



# *The Sunbeam* August 2016

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Lansing United Methodist Church

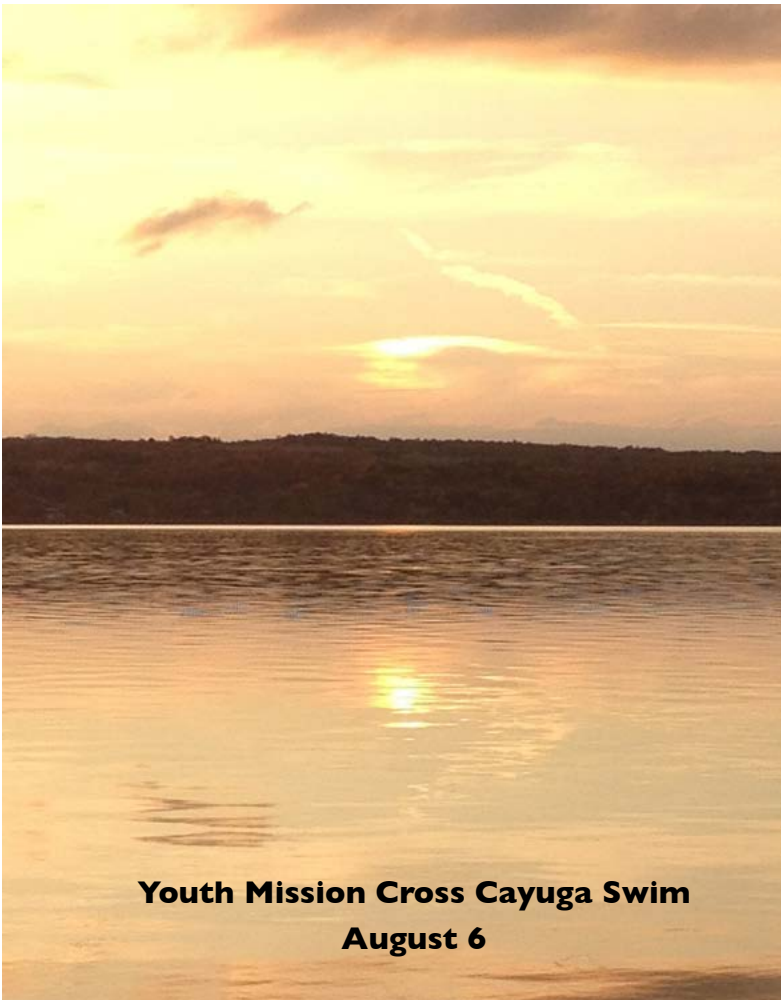
**Summertime Worship 9:30 AM**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Pastor: Alison Schmied**

**Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel**

**Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner**



**Youth Mission Cross Cayuga Swim  
August 6**

## From the Pastor

### Practicing Hospitality

**T**hank you for your warm welcome in the midst of this very warm weather. As I write this, I've had the honor of being your pastor for a whole two weeks. From the first day I arrived, I have been graciously received into the Lansing United Methodist Church and community.

I feel blessed that you have opened your homes and church to me. Thank you! I greatly appreciate your faithful gift of hospitality. If all newcomers are greeted as warmly as I have been, I expect we will have several new members before this time next year.

One of the lessons of biblical faith is that giving the gift of hospitality is not only the right thing to do, it is also a spiritual practice. Hospitality requires offering trust—which is another word for faith—pre-emptively, before it has been earned. This is easier said than done, most of the time.

The author of Hebrews encouraged early Christians to continue offering the gift of hospitality, saying: Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it (Heb. 13:2). Welcoming strangers can have very positive results!

Way back in Genesis chapter 18, in the heat of the day, our ancestor in faith Abraham welcomed three strangers into his camp. The gift of hospitality that Abraham and his wife Sarah offered to the visitors led to unanticipated blessings and a new understanding of God's call in their lives.

The visitors told Abraham and Sarah that they would be blessed with children in their old age. For Sarah and Abraham, God's blessing was the unexpected and humanly impossible joy of having children. This would lead to descendants as many as the stars, or as the grains of sand (Gen. 22:17). God's call on their lives was equally clear: you have been blessed so that you can be a blessing to all the families of the earth (Gen. 18:18, 22:18).

Every blessing we receive comes with the responsibility to use it to bless others. God has blessed Lansing United Methodist Church so that we can be a blessing to people outside our doors. As we recognize our blessings, we give God thanks for them, and we seek ways to use our blessings to live out our calling as individuals and as a church. Welcoming strangers into our church and community is one way we share the blessings we have received.

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## From the Pastor (concluded)

Perhaps you can think of other ways we share blessings with persons both near and far: serving dinner at the Rescue Mission, helping lead VBS, visiting homebound persons, encouraging others with a phone call, card, or visit, and so on. Or perhaps the Holy Spirit is inspiring you with new ways we could share our many blessings with persons who are currently strangers to us.

As strangers visit Lansing United Methodist Church, I pray that each one will receive as warm a welcome as I have. We have been blessed to be a blessing, to all the families of the earth. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Alison

### Cave Quest VBS follow-up



**W**e're happy to announce that the Cave Quest VBS Mission Project, which collected donations for Feed My Starving Children, raised over \$300! This huge donation will go a long way in helping to feed hungry children around the world! Thank you to

everybody who was able to donate!

The entire VBS Team would like to extend a huge *thank you* to all the volunteers, and everybody else who



contributed to another awesome and highly successful Vacation Bi-



ble School! Whether you were a crew leader, station leader, decoration helper, supplies donator, or partner in prayer, VBS could not have happened without you!

Every single person's contributions were vital and extremely appreciated! We all hope you received as big a blessing as you gave by contributing to the smiles on all the children's faces throughout the week! From all of us at LUMC and All Saints, thank you!

## Summertime Pancakes and Prayer

Monday, August 22, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Pancakes & Prayer is on hiatus for the summer, but that won't stop Kevin from bending the rules a bit. Junior and Senior High students are invited to join Kevin for a special Summertime Pancakes on Monday, August 22, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll have our normal P&P time, perhaps with a couple fun surprises thrown in there too to celebrate the end of summer! So bring a friend, and come ready for anything! You've never been to a Pancakes like this before!

## Upcoming Meetings

Youth Ministry Team Gathering: Sunday, August 7, 7:00 p.m.

Children's Ministry Team Gathering Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.

## Waffle Breakfast

Sunday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.

It's never too early to start looking forward to the resumption of Sunday School, so plan to join us for Registration Sunday and Waffle Breakfast on September 11 right after worship! (Worship returns to its 9:00 start time that day.) We'll kick off the school year on a good note with waffles, ice cream, and a whole slew of fun things to tell you about Sunday School at LUMC for the coming year! Kidz Quest and Junior and Senior High Sunday School will begin the following Sunday!

## August Worship Helpers Needed

We're back at the church this month, and we need you to sign up to help out. Opportunities include liturgist, altar flowers, and snacks, set-up, and clean-up for fellowship time. Dorothea Schrader has been faithfully making sure we have altar flowers, and it would be good to offer her a hand!

## Nursery Thank You

The nursery is on summer break, and coordinator Jo Baker wants to thank all the parents and volunteers who have helped out in the past year. Looking ahead to September, plan to help out for a Sunday or two. Our policy is a minimum of two adults.

Thanks also to Jo for her work on this important ministry.

## August 2016 Adult Ministries

Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) for the 20- to 30-something crowd will meet on Wednesdays through the month of August at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall for pizza and board games. All are welcome—invite your friends!

## New Adult Small Group Opportunity!

**VINEDRESSERS**, Sunday Afternoons at 4:00 p.m.  
August 7, 14, 21, 28, and September 11 and 18

Spiritual Lessons in Pruning, Waiting, Harvesting, and Abundance

“Old and New Testaments have numerous references to vineyards and vinedressers. To the agrarian peoples of those times, the meanings would have been obvious and rich. Today, many of us are far removed from such activities. Perhaps in understanding how the vines work and the role of the vinedresser, some will explore more deeply what this means for their spiritual and human development.”—Judith Sutera, author of *The Vinedressers Notebook*

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”—*John 15:15*

We will explore and nurture our connection to *the Vine* as we meet at local wineries to experience the beauty and inspiration our local vineyards have to offer. We will use *The Vinedressers Notebook*, by Judith Sutera as our devotional.

August 7	Six Mile Creek Vineyard
August 14	Treleaven by King Ferry Winery
August 21	Long Point Winery
August 28	Americana Vineyards
September 11	Lucas Vineyards
September 18	Swedish Hill Vineyard


## Summer Music

Pickup Choir August 21; rehearse at 9:00

In addition to the pickup choir on August 21, you are encouraged to offer summer music. See Diane Withiam or Sharon Powell for details.

## LUMC Forward Capital Campaign

The capital campaign to improve our church facility for future mission is gradually ramping up. We will be announcing more about the fund drive starting Sunday, August 21.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>August 2016</i>	1 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30  Wingmen 6:30 Staff Parish 7:00	2 Needleworkers Group 10:00  LIFT at Crossroads 6:30 Church Council 7:00	3  Young Adult Fellowship 6:00	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast at Linda's 7:00  Youth Mission Cross Cayuga Swim 7:00
	7 Worship 9:30  Vinedressers Study at Six Mile Creek 4:00 Adults in Mission 5:00 Youth Ministry 7:00	8 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30  Wingmen 6:30 Trustees 7:00	9 Needleworkers Group 10:00  Campaign Steering Committee 7:00	10  Young Adult Fellowship 6:00	11	12
14 Worship 9:30  Vinedressers Study at Treleaven (King Ferry) 4:00	15 Bible Study @ Woodsedge 10:30  Wingmen 6:30 Haiti Committee 7:00 Sunbeam Deadline Midnight	16 Needleworkers Group 10:00  Children's Ministry 7:00	17  Young Adult Fellowship 6:00	18 Women's Bible Study Summer Luncheon Carpool at church 11:00	19	20 Men's Breakfast 7:00
21 Worship 9:30 LUMC Forward Campaign Kickoff  Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Vinedressers Study at Long Point 4:00	22 Summer Pancakes and Prayer 10:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Food Pantry at the Rink 1:00 Wingmen 6:30	23 Needleworkers Group 10:00  Campaign Steering Committee 7:00	24  Young Adult Fellowship 6:00	25	26	27 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
28 Worship 9:30  Vinedressers Study at Americana 4:00	29 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30  Wingmen 6:30	30 Needleworkers Group 10:00	31  Young Adult Fellowship 6:00	 <p><i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i></p>		

## **Women's Spiritual Retreat: "A Hand-Crafted Life"**

October 21 and 22 at Casowasco Retreat Center

“**T**he beauty and value of a ‘hand-crafted life,’ a life that is consciously assembled from pieces that you select and craft together...” —Seena B. Frost, creator of SoulCollage

This weekend we will take time to sit at the feet of our Lord and explore what it means to mindfully shape our lives to make room for Sabbath. Local artist Patty Brown, will introduce SoulCollage—a process of selecting images and making personal cards that will serve as a daily reminder to handcraft your own life and to choose pieces that fit together meaningfully, with joy. Bring an open heart, an open mind, and a desire to be in closer community with God and with each other.

The cost for this overnight retreat is \$125.00 per person and includes bed with linens at the Wesley House at Casowasco and 4 meals, from dinner on Friday through dinner on Saturday.

The only way for LUMC to reserve the space is with a non-refundable check for a minimum of ten participants. If you wish to participate, I need your deposit check of \$25 ASAP, with the understanding that you are committing to the full \$125.00 if we are able meet the minimum of ten participants. If not, your check will be returned to you.

*Note that we cannot confirm space at Casowasco until we have 10 committed participants.*

Please make your check out to LUMC, with “Casowasco Women's Retreat 10/21” on the memo line.

If the cost is prohibitive, please speak to Karen Veaner, as some scholarship money is available.

## **Men's Spiritual Retreat**

October 28 and 29 at Casowasco Retreat Center

**D**etails are still in the works. Coming Soon! The cost for this overnight retreat is \$125.00 per person and includes bed with linens at the Wesley House at Casowasco and 4 meals from dinner on Friday through dinner on Saturday.

*Once again, we cannot confirm space at Casowasco until we have 10 committed participants.*

Please email Karen Veaner ([AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org](mailto:AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org)) if you are interested in a retreat experience. You may also call or text 607-592-1386.

## **Summer Dish-to-Pass Luncheon for Women's Bible Study**

Women's Bible Study Summer Dish-to-Pass Luncheon  
Thursday, August 18, 11:30 a.m. at Bidlespachers' home in King Ferry

(Car pool from church at 11:00 a.m.)

**T**he Women's Bible Study summer dish-to-pass luncheon will be held on Thursday, August 18, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Loretta Bidlespacher (223 Red Fox Lane, King Ferry). To car pool, meet in the LUMC parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Tableware and beverages will be provided. Please call Jan Nagel (607-533-4086) if you plan to attend.

## **West Virginia Storm Update**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is now arranging teams of trained early responders to form teams to go to West Virginia. The early responders are trained to help stabilize the situation, for example by installing tarps on roofs, or simply assessing the situation and determining whether help is needed immediately or can be scheduled as storm recovery.

You can support storm relief at any time by writing a check to LUMC and marking it for UMCOR storm relief. If want to be more specific, you can write “West Virginia Storms” on your check memo. UMCOR is there, and every dime that you give goes directly to its intended purpose. UMCOR never charges “overhead” or deducts expense money. The overhead is supported by the annual UMCOR offering that used to be called One Great Hour of Sharing, but will in the future be known as UMCOR Sunday.

People who have early responder training may contact the leaders of two teams being formed, according to UMCOR coordinator Brian Greenwald ([bngreenwald@windstream.net](mailto:bngreenwald@windstream.net)).

Conrad Howard, an experienced ERT member from the Cornerstone District will lead a team either the 3rd or 4th week of August. If this time period fits your schedule, please contact Conrad (and his wife Pam) at [pamconradhow@yahoo.com](mailto:pamconradhow@yahoo.com).

Walt Mathias is leading a team to be on site Sept. 12, 13, and 14. Walt is also very experienced as an ERT and also has led many rebuilding trips. If this time period fits your schedule, please contact Walt at [wmathias53@gmail.com](mailto:wmathias53@gmail.com)

More teams will be announced, and eventually recovery teams will be formed but that will take time.

# A Message from the Bishop

## Moving forward following Jurisdictional Conferences

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Upper New York Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I am humbled and trusting God as I received my assignment to remain with you and live our mission: “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” God is moving among the people called United Methodist in Upper New York. I am committed to partner with you in the following ways:

- to increase the capacity of Christ-following leaders;
- to multiply the number of vital congregations that offer relevant and authentic worship, and pathways for discipleship, mission, and outreach opportunities;
- to continue to create new places for new people;
- to address the racism that exists in our society and church;
- to call us to the discipline of prayer in new and bold ways;
- to increase the worship attendance in our churches;
- to increase our ministry with the poor and marginalized;
- to increase our ministry with youth and young adults;
- to increase the capacity of our stewardship; and
- to trust that God is leading us and to be obedient to the movement of God’s spirit

I believe we have much consensus and excitement about engaging in this work together. I am also aware we are not of one mind in every way, particularly in the area of human sexuality. I am committed to continue to provide ways for us to engage in healthy conversations that honor our differences while finding the essentials we hold in common for the sake of offering Jesus to the world.

These conversations have never been easy, but now must take place against a backdrop of heightened anxiety and uncertainty. Last week, the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church elected the Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto as a new bishop. Dr. Oliveto is a self-avowed practicing homosexual. In response to her election, the South Central Jurisdictional Conference requested a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council regarding the constitutionality, meaning, application, or effect of her election. The Judicial Council now has this matter properly before them.

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Bishop’s letter (concluded)

Faithful United Methodists believe our discipline must change in relation to human sexuality and are working in appropriate ways to bring about that change. Other faithful United Methodists believe our discipline must remain the same and are also working in appropriate ways toward that end. I join my colleagues in the Southeastern College of Bishops in viewing the acts of nonconformity as a violation of our covenant and as divisive and disruptive. Nothing in recent days has changed our Book of Discipline—only General Conference has that ability. I grieve over the deep divisions we face.

We are in uncharted waters; how we navigate this time in our life together matters greatly. As you know, the Council of Bishops was directed by the General Conference to form a commission to prepare recommendations for a way forward for the denomination. This is difficult, delicate, and holy work. I urge us to allow the systems and processes of the Church to work, doing nothing that might cause disruption or further division. Let us do all we can to allow this work to move forward, praying for the future of The United Methodist Church and those who will lead in these days.

Though the actions of these past days present many challenges, I am convinced that God is with us and will lead us into the fullness of the future God has for us. I remain committed to the vows I undertook when I was consecrated a bishop in The United Methodist Church and will continue to strive to live by the covenant that binds and upholds us.

With prayers and love,



Bishop Mark J. Webb

*Editor’s note:* Bishop Webb has been renewed as leader of our Upper New York annual conference for the next quadrennium.

# The Sunbeam

August 2016



Lansing United  
Methodist Church

SUMMERTIME WORSHIP

9:30 A.M.

AT LUMC

32 BRICKYARD ROAD

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## **Lansing United Methodist Church**

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one mile north of the stoplight on

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**The Sunbeam** is published monthly by  
Lansing United Methodist Church.

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

Deadline for the next issue is  
August 15, 2016