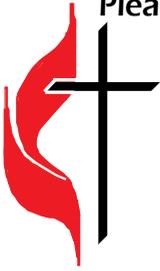


Please join us for Worship at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM Sunday school 10:30 AM

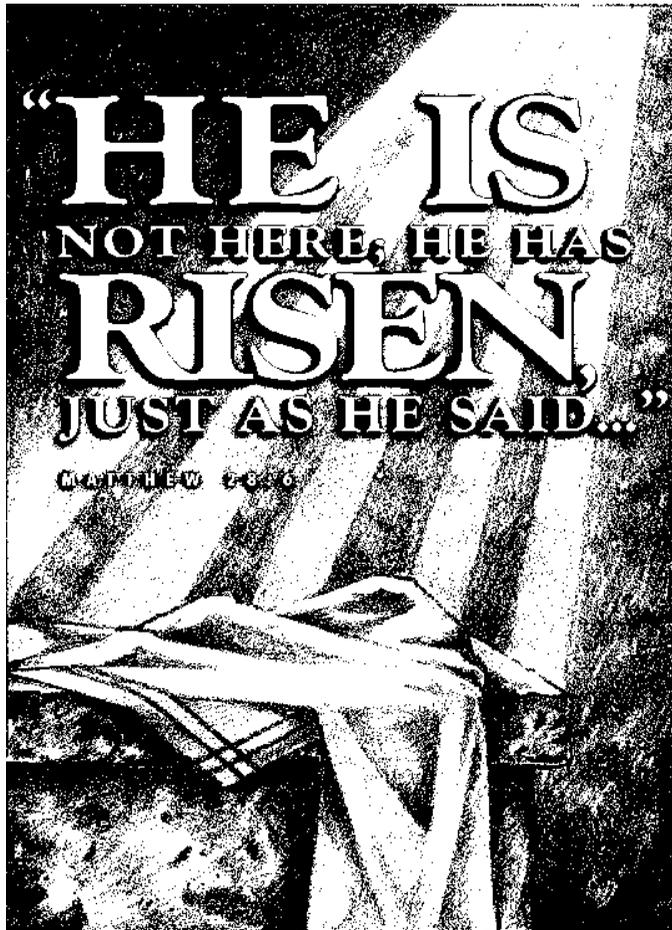


# The Sunbeam

April 2012

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

Pastor: Jane Sautter • Christian Education Coordinator: Adam Bacher



## From the Pastor

### A Nudge from God

As I ponder what to say in this month's article, I am drawn to reflect on our odd weather patterns. We have enjoyed an extremely mild winter and have had an extraordinarily warm spring. As I write this, it is chilly and the daffodils are droopy and many of our flowering trees are brownish from frostbite. We are notoriously vocal about the weather, but when it comes down to the nitty-gritty, we cannot do anything about it! We can complain, but that doesn't change anything. We can be grateful, but that doesn't influence what tomorrow will look like. The bottom line is that we must accept the weather as it comes...good or bad.

During Lent, I encouraged you to look for some time to be alone with God...to spend a few moments each day thinking about how God has blessed and challenged you. The weather is a great metaphor for our lives. There are many things we *think* we can control. There are areas of our lives that we *think* we can program, plan, and predict. But, just like the weather, when we *think* we have it all together, something happens to monkey-wrench the works (in my case, it was the flu...what's yours?).

It's at these times that we are humbled into accepting life on life's terms. We see close up how little we truly control and how much we need God to ground us. We are not able to manipulate the weather, nor are we able to manipulate God. God will continue to be God in spite of our well made plans. God will slow us down when we need to be slowed. God will bring us to our knees when we least expect it. While I don't believe that God manipulates us, I do believe that when

our well thought out plans are thwarted, it is an opportunity for us to be acutely aware of God's presence.

So I guess my message as well as my prayer for you all during Eastertide is that you look for those things beyond your control where God may be nudging you to a deeper understanding of your faith. Look at the everyday "glitches" as God's way of getting your attention. And try to accept the ups and downs of life the same way you accept the ups and downs of the weather. No matter what, just like the sunrise, God will always be present for us. This is the hope of the Easter message. Let us praise the risen Christ!

—*Blessings,*  
Pastor Jane

### Bible Readings for Holy Week

*Monday:* Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11;

Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

*Tuesday:* Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1

Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36

*Wednesday:* Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

*Maundy Thursday:* Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

*Good Friday:* Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

*Holy Saturday:* Job 14:1-14; Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 1 Peter 4:1-8 Matthew 27:57-66

*Easter:* Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18



### Bells and Brunch

Sunday, April 29, 11:30

For those of you who like bell choir music and food, you are in luck. On Sunday, April 29, the bell choir will offer a brunch and serenade you at the same time. We will play every song we know (and some we don't).



All we ask is that you make a donation to the Haiti fund to support our university students who are studying in the Dominican Republic (after being displaced by the earthquake).

Our plan is to keep playing our repertoire during the entire brunch. This includes both pop songs and sacred songs, and some things that aren't songs at all. That means if you hear a song you like, it will probably come around again after awhile.

*Special offer:* If you'd like to enjoy your brunch in splendid silence and have the bells not play, make an extra big donation, and the bells will stop! (At least, for a while).

So, plan to stop by, enjoy a sticky bun, listen to some music, and make a donation to our Haitian students.—*gw*



### Holy Week Services

#### Palm Sunday

The choir will present the cantata, "Hear Us, Holy Jesus," by Douglas Wagner, with scripture readings and meditations narrated by Sue Frahm and Bob Nagel.

#### Lord, Is It I?

The play by Ernest K. Emurian will be presented this year on Tuesday, April 3, and Maundy Thursday, April 5, at 7:30 PM. Join Jesus and the apostles in the upper room for a new perspective on the last supper.

#### Good Friday

Services will be at 7:00 PM

#### Easter Services

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM

Worship services 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The Ithaca College Trombone Troupe will join us for worship again this Easter at both services.

*Hallelujah!* Join the choir for an open reading of the Hallelujah chorus at the close of the Easter service. Just come to the front of the church at the end of the service and join in the singing!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:00 Cantata: Hear Us, Holy Jesus K.A.N. Bake Sale for Haiti 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Egg Decorating 1:00 K.A.N. 4:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 LUMC Men's Group 7:00	<b>2</b> Disciple Bible Study 12:30  "Lord, Is It I?" Rehearsal 6:45	<b>3</b>  "Lord, Is It I?" 7:30	<b>4</b> Prayer Service 9:00  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>5</b> Maundy Thursday  Senior High 7:00 "Lord, Is It I?" 7:30	<b>6</b> Good Friday  Church Office Closed  Worship 7:00	<b>7</b> Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
<b>8</b> <b>EASTER</b> <b>HE IS RISEN!</b> Sunrise Service 7:00 Worship 9:00 and 11:00 Ithaca College Trombone Troupe  LUMC Men's Group 7:00	<b>9</b> Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00 Disciple Bible Study 12:30  Staff Parish 7:00 Trustees 7:00	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Prayer Service 9:00  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>12</b>  Senior High 7:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00 Southern Tier Flood Relief Team 8:00
<b>15</b> <b>CAMPERSHIP SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ministries 11:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive  Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00	<b>16</b> Disciple Bible Study 12:30  Haiti 7:00	<b>17</b> " Membership 7:00 Worship Committee 7:30  <b>SUNBEAM DEADLINE</b> 12:00 Midnight	<b>18</b> Prayer Service 9:00  Choir 7:00	<b>19</b>  Senior High 7:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00
<b>22</b> <b>NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 VBS Planning 12:45  Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 LUMC Men's Group 7:00	<b>23</b> Disciple Bible Study 12:30  Food Pantry 3:00	<b>24</b>  Youth Ministry Team 7:00 Finance 7:00	<b>25</b> Prayer Service 9:00  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>26</b>  Senior High 7:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00  Southern Tier Flood Relief Team 8:00
<b>29</b> Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Bells and Brunch 11:30  Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 LUMC Men's Group 7:00	<b>30</b> Disciple Bible Study 12:30		Note: This calendar is current as of March 29. 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.	<i>April 2012</i>		<b>Lansing United Methodist Church</b>

## Ukrainian Egg Decorating Event

Palm Sunday, April 1, 1:00

Open to all adults and senior high youth.

Come learn from Kathy Lee the art of Ukrainian egg decorating. All you need to bring is a tapered candle (dinner candle) in a holder and a willingness to try a new art form. (A donation of one dollar per egg is appreciated, but not necessary, to go towards supplies.) Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 on Palm Sunday to learn this craft.



## Food Pantry Challenge Continues in April

For those of us who like to procrastinate, there's a person who understands. He is Alan Shawn Feinstein. Each year his foundation issues a million-dollar challenge to food pantries across the nation. The foundation will send part of that million dollars to every food pantry according to how much money and food is donated. The challenge started in March, but Alan understands that it takes while for many of us to get cranked up, so the challenge continues in April. So, procrastinators of Lansing, here's your chance to get in and help our neighbors—and get a few dollars extra for the food pantry.

## The Choice to Forgive

*You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.—Matthew 5:43-44*

Forgiveness is a choice. We can either choose to forgive those who have injured us, or not. When we obey God by offering forgiveness to His children, we are blessed. But when we allow bitterness and resentment to poison our hearts, we are tortured by our own shortsightedness.

Do you harbor resentment against anyone? If so, you are faced with an important decision: whether or not to forgive the person who has hurt you. God's instructions are clear: He commands you to forgive. And the time to forgive is now because tomorrow may be too late...for you.

In the heart of God is the desire to give and to forgive.

*Your prayer: Dear Lord, today I will choose to forgive those who have hurt me. I will empty my heart of bitterness, and I will obey Your Word by offering love and mercy to others, just as You have offered mercy and love to me.*

*Amen*

—BT

*on behalf of LUMC men's group*

## Save the Date

**Saturday, May 5 at 6:00 PM**  
**"Card Night" sponsored by the LUMC Men's Group**

## Southern Tier Work Team Update

Slowly but surely a small group from LUMC has been putting Becky Bovier's house back together. We have installed the kitchen cupboards, reinstalled the sink, and put down a subfloor.

With any luck, we'll have the kitchen ready for Carpet Warehouse to put down the floor, and then Becky can move in her new appliances. The rest of the house still needs floor work, and the house needs paint everywhere.

Finances have slowed us down a bit, and it would be marvelous if people would be willing to provide some funding. For instance we chose to pay for the flooring to make sure to get it right. Although Marcia Lynch drove a hard bargain and got a discount, it's still a \$600 item.

Beyond that, more workers are welcome. We generally gather at the church at 8:00 on alternate Saturdays, but things would move faster if we had two teams to send. See



Becky's kitchen as we left it in mid-March.

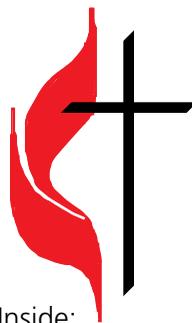
Marcia, Glenn Withiam, or Bill Thomas for more info and scheduling. Ideally, we'd like to get Becky up and running and then move on to another house or other building.

The flood damage in the Southern Tier was equivalent to that of Katrina in New Orleans with one exception. Happily there was no loss of life. Unhappily, many people did not have adequate insurance and many are at the end of their rope after doing all that they can. We can help.—gw

## Prayer Concerns

Winifred Bidlespacher  
Christopher Bordoni  
Bill and Joy Cruikshank  
Fran Martin  
Diane Poole

Mourning family of Manol Dhimitri  
Mourning family of Donna Lee Keilbach



# The Sunbeam

April 2012

**Lansing United  
Methodist  
Church**

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**Easter Worship 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School 10:30 AM**

**Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM**

**(Except Easter)**

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## **Lansing United Methodist Church**

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,  
editor, at [grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu), or use the  
Sunbeam folder near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is

April 17, 2012, just like the IRS.