

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM AND 6:00 PM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

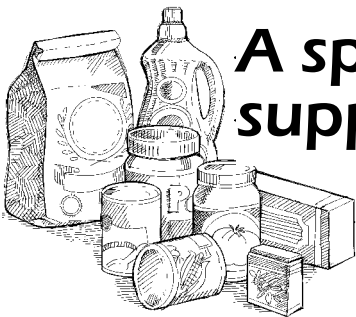
The Sunbeam

March 2011

Lansing United Methodist Church
lansingunited.org

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

**Feed my
sheep...**



**A special way to
support**

Lansing Food Pantry

page 5

From the Pastor

Things I learned from My Dear Friend, Virgil Versteeg

Don't think you can outsmart God...God always wins

Jesus came to give us life abundant...that includes laughter and silliness

Even Goofy (the Disney character) has a theology...why don't you?

The words "I can't" aren't in God's vocabulary

It is acceptable to be a maverick...often preferable to being apathetic

Laughter and fun in church (oh my!) make God smile

ALL PEOPLE are loved by God

Life isn't easy...but well worth the struggle

The Bible isn't a puzzle to be solved, rather, a gift to be cherished

Love isn't just the important thing...it is the ONLY thing

This is what I can think of right now, but Virgil taught me so much more. As I ponder and wonder about the gifts given to me by this delightful man, I cannot help but be amazed. It was said at his funeral that he made everyone feel special and that is so very true.

I can't help but wonder about what it was he saw in me that compelled him to push me to listen to God. It also makes me wonder if we miss the signs in one another because we are too busy to really see the people in front of us. What makes us see the God-light in another?

This leads me to ask another question, this time one about Lansing UMC: what is it about this congregation, this gathering of God's own, this conglomeration of individuals that makes you so able to *be church*? I've been chewing on this for six months, and now it is time to ask you this question. Why are you so different? So eager to be in ministry? So kind and loving? I truly would love to know what your take is...

When a new pastor (not me) went to Virgil looking for advice and counsel for her new pastorate, he didn't fill her with lots of platitudes for working in the church...he merely said, "Love them." And you, my dear, dear friends are easy to love.

Blessings,
Pastor Jane

Ash Wednesday Service

March 9 at 7:00 PM

Drawing on the Taize tradition, we will begin Lent with meditation, as we "clear the decks" to hear God's voice and receive the Holy Spirit.

Church World Service Kits

Collection of items for the Church World Service Kits continues throughout the year. You can make your donation any time. This is a case where a little here and there adds up to a lot when it's all collected in one place. The only rule is, no substitutions, due to international shipping rules. If you don't want to go shopping, you can always donate cash, to help with shipping costs.

Baby Kit

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Remember, all items should be new.

School Kits

- One pair of blunt scissors
- Three spiral or tape-bound 70-count pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" (or 8" X 10 1/2"), containing 200-210 sheets of paper. No loose-leaf, filler paper, please.
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- 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

Health Kits

- One hand towel (about 16" by 28", not a fingertip or a bath towel)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One bath size bar of soap, in wrapper
- One toothbrush, in original packaging
- Six Band-aids
- \$1 to buy toothpaste later

Regarding the toothpaste, instead of donating tubes that may go out of date, donate a buck to cover the cost of buying a fresh tube just as the kit is actually distributed.



Mardi Gras Dish-to-Pass Dinner

Tuesday, March 8
Beverage provided, bring your own table service.

Neglected Voices: Hearing God's Voice in Unexpected Places

As we begin the Season of Lent, maybe we could stop and think about what is it that we can do to make our Lenten experience special this year. Will we give up something—a favorite food or dessert—or will we do something extra, like volunteer at the Food Pantry? I'm never quite sure if I should give something up or do something more! But I do know that Lent is a good time to reflect on our spiritual journey - where we are and where we are going. Maybe we could take some time to think about where the voice of God speaks to us. Some things are obvious—God's voice during the Sunday morning worship service. Yet do we hear God's voice in the not-so-obvious places? Do we find God in the unexpected? If God comes to us through other people, God's voice may not always be loud and clear—we may just find Him in people we weren't exactly expecting. Perhaps God comes to a parent through a child who teaches him or her a lesson in humility. Or maybe the voice of God is present in an older adult who shares a valuable life lesson. We may just need to be more attentive.

The **Adult Sunday School** class will begin a six-week study on a book entitled "Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margin." The book talks about biblical characters who may not be as well-known to us as some of the more popular figures. During this study you will read and talk about such indi-

viduals as Dinah, Stephen, Hannah, Nathan, and Barnabas. You will have an opportunity to discuss some of their personal circumstances and how each heard the voice of God. Please join us on Sunday, March 13, as we set off on this fascinating study of people who were considered to be living on the edge or in the margins of life. We may just learn something from their experience. We will surely learn that God is a God of everyone!

The **Children's Sunday School** classes are studying a unit entitled "Favorite Bible Passages." You may recall several months ago during Sunday morning worship, we solicited your input on favorite bible passages. We collected the surveys and made them into a booklet. The Bible passage booklet will be given to the children to take home and hopefully use for a long time. Next we start a unit entitled "The Ten Commandments." The children will learn that the foundation of our faith began with this covenant given to all of God's people. Today, as faithful Christians, the Ten Commandments guide our lives, keep us safe and help us to make choices for responsible living.

During this Lenten season, it is our hope and prayer that you will be open to new possibilities of hearing God's voice in unexpected places and people!

God Bless.
Marilyn Paradise



Food Pantry Challenge

according to how much a pantry raises, in relation to other food pantries, with the size of the town and pantry figured in. So, small food pantries have the same chance as large ones to get some of the million bucks.

The Lansing Food Pantry received \$4,636 in donations in March and April of last year in support of the Feinstein Grant application. The resulting grant was a pretty decent \$266.00. That's free money, folks, so let's do what we can again this year.

All you have to do is to be intentional during March and April and donate some money or food to the Lansing Food Pantry. This will count toward the Lansing Food Pantry Feinstein Grant. As you know it's been a long time since we've had a situation like the one we face now with food prices skyrocketing and people needing food. 1932 or thereabouts comes to mind, along with 1973, when we had gas lines. So, be as generous as you are able to help keep food on the table for Lansing's families and children. Nonperishable food counts big time, and money is pretty good, too.—*gw*

Lansing Food Pantry is participating again this year in the the Shawn Feinstein Foundation Challenge. Each year the Feinstein Foundation issues a "million dollar challenge" to food pantries throughout the United States. The foundation puts one million dollars on the line, as matching gifts for food pantry donations in March and April. The timing and the plan constitutes an intentional strategy to increase donations to food pantries at an otherwise low time of year.

The way the challenge works is that the Feinstein Foundation will send the Lansing Food Pantry a piece of the million dollar pie, based on how many donations it receives, both in cash and in food, during March and April. The foundation gives out its money

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**Lansing
United
Methodist
Church**

*March
2011*

1 Quilt Bee 9:30

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

3

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

4

5 Men's Breakfast at Linda's in
North Lansing Every Saturday
7:00
Prayer Shawl Ministry
and Caring Ministry Joint
Meeting 10:00

6 TRANSFIGURATION
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Confirmation Bible Study 3:30
K.A.N. 4:00
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

7 Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Staff Parish 7:00

8 Quilt Bee 9:30

Mardi Gras
Dish-to-Pass Dinner 6:00

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

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00
Choir to follow

10

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

11

12 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

Blood Drive 8:30 - 2:00
Give if you are eligible

Turn clocks back tonight

13 HAITI SERVICE
Worship 9:00 EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30
Fireplace Service Planning 2:00
Confirmation Bible Study 3:30
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

14 Prayer Service
Woodsedge 10:00

Mobile Food Pantry 10:00
Disciple Bible Study 12:30
Trustees 7:00

15 Quilt Bee 9:30

Membership 7:00
Worship Ctee 7:30

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

17

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

18 Senior High Youth Event TBA

19 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
Junior High Youth Event TBA

20 Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

Confirmation Bible Study 3:30
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00

21 Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Haiti Committee 7:00

22 Quilt Bee 9:30

Church Council 7:00
Youth Ministry 7:00

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

24

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

25 CONFIRMATION RETREAT

26 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

27 Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30

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

28 Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Food Pantry 3:00

29 Quilt Bee 9:30

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

31

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

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

LUMC Youth in Action

Last month, I mentioned Youth Ministry's "2010: A Year In Review" document. It contains information about our 2010 events, expenses, and other little tidbits, and I put a few copies of it in the narthex.

I thought that it might be helpful, though, to mention some of our highlights right here in the Sunbeam. So, here's a glimpse of what Youth Ministries was up to in 2010:

We started off the year doing two gender-split activities: playing a few games of laser tag in Syracuse with our boys, and watching "Twilight," with a subsequent discussion with our girls. In February, we began Confirmation with six youth: Seychelle DeChellis, Tasha Gottschalk-Fielding, Lauren Phlegar, Danny Stoyell, Jimmy Stoyell, and Jason Yahn. During the school's mid-winter break, there was a sledding gathering with hot chocolate afterwards, and we put together some "shake the winter blues" gift baskets for some members of the congregation. These were later delivered by the Caregivers team. As spring and Easter approached, we held our traditional Jr. High Flashlight Egg Hunt, and Kathy Lee led us once again in Ukrainian Egg Decorating for our Sr. Highers. The Easter Sunrise Service was also planned and led by youth. At the end of the spring, we had a "Jesus At The Gym" event for Sr. Highers, where we rented out part of the YMCA for a few hours and played lots of games together.

To kick off the 2010-2011 school year, we held overnight events for both Jr. & Sr.

High. Both of these events were highly attended and were great fun! We had many youth helping out at the Fall Rummage Sale, and took our Jr. Highers on a trip to Taughannock Falls for an afternoon in October as well. Right before Thanksgiving, our Jr. & Sr. Highers wrapped the 60 shoeboxes our congregation sent around the world through Operation Christmas Child. Rounding out the 2010 calendar year, we had a Christmas party in mid-December. It consisted of Christmas music, lots of food (mostly of the "dessert" variety), reenactments of classic Christmas movie scenes, a hilarious gift exchange, and a Christmas movie.

In the midst of all of these, of course, Youth Ministries does many other things. Toward the end of both the fall and spring, we send care packages to our college graduates for their final exam periods. Our freshmen in college receive cookies baked by our current youth, while our upperclassmen receive gift cards. For the last few years, we've also sent our graduating seniors away from LUMC with a book of "words of wisdom," compiled from various entries from the congregation. These have been greatly appreciated.

Youth Ministries is also responsible for teaching Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School classes from September through May, and hosting a fellowship-oriented gathering on Thursday evenings for Sr. Highers throughout the school year. This "Sr. High Youth Group" is very simple: food, fun, and fellow-

continued at right

Youth in Action (concluded)

ship. Despite its simplicity, it has grown significantly over the years and is now known as a place where our teens feel comfortable inviting their friends. Average attendance continues to increase year over year.

As you can see, we certainly tend to keep busy. However, in all these activities we try to maintain focus on our guiding objectives: Christian education, fellowship with one other, service to our church and community, and outreach to the greater Lansing area. If you're interested in helping to transform the lives of our wonderful young people here at LUMC, please know that you can! In my experience, there is no one that can't have an impact, and we would love to plug you in to our programming in any way we can. Thank you for your continued support of our Youth Ministries program!

~Kevin Dunn

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Just as a headsup, the spring Rummage Sale is scheduled for May 13 and 14. Hang on to your stuff until Sunday, May 8, when we'll start setting up. We can't store things before that time. Many hands make light work, so plan to help out for a hour or three if you can.

Finance Update

Copies of the completed 2010 LUMC Actual Income and Expense Report are available on the table in the narthex (outside the kitchen). Call the Church office if you want to be mailed a copy. On the reverse side is our 2011 Budgeted Income and Expenses.

The actual deficit for 2010 was \$5,739, thanks in large part to some belt-tightening by committees which spent \$8,000 less than budgeted for their work last year.

For 2011, despite the freeze in salaries, we still have budgeted for a deficit of \$18,474, which is the amount our emergency reserve will be depleted if all the committees use up all of their budget lines. Our emergency reserve was reduced to \$23,997 at year's end.

So we encourage continued prudent spending by the committees in the year ahead and encourage all of us to be faithful in giving a portion of our income back to God to support the ministries and mission of LUMC.—Dave Stoyell, for the finance committee



Mission Trip for 2011: How Might Haiti Survive?

One year after the devastating earthquake that leveled Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, only 5 percent of the rubble has been cleared away, and only 15 percent of the destroyed housing has been replaced, with the remaining population still in tents or makeshift shelters. Cholera has spread through the contaminated drinking water. And much of the pledged relief funds have not arrived. A large number of survivors have simply returned to the impoverished countryside with no prospects for employment.

About 66 percent of all Haitians now work in agriculture, mostly on small subsistence plots in the steep eroded hills. But if sustainable enterprises can be developed and managed as cooperatives, the country still has the potential for self-sufficiency. That is the vision of Grace International Housing and Sustainable Community and Engineering Ministries International (eMi), whose volunteers design systems appropriate to the cultures worldwide, mostly in third-world countries.

You may remember my four prior mission trips to rural Haiti, which have given me a good understanding of these problems, so I was gratified to be called by eMi for this mission. In the proposed system, sugar cane will be grown and processed into ethanol (for cooking, replacing the diminishing charcoal). Irrigation will allow year-round cultivation of fruits and vegetables. And there is the possibility of a fish farm to supplement the typical low-protein diets.

I'll be leaving March 4 for a 10-day work trip with an eMi team. I can furnish more details to anyone interested in the project and will welcome feedback. Your prayers and support are a blessing. If you would like to contribute towards the trip, this can be done with a check or envelope in the collection plate marked with "Haiti Trip." Thanks you.—*Dave Farmer*

Editor's note: Now a regular at Dryden UMC, Dave Farmer for many years attended Lansing UMC.

The temperature was below zero last week, the snow is piling ever higher, we've got freezing rain, and so there's only one thing to do....

Start thinking about

Summer Camp!

Yes, now is the time to start thinking about summer camp, believe it or not. You can pretty much choose your camp right now and, if you sign up for a camp before May 1 you get a \$40 discount. That gives you two months to look at the many great camps at **Casowasco** (casowasco.org) or one of the other marvelous camps that we now have in our expanded conference, including **Aldersgate** (aldersgateny.org), which is on the western edge of the Adirondacks, **Camp Findlay** (campfindlay.org), which is near the edge of the earth (okay, it's on the western New York border with Pennsylvania), **Sky Lake** in Windsor (skylakecenter.org), and **Skye Farm**, which is on the eastern edge of the Adirondacks not far from Lake George (skyefarmcamp.org). Each one of these camps is a wonderful place where everyone is welcome and accepted in the name of Jesus Christ.

Since we are so fortunate to have Casowasco just a half hour away, here's just a partial list of the camps (not even all of the "B list") planned for this summer, including age ranges and costs. Remember, the policy of LUMC is that money should not be a barrier to church camp. Everyone gets the help they need, up to and including the entire cost of camp. Don't be shy about asking. See Pastor Jane, camp agent Nan Makela, or ask in the church office.

☞ Beach Bums

Bum around the shores of Owasco Lake, plus learn to SCUBA dive, tube, water ski and windsurf!

- July 10 - July 15 | 14-18 | \$470
- July 31 - August 5 | 14-18 | \$470

☞ Beginnings

Start off this adventure on the right foot! We've packed a ton of fun into this short program—crafts, swimming, a wagon ride, boating, wacky games, a campfire with smores, and that's just the first day!

- July 10 - July 13 | 6-9 | \$265
- July 24 - July 27 | 6-9 | \$265

☞ Bikes, Boards, and Blades

Get ready for mountain biking, skate boarding, and rollerblading thrills! Ride the trails on a Diggler, hit the ramps and hot rails, do some off road trail blazing on your bike, and try wakeboarding. Plus, take two trips to local skate parks during the week.

- July 17 - July 22 | 11-14 | \$435 Boys Only!

☞ BMW (Beautiful Mountain Women)

Girls: there is a BMW in all of us! Come to the Highlands for the best spa retreat Casowasco has ever seen! Stay out late, sleep in, and enjoy

a spiritual spa treatment in the Highlands mud pit. Camp out in the hard woods one night, swim, hike, and enjoy your favorite desserts made over the campfire! Learn how God makes every girl gorgeous, no matter what her hair looks like.

- August 7 - August 12 | 12-16 | \$425 Girls Only!

☞ Boots and Saddles

This program is for novice and beginning riders, as well as those who ride infrequently. It focuses on riding basics including saddling, walking, and trotting. You will travel to the stables four times.

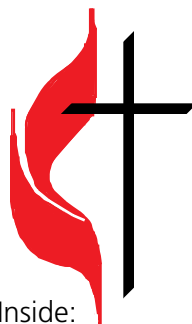
- July 10 - July 15 | 8-12 | \$550 Girls Only!
- July 31 - August 5 | 8-12 | \$550 Girls Only!
- August 7 - August 12 | 8-12 | \$550

☞ Buggin' Out!

Sleep out, camp out, cookout, and bug out! Catch, study, and start your own collection of some of the most unique creatures in nature...

- **BUGS!** You will also travel to the Cayuga Nature Center to see amazing bugs in action.
- July 10 - July 15 | 10-12 | \$430

And many many more....



The Sunbeam

March 2011

**Lansing United
Methodist
Church**

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Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 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

lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published monthly by
Lansing United Methodist Church.

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 March 15, 2011.