



The Sunbeam November 2016

Lansing United Methodist Church

Worship 9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



**Give Thanks to the Lord
Thanksgiving 2016**

From the Pastor

In Transition

Dear Friends,

In early October, I returned from a conference of *Christians Engaged in Faith Formation* (formerly the *Christian Educators' Fellowship*) especially aware of things in transition. As I write this, trees across the lake are in transition from the verdant look of summer to the brown of winter. The in-between stage of fall foliage is beautiful. Our country is in transition from one President to the next, and the in-between stage has been ugly. Our United Methodist Church (UMC) is in transition from being dominated by citizens of the United States to having a majority of members who are citizens of Africa, Asia, and Europe. How this transition will play out is yet to be seen.

Currently there are 7,183,193 Lay Members (non-ordained) of the UMC in the U.S., and not quite as many—only 5,525,924 in Africa, Asia, and Europe combined.¹ The measure of baptized members, including infants and children, tells a different story, however. There are 649,423 baptized United Methodists living in the U.S., and 1,915,864—nearly three times as many—in Africa, Asia, and Europe. In coming generations, the majority of the UMC will be outside of the U.S. and Europe, and we Americans will be a minority in the church.

Our church's democratic decision-making structure was instituted around the time the U.S. Constitution was written. Giving persons the opportunity to elect representatives, decentralizing power by dividing governance between several different bodies (General Boards in the UMC), and creating checks and balances was revolutionary at the time, in both church and secular government.

Much has changed over 200 years. Some transitions have been more beautiful than others. No matter whether the UMC stays together or splits, it will meet the needs of some people better than it meets the needs of others. No matter who is elected, our country will be changed by having a new president, even though the system of checks and balances will stymie the desire of our Commander-in-Chief to make rapid changes.

¹ All statistics are 2014, from www.umc.org/news-and-media/united-methodists-at-a-glance, viewed 10/17/2016.

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Pastor's message (concluded)

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the Wittenburg Church door, challenging all that he felt was wrong in the church, and starting the Protestant Reformation. Perhaps 500 years later the church needs another reformation. No matter what happens, Jesus' way will still be the way of giving one's self for the sake of others. I am reminded of Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

*Thanks be to God.
Pastor Alison*

Council of Bishops Names 32 Commission Members

"After three months of diligent and prayerful discernment, we have selected 8 bishops, 11 laity, 11 elders, and 2 deacons to serve on the Commission," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the Council of Bishops. "This group is representative of our theological diversity."

Ough said the makeup of the 32-member commission is roughly comparable to U.S. and Central Conference membership.

The Commission's mission is to "bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional, and central conference actions."

The 2016 General Conference gave a specific mandate to the Council of Bishops to lead The United Methodist Church in discerning and proposing a way forward through the present impasse related to human sexuality and the consequent questions about unity and covenant.

While clergy and laity will vote at a General Conference on these matters, the bishops have the responsibility to lead the church. Thus, the Commission is designed to inform the Council's leadership of the General Conference.

At their fall meeting (October 30–November 2), the Council was scheduled to make a decision about a called General Conference and to review a plan to conduct additional and complementary work in annual conferences designed to broaden the conversation with hundreds of lay and clergy members.

More at:

www.umc.org/news-and-media/council-of-bishops-names-32-membe

Haiti Connection

Dear friends,

As you can imagine, the week after the hurricane was a long one for REBUILD globally. We have been assessing the damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew and have been working diligently to create



a comprehensive and sustainable recovery plan for our company and for our craftsmen, craftswomen, and their families.

We are hopeful about the future and together we are stronger than we have been before. Over the next few months our recovery plans will include the following.

Our Plan

- Focus on immediate relief and hurricane preparedness—rebuilding at the refugee camp in Fonds Bayard to ensure safety, security, and livelihood opportunities for residents;
- Provide immediate repairs and upgrades to social impact factory and boutique in Port-au-Prince, to ensure the hub where we



Refugee camp in Fonds Bayard

- create economic stability is secure and protected;
- Provide immediate relief for staff, students, and their families and assist in rebuilding their livelihoods, and
- Invest in growing our business infrastructure to help more Haitians find dignified, living-wage employment so that they may earn an income and start to repair from the storm.

Our priority in these relief efforts is to focus on the long-term recovery of the affected communities. We know that investing in local economies and business is the most effective way to empower individuals out of poverty. We have worked hard to create a plan that is line with our values and hope that you will join us.

Sarah Sandsted



In addition to disaster relief, LUMC's Haiti ministry continues, as we raise money to support our university students who are studying in the Dominican Republic, due to previous natural disasters.

LUMC's Tenth Annual Haiti Dessert Auction

On Sunday, November 20, 2016, auctioneer Charlie Cuykendall will once again auction off delicious desserts made by Lansing's finest bakers. Serve them that night or freeze them for the holidays. At



11:45, right after Sunday School, participants may taste all the desserts for a five-dollar donation. Hot dogs and beverages will be available. At 12:15 p.m., the auction begins with a fresh set of bake goods. Proceeds from the auction will support the Haiti committee's university program. It's a family event, it's fun, and it's an opportunity to support others.



Lansing Community Thanksgiving Service

November 22

7:00 p.m.

All Saints R.C. Church

Annual LUMC Turkey Trot

9:00 a.m. November 24

Casual, self-timed 5K course starting and finishing at church. Bring your friends and get your Thanksgiving off to a running start.



*Lansing United
Methodist
Church*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

6

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Junior Choir 11:30
Youth Ministry 11:45

K.A.N. 5:30

7

Pancakes and Prayer 7:00
Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30
Communion at Woodsedge 11:00
Bible Study at LUMC 12:00
Staff Parish 7:00
Wingmen 7:00

8

Needleworkers Group 10:00

Ladies in Faith Together 6:30
Crossroads

Advent Worship Planning 7:30

9

Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Adult Choir 7:00

10

11

Junior High Youth 6:00
Senior High Youth 6:00

12

Men's Breakfast at Linda's
in North Lansing
Every Saturday 7:00

Prayer Shawl Ministry/
Caregivers 10:00

13

CONSECRATION SUNDAY
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Junior Choir 11:30

Fingerlakes Cluster Charge Conference 2:15
Confirmation Orientation 4:00
Youth Mission at All Saints 6:30

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Pancakes and Prayer 7:00
Mobile Food Pantry 10:00
Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30
Bible Study at LUMC 12:00

Trustees 7:00
Wingmen 7:00

15

Needleworkers Group 10:00

Worship Committee 7:00

Sunbeam Deadline Midnight

16

Safe Sanctuaries 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30
Children's Ministry 11:45

Bell Choir 6:00
Adult Choir 7:00

17

18

Junior High Youth 6:00
Senior High Youth 6:00

19

Men's Breakfast 7:00

20

Worship 9:00
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION SUNDAY
Sunday School 10:30
Junior Choir 11:30
Haiti Dessert Auction 11:45
Rescue Mission Dinner 3:00

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

21

Pancakes and Prayer 7:00

Giving Tree Ministry 1:00
Food Pantry at the Rink 1:00
Thanksgiving Choir Rehearsal
at All Saints 7:00
Wingmen 7:00

22

Needleworkers Group 10:00
Bible Study at LUMC 1:00

Community Thanksgiving
Service at All Saints 7:00

23

24

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving

LUMC Turkey Trot 9:00

Office Closed

25

Office Closed

26

Mens' Breakfast 7:00

27

 Hope
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship 9:00
UNITED METHODIST STUDENT
DAY

Sunday School 10:30

28

Pancakes and Prayer 7:00
Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30
Bible Study at LUMC 12:00

Wingmen 7:00

29

Needleworkers Group 10:00

30

Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Adult Choir 7:00

*November
2016*

Lessons & Carols Service,

Sunday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.

“A Little Child Shall Lead Them...”

Advent begins Sunday, November 27

God Is in the Manger: Reflections on

Advent and Christmas is a book of daily

reflections from scripture and Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s writings. You are invited to join in reading these as a part of your daily devotional time in Advent. The book may be ordered online or from Karen Veaner (adultministries@lansingunited.org). An adult Sunday School class will discuss these reflections, which will also echo through our worship.

“There are only two places where the powerful and great in this world lose their courage, tremble in the depths of their souls, and become truly afraid. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ.”

“No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle of Bethlehem. And yet, all Christian theology finds its beginnings in the miracle of miracles, that God became human.”

These stirring words are among forty devotions that guide and inspire readers as they move thematically through the weeks of Advent and Christmas, from waiting and mystery to redemption, incarnation, and joy. Supplemented by an informative introduction, short excerpts from Bonhoeffer’s letters, and passages from his Christmas sermons, these daily devotions are timeless and moving reminders of the true gift of Christmas.

About Advent, by Dean McIntyre



The season of Advent has been with us since the fourth century, although it has not been a part of the liturgical observance of all denominations and churches.

When. Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends Christmas Eve.

What. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming.” It is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers.

History. Advent began in France in the fourth century. Some churches today are experimenting with incorporating Advent themes and symbols in worship during the weeks prior to the actual start of Advent in the hope that they can avoid the conflict of Advent versus Christmas (given the secular emphasis).

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

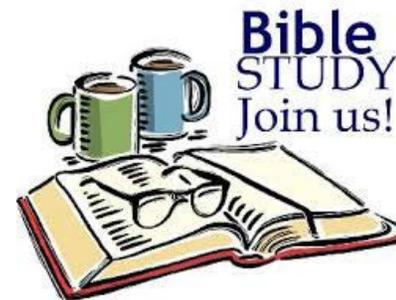
Adult Ministries

Women’s Bible Study, with Jan Nagel, *Wednesdays* 9:30 a.m.

Evolution of the Word, with Bonnie Blair *Note Special Time**

Our regular meeting times are Mondays from 12-2pm. Once a month we will move to Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. to allow participants to assist with the Food Pantry

Join us as we explore the New Testament books in the order they were written. Discover how spiritually and politically radical the early Jesus movement began and how it evolved.



Adult Sunday School

10:30 Sunday morning

Ken Hover—Creation, November 6 & 20

God created the world in 6 days, Ken Hover will use 2 Sunday mornings to reveal his take on the creation story. You won’t want to miss it!

The Wired Word, with Judy Hinderliter

Confront world news with Scripture and Hope. The Wired Word pulls topics straight from the headlines and offers thought provoking questions to encourage us to dig deeper. Join in a rich discussion of current events and explore their relationship to scripture & everyday life.

Listening: A Meditation Practice, with shared leadership

“Be still and know that I am God” –Psalm 46:10, Join us for a time of Holy awareness.

The Story of the Bible, with Karen Veaner, November 13

Journey through the story of the Bible and learn how it came to be the books we hold in our hands today. It’s a story of faith, murder, betrayal, and Faith. It’s a Love story. Rediscover the power of Scripture and what it can offer us today.

The Holy Bible – It’s bigger on the inside...

Seeking What the Lord Has in Mind

Editor's note: Lay Leader Sharon Bowman shared the following meditation in church in consideration of the effort to match people's interests with the work to be done in the next years.—gw

Where do you want me to go next, Lord, and what are you asking me to do? I believe we are each on our own faith journey, and for sure at various stages of this journey. I also believe that our faith journey is forever a “work in progress.”

Perhaps you have heard God's whisper in your ear but have not been able to discern where he wants you to go or what it is he is asking you to do.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my personal story with you. Many years ago, after a rather lengthy separation from LUMC or any other place of worship for that matter I heard God's whisper in my ear to get myself back to that foundation of faith, the one which began with the seeds my mom and dad planted when I was a youngster, one that provides me with wonderful memories still.

For me personally, this foundation of faith has been the source of comfort, courage, and strength during the face of many difficult times. God's mercy and grace have sustained me in good times and hard times. I am blessed!

Not too long after finding my way back to LUMC, I heard God's call again when there was a need for someone to step out in faith and work with our young people—something that required more than just finding my way to the church pew on Sunday morning. That call led me to coordinate our acolyte program for the next several years.

You see, as a young child I had the opportunity to serve in the role of acolyte at Westside United Methodist Church in Elmira. Thanks to the wonderful adult leaders there, I gained an understanding of this role, and I share that with our young people. We read from the book of John, chapter 8, verse 12, where we hear the familiar words proclaiming Christ as the light of the world, and helping our youth to understand that by our faith we carry Christ's light too! Serving as acolyte provides the symbol of carrying in Christ's light as we prepare for worship, and carrying Christ's light out to the world at the close of worship. The next time you observe our acolytes, maybe you will see their role in this way too.

Hearing God's call and stepping out in faith has led me to other ways to serve. We each have many gifts and talents which make us able to service, but we have to open our hearts and minds to the possibilities. God not only calls the equipped to serve, but he surely equips us when we are called.

God may in fact be calling you, but it's up to us to hear that call and act on it. Over the next couple of weeks, we will hear from members of our family

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What the Lord Has in Mind (concluded)

of faith who will share the ways in which they are serving. Each opportunity to serve is significant. As we will hear in our first lesson this morning, all of us together represent Christ's body; we are each an important part of it.

Won't you listen for God's whispering in your ear and act on it. Together we will fulfill the work of our church while responding to God's call.

LUMC Forward Moves Forward

The LUMC Forward Campaign has met its initial goal and active campaigning has been suspended. As of Oct. 15, we have received 128 pledge cards, with \$969,481 pledged (over the three-year period ending December 2019). Thanks so much for your generosity both in the form of prayers and pledges in this campaign. It is clear that we are all looking forward to what God has in store for us next.



Now the fine print. You may pay your pledge at any time between now and then, but front-loaded payments will be most helpful to reduce our interest expense and cover pre-construction expenses. When you do write a check, please help out our financial secretaries by writing “Building Fund” on the memo line. Also don't forget to pay your regular budget pledge, but it will be most helpful to write separate checks for the two purposes.

If you still want to make a pledge to LUMC Forward, that would be great. Just let us know, through the church office, by catching up to a steering committee member, or putting a well marked note in the collection plate.

Again, thanks to all for the great effort to move our church forward.

Glenn Withiam, Steering Committee Chair

LUMC Forward Building Project Memorial Gifts (As of October 29)

In Memory of: Ralph R. Barnard, Clarence Benson, William Bishop, Robert Boda, Harry A Bortz. Janiene Bostwick, Brian Kevin Cleveland, My parents, Pat and Connie Conlon, Wilfred and Norma Corner, My Mother, Elouise Davis, Blanch Drake, William B. Earl, Sr., Elizabeth, My Son, Vernon Gatewood, My Grandfather, William Gilmore, Joan and Dave Hardie, DeForest Heffron, My Granddaughter, Jennie, Paul and Mary Lange, Brent Larsen, Listar Family, Ellen Mattson, My Mother, Everett and Winona Nobles, Our Grandparents, Our Parents, Nilla and Hans Syversen, Matthew Tavelli, Joseph Veaner, Dorothy and Art Wells, George and Allie Withiam, and All who merged the 5 congregations.

The Sunbeam

November 2016



Lansing United
Methodist Church

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
NOVEMBER 22

Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 27

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@twcnny.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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