

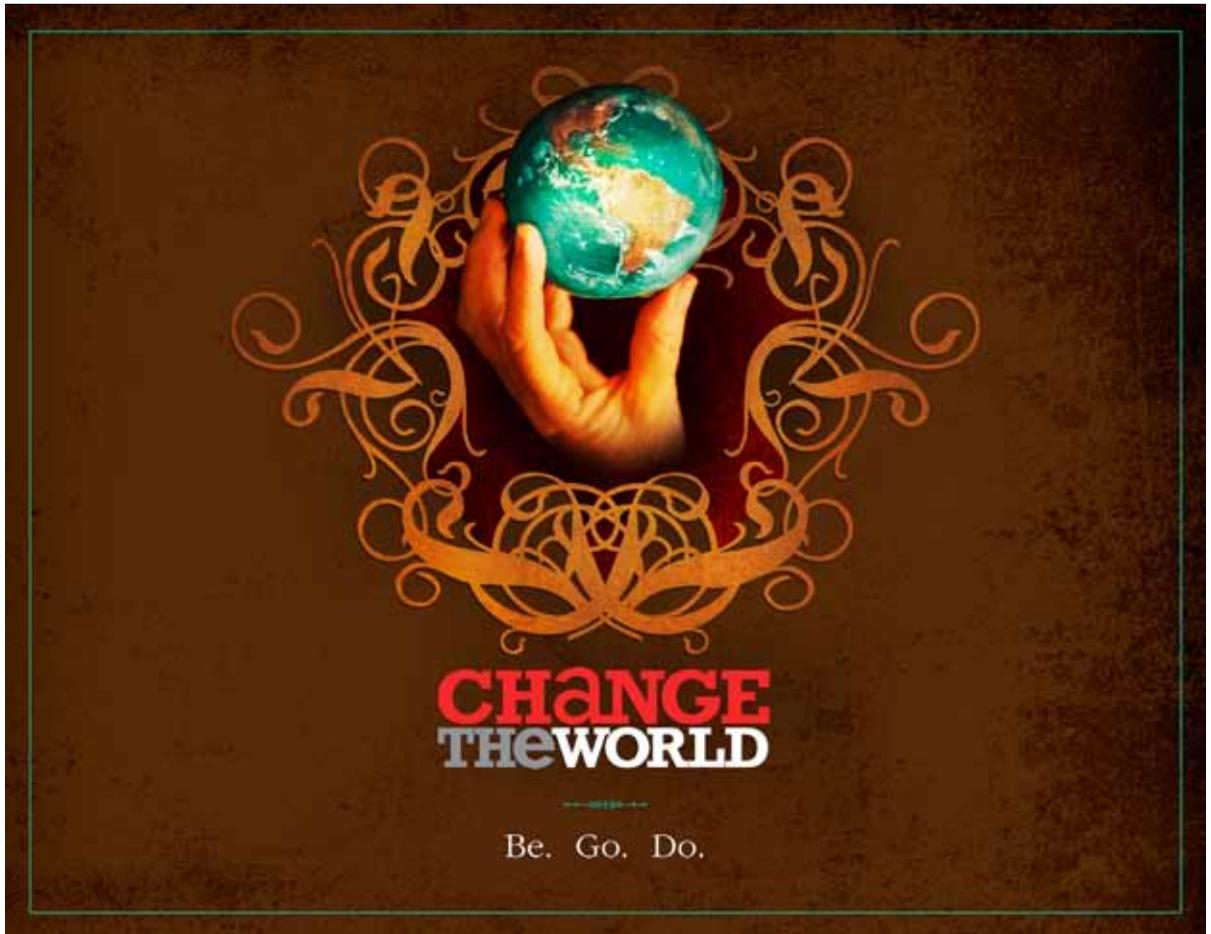
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM AND 6:00 PM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

# The Sunbeam

May 2011

**Lansing United Methodist Church**  
lansingunited.org

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



## Change the World Weekend

May 14–15

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## From the Pastor

### WJWD

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Some time ago, there was a major campaign among Christians all over the world—called WJWD or What Would Jesus Do. There were t-shirts, bracelets, camp curricula, posters...lots of promotion to remind us to make choices in line with the thinking of Jesus. Over time, it is easy to become somewhat jaded with this kind of campaign and to forget the deeper meaning of what it might mean to act in line with Jesus' actions. Decisions are made based on our own desires, choices are made considering only what we want.

Recently, I was faced with one of these choices. You have heard about my nomination to attend the World Methodist Conference in South Africa this coming August. I was flattered and honored to have been nominated and immediately started making plans to attend. You have also heard about the devastating fire in White Swan, Washington. Many of the people who lost their homes are people I had come to love during the time I lived in White Swan. As I prayed about what I could **do** for those folks in White Swan, God kept answering my prayers with "Go." In my humanness, I tried to figure out a way to do both things – go to South Africa and go to White Swan. (Of course, I also want to go to Guatemala and to Haiti...hmmm) It became more and more evident to me as I prayed about this that there are limited resources (mine and others) available to make these trips.

As a result of listening to God, I realized that Jesus would choose to be with people

in crisis, to be with those who are struggling, to offer some healing in a place of pain. While the experience of South Africa would have been amazing – it is, for all intents and purposes, a meeting of Methodists, not a mission trip. I cannot find a scriptural reference where Jesus chose meetings over relationships! So my decision to go to White Swan rather than South Africa became pretty easy...and I am completely at peace with it.

So, we (not the royal plural, but a team from LUMC!) will be heading to White Swan in August to help with clean-up and rebuilding. We will be, hopefully, the hands and feet of Jesus for a ravaged community. And we will come home strengthened and humbled, tired and exhilarated, blessed and challenged. We will be doing what Jesus would do.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Jane*

**P.S.** Our Lenten Offerings will be used to purchase mattresses and box springs for the folks in White Swan. Jill Delaney, one of the Disciples of Christ pastors in White Swan, has made arrangements with a local industry to make these mattresses for those who lost everything at a reasonable cost (\$150 for twin sets, \$200 for queen). In Jill's words, "It's okay for folks to have used clothing and used furniture, but everyone deserves a mattress that hasn't been slept on by strangers." I thought you might want to know where your dollars are going and what they are going to purchase.—PJ

## Change The World

On May 14 and 15, we here at LUMC—along with over 100,000 other United Methodists—will celebrate "Change The World" weekend. This is a church-wide event that encourages the local church to join with others to make a difference both locally and globally. The Upper New York Annual Conference is working to highlight churches and activities from across the Conference.

UM Communications says: "The 'Change The World' campaign challenges the people of the UMC to see the world holistically by giving and serving beyond the four walls of sanctuaries. Our hope is that not only will church members participate, they will invite neighbors in the community to work side by side with them to make a difference in diverse ways." The global "Change The World" event was created as a part of UMC's Rethink Church campaign, which seeks to use outreach events that embrace the concept of outward bound church to make a positive difference in the world beyond the church doors. We live in a faith community that exemplifies working together for the greater good.

This is also "Faith in Books" weekend. **Faith in Books** is sponsored by Area Congregations Together and the Family Reading Partnership, a community collaboration that works to ensure all children have an opportunity to read and enjoy books. These books are distributed monthly at Food Pantry.

We ask the children in our congregation, a couple of times a year, to look through their bookshelves and offer a donation to help change the lives of other children. This allows our children to help other children. We appreciate the continued support of this ministry.

As we begin to wind down our Sunday School year, we have two special events in the Adult Sunday School classroom. Professor **Ken Hover** will be here to lead class on Sunday, May 15, and local author **Steve Timmons** (Dick Stark's brother) will visit on Sunday, May 22. Ken will study the **parable of the sower**. As he explains it: "As we are enjoying our gardens in mid-May, we will be exploring Jesus' parables about sowing seeds, with particular attention to the story of the 'Wheat and Tares.' This is one of the shortest parables, but as we shall see, its roots spread all the way from the book of Genesis to Revelation, and its timeless application reminds us that even with our best efforts, 'Tares Happen.'" Steve will speak about his faith and share his new book entitled *A Used Car Dealer's Take on Jesus Christ*. Copies of his book will be available in the narthex.

There are many special occasions during this month of May. We honor the Christian home during Christian Family Week (May 2-8), Mother's Day (May 8), Older Adult Month, National Day of Prayer (May 5), and Friendship Day (May 6).

During all of this time of celebration, may we be mindful that we can make the world a better place, we can change the world - one person at a time!

*God Bless.  
—Marilyn Paradise*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>1 <b>CAMPERSHIP SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Children's Ministries 11:45 K.A.N. 1:00 Confirmation Discipleship 2:00 Haiti and Youth Mission Auction 4:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00</p>	<p>2  Staff Parish 7:00</p>	<p>3 <b>Quilt Bee 9:30</b>  Finance 7:00</p>	<p>4 <b>Prayer Service 9:00</b>  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>5  Adult Study Group 7:00 Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>6  Flower Basket Sale for Camperships 8:00-6:00</p>	<p>7 <b>Men's Breakfast at Linda's</b> in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 K.A.N. Sale at Taylors' (Ridge Rd.) 8:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry and Caring Ministry Joint Meeting 10:00 LOAP Banquet 11:00</p>	
<p>8 <b>MOTHERS DAY</b> <b>FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School (Children and Youth) 10:30  Confirmation Discipleship 2:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 Youth Mission at All Saints 7:15</p>	<p>9 <b>Mobile Food Pantry 10:00</b>  Trustees 7:00</p>	<p>10 <b>Quilt Bee 9:30</b>  Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>11 <b>Prayer Service 9:00</b>  Choir 7:00</p>	<p>12  Adult Study Group 7:00 Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>13  RUMMAGE SALE 8:00 AM</p>	<p>14 <b>CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND</b>  Mens' Breakfast 7:00 RUMMAGE CLEANUP 1:00</p>	
<p>15 <b>CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND</b> <b>HERITAGE SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Fireplace Service Planning 11:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Confirmation Discipleship 2:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00</p>	<p>16 <b>Prayer Service at Woodsedge</b> 11:00  Haiti Committee 7:00 Church Conference 7:00 <b>SUNBEAM DEADLINE</b> 12:00 Midnight</p>	<p>17 <b>Quilt Bee 9:30</b>  Membership 7:00 Worship Ctee 7:30</p>	<p>18 <b>Prayer Service 9:00</b>  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>19  Adult Study Group 7:00 Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 <b>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</b></p>	
<p>22 <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30  Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00</p>	<p>23  Food Pantry 3:00</p>	<p>24 <b>Quilt Bee 9:30</b>  Youth Ministry 7:00</p>	<p>25 <b>Prayer Service 9:00</b>  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>26  Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <b>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</b>  Annual Church Barbecue</p>	
<p>29  Worship 9:00  Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00</p>	<p>30 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b></p>	<p>31 <b>Quilt Bee 9:30</b></p>	<p>Note: This calendar is current as of April 24. For updates to all LUMC events, visit <a href="http://lansingunited.org">lansingunited.org</a>, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.</p>			 <p><b>Lansing United Methodist Church</b></p>	

*May 2011*

## Senior Gift

For those who haven't participated before (and maybe even for those who have), I wanted to ask you all again to consider contributing an entry for LUMC's gift to our graduating high school seniors. For the last several years, we've given a book containing words of wisdom, thoughts on college life, and even favorite LUMC recipes to our high school grads. Transitioning from high school to college or whatever else lies ahead can be daunting, but we hope that these entries from you can both calm and educate our students. Whether your path after high school was work, military, college, or something else, everyone has valuable wisdom to share about what that transition was like, and we want YOURS! We strongly encourage you to write some uplifting anecdotes and words of wisdom, which we will bind together and give to our graduating seniors.

Your entry should be a minimum of around 300 words, with no maximum if you'd like to write more. Please e-mail your entries to me at kevin.t.dunn@gmail.com, or place them in my folder near the church office. An accompanying photograph of you or your family would be appreciated so it can be placed next to your story. (Any photos of the church or church activities would be great as well! All photos will be scanned and given back to you.) We would like these entries by May 29, so we have time to proofread and edit and get them printed and shipped. Thank you so much—we are hoping that this will be a great tool for our graduating seniors to use in the next step in their lives.

If you're stuck and don't know what to write, consider these questions:

- What do you wish you knew when you were graduating high school that you didn't know then?
- What has God taught you since high school?
- How have you grown closer to Him since high school?
- What does every student need to know about college life?
- How did your faith survive (or get stronger) in college?
- What advice of God's do you wish you had followed at a younger age?
- Do you have a story or series of events from your life that illustrates a Biblical principle?

Thank you so much for participating. This can make a world of difference to our youth!

—Kevin Dunn

*Coordinator of Youth Ministries*



## How Can You \*Not\* Share This?

Last Thursday evening, I was looking around at the crowd at Sr. High Youth Group and realized something slightly mind-blowing. Now, we've been gathering on Thursday evenings for pizza, conversation, and games for the last four years, but somewhere along the way something changed. After the initial crowd started coming and more LUMC teens learned what it was about, they started to invite their friends. And they invited more. And more.

And so I sat there in wonder last week as I counted—one, two, three... four—wow—five...six—I can't believe this—seven... eight! And that's not even counting the couple of others who come frequently but weren't attending that night, or the few non-LUMC kids that have graduated in the last couple years. Almost half of those in attendance last week had no affiliation with LUMC, and wouldn't have been there if they hadn't first been invited by someone else. I was shocked; is there any other area of ministry in the church that has that many visitors? It is truly amazing and humbling, and raises the question: what is it about teenagers that they're so free to invite others? And that those friends will actually attend?

I don't know for sure, but what I've seen from our own youth is that when they really enjoy something, or think something is cool

or worthwhile, they \*can't help\* but invite others. It's a natural outcome from experiencing something wonderful and connecting with God. They've seen something that has changed them, and they want to share that with their friends, and "Hey, you should come! I think you'd like it." rolls right off their tongues.

What changes as we get older? I'm not sure. Perhaps we become more unsure of ourselves or our ability to connect with our peers (though, honestly, is there a period in your life when you were more self-conscious than when you were in high school?), or perhaps it's because we're simply more isolated as adults. But our joy isn't meant to live in isolation; it's meant to be shared. What we share in together on Sunday morning (or Sunday evening, or Wednesday morning, etc.) isn't meant to be exposed to only those who have dared to come through our doors; it's meant to be shared with everyone. My hope is that as members of LUMC we will become a little more like our teenagers, and continue to reach out and actively invite others into our community of faith with the simple, easy, and genuine invitation of "Hey, you should come! I think you'd like it."

—Kevin Dunn

*Coordinator of Youth Ministries*

## Annual Barbecue

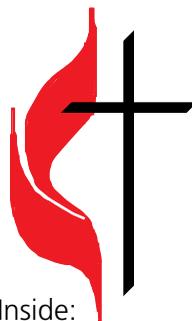
May 28

Watch for signups

## Rummage Sale

May 13 & 14

Many opportunities to help out, May 7-14



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**Lansing United  
Methodist  
Church**

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**Worship 9:00 AM**

**Sunday School 10:30 AM**

**Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM**

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## **Lansing United Methodist Church**

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at [grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu), or use the Sunbeam folder  
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Deadline for the next issue is May 16, 2011.