



The Sunbeam June 2015

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



**Church in the Park
June 28 and All of July**

Celebrate God's Creation

Pastor's Page: Guest Commentary

On Not Being Nice, "For the Sake of the Gospel"

by Bill Easum (Based on an essay from April 1997)

Throughout all of my consulting ministry, I have seen a disturbing pattern ... most established churches are held hostage by one or two bullies. Some individual or small group of individuals are usually extremely opposed to the church making any radical change, even if it means the change would give the church a chance to thrive once again.

Courageous pastors often ask, "What do I do when one person intimidates the church so much that it is not willing to try something new?" My response is always, "Either convert them, neutralize them, or kick them out. The Body can not live with cancer." To which someone usually cries, "That's not very Christian!" But remember that Jesus was so compassionate toward others that he could not remain quiet when he saw people holding other people in bondage.

Moses also dealt with this.¹ A group of people led by Korah came to Moses asking him to relinquish leadership because they wanted to take the Hebrews back to Egypt. After praying, Moses slew all of them. Not very nice, but necessary if they were going to get to Canaan. Moses knew that freedom with God was better than slavery with Pharaoh. The same is true today... freedom to grow in grace is always better than enslavement to the status quo.

Almost every struggling church has at least one dysfunctional bully—a church member or staff member—who keeps the church so intimidated, either by their actions or their money, that little can happen without that person's approval. The sad thing is the church leaders ignore the bully, thinking that is the Christian thing to do, but Jesus shows otherwise.

I'm convinced that one of the main sins of the established church is that we have taught ourselves to be nice instead of to be Christian. We teach that the essence of Christianity is to be nice, but Jesus' actions show otherwise.

One of the hallmarks of Jesus's ministry was his constant attack on the status quo. He challenged it every time he could. He even went out of his way to upset the religious bullies of his time. At one point, in a holy rage, Jesus entered the Temple with a large, metal-tipped whip and drove out the money changers. He said, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves."²

When Jesus cleansed the temple he was in the Court of the Gentiles. This

continued next page

Guest Commentary, concluded

was the only part of the temple where gentiles were allowed to worship. What ticked Jesus off was that the religious leaders were using the only place gentiles could worship God as the place to sell their wares and the gentiles' worship space was turned into an economic opportunity for the religious leaders. The focus of the religious leaders was on themselves, not the spiritual vitality of the gentiles. So he drove them out.

People who would rather be nice than Christian do not love enough. If we really loved people, we would not base our decisions on whether people would like us for those decisions. Being nice is not what Jesus wants from any of us. Being nice gives us more dysfunctional people, fewer spiritual giants, an intimidated congregation, an inability to spread the Gospel, little hope of renewal or growth, and discouraged church leaders.

This does not mean that we should set out to intimidate the bully or to kick people out of the church, but we must show that we care enough about the bully that we will not allow that person to intimidate the church because we know the spiritual vitality of both the bully and the church is at stake.

In Matthew 18 Jesus gives us a formula for dealing with the dysfunctional bully. First, an individual privately confronts the person with what he or she is doing and asks the person to stop. If this doesn't achieve positive results, two or more people are to confront the person. If this does not resolve the matter, the person is to be brought before the entire church. Finally, Jesus says to ignore that person thereafter (treat them like a pagan). Never, ever, allow such a person to dictate the direction of the church.³

The next time someone in your church attempts to intimidate or bully the church out of taking a positive step forward, go to God in prayer, and then remove that person from their position in the church....of course in love.⁴

Notes: ¹ Numbers 16; ² Matthew 21:13; ³ Matthew 18:15-17; ⁴ For more on how to do this, see William M. Easum, *Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.)

This is a condensed version of a much longer essay.

<http://tinyurl.com/3qfjymt> At the time he wrote this, Bill Easum was a church renewal consultant.

Thank You from the Altar Committee

Thanks to all who have brightened our Sunday morning by contributing flowers for the altar. They are greatly appreciated by all.

Annual Church Cleanup

Sunday, June 14

Mark your calendars and please join us to help spruce up our lovely church property. Bring your work clothes, gloves, hats, and gardening tools, and be ready to pull weeds, spread mulch, wash windows, and many more fun jobs. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Adults can start right after church and children following Sunday School. All are welcome and needed. The more helpers we have the quicker we get done. Any questions can be directed to a Trustee. Thank you!!

Last Day of (Sunday) School

June 14 is the last day of Children's Sunday School! We've had a fantastic year of Kidz Quest!, filled with exploits of all sorts! Throw in a pageant, a musical, and a church-wide Lenten study, and you've got the fixin's for quite a fun adventure! And next year, it'll be even better! The Children's Ministry Team wishes all the families who have been touched by Kidz Quest! a safe and fun-filled summer, and we look forward to kicking off another great program with you in September!

Youth Group and Pancakes and Prayer Take a Break

Nourishment is especially important during test-taking, so Pancakes and Prayer will continue throughout Finals & Regents week. The final Pancakes and Prayer of the school year will be on June 22. Similarly, the final Youth Group of the school year will be on June 24.

Church Picnic

On June 21, everyone is invited after worship to join the Church Picnic to celebrate the conclusion of yet another wonderful Sunday School year and the beginning of summer! Food, ice cream, fellowship, memories, and (hopefully) sunshine will abound! Again, everyone is invited to join, so we hope to see you there!

Dads 'n' Grads

Join us in worship on June 21 to celebrate Father's Day, as well as high school and college graduates! We'll recognize the wonderful accomplishments of our young people, and the profound influence of the dads in our lives.



Haiti Connection

Haiti Reflections

Sometimes it is very easy to see what is lacking in Haiti: things like electricity, clean water, garbage collection, and free public education. Yet, if we are solely focused on the poverty of Haiti, we will miss the richness of Haiti. There is the beauty of watching the sun come up over the mountains in the east. The sounds of animals greeting the dawn and farmers walking to their fields shouldering a hoe. There are hundreds of students streaming to various schools, each in their different colored uniforms. Mostly the richness is in the Haitian people: their generosity despite their circumstance, their faith that God knows their future and thankfulness for what He has provided. Haiti is noisy with the business of making a living - usually done along the streets of the village selling or in the fields. There is always time for conversation and laughter amidst the work. A game of dominoes in the shade of a tree or by the kerosene lamp after dark brings people together.


Church is the highlight of the week, wearing their best children and parents walk briskly in the dawn to church listening for the sounds of voices lifted in praise. Eventually the ushers find a place for everyone on the crowded benches. As the pastor plays the accordion the congregation rises and joins in song praising God and His son, Jesus Christ. Although I can understand only tidbits of the worship, I can sense the Holy Spirit's presence. It is clear that faith is their bedrock and there is no better place to stand.

For Carol and me, going to Haiti is one of God's greatest blessings, for we can see Him at work in lives of the Haitian people, especially our students.

May God richly bless you, *Pete and Carol Loveland*

United Methodist Night at the Ball Park

Crossroads District United Methodist Men are hosting a UNY Conference tailgate party at 5:30 p.m., prior to the Syracuse Chiefs game on Tuesday, June 16, which is United Methodist Night at the Ballpark. You are encouraged to bring a dish to pass and your own drink, as well as a donation of non-perishable food to go to the Food Bank of CNY. At 6:45 p.m., you'll have the opportunity to join the whole group in singing the National Anthem to kick off the game, which starts at 7:00. For info, contact Steve Ranous at 315-445-1045 or UMSteve@twcny.rr.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>June 2015</i>	1 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Gospel of John Study 12:00 Staff Parish 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	2 Needleworkers 10:00	3 Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Senior High Youth 6:00	4	5	6 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry/ Caregivers 10:00
7 Worship 9:00 Kidz Quest and Sunday School 10:30 K.A.N. 5:30	8 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Woodsedge Prayer Service 11:00 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	9 Needleworkers 10:00 Church Council 7:00	10 Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00	11	12	13 Men's Breakfast 7:00
14 Worship 9:00 Sunday School and Kidz Quest 10:30 Church Cleanup 10:30	15 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE	16 Needleworkers 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00	17 Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Senior High Youth 6:00	18	19	20 Men's Breakfast 7:00
21 DADS AND GRADS SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Church Picnic 10:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive	22 Pancakes and Prayers 6:30 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Food Pantry 1:00 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	23 Needleworkers 10:00	24 Bible Study 9:30 Senior High Youth 6:00	25	26	27 Mens' Breakfast 7:00 Adult Mission Emergency Response Training 8:30
28 CHURCH IN THE PARK MYERS PARK PAVILION D Worship 9:30	29 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Wingmen Men's Group 7:00	30 Needleworkers 10:00				 <i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i>



Church in the Park

Summertime Worship 9:30 a.m. June 28 and all of July

For the last Sunday of June and all of July LUMC will meet for worship in Pavilion D of Myers Park.

We welcome anyone who would help haul things from church for set-up and return, most notably the sound system (easy to set up) and things like offering baskets and the blankets for children's time. Also, you could volunteer to bring snacks or help set up the goodies table with water or other beverages.

Using the church as a landmark, to get to church in the park, head down Ridge Road (34B) to the four corners at the bottom of the hill, and turn left on Myers Road, continuing down toward the lake. Cross the railroad tracks and veer right into Myers Park. Turn left after the booth and head toward the lake, stopping at Pavilion D. Watch for our green Worship Banner. If you reach the lake you have gone too far. If you're not a town resident, park entry is free for church, just tell the person at the booth. Bring a chair if you want.

Summer Worship Times

Note: Worship time is 9:00 at the church on June 7, 14, and 21. Then it's 9:30 for July in the park and August at the church, plus Labor Day Sunday, September 6. Then it's back to 9:00, as Sunday School resumes on September 13.

Summer Music

Our services are enriched by special music during the summer. If you'd like to share some music any Sunday in July and August, please see Diane Withiam.

Adults In Mission Opportunity

Hurricane Sandy Recovery in NJ

20 to 26 September 2015

LUMC Adults In Mission will lead a 12-person Mission Team to the Jersey shore to assist in recovery operations as a part of UMCOR's ongoing "A Future With Hope" operation. The team will lodge in a local UM Church and work on a house, or houses, in the area. Little to no formal construction skills are needed—just a strong Faith in Service to Christ through helping others in need. Contact Steve or Laura Alexander at 533-4869 or alexanderlaura@yahoo.com.

Adults in Mission: Local Home Improvements

Adults In Mission is looking for local area residents in need of minor home improvements or help around the house. This is intended to help those who cannot, either physically or financially, get these things done on their own. If you, or someone you know, needs help around the house this spring and summer please contact either the Alexanders (533-4869) or Glenn Withiam (533-4791).

Care Day

Community Faith Partners lined up 46 volunteers to fix up and clean up four local work-sites on Care Day, Saturday, May 16. LUMC volunteers stopped in on Mary Searles to help her with yard work. Other teams re-sealed a leaking roof, repaired a water-damaged ceiling, built small outdoor stairs, and installed cabinets and painted trim for a new women's facility. Photos may be viewed at: www.GoCFP.org

Care Day would not have been a success without the people, congregations, and businesses who provided funding and support, including Segal & Sorensen Construction, Erie Materials, and Finger Lakes ReUse, as well as WalMart, Wegmans, TOPS, Ithaca Bakery, Tim Horton's, and Maines Food Warehouse. The four work sites were sponsored by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Lansing United Methodist Church, Ithaca Vineyard Fellowship, and Covenant Love Community Church. Volunteers also came from eight other congregations: Bethel Grove Bible Church, Calvary Baptist, Christ Chapel, Dryden Home Fellowship, Emmaus Road, New Life Victory Center, Seneca Community Church, and St. Catherine of Siena.

CFP has invited Christian congregations to join in Care Day twice a year since 2009, serving 62 work sites. Thanks to all the volunteers, local businesses, and organizations who made our Spring Care Day another great success!



VBS 2015: G-FORCE! Pre-registration Opens

Important! VBS pre-registration is online-only this year, and it is officially open! Pre-registration is intended

for children attending, as well as any adults or teens who wish to volunteer! If you would like to be a crew leader, a helping hand, or anything in between, please register online at vbs2015.doattend.com or by scanning this QR code!



LUMC's Future Vision Continues Forward

The visions and hopes from a year long series of home meetings has been summarized in an architect's interpretation of the top priorities that came out of those meetings and subsequent meetings. We continue to pray for God's guidance in our thoughts and deliberations as we "move forward." Further comments on the architect's sketch has resulted in an updated presentation from the architects. The process still has a long way to go before any final decisions have to be made. Further ideas and plans will be included in additional drawings. With the core concepts in place, one next step is to work on a financial process that will influence the final building design.

The architect's sketch of a possible configuration has been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. This is a conceptual plan, not a final design, but it includes many stated wishes (such as moving the staff offices to a more visible place and adding more bathrooms). This sketch is meant to help us visualize what is currently being discussed. With the assistance of professionals who have experience in financial aspects of projects we will be able to add that input into our final designs.—*Building Committee*



Sign up for Camp! Bring a Friend!

If you or your child has not already done so, make sure to sign up for summer camp. LUMC's policy is that money should never stand in the way of having a child go to camp. Children: Invite a friend to camp, maybe someone who doesn't attend LUMC.

Thanks to the efforts of Rick and Charla Hayes and to Dave Hatfield and the Chicken Barbecue crew, LUMC has campership funds available to send children to camp. The church is happy to help out with the campership funds. A child does not have to be a member of LUMC or even a member of any church to receive campership funds from LUMC. We want to send children to camp! We want to spend all of the campership fund. Camp is a marvelous experience and is a tremendous chance for children to meet Jesus and to make disciples for Christ.



Casowasco is just one of the wonderful camps available this summer.

The Sunbeam June 2015



Lansing United
Methodist Church
CHURCH IN THE PARK
WORSHIP AT MYERS PARK
JUNE 28 AND ALL OF JULY
SUMMERTIME WORSHIP
9:30 A.M.

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

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.
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