

Please join us for Worship at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Sunday school 10:30 AM: CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 AND 8:00 PM



The Sunbeam December 2011

Lansing United Methodist Church
lansingunited.org

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



Christmas 2011

What if you don't have a home to go back to?

The tag on the window means that this home in Johnson City is condemned until it is repaired and inspected (see page 7).

From the Pastor

Taking Time in Advent

Busy, busy, busy!! As I sit here tired from an already busy week (it's only Wednesday) and cannot think of anything to write, I am reminded that we are called into the season of Advent to ponder and wonder. Even though our lives take on a feeling of frenzy during this season, we can benefit from taking time to rest in the arms of God. One of the best ways for me to do this is with poetry...especially that of Ann Weems. I would like to share this with you for your reflection during this season of expectation:

Angels Still Appear

by Ann Weems

Angels still appear to those ready to receive blessings in spite of the barren impossibility of their lives.

Elizabeth still recognizes Jesus and calls him Lord, receiving him into her heart, in spite of the distraction of her own blessing.

Blessings still come to those who believe that nothing is impossible in the hand of God.

Mary still gives birth, not just every Advent, Mary still gives birth each day to this Child who advents into hearts, unexpectedly and forever.

Herods still live who would kill this Child, but Mary and Joseph still flee into the desert,

and the night, to protect the One given into their keeping.

Doors still slam in the inns of the world, Herods still plot to kill, deserts and darkness still threaten our safety, but God still lives.

In spite of war and terror, Mary gives birth to the Prince of Peace.

In spite of hunger, Mary gives birth to the Bread of Life.

In spite of lost sheep, Mary gives birth to the Good Shepherd. In spite of hearts pregnant with hatred, Mary gives birth to LOVE.

It is not done!

It is not done!

It is not done!

The birthing is not over.

The blessings continue.

Angels wait in the wings!

May your Advent be blessed with angels and wonder! May you find peace and grace in the newborn babe!

Blessings,
Pastor Jane



December Fireplace Service

For the first two weeks of December, the theme is: *Countdown to Christmas: What we can learn from the Christmas story about time and how we use it.* For December 18, look for something a little different with a special visitor.



Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent

How do we “cultivate” attentiveness you may ask? As author and UM Pastor Pamela C. Hawkins shares in her two recent books, *Simply Wait* and *Behold*, Advent is the time when we prepare, by faith, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is a season of good news and great anticipation. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that this good news comes for everyone—not only for those whose lives are aware and prepared to celebrate, but also for the many others who are oppressed and brokenhearted.

Hawkins tells us that there are words taken from scripture that will guide us along the way this season. She believes that we need to take the time to be attentive and to be intentional about our journey. During this year's Advent study in the Adult Sunday School class and in Sunday morning worship, try to listen for words that define the season—words like expectancy, preparation, faith and promise. These are words that may make the season more meaningful for you.

Here's what the author says: “Advent living is what Advent leads us toward: the Word embodied, Immanuel—‘the Word became flesh and lived among us’ (John 1:14).” She goes on to say “I hope that you will become freshly open to ‘behold’ the ancient Advent story of God's self-giving of Immanuel, the Word made flesh, and to cultivate an ongoing attentiveness to what God has promised, is promising and will promise to do in the world in the name,

power and spirit of Jesus the Christ.” (Reread that sentence a few times!!) This year, as you prepare for Christmas, we suggest that you make some time for reflection, prayer, reading scripture, singing and Christian service. It is our hope that these Advent practices will help you discover a deeper spiritual attentiveness to what matters to God about the gift of Jesus. This is an opportunity to witness the wonder of the Advent season. Take the time to cultivate attentiveness!

God Bless.
Marilyn Paradise

P.S. I am not writing any farewell notes as you are an important part of my life and I intend on keeping in touch. I do wish all of you a blessed Christmas and would like to leave you with the very last line of one of my favorite blessings: “And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”—*mp*

Prayer Concerns

Marion Bickal
Winifred
Bidlespacher
Ray Buckley
Mary Ann Grisamore
Denny Huff
Janet Passmore
Wayne Straw
Tom Todd

Mourning family of
Mark Maciak
Mourning family of
Margie Mayson

Women of Faith 2012

June 9

Believe it or don't, the earlier you register the better. Check with Dianne Walter, 533-7266 or diannelwalter at gmail.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**Lansing
United
Methodist
Church**

*December
2011*

Note: This calendar is current as of November 28. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Fireplace Planning 3:30
K.A.N. 4:00
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00
LUMC Men's Group 7:00

5 Prayer Service
at Woodsedge 11:00
Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Staff Parish 7:00

6 Peanut Brittle Bee
9:00

to

4:00

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

Bell Choir at the Mall for
Salvation Army ~6:00
Choir 7:00

8

Senior High 7:00

9

Greening the Church 6:00

10 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Christmas Caroling
for all ages!
2:00

11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30

Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

LUMC Men's Group 7:00
Youth Mission at All-Saints 7:15

12 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00

Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Trustees 7:00

13

Church Council 7:00

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

Choir 7:30

15

Senior High 7:00

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

16 Youth Ministries
Christmas Party
6:00-9:00

17 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
Christmas Pageant 10:30

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00
LUMC Men's Group 7:00

19 Food Pantry and
Clothes Horse 3:00
Haiti Committee 7:00

20

Blue Christmas Worship 6:00

21 Prayer Service 9:00

Blue Christmas Worship 6:00

22

Winter Solstice,
Days start getting longer.
Hooray.

23

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service 5:00
Candlelight Service 8:00

25 CHRISTMAS

Worship 9:00

Pajama Sunday

26

27

28

29

30

31 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

NEW YEAR'S EVE

C h u r c h O f f i c e C l o s e d

Youth Mission Fundraisers

Youth Mission, which is a joint project of Lansing UMC and All Saints RC Church, is in the home stretch of preparations to send a total of three groups to Guatemala. The first contingent will be leaving for Guatemala on December 26 with additional Youth Mission teams going in February and April. Your support will make a difference. Here are two ways to help.

Christmas Tree Sale

The Youth Mission group will be selling freshly cut Christmas trees in the Lansing Market parking lot on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 AM–3:00 PM. Pick up a nice tree and, at the same time, support the work of our youth at the San Lucas Mission in Guatemala.

Applebee's event

On December 4 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM the youth mission crew will be "taking over" Applebee's to raise funds for the upcoming trips. Each family is being asked to sell 7 tickets.

Church World Service Makes a Difference

Time has moved on but as of April 2011, LUMC collected and assembled Well over \$10,000 worth of Church World Service kits. We sent 346 School Kits (worth \$4,498), 55 Hygiene Kits (worth \$550), and 131 Baby Kits (worth \$5,109). This is made possible by the efforts of so many people who donate items (or shipping costs) throughout the year.

Advent Events Greening the Church

**December 3
6:00 PM**

Come for the soup and chili supper, and then stay to help make the greenery to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Information: Jim Evans

Peanut Brittle Bee—The Sequel

December 6

Our LUMC peanut brittle is so much in demand that workers are asked to join in one more peanut brittle bee on December 6, Tuesday, from 9:00 to 6:00 or any part thereof. Check with Jannette Reeves for more info, 533-4693.

Christmas Caroling

December 10: 2:00 PM: All ages

Lots of fun for all ages! And a good way to observe Advent by bringing cheer to many people. Meet at the Church at 2:00 on December 10. Wrap up about 5:00. Make a joyful noise! Everyone is invited.

Giving Tree

Gifts due December 11

The Giving Tree is up in the LUMC Narthex. This is a major effort to make sure children in our community receive Christmas gifts. If you have a tag, make sure to return your gift by December 11. No time to shop? Donate a few bucks to cover tags that aren't taken.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Orders due December 11

We will add poinsettias to our sanctuary decorations on December 18. So, make sure your order is in by December 11. Check the order forms in the Narthex or on the LUMC webpage.



Haiti University Student Update

As you may know, be-

cause of the flood in Haiti, several of our students at the university level have continued their education by moving to the Dominican Republic. Here is a way to help with flood relief that will make a difference.

We want to honor our commitment to our Haitian students attending the university in the Dominican Republic. We have been raising funds to support them, and we are getting close but time is short. Of the five men, three are totally supported at the present time, and two are supported for one of three semesters. Here are expenses for one student for one semester (3 ½ months):

tuition	\$ 555
rent	\$360 (\$90 per month)
food	\$600 (\$150 per month)
books	\$300–\$600
Total	\$2,115
	or \$6,345 per year.

It is with a grateful heart that I can say that tuition is nearly covered for the January through April semester. Two of the men have 3 ½ years to complete their degree in computer technology and and one has 4 years to complete a civil engineering degree.

Our commitment to these students is sizable, but each man looks forward to returning to Haiti to help others as he has been helped.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Haiti Dessert Auction. The \$1,700.00 that was raised will be applied to the tuition.—*Judy Hinderliter for the Haiti Committee*



LUMC Work Teams to the Southern Tier

Work teams from Lansing UMC have start-

ed work trips to help those devastated by floods. LUMC's effort is being organized by Marcia Lynch and Pat Pryor.

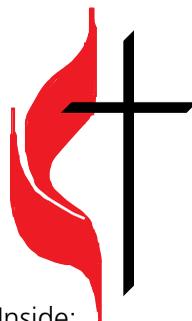
In November, teams went down on two Saturdays and helped flush out mud and spray for mold in two basements. One basement had been filled to the floor joists with a mix of water, mud, and fuel oil. When the owner started to clean it out, he contracted a chemical pneumonia and could not work down there. The other house had water up to the kitchen counter and the cleanup project was just too much for one person to handle.

In both cases, the owners said that it was hard to accept outside help, but the job is more than is humanly possible for individual residents. The house pictured above looks fine outside but is condemned, as indicated by the sticker. It's in a neighborhood full of houses with stickers on them.

Talking with the residents, it's clear that FEMA and insurance money falls far short of what is needed to rebuild these houses.

Shortage of money and the sheer volume of work to be done are not the only issues facing the residents of the area from Binghamton to Owego. There's also the loss of neighborhood and the feeling that they have been forgotten.

So, if you have a Saturday to spare, contact Marcia or Pat and plan to help out with flood recovery. Teams will be going in December.—*gw*



The Sunbeam

December 2011

**Lansing United
Methodist
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Inside:

Take Time for Advent, page 2

Advent Activities, page 6

How You Can Help in Haiti, page 7

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

Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
5:00 AND 8:00 PM**

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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www.lansingunited.org

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