



# *The Sunbeam* December 2016

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Lansing United Methodist Church

**Worship 9:00 AM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 5:00 AND 8:00 PM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Pastor: Alison Schmied**

**Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel**

**Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner**



**Christmas 2016**

## From the Pastor

### Christmas Surprises

I have a friend who loves planning surprises. He enjoys the challenge of organizing people and things covertly, and seeing the shocked look on someone's face when they are surprised.

His wife, however, does not like surprises. My friend has had to learn (the hard way) that his spouse enjoys the time of looking forward to and anticipating things much more than she appreciates being surprised. It is not only that she likes having time to prepare for whatever item or experience is coming, she also likes spending days with a sense of anticipation that something good is going to happen.

Advent and Christmas have elements to please both those who like to be surprised and those who prefer to prepare and wait. Longstanding seasonal traditions provide plenty of instances of waiting for what we know will happen; and the inevitable changes of plans when multiple people and multiple events are involved provide plenty of unexpected experiences!

For those who endeavor to prepare and wait, Advent provides four weeks to consider what in our lives is in need of redemption. Advent study and prayer may shine a light on the actions to which God is calling us, and it may bring us to acknowledge our need for a Savior. Many in our congregation will be using *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*, a book of daily devotions for Advent with readings from scripture and from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

For those who like surprises, Advent provides many unexpected reversals: a Messiah who comes not as a warrior but as a baby, born not to an established, prestigious family but to unwed immigrants, greeted not by royals but by lowly shepherds, and put to sleep not in a place of honor but in an animal's feeding trough. It is a time of considering how God changes the world through changed hearts and minds: turning despair into hope, disdain into love, sorrow into joy, and conflict into peace.

The biggest surprise of Advent may be that even for those of us who know the story and think that we are prepared, God's Love continues to find ways to surprise us, appearing in the most unlikely situations.

Who knows? God's Love might even use us to bring hope, love, joy, and peace to the world around us.

May it be so this year.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Alison*



### Advent Worship

December 4, Second Sunday: Love  
December 11, Third Sunday: Joy  
December 18, Fourth Sunday: Hope

### Advent 2016 at LUMC Prepare Ye—Advent Is Here!

Our Worship and Adult Sunday School themes will be inspired by *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*, a book of daily reflections from scripture and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings. You are invited to join in reading these daily devotions and explore them further in our Advent Sunday School class. The book may be ordered through Karen Veaner (adultministries@lansingunited.org).

#### Adult Sunday School

December 4, Advent: *God Is in the Manger: Mystery*—with Karen Bishop

December 11, Advent: *God Is in the Manger: Redemption*—with Jim Evans

December 18, Advent: *God Is in the Manger: Incarnation*—with Jim Evans

All Adult classes will gather during this season of waiting in the Adult Classroom. Raised in an upper middle class family, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was sent to the gallows for preaching the Gospel of Christ, rescuing Jewish people as a double agent, and opposing Hitler. He had escaped to America, where he studied and lectured, but he felt it his duty to return to “stand with the Christian people of Germany,” as he put it. He died at the age of 39, one month before the German surrender in World War II.

“These Advent and Christmas reflections of (Dietrich) Bonhoeffer flew from his prison cell, flung open the doors of hope, and sailed heavenward as heart-wrenching prayers from a condemned man, prayers from a man who embodied what it means to pray, *May your kingdom come.*” — Scott McKnight, Professor in Religious Studies, North Park University and author of *The Jesus Creed* and *The Blue Parakeet*.

### Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 a.m.

This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will take place during the worship service on December 18. Please join us for a meaningful and lighthearted interpretation of the Christmas season by our children! Denise Wyszkowski is directing this year's pageant. See her to help out. Some of the needs are a simple stable & star for the background, nativity costumes, and parents to help out, as well as youth to help sing carols & to do an angel dance. Rehearsals will be on Saturdays at 10:00.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Lansing United  
Methodist  
Church

December  
2016

Advent  
A Season of Hope  
& Expectation

1  
Building Committee 3:00

2  
Junior High Youth 6:00  
Senior High Youth  
at Robin's Nest 6:00

3  
Men's Breakfast at Linda's  
in North Lansing  
Every Saturday 7:00  
Church Greening 9:00  
Pageant Rehearsal 10:0  
Prayer Shawl Ministry/Caregivers  
10:00

4  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:  
LOVE  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
Children's Ministry  
11:45  
K.A.N. 5:30



5  
Pancakes and Prayer 7:00  
Bible Study at Woodsedge  
10:30  
Communion at Woodsedge  
11:00  
Bible Study at LUMC 12:00  
Wingmen 7:00

6  
Needleworkers Group 10:00  
Ladies in Faith Together 6:30  
Crossroads

7  
Safe Sanctuaries 9:00  
Women's Bible Study 9:30  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Adult Choir 7:00

8  
9  
Junior High Youth 6:00  
Senior High Youth  
at Robin's Nest 6:00

10  
Mens' Breakfast  
7:00  
Pageant Rehearsal 10:00  
Lessons and Carols  
Rehearsal 9:00  
Sunbeam Deadline Midnight

11  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
Giving Tree Gifts and  
Poinsettia Orders Due  
Youth Mission 4:30  
Service of Lessons and Carols 6:30



12  
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

13  
Needleworkers Group 10:00  
Church Council 7:00

14  
Women's Bible Study  
Christmas Dish to Pass 9:30  
Bell Choir 6:00  
Adult Choir 7:00

15  
16  
Junior High Youth  
Christmas Party 6:00  
Senior High Youth  
at Robin's Nest 6:00

17  
Men's Breakfast 7:00  
Pageant Rehearsal 10:00

18  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE  
Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30  
Birthday Party for Jesus 11:30  
Rescue Mission Dinner 3:00  
Senior High Christmas Party 6:00  
Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive



19  
Pancakes and Prayer 7:00  
Bible Study at Woodsedge  
10:30  
Giving Tree Ministry 1:00  
Food Pantry 1:00  
Haiti Committee 7:00  
Wingmen 7:00

20  
Needleworkers Group 10:00  
Bible Study at LUMC 1:00  
Worship Committee 7:00

21  
Longest Night  
Service 7:00

22  
23

24  
Mens' Breakfast 7:00  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
Worship 5:00  
Worship 8:00



25  
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY  
Worship 9:00



26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
Church Office Closed

31  
Mens' Breakfast 7:00  
BEST WISHES FOR 2017

## Junior and Senior High Christmas Parties

Friday, December 16—Junior High Party, 6:00 to 8:00

Sunday, December 18—Senior High Party, 6:00 to 8:00

Santa's coming to town... and he wants to party! Invite your friends. The Junior High (7th & 8th grade) Christmas party will be on Friday, December 16, and the Senior High (9-12th grade) Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 18. Both are 6-8pm in Fellowship Hall, and both will be the most fun anybody has that weekend! Silliness, hot cocoa, and copious amounts of great food will abound! And be sure to bring a gift for the white elephant exchange (no more than \$10), and either a pair of gloves or warm socks to be donated to the Ithaca Rescue Mission. Questions? Talk to Kevin (youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org)

Holiday Break! Due to the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus, we'll be taking a break from Junior & Senior High Youth Group on December 23 and 30, and from Pancakes and Prayer on December 26 & January 2. Youth Group returns January 6, and P&P on January 9.

## Giving Tree

Sunday, December 11

The Giving Tree has been in the Narthex since just before Thanksgiving, but check to see if there are still tags on the tree. Each year we receive the names of children in need in our community. Tags on the tree represent one of two gifts for each child: an article of clothing and a toy. The tag on the Giving Tree will list the child's gender, age, and what they'd like for a toy or the size of clothing he or she wears. In the past, we've had approximately 40-50 children for a total of 80-100 tags. The gifts need to be returned to the church, wrapped with the tag secured on the outside, **no later than Sunday, December 11.**

God gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus, and it is in this spirit of giving that we reach out to Lansing families each Christmas season. Thank you so much for offering hope, joy, peace, and love to many in our community! If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Geise (607-319-5310 or geise1019@hotmail.com).

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## Christmas Poinsettias

Our sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias on Christmas Eve. Order deadline for poinsettias is December 11. See the form in the Sunday bulletin.

## Christmas Instruments...

will play for worship on December 18. Rehearsals are yet to be set. Possibilities are Sunday, 12/11; Wednesday 12/14 (6:00); and Saturday 12/17. See Diane Withiam if you are interested (diane.withiam@gmail.com).

## Greening of the Church

9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 3

Come join in fellowship, a light breakfast and the greening of the church on Saturday, December 3 at 9:00. Wear your work clothes, and bring trimmers or pruning shears, and a pair of wire cutters (if you have them). We will be bringing decorations down from the attic, hanging them up, making fresh evergreen wreaths, and making merry. Bring the whole family! See Deb Lavigne with questions (deblavig@aol.com).

## A Festival of Lessons & Carols

"And a Little Child Shall Lead Them..."

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

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus, told in nine brief scripture readings from the Bible interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and special music. In keeping with our hope that there will always be "room at the inn," an offering will be collected for Habitat for Humanity. Please join us for this special worship opportunity. Coffee and cookies will be served in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. If you can provide cookies or help serve, see Karen Veaner.

## Longest Night Worship Service

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 21

A special worship service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, in the Fellowship hall, near the fireplace. On this longest night of the year, we will gather to worship God by sharing scripture, prayer, and stories together. This will be a time of thanking God for the loved ones who are present in our hearts but absent from our sight this holiday season. Participants are invited to light candles in remembrance of loved ones who have died, no matter how recent or distant the loss.

Together, we will be reminded of God's promises to us, including the promise that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light" (John 1:5, CEB). For more information, contact Pastor Alison (alison.schmied@gmail.com or 533-4070).

# The Sunbeam

December 2016



Lansing United  
Methodist Church

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**5:00 PM AND 8:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 25**

**9:00**

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## **Lansing United Methodist Church**

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882

one mile north of the spotlight on

Route 34B in South Lansing.

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,  
editor, at [grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu).

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