



# *The Sunbeam* April 2016

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Lansing United Methodist Church

**Worship 9:00 AM**

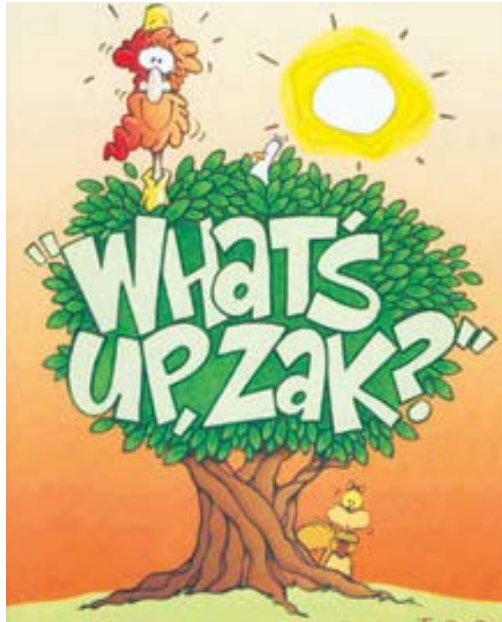
**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Pastor: Jane Sutter**

**Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel**

**Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner**



## **What's Up , Zak?**

**Children's Musical**

**April 17**

**10:30 a.m.**

## From the Pastor

### Abundant Love

This whole “retirement thing” has suddenly become very real! I find myself more than a little overwhelmed with all that needs to be done, all that needs to be said, and all that needs to be planned. Adding to the mix the myriad of things that are happening in my personal life and I’m a bit of a basket case (but so was Moses, so I guess I’m in good company!).

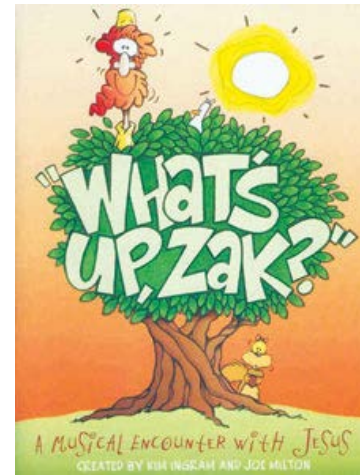
The seventh commandment from the Farris book is “thou shalt attend to thy family.” That is so important and so timely! Often, when a pastor is single, the effects of transition don’t seem to be quite as deep...not true, my friends, not true! Single pastors, whether male or female, find their crucial support in deep friendships and these need attention during transition. Those of you who have become close friends know that our relationships will change, but not end. I was once told by a bishop that if you leave an appointment without having made any friends, you have not done your job.

That said; my family needs me a lot right now. Emily has already started her list of all the things we are going to do “when Grandma gets retired.” My sister-in-law, Chelley, needs tremendous support as she (and I) grieve the loss of Jim—and this cannot be put off until I “get retired”—it needs to be attended to on a regular basis. There is a level of excitement around my potential availability to do new and different things with family and we are all looking forward to that.

The other piece is being attentive to the church family. You truly have become like extended family to me and I am so very grateful! You have been supportive and loving and kind and generous. We have worked and played and laughed and prayed together and have really done a lot of good work together. Because we have become so close, it will not be easy to leave LUMC. But I am not leaving tomorrow. We still have time to say “so long” in meaningful ways...and we will.

In this season of Eastertide, we can embrace the words of Jesus, “I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10b). Farris sums this up in relation to tending to family in this way: “To be faithful to relationships in the midst of transition, the pastor must lay aside his or her professional role in order to be spouse, parent, and friend, and to give all the time and honest interaction needed to meet and understand the challenges imposed by the change. Attending to the needs of the congregation is important spiritually and professionally. Attending to the needs of family members and friends is the stuff of abundant life itself.” May it be so, amen.

*Blessings, Pastor Jane*



### What's Up, Zak? Children's Musical

April 17  
10:30 a.m.

"What's Up, Zak?," by Kimberley Ingram and Joe Milton, retells the story of two encounters that occurred when Jesus was passing through Jericho. First, he meets Bartimaeus, who asks Jesus to restore his sight. Then, Jesus finds Zacchaeus up in the tree he climbed because he wanted to see Jesus. With both men, we see the importance of faith and how Jesus helps turn people's lives around.

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### Hands of Praise Signing Choir at LUMC

Sunday, April 3

LUMC will be welcoming Hands of Praise to worship on Sunday, April 3rd. This will be their first appearance with us. Let's be sure to give them a warm welcome! Hands of Praise Signing Choir is a unique group of the Protestant Community at Ithaca College that teaches, practices, and performs hymns and praise music in sign language. Beautifully choreographed, students in signing choir bring the joy of praise music and song to worship through hand signing their words and meaning. Hands of Praise performs locally for churches at their request spreading their form of Gospel beyond the campus as one of our outreach programs. There is also a more novice signing group for beginners called Expressions of Grace to help bring in new members. Both groups meet and practice weekly to prepare for their extensive tour to local churches.

## The K.A.N. Kids Shine God's Light

As 2015 came to a close, the K.A.N. kids learned that when they love the Lord and live for Him, they have His light inside of them. This light brightens their hearts and warms their souls. Each time they serve, care, and reach out in His name, they are shining God's light. The K.A.N. kids discovered that it is written in God's Word that they are called to be His light. Matthew 5:14-16 tells us, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." As Christmas approached with the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, the K.A.N. kids created candle ornaments to be placed on The Giving Tree with tags for gifts for those in need.

The new year of 2016 has brought many opportunities to put this call into practice. In January, we were grateful for an informative and inspiring presentation from Pastor Jane and Joan Ellis about "Africa 360." This generated a renewed commitment to raise money to aid this beneficial cause. The kids ran the concession stand at the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby to raise funds to buy mosquito nets to protect children from being infected from malaria in Africa. Enough money was raised to purchase 32 mosquito nets!

February gave us an opportunity to talk about local hunger and show love to our friends at Woodsedge by making them tortilla soup mix for a yummy Valentine and winter treat. We were again blessed in March as we listened to Reenie Sandsted and Deb LaVigne share about their dedication to the agricultural project in Haiti. The K.A.N. kids learned how creating a cistern to hold water is a sustainable solution to supporting the growth of trees in this area. The kids then wrote compassionate and thoughtful letters to their Haitian brother in Christ, Cherkens Meteles, who is now in secondary school. The K.A.N. kids have supported Cherkens in his schooling since he was in fourth grade. On Palm Sunday, they held a bake sale to raise the money needed to pay for his education for another year.

We are so thankful to Pastor Jane, Joan Ellis, Reenie Sandsted, and Deb LaVigne for their willingness to share their knowledge, passion, commitment, and love for God's people around the world. We can see God's light in you and have soaked in this light. The light shines on and on and on and on... That's just how it is with God's light! —*Debbie Geise and Bonnie Blair*



K.A.N. kids played a Haiti agricultural project game

## If You Are Pastor Jane, Don't Read This! If You Are Not Pastor Jane, Please Read This!

As we are savoring all of the "lasts" that Pastor Jane is sharing with us, plans are getting underway to celebrate and thank her and wish her all of God's blessings on this next phase of her journey. One of the special ways that we would like to honor Pastor Jane is through putting together a photo album of highlights of her time at LUMC. Please look back in your photos (both hard and digital copies) and share them with us so that they can be included in this photo album. Any photos that you have of worship (church and park) baptisms, weddings, confirmation, children's plays, VBS, music, rummage sale, the children's and youth ministries, any other special events, and any moments in between, please either give them to Debbie Geise or send them digitally to geise1019@hotmail.com *and* to jase@baese.net Thank you so much for making this a special and sweet memory album for PJ of blessed times at LUMC!

## Do Something! at UP!Word'16

April 22-24, Syracuse

Signup deadline: Thursday, April 7

Do Something: Disciples' Edition will provide youth and youth leaders with multiple opportunities to see how they can each do something as Christ's disciples.

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is holding their annual spring retreat, UP!Word'16, April 22-24! LUMC went for the first time last spring and had a ton of fun! We're looking forward to even more this time! Please let Kevin know by Thursday, April 7, if you or your child will be attending this year. Everyone in grades 7-12 is invited! Several chaperones and drivers will also be needed, so let Kevin know if you'd like to join in for those roles as well. Please email Kevin at youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org with any further questions.

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## Native American Ministries Sunday

April 10

Your gift on this day equips Native congregations—like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation—to worship and serve as only they can.

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



*Lansing United  
Methodist  
Church*

*April 2016*

Native American Sunday, April 10



3 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30  Confirmation 4:00 K.A.N. 5:30	4 Pancakes and Prayer 7:00 Bible Study @ Woodsedge 10:30  Bible Study at LUMC 12:00  Staff Parish 7:00	5 Needleworkers Group 10:00 Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) 6:30 Crossroads	6 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	7  Building Committee 7:30	8  Senior High Youth 6:00	9 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00
10 Worship 9:00 NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY Sunday School 10:30 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30  Confirmation 4:00 Youth Mission 6:30	11 Pancakes and Prayer 7:00 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study @ Woodsedge 10:30  Bible Study at LUMC 12:00 VBS Planning at All Saints 7:00 Trustees 7:00	12 Needleworkers Group 10:00  Church Council 7:00	13 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	14	15  Sunbeam Deadline Midnight Senior High Youth 6:00	16 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Children's Musical Dress Rehearsal 10:00
17 Worship 9:00 Children's Musical What's Up, Zack? 10:30  Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Confirmation Group at Rescue Mission 3:00 Adult Mission 5:30	18 Pancakes and Prayer 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30  Bible Study at LUMC 12:00  Finance 7:00 Haiti 7:00	19 Needleworkers Group 10:00  Worship Committee 7:00	20 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	21	22  Passover Seder 6:00	23 Mens' Breakfast 7:00  CCYM Up!Word
24 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30  CCYM Up!Word	25 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30  Food Pantry at the Rink 1:00	26 Needleworkers Group 10:00	27 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	28	29	30 Mens' Breakfast 7:00



### **Vacation Bible School Planning**

Monday, April 11,  
7:00 p.m. at All Saints

Believe it or not, it's time to start planning for Vacation

Bible School! This summer, we'll be spelunking at "Cave Quest" as we dig deep to discover how, even during the darkest times, Jesus is the light of the world! If you'd like to help plan VBS, which takes place from July 18 through July 22, please join us for the next planning meeting on Monday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints. Talk to Kevin (youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org) with any questions.

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### **Passover Seder, April 22**

A seder is a special family meal filled with ritual to remind us that God delivered his people out of slavery and brought them to the Promised Land. The haggadah tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt and explains some of the practices and symbols of the holiday. For the past 3 years we have celebrated this family-friendly tradition here in our Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Narthex by April 17. All are welcome. There's no charge, but a free-will donation will be accepted.

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### **Save the date: Pastor Jane's Retirement Party**

May 21 12:00-3:00 p.m.  
Pavilion B at Myers Park  
Chicken BBQ with a dish to pass  
More detail to follow  
Questions call: Kay Moore 533-7394

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### **LUMC Needs a New Rummage Sale Chair**

Rummage sale co-chair Ed Lavigne has announced that the spring rummage sale will be his last one as chair, due to time constraints as Lansing Town Supervisor. He offers to meet with anyone who wants to pursue this very rewarding task. Says Ed: I have had the pleasure of co-chairing this wonderful event with Shelly Uhl Stark for many years.

Thank you, Ed

*Editor's note: Just before her new position with LUMC was announced, Pastor Alison Schmeid wrote this for the Upper New York Conference, where it was posted on the weekly conference newsletter. I thought it would make a great introduction to our new pastor.—gw*

### **Saying Goodbye to Nicaragua**

by the Rev. Alison Schmeid

It's early Sunday morning. We are on the old yellow school bus, driving toward the airport. Salsa-like Christian praise music plays over the radio, and we occasionally catch a word: Jesus, alleluia, gloria a Dios. This is the first leg of our return trip to the United States after a week at Project Chacocente, located near Masaya, Nicaragua.

It is helpful that the journey home takes a long time because it gives us time to think, to solidify experiences in our memories, to sort through thoughts and feelings our time in Nicaragua has planted deep down in our hearts.

Even with 22 people and 28 pieces of luggage—each under 50 pounds, but too large for an airplane's overhead bin—the bus seems positively spacious after yesterday's trip to and from the beach with 20 hot, sweaty, salty, tired Americans plus 32 Nicaraguan friends in similar condition.

As we drive away from the verdant courts of the Hotel el Raizon, we wave goodbye to its beautifully tiled floors and covered walkways, eclectically decorated outdoor sitting areas, and comfortable, colorful hammocks. We have become accustomed to drinking—and brushing our teeth with—only bottled water, throwing toilet paper in the trash, scrubbing caked-dirt off our bodies in cold showers, and sleeping through the sound of ripe fruit falling from the trees (thump) and rolling off our corrugated tin roofs (bumpity, bump, bump, bump).

We wave goodbye to the hotel's sleeping dogs, rabbits, and parrots. We wave goodbye to other missionaries who have come to share spiritual encouragement and material resources with the poorest residents of Nicaragua, one of the world's poorest countries.

Missionaries practice their faith with the conviction that offering even a cup of cool water to those in need is serving Christ Jesus himself. Working with the people at Project Chacocente, we strengthen our own faith in God's presence with great love for the people of Nicaragua, as we build and nurture hope for a better standard of health and life for all of God's children.

Continued on the next page

## Leaving Nicaragua (continued)

As we drive from Masaya to Managua, through the bus windows we see our last view of Nicaraguan palm trees, dusty reddish-brown roads, roaming dogs and random chickens, and tiny herds of five to ten skinny grey and brown cows being led by sun-weathered “vaqueros” Spanish for “cowboys.”

We hear the now familiar beeping horns of passing vehicles and the longer, sustained honks of busses approaching a point of embankment, calling passengers to leave their shady refuges to assemble at the bus stop.

Goodbye Nicaragua, land of perfectly clear blue skies, still-smoking volcanoes and recent earthquakes and eruptions, land of smiling faces of friends with beautiful black hair and friendly, dark eyes.

Goodbye land of wonderful dark coffee, gallo pinto and plantains, beans, rice, and tortillas, and fruit we can't quite identify at every meal.

Goodbye 90-plus degree days working in the hot sun, mercifully cool – yet dusty – breezes, and sweet refreshment on “Watermelon Wednesday.”

Goodbye sunscreen, hat, bug spray, work gloves, and water bottle.

Goodbye pickaxes and shovels, wheelbarrows and cement, stones and rebar; goodbye green paint and new sneakers in every color imaginable.

Goodbye Chacocente Christian School. Study hard, students! Learn how big your world is and how many opportunities to make a positive difference in the world will be opened to you, if you ask, seek, and knock.

Goodbye horse-drawn carts and 18-wheelers commuting on the same highways with over-filled bicycles, motorcycles, busses, and pickup trucks.

Goodbye deeply eroded and rutted dirt roads on which we traveled very slowly, our driver Ezekiel at the wheel, carefully avoiding stranding us in the sparsely populated countryside, with the bus' undercarriage immobilized on dirt with all the wheels spinning helplessly in the air. Is that what it feels like when hope is lost? What would we have done if that had happened?

But the bus didn't get stranded, the plane didn't crash, no unsupervised children drowned in the ocean, no babies fell out of the wide-open bus windows while being passed from one child to another over top of the high bus seats. Though the first aid kit travelled with us everywhere, sunburn was the worst malady our travelers suffered. Stomach complaints came from gorging on tasty but unfamiliar food, not from unfamiliar bacteria consumed.

Adios, Pacific Ocean and Pochemil Beach with your dark brown sand, palm-roofed restaurant pavilions, horseback and four-wheeler rides for hire,

Concluded at right

## Leaving Nicaragua (concluded)

and whole-fish dinners—small, medium, and large—served up with both head and tail still intact.

“*Dios los bendiga a todos*” meaning “God bless all” the vendors of Eskimo ice cream with your incessant bells ringing, sellers of trinkets made with shells and sellers of macramé bracelets made from bright colored strings, musicians and dancers who entertain for just a few Nicaraguan Córdoba (one Córdoba equals approximately three-and-a-half cents U.S.).

Sadly, we leave behind much unrealized human potential—a resource that seems to be discarded and ignored in Nicaragua as frequently as the plastic bags and bottles that litter the shores and roadsides.

Why doesn't anyone care? Or, if people do care, why don't they do differently? Will we live any differently?

Hasta la vista, families of Project Chacocente. Like the endangered turtle that is your namesake, just seeing you gives us hope for the future.

“*Una tortuga sólo avanza cuando su cabeza sobresale de su caparazón,*” meaning “a turtle only moves forward when it sticks its neck out.” What is true for turtles is also true for humans: We must risk coming out of our shells in order to make progress in life.

Turtles of Chacocente, we pray you will catch God's dream for you and bravely leave the comfort of your shell of familiarity, venturing into a new and hopeful future. We pray that your living will glorify God, who is able by the Holy Spirit's work within us to do far more than all we could ask or imagine.

Yes, turtles, progress may be slow, but “*no pretendas que las cosas cambien, si actuas de la misma manera,*” meaning “do not pretend that things will change if we continue to act in the same way.”

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### Spring Cleaning Help

As the weather starts to break if anyone in the congregation or in the community needs help getting their yard in order or minor repair work around the house Adults in Mission are ready to assist. If you or anyone you know would like a hand this spring please contact Laura or Steve Alexander (alexanderlauara@yahoo.com or 533-4869) or Glenn Withiam. You can also contact the LUMC office or Pastor Jane.

# The Sunbeam

April 2016



Lansing United  
Methodist Church

WORSHIP 9:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

APRIL 3, I.C. SIGNING CHOIR

APRIL 10, NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

APRIL 17, CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

APRIL 22, PASSOVER SEDER

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## Lansing United Methodist Church

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editor, at [grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu).  
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