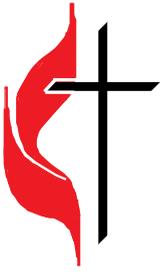


Please join us for Worship at 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:30 AM



# The Sunbeam

May 2012

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

Pastor: Jane Sautter • Christian Education Coordinator: Adam Bacher



**Pentecost**

**May 27**

## From the Pastor

### Maintaining Focus

Easter has passed, and just like the aftermath of Christmas, we seem to want to pack Jesus up and put him on a shelf somewhere until the next “high holy season” rolls around. I’ve been struggling with that notion for the past couple of weeks and wonder what would happen to the world if we put our Christian faith first and foremost. I found a poem (now there’s a surprise!!) that I shared at Woodsedge and at our Wednesday morning prayer group. The more I ponder it, the more I think it needs to be shared with a wider audience.

#### **It’s Still About Jesus, by Ann Weems**

No matter how we dilute the word of God, it’s about Jesus.

No matter how we cover the dangerous Truth of the gospel, it’s about Jesus.

No matter how we pretty up the story, it’s about Jesus.

No matter how many times we go to our national assemblies and vote, it’s still about Jesus.

No matter how many times we distract ourselves with meetings and church work and the good ole Stewardship Campaign, it’s still about Jesus,

Jesus, the Lamb of God,  
Jesus, the Light of the world,  
Jesus, the Bread of Life,  
Jesus, the Prince of Peace,  
Jesus, the One chose to bring good news to the poor,

Jesus, the one sent to proclaim liberty to the captives and to set free the oppressed.

Jesus is my shepherd  
I shall not  
I shall not want.

Even now, having read the words again, I find myself tearful at the thought of Jesus... who truly is the center of my being. It’s not about fund raising and meetings. It’s not about appearances or fabulous music. It’s not about perfect buildings or full pews. It’s about Jesus. If we can focus on Him... honestly and completely focus on Him... everything else will take care of itself. If we can let go of our compulsion to be in control and allow Jesus to rule our hearts...we will not want...ever. May it be so, not just during Eastertide, but forever and always.

*Blessings, Pastor Jane*

### Bible Readings for May

*May 6, Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

*May 13, Sixth Sunday of Easter:*

Acts 10:44-48

Psalms 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

*May 20, Last Sunday of Easter:*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalms 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

*May 27, Pentecost:*

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

## Follow me

by Madison Jones

Follow me through thick and thin.

Follow me day out day in.

Up and leave right here and now,

Leave your nets at the bow.

You will be rejected,

And your beliefs dissected.

But still I ask come follow me

Follow me through thick and thin.

Follow me day out day in.

No time no time to say goodbye.

No time no time to ponder why.

Look deep inside yourself and know it's right

To help people see the light.

Still I ask come follow me.

Follow me through thick and thin.

Follow me day out day in.

## Adult Sunday School Rolls On

God won't go away this summer and neither will the Adult Sunday School Class. Please join us after church to share prayer, God's Word, review sermons, and discuss our part in God's plan. Though the children's classes are completed June 3, we will meet June 10. Classes will continue meeting regularly on into the fall, becoming a year-round group. This includes gatherings in July after the park services. Each person's presence is a gift. Bring yours. Invite a neighbor, friend, co-worker, or others.

## Church World Service Kits

It's always a good time to bring in supplies for the Church World Service Kits. The baby kits are particularly helpful in Haiti and now in the Southern Tier, as well as other locations that have suffered disasters. Remember, the only rule is, no substitutions.

### 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)

Note that all items should be new.

Shipping is a real expense these days, so donations of \$2 per kit for shipping would be most helpful.

## Flower Sale for Campership Fund

### Same Sale, New Location, May 11 and 12

For several years, Rick and Charla Hayes have raised money for the LUMC campership fund by selling Mother's Day flower baskets from a tent out on "the point," where Brickyard meets Ridge Road. The weather has not always cooperated, though, and this year, the sale is moving to the Lansing Community Center. So stop by on Mother's Day weekend and purchase a flower basket. Thanks to Rick and Charla for this ministry.

### Register for Camp!

The next step is to use this money to send children to go to camp. LUMC's policy is to make sure that all children can go to camp, and money does not stand in the way. Register for camp and then contact the church office or camping agent Karyn Yahn to request a campership for some or all of the cost of camp. Once again, we do not want money to stand in the way of having any child go to camp. The best possible news would be that we spend all the money that Rick and Charla raise and we have to take up a special collection to send even more children to camp. Note that children do not have to be a member of LUMC or any church at all to go to camp with an LUMC campership. We want to send you to camp. So, campers, sign up and also invite a friend to camp. The popular camps fill up fast, but there are many camps both at Casowasco and at Aldersgate. Try something different and it will be fun.

## Rummage Sale

### May 11-12

Time to clear out the closet and volunteer to help with the LUMC spring rummage sale.

Thanks to Shelly Stark and Lee Christopher for chairing this year's sale and also to Nancy Myers and Jan Reeves for "supervising" Cafe Rummage.

We need many hands throughout the week to help sort and price items. Donations are most welcome for food for the workers. See the signup sheet and list of needed things in the Narthex.

LUMC's rummage sale is the second-largest recycling project in Tompkins County, since we were edged out by the county's recycling program. The sale provides people a chance to find "new" items for their wardrobe, it offers a great chance for fellowship and laughs, and, yes, it raises money for the church's mission.

Special star in heaven for those who come on Saturday, a bit after noon, to help clean up. So far, we've always been able to hold church the next day, so let's keep that streak alive!

## Prayer Concerns

Mourning family of Derek Kulis, friend of Mary Searles

Winifred Bidlespacher, Gary's mother  
Bob Cockram  
Bill and Joy Cruikshank  
Dave Hardie

## Change the World Weekend, May 19-20

Change the World 2012 seeks to build community locally and fight malaria globally, and some regions are banding together for conference-wide events. The Louisiana Annual Conference is supporting the anti-malaria effort through 5k runs—all benefitting **Imagine No Malaria**. This effort promotes healthy church members and saves lives of countless individuals suffering from malaria—which kills one child every 45 seconds. The Call to Action report reminds us that vital congregations have "disciples engaged in mission." Change the World is an opportunity to connect your mission-minded disciples with the mission of the whole denomination. 2,000+ events were registered worldwide in 2011! Projects range from developing and enhancing community gardens to fighting human trafficking. Think now about what LUMC can do to Change the World! Follow the Twitter hashtags #CTW2012 and #rethinkchurch to see what others are doing.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**Lansing  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

*May  
2012*

1

2 Prayer Service 9:00  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

3  
  
Senior High 7:00  
Adult Study Group 7:00

4

5 Men's Breakfast at Linda's in  
North Lansing 7:00  
  
Prayer Shawl Ministry/  
Caregivers 10:00  
  
Card Night 6:00

6  
  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
  
K.A.N. 4:00

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

8  
  
RUMMAGE SETUP AND DROPOFF  
NO DONATIONS AFTER TUESDAY, PLEASE

9  
  
RUMMAGE SETUP

10  
  
Adult Study Group 7:00  
Senior High 7:00

11  
  
RUMMAGE SALE 8:00 AM  
\$1 BAG SALE ON SATURDAY  
  
FLOWER BASKET SALE  
AT COMMUNITY CENTER 8:00-6:00

12  
  
Mens' Breakfast  
7:00c  
  
RUMMAGE SALE CLEANUP  
~1:00

13  
  
MOTHERS DAY  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
  
LUMC Men's Group 7:00

14 Prayer Service  
at Woodsedge 11:00  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30  
  
Trustees 7:00

15  
"  
Membership 7:00  
Worship Committee 7:30  
  
SUNBEAM DEADLINE  
12:00 Midnight

16 Prayer Service 9:00  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

17  
  
Adult Study Group 7:00  
Senior High 7:00

18

19 Mens' Breakfast 7:00  
CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND  
  
Dedication of Habitat for  
Humanity Home, Sperry  
Lane  
4:00

20  
  
HERITAGE SUNDAY  
CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
  
Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive  
  
LUMC Men's Group 7:00

21  
  
Disciple Bible Study 12:30  
  
Food Pantry 3:00  
  
Haiti 7:00

22  
  
Youth Ministry Team 7:00

23 Prayer Service 9:00  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

24  
  
Adult Study Group 7:00  
Senior High 7:00

25

26 Mens' Breakfast 7:00  
  
ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE

27  
  
Worship 9:00  
  
  
LUMC Men's Group 7:00

28  
  
MEMORIAL DAY  
  
Church Office Closed

29

30 Prayer Service 9:00  
  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Choir 7:00

31  
  
Senior High 7:00  
Adult Study Group 7:00

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Note: This calendar is current  
as of April 30. For updates  
to all LUMC events, visit  
lansingunited.org, and check  
the bulletin when you're in  
church on Sunday.

## Family Reunion

In March 2012, Mike and Dianne Walters's daughter, Robin, her husband, Jay, their five children, and Dianne, made a pilgrimage to Banique, Haiti, where Robin and Jay's two youngest children, Miguel and Julise, had been born and lived the earlier years of their lives. In 2004, while working on a hillside erosion project in Banique, the Walterses met a small 4-year old boy, named Miguel, whose mother had died in childbirth in the final night of their teams' stay in Haiti. Miguel and his sister, Julise, would eventually become Mike and Dianne's grandchildren. The return to Banique with these two Haitian children was the fulfillment of a promise made to their biological father and grandmother, and a 'family reunion' like none either family had ever experienced. These are the reflections of this trip as seen through the eyes of Robin, the children's mother, and Laura, one of their biological children and sister to Miguel and Julise.

### Robin:

We had promised Miguel and Julise that we would take them back to Haiti right from the beginning. The beginning for us was January 2005, when my mom, Dianne Walter, called to let us know that she had met her grandson Miguel in Haiti, and he needed parents. After we said yes, his sister Julise was added to the deal, and the long two-year adoption process was underway. Dianne also promised their Haitian family that we would bring them back to visit. Six years after their arrival here in the U.S., after an earthquake and a cholera outbreak, we were ready to make the trip.

As we landed in Port-au-Prince, we had no idea what to expect when we met the family. We knew it was strange for us, strange for Miguel and Julise, and it had to be strange for the family as well. When Miguel and Julise's father, Memeis, and brother, Matthew, came on our first day in the village, we all hugged each other in a confused mess and then the translator took a moment to explain to Memeis who each of us was. When he was introduced to Jay,

he grabbed his hand and hugged him and said, "You are my brother." In that moment, any anxiety we had about our meeting disappeared.

Later, we were able to spend time with the entire family: grandma, father, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Even as we struggled to speak through the awkwardness of a translator, the real communication of our mutual love for Miguel and Julise and our caring for each other happened in the small moments. Memeis brought coconuts to chop and share with us all. Julise and her Regan sisters gave necklaces they had made to her Haitian grandma and sisters. Miguel served everyone cups of water. Michael recorded short videos of the kids and played them back, to their delight. Julise gave grandma a shoulder rub. Miguel shared his toy animals and cars with his nephew and nieces. Everyone took a turn holding the beautiful baby. All of these things, and countless other moments created connections between us that make us a family.

continued next page



## Haiti Family Reunion (continued)

A trip to Haiti was planned from the moment we decided to adopt two children from there, but we could never have planned for this trip's experiences and the blessings that God showered on all of us throughout this journey. Although we came together as a group of people with almost nothing in common, we left this encounter as a family. Hopefully, it won't be another six years before our next family reunion.

### Laura:

We are corralled around the table, blessing God for the food. Lunch today will be Spam and rice, and it is one of our better meals. Donna finishes the prayer and I make my way to the green plastic plates. I heap up a scoop of rice onto my plate and stab a few pieces of Spam. I grab a pack of crackers and a slice of Laughing Cow cheese and drag a chair to the corner of the room where I know the somber eyes of the children outside cannot watch me eat. I pick up a piece of Spam with my fork and shove it into my mouth. The taste of salt is overpowering and I gag on the hunk of meat. But the fact that I was in Haiti with a plate of food on my lap puts me in no position to complain. The Spam is not so bad mixed in with rice, and I finish my meal quickly. I can hear the gate hinges screech every so often, and I know the neighboring kids, kids that probably didn't just have lunch, are pouring in. I very self-consciously stand up to get seconds, but I only end up with another lump of cheese on my plate. I can't bring myself to eat more after seeing the hordes of kids gathering outside. I sit and listen to the garble of the people outside but I am in no mood to

talk. I chew my cheese slowly and take my plate to the makeshift kitchen in the back. I add a few drops of bleach to the pink tub filled with water and clean my plate and cup. Then I take the scrap bowl up the hill to the pigs.

I make my way back to the minuscule "yard" between the houses now teeming with people. The sun is beating down and I am having trouble breathing in the humid air. I throw my hair up into a bun and trudge across the yard, past the house where I just ate and into the clay, two-room house where I sleep. I kick off my flipflops and hear Donna asking Jean Claude, our translator, to tell the kids it's time to leave. The burden of having my every move watched by complete strangers is lifted as children begin to leave the area, and I can relax on the cold floor of the house. I stare at my mud-caked feet and ponder to myself how I managed to get them so dirty. I know I have to wash them, so I slouch to the bathroom at the end of the house. The bathroom is four concrete walls with no roof. A toilet which cannot be flushed sits to one side, and buckets of water are perched directly on the opposite side of the bathroom. I go to them and find the plastic cup floating on its side in a tub, signifying that this bucket is clean water. I fill the cup and find an empty bucket where the dirty, used water will go. I perform this slow task of filling the small cup with water and pouring it over my dirty feet. It is going too slowly for my liking so I grab a rag and scrub my feet with it. Although my feet are soon relatively clean I still have to take care of the dirty rag and begin to fill a smaller tub with a little bit of clean water. I pour a cup-

concluded next page

### Haiti Family Reunion (concluded)

ful of bleach in the water and only just dip the washcloth when I hear my father yell something which will forever be ringing in my ears.

“Miguel! He’s here. Your father is here.” At this I whip around, throwing the rag to who knows where. All the energy in my body, which had drained away since lunch, suddenly rushed back to my legs and I had to move them. As I ran from the bathroom I nearly knocked over a bucket of precious clean water, and I had to remind myself to stay calm. I crashed out of the house and tripped down the few steps leading off the porch. I was so eager to get to this person, Miguel and Julie’s father, that I had no idea what I would do when I was with them. I was with them all too soon. I saw that I was the first one to reach him besides my dad. Perhaps everyone else was too shocked to act as quickly as I did. I ran up to the steps of the porch of the other house and just stood there. I immediately recognized Memeis from pictures, but I could see someone else standing with them who I did not know. Memeis stepped toward me and gave me a warm hug and a light kiss on the cheek. The person next to him does the same.

Finally everyone else emerges from the house and hugs and kisses are passed around. We all gather outside in a large, awkward circle as people are introduced. Thanks to Jean Claude we find that the other man with Memeis is Matthew, Miguel and Julie’s brother. Our time together is short, but Memeis and Matthew leave with promises to come back soon.

They do come back and eventually we are able to have the whole family gathered at one time. The three older sisters, Manishka, Tamara, and Marlene, the two older brothers, Matthew and Emanus, and then of course Memeis, his new wife, and the grandmother. Although the immediate shock is definitely there, the awkwardness between us soon melts and we form together as a family. Because that’s what we are.

I remember on the way home from Haiti my brother said this: “There are definitely not enough adoption words.” He’s too right. I totally see those people we met in Haiti as my family, but wouldn’t anyone? They are my adopted siblings’ siblings so wouldn’t that make them my siblings too? Of course it would, but there will always be those people who cannot understand a concept such as that. The first few weeks upon being back home, I struggled to come up with words to explain what these people were to me. I know what I thought they were and now I can see that I was right. The word I decided on was family. They are my brothers and sisters, but not because I am close to them and I feel like we could be, at heart. They are my brothers and sisters just because they are. They are my family just because they are, and nothing could change my mind about that.

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### Annual Chicken Barbecue

May 26

Watch for information and signups

### God’s Guidance and Your Path

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.—*Proverbs 3: 5-6*

**P**roverbs 3: 5-6 makes this promise: if you acknowledge God’s sovereignty over every aspect of your life, He will guide your path. And, as you prayerfully consider the path that God intends for you to take, here are things you should do: you should study His Word and be ever-watchful for His signs. You should associate with fellow believers who will encourage your spiritual growth. You should listen carefully to that inner voice that speaks to you in the quiet moments of our daily devotionals. And you should be patient. Your Heavenly father may not always reveal himself as quickly as you would like, but rest assured that God intends to use you in wonderful, unexpected ways. Your challenge is to watch, to listen, to learn...and to follow.

Your prayer: Dear Lord, let my plans and hopes be pleasing to you. Let me live according to Your commandments. Direct my path far from the temptations and distractions of this world. And, let me discover Your will and follow it, Father, this day and always. Amen— *Bill Thomas, on behalf of the LUMC Men’s Group*

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### Save the Date

**Saturday, May 5 at 6:00 PM**  
**“Card Night” sponsored by the LUMC Men’s Group. Pinochle and euchre in church! Will it still be standing the next day? Bring a snack to share and find out!**

### Thanks for your support on the Hymnathon

**T**he day I played over 600 hymns was a great day. Yes, I was tired at the end, but with your support things went well and we raised over \$3000 for the Haiti scholarship fund. Thanks to all who donated and special thanks to those who came to sing along. We discovered some good hymns that we have never sung, and a few that we pretty much don’t want to try again.—*Sharon Powell*

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### Fireplace Powers Down for May

**W**ith the Rummage Sale and other activities at church, the Fireplace Praise service is on hiatus for the month of May.

Join us at 6:00 on June 3 for a campfire picnic and to say thank you and farewell to faithful drummer Martin Keefe, who is headed for college in New Mexico.

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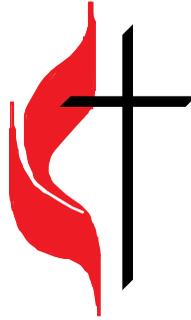
### Casowasco Offers Mothers Day Brunch

**May 13, 10:30 or 1 :30**

Here’s a nice chance to see Camp Casowasco and enjoy brunch on the shores of Owasco Lake.

Make a reservation and enjoy:

315-364-8756 (a free call from Lansing’s 533 exchange, if you’re using the landline)  
registrar@casowasco.org



# The Sunbeam

May 2012

**Lansing United  
Methodist  
Church**

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## **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](mailto:lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com)

Office manager: Laurie Moskow

[www.lansingunited.org](http://www.lansingunited.org)

**The Sunbeam** is published monthly by  
Lansing United Methodist Church.

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  
May 15, 2012, just like the IRS.