



Please join us for Worship at 9:30

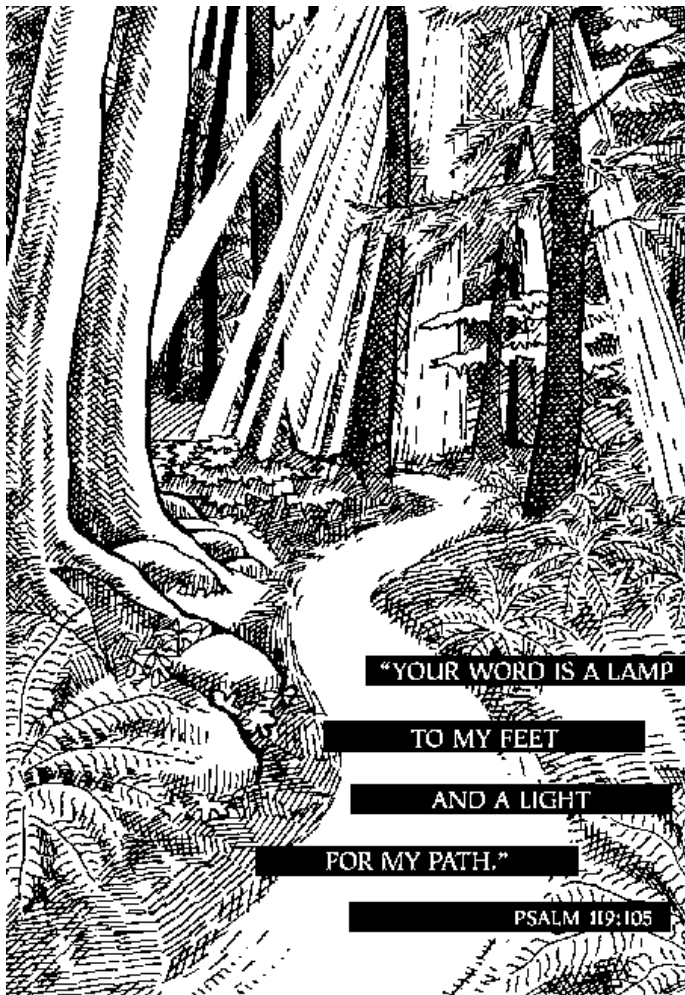
The Sunbeam

August 2012

Lansing United Methodist Church
lansingunited.org

Pastor: Jane Sautter

Christian Education Coordinator: Adam Bacher • Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



"YOUR WORD IS A LAMP

TO MY FEET

AND A LIGHT

FOR MY PATH."

PSALM 119:105

Not Just Another Pretty Place

The Kingdom of God is not what we think it is. We think we can find it in the pleasant stories of the Bible, like in the birth of a baby, but it is sometimes in the ugly discussions in the Bible and in the church that we actually experience the Kingdom. One of the best books I have read about church in recent years makes this point even in its title: *Dirty Words: The Vulgar, Offensive Language of the Kingdom of God*, by Jim Walker (2008, Discipleship Resources). Walker, an ordained United Methodist elder, is pastor of Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community in Pittsburgh. Walker rejects the antiseptic church where the overriding desire is to censor unpleasantness. He would rather follow Jesus in a way that gets his hands dirty. That is where he finds the Kingdom.

In his book, he recounts hearing a “church expert” say that the three things a church needs in the 21st century are multi-media capability, communicative signs, and an excellent website. “I thought, ‘What does this have to do with the kingdom of God? Why should the growth of the kingdom of God depend websites and signs? Why should it depend upon anything other than Jesus?’” Walker suggests that people think of the church as a store. “The church is a place to find goods and services. Some look like the old hardware store on Main Street, some look like the area convenience store, and some look like Wal-Mart. No matter what form it takes, we still consider church a store where the pastors are the employees and the

parishioners are the customers. And as we’ve been taught, the customer is always right.”

Walker suggests that the church of the future must have the *opposite* characteristics of a store. “The future church looks more like a bridge than a store. The buildings, the money, and the leadership are all still part of it, but they are peripheral. Church isn’t a destination; it’s a movement, a pathway, a bridge. Think about the difference between a store and a bridge for a moment.”

“The church’s job is to connect people with God by living Christ’s life. Yet we don’t think of it as a bridge, but as a place of business. The church is meant to be walked on by people so that they can connect to Jesus Christ.”

We modern day Christians often pride ourselves for being a “looking good” church. We like having a public persona of looking good and keeping anything unpleasant at bay. But that may not be the way to the Kingdom. Sometimes the path is through the muck and destruction. After my house fire, I was walking through the ashes and the mess when suddenly there in the middle of it were daffodils and violets pushing up through the muck. Out of all that destruction, something was made beautiful. That is where we find God, in the ordinary, in doing dishes, in baking cookies, and sometimes in the dirt—in the ugly discussions that we as a church have to have in order to find our way to God.

Continued at right

Pastor’s message (concluded)

We need to remember that the Kingdom is not something that happens in a perfect-looking church. It happens in our hearts. It happens because of Jesus...it is what makes the difference for us as Christians. The Kingdom doesn’t necessarily happen because we gather on Sunday mornings. It happens in a soup kitchen, in a hospital, or under a bridge where a homeless person lives. It happens in the helping hand, the unexpected visit, the phone call, the kind word spoken. It happens in prayer, in laughter, in tears. The Kingdom is found in the everyday-ness of our lives. May we seek the Kingdom in the ordinary, in the simple ...and in the imperfect.

May God bless your seeking ...
Pastor Jane

Prayer Concerns

Judy Bossard, Beth Bacorn’s sister-in-law
Winifred Bidlespacher, Gary’s mother
Fran Sampson
Lisa Topoleski, Judy Sweazey’s daughter

Mourning families of
Ron Cotanch
Dave Hardie
Diane Poole
Ryan Roberts

Your Talents Are Needed for Summer Music

After we leave church in the park, we are in the sanctuary for the remainder of the summer and we have opportunities for solo, small group, or pick-up choir. Please email Diane Withiam to schedule (diane.withiam@gmail.com) and contact Sharon Powell if you need accompaniment. If you’d like to do a solo, Diane and Sharon can help you pick something out if you’re not sure of what you want to do.

Summer Music Schedule

8/5—Pick-up choir with Diane. Arrive by 9:00 AM to learn an anthem to present in the 9:30 service that morning. All ages welcome.

Note—meet after the 8/5 service with Sharon if you would like to participate in music for 8/12.

8/12—Music led by Sharon in “Fireplace” style. Rehearse after the service on 8/5.


8/19—Pick-up choir with Diane. Arrive by 9:00 to learn an anthem to present in the 9:30 service that morning. All ages welcome.
Offertory by Norma Withiam.

8/26—Seeking talents, voice and instrument, solo and ensemble, young and old, for musical offering, offertory, or other musical portions of the service.

9/2—Seeking talents, voice and instrument, solo and ensemble, young and old, for musical offering, offertory, or other musical portions of the service.

9/5—First choir rehearsal, 7–8:30 PM

9/9—Choir returns to 9:00 AM worship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Lansing United Methodist Church</p>	<i>August 2012</i>		<p>1 Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>Church Picnic 6:00 Bill and Judy Hinderliter Drake Road</p>	2	<p>3 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>4 Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>5 Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30</p>	<p>6 Staff Parish 7:00</p>	7	<p>8 Prayer Service 9:00</p>	<p>9 Senior Youth 7:00</p>	<p>10 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Night at the Races 7:30 Thunder Mountain Speedway</p>	<p>11 Men's Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>Lansing Harbor Fest Myers Park</p>
<p>12 Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Ice Cream Social at Lake Breeze 6:00</p>	<p>13 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00</p> <p>Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00</p> <p>Trustees 7:00</p>	<p>14 Church Picnic 6:00 at LUMC</p>	<p>15 Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight</p>	16	<p>17 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>18 Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>19 Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive</p>	<p>20 Haiti Committee 7:00</p>	<p>21 Membership 7:00 Worship Committee 7:30</p>	<p>22 Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>Women's Bible Study Sum- mer Luncheon at Sharey Travis's, Milliken Road 11:30</p>	<p>23 Senior Youth 7:00</p>	<p>24 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25 Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>26 Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Ice Cream Social at Toad's 6:00</p>	<p>27 Food Pantry 3:00</p>	28	<p>29 Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>Church Picnic 6:00</p>	30	<p>31 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>Note: This calendar is current as of July 23. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.</p>

Women's Bible Study Summer Picnic



Where: Sharey Travis's lake cottage (40 Milliken Station Road Ext.)

When: Wednesday, August 22 at 11:30 AM

Bring: A dish-to-pass—beverage and table service provided

Regrets: Call Jan Nagel at 533-4086 if unable to attend.

Car pooling: Meet at the church at 11:00 AM and leave for Sharey's at 11:15 AM

Directions from the church: Head north on 34B. Turn left at the AES sign (Cayuga Drive). After about a half mile, turn left onto Milliken Station Road (away from the power plant). At the railroad tracks, bear left. After a small concrete bridge, turn right. Follow the road around to the red cottage on the right.

Church World Service Kits

Collection of items for the Church World Service Kits continues throughout the year, but now is the time to pick up school kit supplies. Sad to say, the back-to-school sale items are in the stores. Or maybe that's good news? We have all of August to decide! Meantime, think about picking up some of these supplies.

Ice Cream Socials

Join your fellow ice cream lovers at about 6:00 at these shops.

August 12: Lake Breeze (2035 East Shore Drive, Route 34, Lansing)

August 26: Toad's (18 Railroad Street, Route 38, Freeville)

Summer Picnics

Wednesday, August 1: *Hosted by Bill and Judy Hinderliter*

Tuesday, August 14: At LUMC

Wednesday, August 29: *Host still needed*

Gather around 6:00 with the idea of eating about 6:30 or so. Bring your table service, a dish to share, chairs, and something to toss on the grill if you want. Hosts provide beverages and a hot grill. Rain or shine!

School Kits

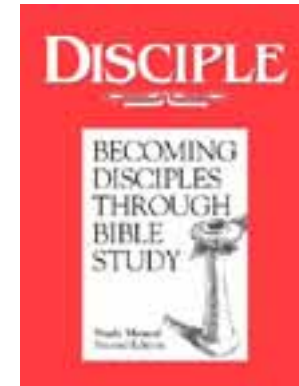
- One pair of blunt scissors
- Three spiral or tape-bound 70-count pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" (or 8" X 10 1/2"), containing 200-210 sheets of paper. No loose-leaf, filler paper, please.
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers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

New Disciple Bible Study Opportunity Beginning in the Fall

When: September 2012 - June 2013 (34 weeks)

Day/Time: To be decided based on participants' availability

Place: Adult Sunday School Classroom



We'd like to invite you to begin a Disciple journey, through a study called "Becoming Disciples through Bible Study." This 34-week class will take us through the biblical stories of Creation to the New Jerusalem. "Becoming Disciples through Bible Study" gives equal time to both the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation of God. Session topics, theme words, theme verses, and major persons, events, and topics will all help you set the sequence of the biblical story in your mind. The principal Scripture for each session follows the chronological movement of the biblical story.

LUMC has sponsored several Disciple Bible Study groups over the years, and participants will tell you about both the commitment and learning that results. Disciple provides in-depth and powerful insight into God's beautiful handbook. Designed for daily study, Disciple provides a disciplined approach for including the Bible into our daily lives, enriching us beyond belief. During the class, you and your small group will discuss each week's lesson, with a short video presen-

tation by Biblical scholars. Time is devoted to delving into the passages studied for the week, as well as considering how these passages speak to our own practice of discipleship. This study is the foundation for a variety of studies in the Disciple series.

There are many stories about how Disciple has transformed the lives of people and their congregations. We, as the body of Christ, are tremendously blessed when the members of a congregation are shaped by a shared knowledge and understanding of the whole biblical story and their connection to THE Story.

Please consider joining us on this voyage of discovery! Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board, or contact Laurie in the church office (533-4070 or lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com).

Night at the Races
August 10
7:30 PM

LUMC Men's Group is organizing a family outing to Thunder Mountain Speedway in Center Lisle, courtesy of Dick and Shelly Stark. Contact John Aasen for free tix and info.



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August 2012

**Lansing United
Methodist
Church**

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Remember, summer worship service
time is 9:30 AM for all of August and
September 2.

We go back to 9:00 on September 9.

Lansing United Methodist Church

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in South Lansing.

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The Sunbeam is published monthly by
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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.

Deadline for the next issue is August 15, 2012.