

The Sunbeam August 2014

Lansing United Methodist Church

Summer Worship 9:30AM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Jane Sautter

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



August!
What a great time to thank
God for this wonderful
world.

From the Pastor

Calling the Clearness Committee

Making choices has never been easy for me. Long ago, I was an “either/or” type person. It seemed that there were only two options for any decision...which didn’t necessarily make things easier. Later in life, I began to see things as “both/and” which freed me from having to choose—anything was an option and all of them were okay...which didn’t necessarily make things easier. Most recently, I have learned that choices and decisions are made from a menu which rarely has only two options and never affects just one person or entity.

I’ve learned that discernment is often more important than decisions. I’ve learned that there are people around me who offer wise counsel. I’ve learned (mostly from Parker Palmer) that the Quaker way of a “clearness committee” is the best way to work through some of the tough choices in life. (from Wikipedia: the clearness committee represents a process for discernment. Clearness committees are often used when one seeks to reach clarity on how to respond to a concern or dilemma. Because Quakers believe that every person has within him or her that of God, the process is one of aiding the person seeking clearness in finding the answer within rather than seeking outside advice or guidance.) Now, I don’t have a formal clearness committee, but I do have a close circle of special people who will listen while I struggle and will ask the questions that I need to answer to come to the best solution.

I’ve learned that we are so intricately connected with one another that our choices have to do with all of us. As we sit on the brink of moving forward as a congregation, may we all look beyond what we “want” or “don’t want” to that place where we can come to understand what it is that God wants. Our decisions are not either/or nor are they both/and. Our decisions need to embrace the long term greater good. Henry Nouwen has a little to say about this in a brief essay in his book *The Inner Voice of Love*.

Continued at right

From the Pastor (concluded)

Here’s an excerpt:

Think about Jesus. He made his journey and asked his disciples to follow him even where they would rather not go. The journey you are choosing is Jesus’ journey, and whether or not you are fully aware of it, you are asking your brothers and sisters to go with you. Your choices also call your friends to make new choices. Somewhere you already know that what you are living now will not leave the other members of the community untouched, just as Jesus has not left us untouched.

May the clarity of God’s call to us be our guiding light.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jane*

Summer Picnics for August

We have two church-wide summer picnics scheduled for August. So, join us for one or both. Hosts will provide the space, a hot grill, and beverage. Everyone attending will bring a dish-to-share, table service, and anything they might like to grill. Bringing a chair might also be a good plan. We gather around 6:00 with the idea of eating about 6:30.

Tuesday, August 5, Hosted by Lorraine Groat & Gaylord Besemer

Wednesday, August 20, Hosted by the Biddlepachers

Invitation to Sing in Choir

If you like to worship God through music, we’d like to have you join us in choir. You don’t have to read music, just like to sing. Try it out! Join us on September 3, at 7:00.

Junior Choir

Junior Choir starts September 21, after Sunday school, at 11:00. For fall, junior choir will sing during several Sunday worship services.

Watch the choir room door for more information.—*Diane Withiam*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---|--|
| 3 Worship 9:30 | 4 Staff Parish 7:00 | 5 Church Picnic 6:00 Hosted by Groat and Besemer | 6 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study Luncheon 11:30 at Travises' Lake House | 7 | 1 Needleworkers 10:00 | 2 Mens' Breakfast 7:00 |
| 10 Worship 9:30 Ice Cream Social Cream at the Top in King Ferry, 6:00 | 11 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 | 12 Church Council 7:00 | 13 Prayer Service 9:00 | 14 | 15 Needleworkers 10:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight | 16 Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 |
| 17 Worship 9:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive | 18 Haiti 7:00 | 19 Membership 7:00 Worship Committee 7:00 | 20 Prayer Service 9:00 Church Picnic 6:00 Hosted by Biddlespachers | 21 | 22 Needleworkers 10:00 | 23 Men's Breakfast 7:00 |
| 24 Worship 9:30 | 25 Lansing Food Pantry 1:00 | 26 | 27 Prayer Service 9:00 | 28 | 29 Needleworkers 10:00 | 30 Mens' Breakfast 7:00 |
| 31 Worship 9:30 Ice Cream Social Lake Breeze in South Lansing, 6:00 | | | Prayer Service 9:00 | <i>August 2014</i> |  | <i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i> |

LUMC Adult Mission

There will be a meeting on September 14 at 7:00 to discuss the formation of a LUMC Adult Mission Team, with the idea being to expand on our existing mission efforts. If formed, this Team would conduct Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trips as a part of the Upper New York Conference and be affiliated with UMCOR. We intend to sponsor training for our members and to maintain a primarily domestic focus to team's mission work. The item below gives an example of places we could work that are not far. If you are interested, but cannot make the meeting please contact either Glenn Withiam or Steve Alexander for more information.

VIM update on teams needed for flood recovery

Beginning in August, the Conference will be looking for VIM teams to come to Penn Yan to help clean up after the flooding this past spring.

The Living Well, a new faith community in Penn Yan, has been gathering information and assessing homes, and has discovered there are at least 166 in need of some help.

Building inspectors are doing the assessments to determine exactly what must be done by contractors and what can be done by volunteers and VIM teams.

Mucking out, demolition and rebuilding are needed. Team housing will likely be at a church with off-site shower facilities. Churches or districts with tool trailers that can be left in Penn Yan, at least initially, will be helpful.

If you have a team or individuals willing and able to come, please contact volunteer coordinator Beulah Decker at (315) 536-3650 or bede145@localnet.com

Also: Mike Block is forming a team to work on Oneida flood relief Aug. 11-15. Cost is \$120. Contact him at mblock@wwdb.org for details.



Women's Bible Study Summer Luncheon

This year's dish to pass picnic luncheon will be on August 6, 11:30 AM, at the lake cottage of Sharey Travis, 40 Milliken Station Rd. Extension. If you wish to car pool we will meet at LUMC, in the parking lot, at 11:00 AM.

Welcome, Kevin Klippel

The SPRC Search Committee is pleased to announce Kevin Klippel as our new Christian Education Coordinator. We had a pool of well qualified individuals, and Kevin was a unanimous first choice! Kevin and his wife, Mary, both graduated from Ithaca College and are eager to relocate here from south Florida. They will be arriving in mid-August.

For two years, Kevin worked part-time as Youth Director for a small church in Homestead, Florida, before leaving for full-time employment. His references were exemplary and we believe that God directed him to us. Here is an excerpt from his cover letter:

I still feel drawn to working with young people and helping them decipher their place in the world, get to know the God that created them, and develop their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus.

I came to know Jesus when I was around 11 years old, and finally figured out what all of that really means about 10 years later when I was a junior at Ithaca College. I started attending a men's Bible study through the campus Christian community and fell completely head-over-heels in love with Jesus at that time. He's turned a shy, timid teenager into a much more outgoing, gregarious Jesus freak with a passion for mentoring young people and simply making them feel loved in a world that so often makes them feel worthless.

I believe my biggest asset is my ability to form trusting relationships with youth. My other strong suits include my passion for teaching about Jesus, strong organizational and communication skills, strong knowledge of computers and modern technologies, and experience in an office-like environment."

We feel blessed to have Kevin coming on board and look forward to working with him. As a side note, they will be moving here with very little furniture, so if you have things you wouldn't mind parting with, please contact Pastor Jane. As yet, we do not know where the Klippels will be living, but will let you know as soon as we do.

SPRC Search Committee

Steve Alexander, Dianne Walter, Christa Salmon, Dan Stoyell, Pastor Jane

One More Ice Cream Social!

Join us August 10 at 6:00 PM at Cream at the Top (Route 34B, one mile north of King Ferry)



The Sunbeam

August 2014

Lansing United
Methodist Church

Inside:

SUMMER WORSHIP

9:30 AM

AT THE CHURCH

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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www.lansingunited.org

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

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