



The Sunbeam November 2015

Lansing United Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Jane Sutter

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



Thanksgiving 2015

Community Thanksgiving Service

November 24 7:00 at LUMC

From the Pastor

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

I would like to continue the exploration of the Farris tome *Ten Commandments for Pastors Leaving a Congregation*, with commandments two and three.

Commandment two is “Thou Shalt Explain Thyself,” which is not terribly difficult to do when the reason for departing is retirement. It becomes much dicier when there is no clear rationale for leaving a congregation. I was at a clergy meeting recently where long pastoral tenures were discussed. There is no denominationally predetermined length of appointment for any pastor and, statistically, 80 percent of all pastoral moves are initiated by the pastor! While retirement is relatively easy to explain, I want you to know how much it has meant to me to be a part of the Lansing community for these last years of ministry. You have allowed me to be me, and as a result, I have been able to grow in my relationship with God and in my relationship with all of you...and I am truly grateful.

Commandment three is “Thou Shalt Not Steal Away,” which truly is a temptation! I have known pastors who delay their decision to move on until the last possible moment as if this sort of delay will somehow ameliorate the emotional stress of saying good-bye. To just “steal away to Jesus” is not healthy for any of us. Giving you (and me) a good amount of time to deal with our feelings is a good thing, but does have some downsides. For example, it has been excruciatingly difficult to find folks willing to take on leadership roles in the church. My guess is that this is out of fear of the unknown (Who will be our new pastor? Will we like him or her? Will we want to work with her or him?), but it also could be a bit of anger at my decision. Whatever the reason, we have time to work it through, and LUMC will grow stronger in the process! While I am the one leaving, it is important for you all to know that the fear of the unknown is definitely on my horizon as well. I will be honest with you about my fears and I pray that you will be honest with me about yours.

I will *not* steal away in the night (as tempting as that might be!), mostly because the guilt that would be a piece of that would haunt us all. According to Farris, “...the failure to say farewell openly and lovingly may haunt the building of relationships in the new ministerial context. Old wounds fester, after all, and cause increased damage where once they might have been healed with relative ease.”

My prayer for all of us is that we will have the courage to say goodbye well...with love and grace.

Blessings, Pastor Jane

Church Conference

Saturday, November 7, 2:00 p.m., at Moravia UMC

LUMC's annual conference will be one of several held at Moravia UMC on Saturday, November 7. Our time with District Superintendent Jeff McDowell is 2:00 p.m. All those in attendance will gather for worship at 3:00 p.m.

Here's a note from District Superintendent McDowell:

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord! I am getting excited about our upcoming Charge and Church Conferences, and look forward to our times together at a new set of host churches in November. We also will be refreshed by worshipping with 10 to 12 churches together on the theme of “Reclaiming our Wesleyan Heritage.” Worship will occur just before some conferences and just after others. Please bring as many from your church to celebrate together, the many ministries we have!

Confirmation Orientation

November 15, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

All 8th graders and parents are invited to attend our confirmation orientation on November 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the adult classroom (a/k/a the double classroom). This orientation will be your introduction to our confirmation program, a chance to meet the confirmation team and other confirmation eligible families, and ask any questions you may have about the confirmation process. All potential confirmands are encouraged to attend so that you can make an informed decision about joining the confirmation process, which will begin in January. Also open to 9 to 12th graders who have not yet been confirmed. Questions can be directed to Dianne Walter, Christa Salmon, Kevin Klippel, or Pastor Jane.

LUMC Hosts Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 24

This year's community Thanksgiving service is being hosted by LUMC. It will be held on Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. Community choir rehearsal at LUMC will be Monday, November 23, 7:00 p.m. Join your friends and relatives from throughout Lansing as we gather to thank God for a year of mighty gifts.

“Table 3, Come and See!”

Yes, Come and See What God Is Doing in K.A.N.!

It has been a busy month for the K.A.N. kids, as they have packed meals for Feed My Starving Children, visited with residents at Woodsedge, and served chili at the Ithaca Rescue Mission.

Bright and early on Saturday, September 26, a group of 18 K.A.N. kids, parents, and friends gathered with a group of 145 members of our community to scoop, weigh, seal, sort, and package meals for Feed My Starving Children. These meals, consisting of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavorful powder of vitamins and minerals, will be sent to starving and malnourished children in over 70 countries around the world. Our group of 18 worked at Table 3, rotating through the jobs of holding the bags under the funnel, scooping the ingredients into the funnel, weighing the bags to ensure the appropriate amount of ingredients, closing the bags with a sealing machine, sorting the bags, and packing them up in boxes.



K.A.N. food packing crew

Once this assembly line process was completed from start to finish, our group shouted out the catchy cheer, “Table 3, come and see,” to celebrate that another packed box was ready to be collected! Then the process began again and again and again... We worked continuously and diligently for about an hour-and-a-half to carry out the task of packing as many boxes of meals as possible. The combined efforts of all in the room yielded 33,696 meals packed, which means that 92 children will be fed a hot meal every day for one full year! Truly amazing! After our packing session ended, we gathered together to process our experience. Our young people went beyond expressing that the hair nets worn were a nuisance to a solid understanding of the mission that had just been carried out! The K.A.N. kids have realized that they have the ability to make an impact in God’s world and just how powerful that impact can be when God blesses our efforts. It was a day we won’t soon forget, with a lasting impression on our hearts.

In the evening on Sunday, October 4, a group of 14 K.A.N. kids met at Woodsedge and had a delightful time playing games with the residents while also sharing a pizza meal with them. It was a time to feed both body and soul! There was a lively game of Apples to Apples, a thoughtful game

Continued at right

K.A.N. concluded

of Scrabble, a cheerful game of Battleship, and an enlightening game of Rummikub. The children practiced hospitality as they asked their newfound friends for their pizza and snack preferences, served them their meal, and engaged in sweet conversation. Each resident was filled with thankfulness and kind words for the ways the young people brightened their evening.

In partnership with LUMC Adults in Mission, the K.A.N. kids served a chili dinner at the Ithaca Rescue Mission on Sunday, October 18. We will share the details of this effort with you next month!

During this season of thankfulness, Bonnie and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the K.A.N. kids and their beautiful hearts, for their supportive parents, for our encouraging congregation, and for our Lord’s strength and blessings in our leading of this mission.—*Debbie Geise and Bonnie Blair*

Personal Items for Our Neighbors

We have been asked to help make Christmas a little better for the young men who reside at the Finger Lakes Residential Center. They have asked for personal care items as well as other things that will make their lives a little brighter. Here is a partial list of items they’d like to have: shampoo, conditioner, men’s deodorant, men’s body wash, men’s lotion, playing cards, and gift cards—including Walmart, Target, and i-Tunes. Note that the items should not be wrapped.

Drop items in the box in the narthex on or before December 18.

LIFT—Ladies in Fellowship Together

For a couple of years now, the men of LUMC have been gathering on Monday nights for Wingmen, which has strengthened the bonds between them. It felt like something has been missing for the church ladies: a ladies’ night out. So, what could complement Wingmen? Well, wings flap and give lift to the bird or plane, so what better name than LIFT: as we hope our spirits will be lifted in fellowship together.

After a long day of working, running errands, doing chores, and taking care of family, why not leave the stresses of the world behind and meet for an evening of dining out, laughter, and good conversation? LIFT, ladies of LUMC, will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at Crossroads Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. to share food, stories, and love.

We hope that LIFT will become a longstanding tradition allowing us women to connect with our LUMC sisters. Please join us to LIFT your spirits and forget life’s struggles for a while as we relax together with friends.—*Carolee Vink*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY


WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Set your clocks back!

<p>1</p> <p>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Eastern Standard Time Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Junior Choir 11:30</p> <p>Fall Festival 3:30 Kids in Action Now K.A.N. 3:30</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Bible Study at LUMC 12:00</p> <p>Staff Parish 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p> <p>Ladies in Fellowship Together 6:30 Crossroads</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Food for the Soul 7:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Senior High Youth 6:00</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry/ Caregivers 10:00</p> <p>Church Conference 2:00 Worship 3:00 Moravia UMC</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Junior Choir 11:30</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00 Bible Study at LUMC 7:00 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p>	<p>11 VETERANS DAY Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Food for the Soul 7:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Senior High Youth 6:00</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00 K.A.N. Breakfast at Applebee's 8:00-10:00</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Junior Choir 11:30 Children's Ministries 11:45</p> <p>Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Confirmation Orientation 4:00</p> <p>Sunbeam Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study @ Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Bible Study at LUMC 12:00</p> <p>Haiti 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p> <p>Worship Committee 7:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Food for the Soul 7:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Senior High Youth 6:00</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>CCYM Retreat</p>
<p>22</p> <p>CONSECRATION SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Junior Choir 11:30</p> <p>Haiti Dessert Auction</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Food Pantry at the Rink 1:00 Giving Tree Signup LUMC Community Thanksgiving Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Needleworkers 10:00</p> <p>Community Thanksgiving Service at LUMC 7:00</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>26 Thanksgiving LUMC Office Closed LUMC Turkey Trot 9:00</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>29</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Bible Study at LUMC 12:00</p> <p>Wingmen Men's Group 7:00</p>		 <p>Lansing United Methodist Church</p>	<p>November 2015</p>		<p>December 5</p> <p>Church Decoration 9:00 and Christmas Band Rehearsal</p>

Haitians Expelled from the Dominican Republic Living in Squalor

Sarah Sandsted is working with the Haitians who have been deported from the Dominican Republic and have been forced to congregate in a refugee camp just across the border. Here is her report on how you can help with this humanitarian disaster.—gw



I'm writing to all of you this morning, as my trusted "Haiti family." Each of you has played an important role in my development and growth in Haiti, and I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you all about something that is lying very heavily on my heart.

As I'm sure most of you have heard, there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Recent policy changes in the DR have allowed authorities to deport individuals of Haitian descent who were born in the DR, but whose parents originally emigrated from Haiti illegally. As a result, an estimated 63,000 people have fled the Dominican Republic, by fear or force, many of whom have no current ties to Haiti, nowhere to go, and no feasible way to start over.

In hearing about this situation earlier this summer, I felt compelled to visit—to bear witness to what is happening, and gain a better understanding of the nature of the crisis. I have traveled to an encampment of displaced, and essentially stateless, deportees in Fonds Bayard—near the Haitian-DR border of Malpasse—three times since the onset of this crisis. I have seen the atrocities with my own eyes, and I am compelled to act. In earlier years, I would have been satisfied with bringing donations to the community and offering moral and prayerful support. Now, however, after learning everything I have learned in the last two years, I know that this is not enough.

Through my work at REBUILD globally, I have witnessed what dignified, living-wage employment does in the positive transformation of lives—particularly for families recovering from disaster. The lives of those living in the encampment are strikingly similar to life in the tent-camps post-earthquake. These people have been deprived of even the most basic elements for survival—plumbing, food, clothing, and reliable shelter, to name a few. The memories of post-earthquake Haiti came flooding back like a resurrected nightmare as I walked through the camp at Fonds Bayard. Everything these people own came from an aid organization. In fact, when I asked one woman if she had any Clorox to wash out a bucket, she looked at me confused, and replied, "If you didn't bring it for us, we don't have it."

Continued at right

Haiti Connection, concluded

The time to act is now, and at REBUILD globally, we have been working to create a plan of action. We are proposing to expand our work into the community of Fonds Bayard and the newly erected displaced persons camp. Through this project, REBUILD globally will provide a mobile employment workshop to provide training, education, and income-generating opportunities for displaced families currently residing in the camp, while our Haitian Business, Deux Mains Designs, will provide a market for the work produced.

This project is two-fold:

First, it will provide the recently displaced adults with comprehensive training followed by a set daily income to produce the up-cycled tire soles to be used in the Deux Mains sandal production. Second, in order to support the community-at-large, our Haitian business will purchase these soles directly from the community leadership, with all the proceeds being allocated to supporting the Community School of Fonds Bayard which currently has no funding to operate, and serves as the primary school for a community of 1,000+ people.

Through our mobile livelihood workshop, REBUILD globally will expand its current successful business activities from Port-au-Prince to Fonds Bayard to ensure those affected by deportation have the means to provide for their basic needs throughout the lifecycle of this humanitarian crisis; and start preparing for transition out of the camps.

This brings me to how each of you can help. I am always hesitant to reach out to loved ones and respected friends when it comes to financial support. I know that Haiti projects in need of funds have filled your minds and your hearts for the last several years. That said, I am convinced that if we are successful in raising enough funds and awareness, we *will* change the lives of those most affected by this crisis, forever. I am asking each of you to share this story within your networks, and consider serving as activists for this cause. We need your help, as complacency of Haitian officials to respond to this crisis is becoming the norm.

As Martin Luther King once said, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late.... Procrastination is still the thief of time. The tide in the affairs of men does not remain at the flood; it ebbs..."

Please let me know if you'd like any additional information regarding this proposed project, and the current political situation. If you could share this with your friends, family, colleagues, congregations, it would be most appreciated. Here is a link to where you can directly support our work to make our vision become a reality: <http://bit.ly/1McJ52c>. *Much love to all of you, Sarah*

LUMC Adult Sunday School

Meditation, a Conversation with God continues weekly in Pastor Jane's office. This gathering has shared leadership and open participation. You are welcome to join in at any time.

The Wired Word, with Judy Hinderliter, will wrap up on Sunday, November 1, in the adult Classroom. This course offers a rich discussion of current events in relation to scripture passages.

Evolution of the Word, with Karen Veaner will be offered Sundays, November 8, 15, and 22 in the adult classroom. The Bible—human and divine, where did it come from? Who decided what books should be in the Bible? Why are there so many translations—and does it matter? Using multiple sources, we will trace the history of the Bible from ancient manuscripts to the many modern translations available today. Can understanding the history of this precious document affect how the scripture speaks to us? Explore how history, faith, and the Bible can help us understand the evolution of Christianity, enrich our spiritual lives and strengthen our relationship with God.

When God Comes Down, with Eileen Davis, begins our Advent series on Sunday, November 29, in the adult classroom. Advent is the season in which we watch, wait, and prepare to bear witness to the coming of the true light of God's presence in Jesus Christ. Through worship, scripture, and prayer, we train our eyes to see God's presence so that in the hubbub of the "holidays," we are prepared to celebrate a "Holy Day"—the day when God came to us in human flesh. In this study, James A. Harnish explores the lives of people who witnessed the miracle in the Incarnation. He invites us to reflect on their stories and, in our reflection, to become witnesses with them to the one light that will never be overcome.

The Jesse Tree

**And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.—Isaiah 11:1**

Our 40-day journey to Christmas begins November 15. Watch and follow the story of Jesus' family heritage through ornaments and scripture passages that will appear in the Narthex. People and their stories from the Bible lead us to the birth of the Christ Child. Our set of 40 ornaments for the season leading to Christmas portrays the family tree suggested by Isaiah's prophecy and the spiritual heritage of Jesus.

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. with Jan Nagel

Experience the power of scripture study and heart-felt devotion in a group that has served this congregation for 40 plus years. Women of the Bible is the current focus of this class.

Food for the Soul in the Kitchen, with Susana Jelovcki

**Thursday Evenings 7:00–9:00 p.m.,
November 5, 12, 19, and December 3, 10, 17**

Prayer is for the soul, what food is for the body. The blessing of one prayer lasts until the next, just as the strength gained from one meal lasts till the one after. — Jewish Prayer

Biblical history virtually begins with an act of eating with epic scenery in the Garden of Eden. The act of feasting was often much more than a matter of nourishing the body: it was imbued with sanctity to nourish and inspire our spiritual lives and feed our souls. In this course you will learn to prepare delicious meals with the same ingredients our biblical ancestor did in an amusing and interactive way. Each class is "stand-alone." All are welcome to join at any time.

Disciple Bible Study, with Bonnie Blair, Mondays 12:00–2:30 p.m.

This study offers a deep examination of Genesis, emphasizing the rhythm of coming to God and going for God—approaching all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service. Expect to build spiritual discipline through six daily readings per week, including scripture and a study manual with questions and space for recording responses, prayer suggestion, and ideas for practical application.

Save the Dates:

December 5, 9:00 a.m.—Greening of the Church and Christmas Band Rehearsal

Join us for decorating the church. If you'd like to play in the Christmas band, we will rehearse that morning during the decorating.

December 13, 6:30 p.m.—An Evening of Lessons & Carols

This traditional service has been celebrated for centuries. Hear again the scriptures telling about the Word of God made flesh.

LUMC Turkey Trot

November 26 9:00 a.m.

Get your Thanksgiving Day off to a running start with the LUMC turkey trot. This is an informal run that starts at 9:00, so gather at church just before that time. No starting gun, no medals, and plan to time yourself on a 5K course on Brickyard, Wilson, Conlon, and Buck Roads. Bring some snacks to share if you want. We have assurance from the weather bureau that the conditions will be excellent—sunny and mild, unlike last year's snowy and frosty run.

The Sunbeam

November 2015



Lansing United
Methodist Church

WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 24 7:00

ADVENT BEGINS

NOVEMBER 29

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

Office manager: Jennifer Moore

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.

Deadline for the next issue is
November 15, 2015