you discern if church membership is right for you.

Please RSVP by March 5 (lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com or 533-4070)—*Pastor Bill Gottschalk-Fielding* (Pastor32@twcny.rr.com)

Learning about Our New Annual Conference

A District Day for the Central Lakes District is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2010, at Casowasco Camp and Conference Center. The purpose is to discuss issues and changes effective July 1, 2010 that are pertinent to the local church. Although meetings are scheduled all day, the part for the lay leadership is in the evening, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Particularly invited are Lay Leaders and the Lay Members to Annual Conference, as well as chairs of Staff-Parish Relations, Finance, and Church Council. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.



The Sunbeam

February 2010

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM
Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM

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: Laurie Moskow

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 February 15, 2010.