

# *The + Sunbeam*

December 2013

Lansing United Methodist Church

**Worship 9:00 AM, SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Pastor: Jane Sautter**

**Christian Education Coordinator: Adam Bacher**

**Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner**

## **Advent 2013**

**Waiting for the light of the world...**

## Reflections on Advent

I'm tired. Really, really tired. Bone tired. Is this the way to start the season? It scares me to recognize that I'm starting out tired...how will I feel later in the month? Will I be able to keep up? Will I get everything done?

What if I can't? What if I'm just too overwhelmed....WHOA!!!! Is this what the coming of the Christ-child is all about?

Let us just *stop* all the frenzy and take time to rest in the arms of God, trusting God to take care of the details.

We forget so quickly that the season of Advent is not about shopping and baking, but about reflecting and seeking.

We get so caught up in the culture that we think we are too busy to take time for ourselves and God to commune. I suggest that you (and I) make a daily appointment with God during Advent. Take some special time to listen to the rhythm of your heart and life in concert with God.

When I have been conscientious enough to take time to be with God, I have found that the things that truly exhaust me fall away. I find myself energized. I find myself revitalized. I find myself renewed. So, perhaps this little article is not written so much for you as it is for me! Take cues from your own spirits...God is waiting to tell you what to do.

As for me...well, I just took some time to read a poem, one that I will share with you, and then I intend to journal on its implications for my life in the next few weeks. I have taken the liberty of making this poem more inclusive of us all...

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming,  
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.

And in this privileged place  
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we  
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.

Look upon your church  
in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue  
and this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome.

Give us the grace and the impatience  
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,  
to the edges of our fingertips.

Come in your power  
and come in your weakness  
and make all things new.—Walter Brueggemann

*Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*

—Wishing you a hopefilled Advent and a blessed Christmas, Pastor Jane

## Greening the Church

All that and breakfast too!

You are cordially invited to the Greening Breakfast, Saturday, December 7, at 9:00 AM. Bring a dish to pass! It would help a lot if you sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Come with gloves and clippers for making decorations.

And put the de-Greening of the church on your calendar for January 8, at 5:30 PM.—*Laura Alexander*

## Happy Hanukkah!

Adult and Children's Ministries invite you to a Hanukkah Party on December 5 from 5:30-7:30 PM. The first day of Hanukkah is also Thanksgiving Day, but fortunately this celebration runs for several days. This Family celebration is open to all. Gather to celebrate the miracle of the oil and religious freedom. We'll light the Menorah, play Dreidle, read stories, and eat delicious potato latkes (pancakes) and more! Please sign up in the Fellowship hall so we can prepare the appropriate amount of food.

## Christian Believer Group, with Pastor Jane


The Christian Believer program focuses on the classical teachings of the Christian faith—presenting, explaining, and interpreting them in a way that participants can understand, through the use of words, symbols, and hymns. Over a 30-week period, we will examine the writings of ancient and modern Christian commentators and view video presentations by leading Bible scholars. Choose a Day or Evening Class! Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so that books can be ordered and ready for participants.

## Christmas Band!

The LUMC Christmas Band will play on December 22, with a rehearsal during the Greening, on December 7. A fun chance to get out your strings, horn, axe, or kit. Sign up on the choir room door or just show up Saturday morning for the rehearsal.

## Christmas Eve Children's and Youth Choir

Sign up on the choir room door and plan to sing at the Christmas Eve service.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30  Kids in Action Now 3:30	<b>2</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Revelation Class 12:30  Staff Parish 7:00	<b>3</b> <i>December 2013</i>	<b>4</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Training Bell Choir 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00	<b>5</b>   Senior High Youth 7:00	<b>6</b> Needleworkers 10:00	<b>7</b> Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00  Greening the Church 9:00 Christmas Band Rehearsal  Prayer Shawl Ministry/ Caregivers 10:00
<b>8</b> SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Outreach 10:30	<b>9</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Revelation Class 12:30  Trustees 7:00	<b>10</b>   Church Council 7:00	<b>11</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Training Bell Choir 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00	<b>12</b>   Senior High Youth 7:00	<b>13</b> Needleworkers 10:00  All Saints and LUMC Youth 24-Hour Festival 7:00	<b>14</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00
<b>15</b> THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30  Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive  SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight	<b>16</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30  Lansing Food Pantry 1:00  Haiti 7:00	<b>17</b>   Membership 7:00 Worship Committee 7:30	<b>18</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Training Bell Choir 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00	<b>19</b>   Senior High Youth 7:00	<b>20</b> Needleworkers 10:00	<b>21</b>   Men's Breakfast 7:00  Blue Christmas 6:00
<b>22</b> FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30	<b>23</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> Family Service 5:00  Candlelight Service 8:00	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas!</b>	<b>26</b>   Senior High Youth 7:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00
<b>29</b> CHRISTMASTIDE! Worship 9:00  Christmas gets one Sunday per year. This is it!	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Watch Night	<b>New Year's Day 2014</b>	<b>Note: This calendar is current as of November 24. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org.</b>	 <b>Lansing United Methodist Church</b>	

## Adult Ministries Update:

I am delighted to announce that Ken Hover will be back at LUMC to share an Advent Study and Adam Bacher will make a special appearance in Adult Sunday School on December 1.

Many thanks to Ariana Blossom as she wraps up her 8 week course on Miracles. Be sure to check out the library table in the Fellowship Hall and sign up for Pastor Jane's upcoming Christian Believer class and our Family Hanukkah Celebration on December 5

### Dec. 1:

Adam Bacher: Special Feature—in the Adult Classroom  
Meditation: A Conversation with God – in Karen's office

### Dec. 8:

Ken Hover: Advent Study—Matthew's account not only roots Jesus birth squarely in the historical context of Hebrew tradition, scripture, and expectation, but also sets Jesus on a path of an inevitable show-down with the political and religious authorities of his day. As we ride along with Matthew's Magi to the "house" in Bethlehem, we might bump into some unsettling challenges to our own authority as well. As we approach Christmas, we might consider exchanging our sleigh bells for camel bells.—in the Adult Classroom

Meditation: A Conversation with God – in Karen's office

### Dec. 22:

Ken Hover: Advent Study—Luke promised to get the facts straight, and wrote with an eye for detail. Our own Christmas memories, carols, and visual images have been inspired by Luke's details to the point that we can hear the lowing of the cattle, we can smell the hay, and our hearts go out to the blessed couple as they patiently make the best of an impossible situation. But as we rejoice with the holy family guarded by silent shepherds in this first but simplest of all Christmases, we might ponder the consequences for those who were too busy to take the time to "see this thing which is come to pass." If only they had known what they were missing.—in the Adult Classroom

Meditation: A Conversation with God—in Karen's office

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## Poinsettia Orders: Due December 8

Please return your completed order form along with your payment to the church office (use the envelope on the door) by December 8. Poinsettias are \$10.00 each and are available in red, pink, or white. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex and on our website. Please remember to include your name and the names of your loved ones exactly as you would like them printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Checks should be made payable to LUMC. Please write "Poinsettias" in the memo line.

## Clothes Horse Returns to Paddock

The Clothes Horse will be accepting donations only through the end of December. But do not fear! The spring rummage sale is just a few months away, and you can donate your clothes then. Thanks to all who helped share warm clothes with our neighbors.—*Kathleen Waddell*

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## UMCOR helps with typhoon and tornadoes

Eleven days after the November 8 typhoon, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) delivered 800 food packages to residents in Tacloban, Philippines. UMCOR is also working in the midwest after tornadoes left widespread damage on November 17. Donations for food and supplies will be really helpful, as will assembling school and health kits.

This emergency response in the Philippines and midwest is made possible by your donations to UMCOR during One Great Hour of Sharing. To help with the long-term recovery, you can donate to either location or to UMCOR generally. For the Philippines, write a check to LUMC, memo: International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450. for the tornadoes, memo US Disaster Response Advance #901670. As always, 100% of the money goes where you designate. UMCOR takes no overhead. We cover that with One Great Hour of Sharing.

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## A Note about the Church Directory

I sincerely apologize for the delay in putting the new church directory into your hands. Ultimately, the blame is entirely mine and I accept that. The process has been as frustrating for me as it has been for many of you.

Everyone was quite excited about a new directory. Photo appointments were made, pictures were taken...the work was on its way. Then came the issue of layout for historical photos and no one (I mean, *no one*) wanted to do this job. I said I would do it, even though I had never done anything like this before. I also said it would have to be done when I had time. Unfortunately, for this project, I have been extremely busy the past few months (2 major 50th Anniversary events, 6 funerals, charge conference, stewardship) and did not have the time or the energy to devote to this. I am pleased to report that the work is now done and has been passed on to Sue Sheerer for publication, but bear in mind that she, too, is busy.

The lesson? For you, as a congregation: when something is vitally important to you...step up to see that it gets done. You know who among you has the gifts and the time for such tasks much better than I. The lesson for me, as your pastor: don't take on more than can reasonably be accomplished and remember that "no" is a complete sentence.

Hopefully, forgiveness and responsibility may abound...

Blessings, Pastor Jane



# The Sunbeam

December 2013

Lansing United  
Methodist Church  
Celebrating 50 Years  
of Serving and Praising  
God

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**GREENING THE CHURCH**  
DECEMBER 7

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
5:00 AND 8:00 PM, DECEMBER 24

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## **Lansing United Methodist Church**

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