



# *The Sunbeam* February 2015

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Lansing United Methodist Church

**Worship 9:00AM**

**KIDZ QUEST AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Pastor: Jane Sautter**

**Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel**

**Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner**



**L E N T**

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**Ash  
WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE**

**February 18**



### A Time of Reflection

It seems as if we just finished putting away the Christmas decorations and now Lent is upon us...with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Sometimes it feels like the wheel is spinning faster and faster all the time—it also feels like I am not moving nearly as fast as the wheel is spinning!

A group of us at LUMC have just finished a 30-week study called Christian Believer. It has been quite a journey and frankly, I am not sure what I am going to do to fill my Monday afternoons or

Thursday evenings. In the process of this study, we have wrestled with the classical doctrines of the church. We have had some lively discussions about our personal beliefs and where we agree or disagree with doctrine. The study has been much more than a bit of reading (ok...a *lot* of reading!) from the Bible and many historical figures. It has been more than preparation and discussion. It has been a time of deep reflection and yearning for God. We have laughed and cried together. We have seen the hand of God in the large classroom (yup, right here at LUMC!) on more than one occasion. We have listened and learned with our heads, but mostly with our hearts. It has been a priceless gift and I am extremely grateful to have been a part of the group.

We don't know what will come next on our adult study agenda just yet, but I urge all of you to take special note of whatever is offered. There are precious jewels to be uncovered through study...and many of them are in the form of our friends and neighbors.

Lent offers us a time of reflection...a time to look within to recognize those places where Jesus is working in our lives, but Lent is not the only time to reflect. I am amazed at the depth of knowledge and commitment that surrounds us here in this place. Throw yourself into the midst of it, my friends, you will not be sorry!

*With blessings,  
Pastor Jane*

### Notes from Kevin

#### SOLID

Depending when you read this, our youth either currently are having an awesome weekend at Casowasco for the annual SOLID retreat, or our youth have recently returned from having an awesome weekend at Casowasco for the annual SOLID retreat! If you see one of our youth out there in the wild, go ask him or her about their experience! They're sure to react with a smile and a funny story!

#### The God We Can Know

LUMC is embarking on a cross-generational Lenten study called "The God We Can Know." This material is a resource that came back with Karen (Veaner), Kevin (Klippel), and Bonnie (Blair) from their trip to Nashville in October, and they're excited to share this in-depth study of the "I Am" sayings with the children, youth, and adults during the Sunday School hour. More info will be coming in the next couple weeks, and the whole thing kicks off on the first Sunday of Lent, February 22!

#### Confirmation 2015

Confirmation is in full swing! Our 8th graders are going on an intensive, thought-provoking, eye-opening journey with their parents, the confirmation team, a mentor, and a prayer partner. This will all culminate in May with Confirmation Sunday. Be sure to high five our awesome 8th graders and encourage them along the way!

#### February LOVE

The Children's Ministry and Kidz Quest! team would like to share some love and give a big *thank you* to Sharon Powell, who consistently blesses our program with her time, her musical talents, and her smile! Sharon, you help make things so much fun, and we couldn't imagine the Kick-Off without you! *Love, Kidz Quest! and the Children's Ministry :)*

#### VBS!

It's time to start getting the ball rolling for Vacation Bible School, so if you want the skinny on how you can help this year, come to our meeting on February 9 at 6:30 p.m., right here at LUMC! And Save the Date! VBS is going down on July 13-17, 2015!



## Bottom-Up Review

**W**here are we (and you ☺) in the Bottom-Up Review? As Kevin mentioned in the message on Sunday, January 11, we're about to embark in the first step of our journey to take an intentional look at our Christian Education pro-

gram here at LUMC.

February will be Babies & Toddlers month. Who wouldn't love to think about what we can do to promote faith formation for the youngest in our midst? What does that even mean at such an early age?

We all have a special heart for those who are newborn to 2 years old. Please prayerfully consider this invitation to join in. We need you if you are willing to do any one of the following:

- Read pertinent resources
- Volunteer for a discussion group
- Provide input if you have worked in nursery or other environments with this age group
- Share what you've seen work at LUMC or other places
- Weigh in, as parents or grandparents of kids of all ages, with your hopes, dreams and experience
- Formulate goals and objectives
- Share your educational expertise
- Prepare communications or surveys
- Conduct personal interviews
- Participate in any way

Please contact Bonnie Blair at theblairs@twcny.rr.com or 257-0721 to let her know what you're interested in doing to help kickoff the bottom-up review or with questions.

Some of the resources we'll be reviewing include:

*The First Three Years: A Guide for Ministry with Infants, Toddlers, and Two-Year-Olds*, Mary Gran, Ed.

*The Safe and Caring Church Nursery*, Jennifer Root Wilger

*The Warm and Wonderful Church Nursery*, Kim Kikes and Lori Haynes Niles

*The Most Important Space in the Church; The Nursery*, Rita B. Hayes

*Teaching Kids about God*, John Trent, Rick Osborne, Kurt Bruner, editors (Intro & Chapter 1)

*Simple Transitions for Infants and Toddlers*, Karen Miller

If you know of a resource you think would be helpful, please send in its title or loan us a copy.

## LUMC Continues to move FORWARD

**B**uilding on the recent work of the Building Study Committee this fall and in accordance with The Book of Discipline section 2544, the next phase in the Church's planning for our future is underway. A Building Committee, composed of Jim Blair, Sandy Dhimitri, Judy Hinderliter, Michael McGreevey, and Bill Thibault, was recently approved and charged by the Church Council. This committee will work closely with Syracuse-based architects Holmes, King, and Kallquist, as well as members of the congregation over the next several months to develop possible building options and funding scenarios to address our needs and opportunities as we look to the future.

The Committee looks forward to continuing to engage members of the Church in this important process. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with questions and keep an eye on the bulletin board in the Narthex for updates as this exciting work continues.

*Jim Blair (jimblair@twcny.rr.com)*

*Sandy Dhimitri (sd255@cornell.edu)*

*Judy Hinderliter (jk.hinderliter@gmail.com)*

*Michael McGreevey (mmcgreevey@wells.edu)*

*Bill Thibault (thibaultwj@corning.com)*

## Kids' Musical 2015

*The Technicolor Promise*, by Alan Pote and Carole McCann

First rehearsal Sunday, February 1, 11:30-1:30

**K**ids in grades 3-8 and adult and teen helpers are invited to join in! This is the story of Noah. We are seeking actors, singers, dancers, directors (of staging, movement, and music), accompanists, designers and gatherers (of costumes, sets, and props). Rehearsals are held after Sunday School, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (with lunch). To join in, please sign up on choir room door or email Diane Withiam at Diane.Withiam@gmail.com.

## Nursery Seeking Volunteers

Sunday, February 15, and Onward

**W**hile we're reviewing our educational programs for babies and toddlers, here's a way to make a difference right now for the children and the whole family. There is an upcoming need for volunteers to help in the Nursery during the worship service after Children's Time. So, please put your autograph on the sign-up sheet on the Nursery door to volunteer.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest and Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Organizing Meeting 11:30 Worship at Longview 2:00 Confirmation 4:00 K.A.N. 5:30 SOLID Youth Retreat Concludes	<b>2</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Staff Parish 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	<b>3</b> Needleworkers 10:00	<b>4</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00			<b>7</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00 Whole Health Group 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry/Caregivers 10:00
<b>8</b> Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest and Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30 Confirmation 4:00 Youth Mission 6:30	<b>9</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00 VBS Planning 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	<b>10</b> Needleworkers 10:00 Church Council 7:00	<b>11</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Church Undecorating 6:00 Choir 7:00			<b>14</b> Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 Whole Health Group 9:30
<b>15</b> Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest and Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30 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 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	<b>17</b> Needleworkers 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00	<b>18</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 Choir Follows			<b>21</b> Men's Breakfast 7:00
<b>22</b> First Sunday of Lent Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest and Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30 Confirmation 4:00	<b>23</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Food Pantry 1:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	<b>24</b> Needleworkers 10:00	<b>25</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00			<b>28</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00
<b>1</b> Second Sunday of Lent Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest and Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30 Confirmation 4:00 K.A.N. 5:30	<b>2</b> Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Staff Parish 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	<b>3</b> Needleworkers 10:00	<b>4</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>5</b> <i>February 2015</i>	 <i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i>	



## A Visit from Osprival

Last August 2014, we had a visitor to our church (Seneca Falls UMC) from Toronto, Canada, Osprival Descommes. He was the first student in higher education sponsored by this church after it embraced Josephine Ernstein's work in Haiti as a church mission in 1980. I met him on my 1st trip to Haiti with Jo in 1981. Osprival was a secondary (high school) student at La Providence School in Verrettes. While Jo and I were there at the school, Osprival and four other students would search me out during recreation and lunchtime to practice their English. This was an engaging group of boys, and I called them "My Five Musketeers." They were eager to learn and Osprival, especially, seemed to stand out. I couldn't forget them when I returned home.

When I returned to Haiti in 1982, Osprival accompanied me as interpreter on some of my student home visits. In 1983 after finishing secondary school, he came to me and asked if I could help him go to the Methodist Normal School in the capital, Port au Prince, to study Primary Education. He had a passion for teaching. I found support from several people in this church and Osprival graduated in 1986.

He later had a teaching job at a Canadian sponsored school in the north-east of Haiti. He was active politically and was very outspoken against the repressive regime of "Baby Doc" Duvalier. The Canadians found that his name was on a "hit list" of those to be targeted by the Duvalier police, so they helped him escape from Haiti and settled him in Toronto, Canada, where he has remained through the present time. He was able to continue his education and taught French as a second language for many years. He married and started a family.

However, his native country, Haiti, was always on his mind and he wanted to go back and help his fellow Haitians in the Artibonite Valley to be able to have a better life. With this in mind, he left teaching and started in a business and a job that would enable him to follow this course. He returned to Haiti in 1995 to visit and found that it was possible for him to return there and start projects.

Since then, Osprival has traveled many times to Haiti to the area of Deslande, across the Artibonite from Verrettes. He was instrumental in forming a group there which is called (CIJ) Centre d'Inspiration Jeunesse. He and this group have built a 450-student school, as well as other projects, including:

## Haiti Connection, concluded

- (1) producing cement blocks that if used in a recommended building technique produce an earthquake safe building;
- (2) a simple, inexpensive water filter;
- (3) briquettes made of paper waste and agriculture waste; and
- (4) the stoves that can burn these briquettes for cooking.

Osprival believes that widespread use of these stoves and briquettes can be a saving grace for Haiti, replacing charcoal. The longtime cutting of trees in Haiti for production of charcoal for cooking has caused widespread erosion of land—followed by crop and food loss. This, coupled with ever increasing population, does not bode well for Haiti's future.

The cement block making machine is now in Verrettes; the water filters are being made there on a small basis. Osprival has a group in the U.S. who will come to help train people in these four practical businesses. With help and determination, he is now working to set up an Institute in Verrettes that will be a pilot project for manufacturing and teaching these skills, hopefully throughout Haiti.

I am enthused about what Osprival has done and is doing for Haiti and the range of his plans for the future. He is a good example of the impact of our church's student sponsorship program.

There have been a large number of outstanding students through the years—some now at work in Haiti, some in Canada and the U.S., and some are still studying. They continue to contribute to the future of Haiti. It is a privilege for us as a church, and as individuals, to be a part of this work in progress.—*Barbara Meal Denboff*

## Small Group Opportunity!

Whole Person Wellness with Suzanna Jelovecki & Karen Veaner

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.—in the Adult Classroom

Looking for balance in your life? Nurture your Spiritual life by looking at the "big picture" and taking a "Whole Health" approach to finding balance and grace every day. Explore ways to care for your spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Drop Ins Welcome!

Continued on the next page

## Notes from Karen

### Adult Sunday School in February

#### Our Methodist Identity: February 1, 8, and 15

Where did we come from? Join Jim Blair as he takes us on a journey to explore the history of John and Charles Wesley and the roots of Methodism. Videos with Leading Methodist scholars describe the 18th-century Wesleyan revival in England and the growth of Methodism in the United States and around the world. The course will be of interest to both lifelong Methodists and those coming to Methodism from other traditions.—in the Adult Classroom

#### Meditation: A Conversation with God: Every Week

Take a break from your busy week. Explore meditation practice through posture, breath and mantra. This is an opportunity to take quiet time to talk with God. — in Pastor Jane's office with Shared Leadership

#### The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus Begins February 22

This Church-wide seven-week study explores the "I Am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. What did Jesus mean when he said, "I am the Bread of Life; the Light of the World; the Good Shepherd; the True Vine; the Way, the Truth and the Life; the Resurrection and the Life?" One by one, Jesus' statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first "I am." These significant, yet ordinary images give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known.

Each Sunday, adults, youth and children will gather in the Sanctuary to view a ten minute video filmed on location in the Holy Land, with Pastor Rob Fuquay and actually see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity, and in what context he spoke each "I Am." Don't miss our opening session, as Pastor Jane will share some of her experiences in the Holy Land. We will then disperse to our regular classrooms. This All Generation Sunday School program promises to make for some thoughtful and engaging conversation during Fellowship and beyond! —Shared Leadership

## Church World Service Kits

You can always bring in the ingredients for one of the kits. These kits are collected by Church World Service and are put into service where needed. Note that the kits must contain exactly what is specified. So, for example, you cannot substitute a shopping bag for the cotton bag in the School Kit. In some locations, import regulations limit the kits to what's specified. Also, we need to send \$2 per kit to help with shipping.

### Hygiene Kit

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

### School Kit

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

### Baby Care Kit

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be handknitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be new and under 12 months in size.



# The Sunbeam

February 2015

Lansing United  
Methodist Church

Inside:

WORSHIP 9:00

KIDZ QUEST AND  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30



LENT BEGINS  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 18

7:00

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## Lansing United Methodist Church

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one mile north of the stoplight on  
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