

## Lansing United Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 AM • Sunday School 10:30 AM

Worship in Lansing Town Park, 9:30 AM, June 30, Sunday School June 2 and 9

Pastor: Jane Sautter

Christian Education Coordinator: Adam Bacher

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



## Almost Ready

Reconstruction is almost complete on the fellowship hall of Grace UMC, giving Union Beach, NJ, a place for meetings and gatherings

## A Spring Blessing

I was reminded this morning that there was a Sunbeam deadline which had passed. I am truly running on empty, what with funerals and confirmation and rummage and the general busy-ness of life. I know that this issue of the Sunbeam will bring in summer, but I am very much still in spring mode. I would like to share with you all a poem I read this morning while doing my meditation on the porch with the birds singing and mist rising off the lake:

### A Spring Blessing

*by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr*

Blessed are you, spring, bright season of life awakening.  
You gladden our hearts with opening buds and returning leaves  
as you put on your robes of splendor.

Blessed are you, spring. In you is a life no death can destroy.  
As you exchange places with winter you harbor no unforgiving spirit  
for broken tree limbs and frozen buds.

Blessed are you, spring.  
You open the closed buds of our despair  
as you journey with us to the flowering places.

Blessed are you, spring.  
You invite us to sing songs to the frozen regions within  
and to bless the lessons of winter as we become your partner in a new dance.

Blessed are you, spring.  
Like Jesus, standing before the tomb of Lazarus, you call to us:  
"Remove winter's stone, come out, there is life here you have not yet tasted."

Blessed are you, spring, free gift of the earth.  
Without cost we gaze upon your glory.  
You are a gospel of good news for the poor and rich alike.

Blessed are you, spring.  
Your renewing rain showers and cathartic storms nurture the potential  
that sleeps in Earth's heart and in our own earthen hearts.

Blessed are you, spring, season of resurrection, sacrament of promise.  
Like Jesus you rise up out of the darkness, leaving around you a wake of new life.

Blessed are you, spring, miracle child of the four seasons.  
With your wand of many colors you work magic in the corners of our darkness.

Blessed are you, spring, season of hope and renewal.  
Wordless poem about all within us that can never die.  
Each year you amaze us with the miracle of returning life.

May the spirit of Spring fill your hearts. May the flowers and the sunshine bring comfort and hope to each of us. May we find joy in the unfolding of a new season!—*Many blessings, Pastor Jane*

## Annual Church Clean Up Scheduled

The Trustees would like to remind everyone that help is needed after church and Sunday School on Sunday, June 2, to beautify the grounds of the church. Gardens need to be weeded, mulched, and planted. Bring your garden gloves and any tools you'd like to work with. Any amount of time that you can spend would be appreciated. Refreshments will be provided. Thank you!!—*Nan Makela*

## LUMC Church Directory 50th Anniversary Edition

As part of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will produce a new church photo directory that will include the history of the church. We would like to have this done for distribution in September. The Membership committee will be *arranging the sign-up for pictures* after church in the Fellowship Hall.

We need volunteers to assist with this. Time slots for the photograph sessions are:

Sunday	June 9	10:00am--3:00 pm.
Wednesday	June 12	10:00am—2:00pm. & 4:00pm.--8:00pm.
Friday	June 14	4:00pm.--8:00pm.
Saturday	June 15	9:00am.--1:00pm. & 2:00pm.--6:00pm.

We will also *need volunteers* to help with the selection at the time of the picture taking.

You will receive a 8x10 or 5x7 photo for free. There will be the opportunity to purchase additional photo packages at this time. In order to offset the costs of printing the directory with the additional history pages, we feel that asking for a minimum donation of \$10.00 is appropriate for this edition. Contact: Gary Travis @ 607-533-4922 with any questions.

## Calling All Grads!

**W**e would like to make sure we honor all our LUMC graduates, so if you have a family member graduating from high school or college or receiving an advanced degree, share the good news! Please call or visit the church office and leave the name of the graduate, school, degree and their connection with LUMC. We will print this information in the church bulletin on Graduation Sunday, June 16. Please let us know about your graduation by Friday, June 7.

## Open House at Casowasco

**Casowasco's Open House and Day at Camp on Sunday, June 16, from 2:00 to 7:00 PM. There will be swimming, wagon rides, arts & crafts, site tours, a sing-a-long by the campfire and much more—all free. A chicken BBQ dinner is also available for \$9.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children ages 4-12, and free for children 3 and under. Please call (315) 364-8756 to register for the meal. Also, register for camp! Remember, LUMC wants all children to go to camp and will pay the cost. You do not have to be a member of our church or any church to go to camp! Just be prepared for a wonderful week and a closer relationship with Jesus. Invite a friend to go!**



## Mark Your Calendars for Vacation Bible School

**Don't miss the fun at VBS, July 15-19! Preregister now,** using forms available at the church office or on the church website. (You'll get a great head start with the

energetic praise music when you register because we have music CDs for registered families.) We'll be forming kingdom crews of kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade, including our friends from All Saints Church and anyone you'd like to bring along for the adventure. We're in for an epic adventure that empowers kids to stand strong for God. We'll be gathering in the Royal Courtyard of Kingdom Rock from 6:00 to 8:15 each evening for an unforgettable week of royally rockin' activities: Bible learning, crafts, games, fantastic music, tasty treats and a mission project to help families who need recovering from Hurricane Sandy. Please contact Adam Bacher, 533-4070 or Bonnie Blair, 257-0721 for more information.

**Congregational Support for VBS.** Our children have always been so fortunate to have the overwhelming support of the LUMC congregation, for which the children and their parents are eternally grateful. We're here to ask again for your support of the Vacation Bible School Program. There are many ways to be involved with the success of VBS, and it is our dream that each member of the congregation will choose some way to help. Here are some ideas of how you can help:

- Pray for a child who would benefit from being part of VBS;
- Invite a child to join in the fun of VBS week;
- Donate a food item for snack time. There'll be a poster board out by the bulletin board filled with notes listing items we would appreciate to help defray VBS expenses. Food items would need to be turned in (left in the kitchen) by Wednesday, July 10.
- If you've got some time the week of July 15-19 and would like to spend some time with the kids, we'd love to have your help.

Contact Adam Bacher, 533-4070 or Bonnie Blair at 257-0721 and we'll match you up with a job you'd enjoy.

Finally, you can join in on the mission project for the week, as explained on the next page.

## VBS Will Support Youth Ministry Mission to Long Island



For its mission project, VBS will be collecting donations to support the Youth Ministries Team's mission trip to help with the long-term rebuilding from the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy.

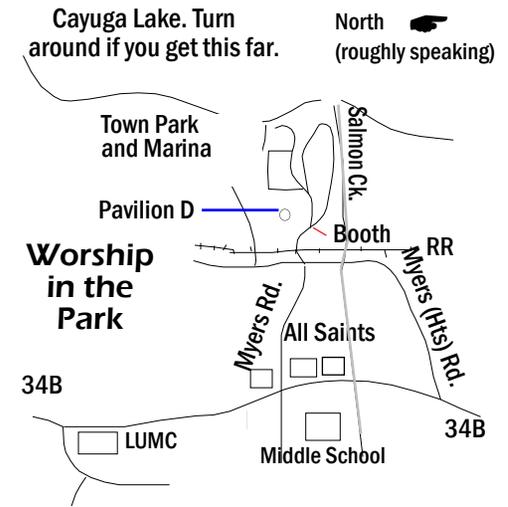
Our youth teams will work on remodeling jobs for families whose homes were damaged, as part of Next Step Ministries mission team oversight. Next Step Ministries is committed to help students grow closer to Christ through life-changing, one-week mission trips that make a lasting impact. Our mission teams need to provide their own Sawzall, and would like to give back by bringing another to leave at the worksite for future teams to use. We would like to contribute to their mission work by purchasing the Sawzalls for them to use.

One suggestion we'll be providing to families who register will be to set aside the money they get back for deposit can and bottles between now and VBS. We'll be setting out a box to put donations in. If you'd like to join in, please look for the house donation box in the Narthex on Sundays and throw in some spare change or slips for deposit cans and bottles. Every bit counts!

## Where to Find 9:30 Worship in the Park

Note the more relaxed starting time!

From church, go downhill on 34B to the four corners by the Middle School. Turn left on Myers Rd. downhill. Go straight at the stop sign, and cross the RR tracks. Bear right into Myers Park and then left after the booth. You don't have to pay to enter the park for this purpose. Just say you've come for church. Look left for the LUMC banner. We are in Pavilion D.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Church Cleanup to follow</p> <p>Kids in Action Now 3:30 Fireplace Praise Service 5:45</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 6:30</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Disciple I Bible Study 12:00</p> <p>Staff Parish 7:00</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Disciple IV Bible Study 12:30</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <hr/> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship 9:00 "Sundae School" 10:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Youth Mission at All Saints 6:30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00</p> <p>Trustees 7:00</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"Good" Movie for Youth 7:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00</p>
<p>16</p> <p><b>DADS AND GRADS DAY</b></p> <p>Worship 9:00</p> <p>Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive</p> <p>Young Adult Fellowship 6:30</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 6:30</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Haiti 7:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Membership 7:00 Worship Committee 7:30</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00</p> <p>SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship 9:00</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Lansing Food Pantry 3:00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Worship 9:30</p> <p>Worship in Lansing Town Park at Myers Pavilion D Note the Time</p> <p>Ice Cream Social Scoops in South Lansing 6:00</p>			<p>Note: This calendar is current as of May 22. 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><i>June 2013</i></p>	 <p><b>Lansing United Methodist Church</b></p>	



## From Earthquake Rubble To Tranquil Studies A Visit to Haitians in Dominican Republic University by Dean Benware

The January 2010 earthquake in Haiti caught five members of LUMC's Haiti scholarship program at a difficult time, since they are at an advanced level in their studies. The five young men are Aniel Estime, Jean Clifford Cherisier, Marckens Austin, Peter Valmond, and Wilphane Mina. Our program administrators met with the university students three months after the earthquake, in April 2010, to hear first-hand what they went through and to develop a plan for them to continue getting a university education. The plan called for the students to go to Santiago, Dominican Republic, to continue their university education, because they were so traumatized by their experience in Port au Prince. They went to Santiago in September 2010 and have been studying there since that time.

In February I went to the Dominican Republic for vacation and to visit the Haitian students attending university there. This was the first time for personal contact other than phone or email since the 2010 meeting. The Dominican Republic is not at all like Haiti. City streets and other infrastructure were as good as you would find in any U.S. city. Granted there are parts of Santo Domingo that only have electricity part of the day, but Santo Domingo and Santiago are like any U.S. university towns in that they have McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, Domino Pizza, and Baskin Robins near the university. I rode a Caribe Tours bus (like Greyhound) from Santo Domingo to Santiago and was met at the bus station by Wilphane and Marckens who were happy that I came to visit them.

I wanted to observe their living situation, in part because one concern of the program administrators was that the students would be changed by city life. This seems not to be the case. For instance, I asked one of the students if they would like to go to McDonald's for a meal, and he declined because, he said, McDonald's only serves sandwiches and not meals. Restaurant meals are also not practical for the students' food budget.

**Food.** Each student gets US\$150 for food for one month. Out of their food money they buy household cleaners, personal toiletry items, and services such as the internet, electricity, water, cooking gas, cable TV, and cell phone minutes. At university they sometimes have to make copies of articles their professors put on reserve at the library for \$0.25 per single sided

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### Haiti Connection (continued)

page. I went to a grocery store in both Santo Domingo and Santiago with students to look at prices. Rice is \$13 for 20 pounds; dried beans averaged \$0.56 a pound, tomato paste is \$2.38 a can. With all these expenses, the students' food money runs out in three weeks, but they have not asked for more money. In their refrigerator there was a head of cabbage and nothing else. In their kitchen cupboards there was a bag with about 5 pounds of rice. They do not like Dominican rice as it comes in a plastic bag like what we would buy. They say it is not as filling as Haitian rice. Overall they are trying to eat the same way they did in Haiti.

**Apartment.** They have a first floor apartment in a four story building. The apartment has a dining room, kitchen, laundry area, living room, two single bedrooms, a bathroom at the end of the hallway, and a double bedroom with private bathroom. Peter and Markens each have a single occupant bedroom and share the bathroom at the end of the hallway which they keep clean. Clifford and Wilphane share the double bedroom with attached bathroom which they keep clean. (Aniel lives in another location with three other guys.) The floors are all 16" ceramic tile and the walls are painted stucco. The kitchen has a full size refrigerator and an apartment size gas stove. During my visit there was a nice breeze coming in from the open windows. Peter and Marckens attend Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre Y Maestra while Aniel, Clifford, and Wilphane attend Universidad Tecnologica de Santiago (UTESA).

**Furniture.** The students made do with used furniture. They bought previously used mattresses with box springs which sit on the floor. They each have a metal frame end table in their room to work on by sitting on their beds. They have no table to eat on, but sit on the couch or in chairs holding their plates to eat. In the living room they have a well-worn three cushion rattan couch, two chairs, and a TV stand for the TV. They store their books in a closet in the hallway. The apartment that Clifford, Markens, Peter, and Wilphane share costs \$360 per month for rent. It is what I would consider to be a big apartment. While the rent is cheap by U.S. standards, the apartment is on the lower quality end of the rental market for Santiago. You can see photos on the church bulletin board.

**Future.** The students started their studies in the Dominican Republic with the January session in 2011. They have 3 sessions each year with only a week to 10 days between sessions. The Haiti Connection program provides money for them to return to Haiti to visit their families once per year, usually at Christmas. Clifford and Wilphane have six sessions left, Aniel has eight, and Peter and Markens have approximately 14 sessions left to go. I spoke with each student about their dreams for after university and they all said they wanted to return to Haiti, get jobs, and help the program with students. Aniel will be an engineer, Clifford and Wilphane computer programmers, and Peter and Markens doctors. The key is all

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## Haiti Connection (concluded)

want to return to Haiti, and they all want to help the program with students. (They have told me that Dominicans do not like Haitians. I arrived in Santo Domingo on February 27, which is Independence Day like our 4th of July. It is the day they celebrate their independence from Haiti. Apparently the people of the Dominican Republic don't forget who their masters were before independence.)

**Other observations.** I walked with Clifford, Aniel, and Wilphane to see the UTESA campus. This is the same university that Lucerne Pierre Louis of the Mitspa program attends in Santo Domingo. As its name implies it offers programs of study in math and science majors. The buildings are constructed like they are in Haiti with cement blocks and grill work instead of windows. Pontificia Universidad, Markens and Peter's university, is different in appearance. The buildings there are constructed like American universities with windows and air conditioning. I was allowed to have a visitors pass to see the inside of the library. The library has a general book area, reference book area, an old books and manuscripts area, a study area, and a computer room. The library has a security station at the entrance to prevent non-university students from entering. Peter and Markens attend university 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM most days. With these hours they use transportation at the cost of \$2.60 per day each.

For a meal at 2:00 PM we walked to a local grocery store that has a deli for a meal of rice and beans, chicken, vegetables, and lemonade. The complete meal was \$3. The deli has many Haitian customers so the Dominicans that run it speak Creole with the guys. I got the impression that the guys have been there before. This saves them time on cooking between classes, although they do cook in the evening at home and on weekends.

**Careful accounting.** The guys gave me receipts for the program money they spent from January 2011 to February 2013 in the amount of US\$35,325. They made me feel proud at how responsible they have been with the resources provided by their sponsors. They still have a few sessions left to complete their university programs and need the prayers and support of their sponsors to help them achieve their dreams. I left them with words of encouragement and a desire to go visit them again.—*Dean Benware*

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## Music at the Park

**Here's your chance to make a joyful noise and provide music, help out with music, or lead singing for our services in the park.**

**Also, we love special music when we return to the sanctuary in August, if you have a piece you'd like to share.**

**Please see Diane Withiam if you're interested.**

## New Jersey: A Tale of Two Joes

or

**Yes, Actually, God Does Listen and Gets Back to You**

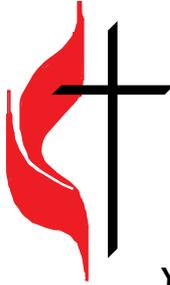


Although my assignment during my post-Easter work trip to New Jersey was to work all week on the fellowship hall at Grace United Methodist Church in Union Beach, part of our team sent to work on individual homes. In Sayreville, our team met Joe #1, a man who had, by his own admission, given up on God. Remember,

the storm was in October and at this point it's the end of April. As Joe told our team, he was sitting on the steps in his mother's house, and was essentially blaming God for abandoning him. At that point, the stairs, which had been flooded, collapsed into the basement. You can see the hole in the back center of the picture. The next day, members of our team appeared. Joe was astonished, but still hesitant. It was hard for him to accept assistance. By mid-week, Joe had turned around and was asking the team to pray with him. And there's more to the story. Our team members weren't quite sure what to do with the stairs. But then Austin appeared. We had no idea that Austin would be on our team, but he volunteered to come, and he knew exactly how to fix the stairs. After two weeks of work, our team left Joe's house primed and ready for paint, and Joe #1 has a renewed relationship with God.

**Joe #2.** We met Joe #2 in the fellowship hall at Grace UMC, when he just walked in the door. Joe's house used to be across the street from the church, but all that remained was an empty lot. When the church was flooded, Joe (and Union Beach) lost places to meet for all purposes. Eventually, Joe left town and went to Florida to continue his rehab. As he told the story, he was on the phone with his wife, having a similar conversation as Joe #1. The church had let him down, they never showed, it had been five months since the storm. During the call, the emergency responder team from Ohio appeared at Grace UMC, and Joe's wife told him, "You won't guess who's here." Then our team showed up, and Joe #2 wanted us to know that his faith had been restored.

**Postscript.** Other work teams finished what we started, and as of this writing the Grace UMC's fellowship hall was 95% done and essentially ready for use. Meantime, if you want to help with the Oklahoma disaster, give money through UMCOR.—*Glenn Withiam*



# The Sunbeam

June 2013

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

**Inside:**

Church cleanup and directory, page 3  
VBS is coming, page 4,  
Our Haiti Students in the DR, page 8

**Worship 9:00 AM, JUNE 2, 9, 16, & 23**  
**WORSHIP IN THE PARK, JUNE 30, 9:30 AM**

**Sunday School 10:30 AM, JUNE 2 AND 9**

**Fireplace Praise Service 5:45 PM, JUNE 2**

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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.  
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E-mail: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com  
Office manager: Karen Paetow

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

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor, at  
[grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu).  
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