



The Sunbeam July 2017

Lansing United Methodist

Church

Worship in Myers Park 9:30 A.M.

PLEASE JOIN US. COME AS YOU ARE! IT'S THE PARK!

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



Vacation Bible School

July 10-14

From the Pastor

Pulling Together

Do you know how a lobster molts? These hard-shelled crustaceans have an interesting process of shedding their exoskeletons. In order to grow, they have to break out of their too-small shell and grow a new one. The lobster has to pull itself together on the inside, drawing its claws, legs, antennae, tail, and even eyes into the center of the shell to break out through a crack between its head and abdomen. (There are several videos of this on YouTube, in case you want to watch for yourself.)

When a lobster finally squirms free of its old shell it is especially vulnerable, because its new exoskeleton remains soft for several days. At Annual Conference, speaker Kenda Creasey Dean



compared the process of a lobster molting to a church growing. As a congregation that just emptied our Christian Education wing, the analogy seems to fit better than a lobster's outgrown exoskeleton. While Lansing UMC is in



this summer's in-between stage, out of the shell of our old facility but not yet secure in the new, we are especially vulnerable.

The task of "pulling ourselves together on the inside" this summer requires attending to our spiritual life as a community, as well as to each individual's relationship to

God. In addition to Sunday Worship in Myers Park, there will be Thursday evening gatherings in Myers Park before the Lansing Community Concerts in the Park, and Sunday evening Ice Cream Socials. Please take advantage of these opportunities to gather together, to nurture Christian faith and friendship, and to care for one another in this vulnerable time of transition.

As LUMC is under construction, let's take to heart these instructions to the Christian community: "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another..." (Hebrews 10:25).

Blessings,

Pastor Alison

LUMC Building Project Update

Phase One of the building project is in full swing. From the exterior of the church one can see the footprint of the new addition. By the time you read this, the concrete floor will have been poured. Inside, asbestos abatement has been completed and all that remains of the old Sunday school wing is the roof and the studs of the classrooms. At each major step work is inspected, and Wayne Larsen, clerk of the works, is keeping a close, experienced eye on all phases of construction.

Phase Two has begun, which includes updating the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Appliances for the kitchen have been ordered. The asbestos abatement will occur in the Fellowship Hall during the second phase.

After Sunday School on June 11, a well attended moving party moved furniture into the sanctuary and found temporary homes for the remaining tables, chairs, and last-minute kitchen items. From June 14, until permission is given from McPherson Builders, the contractor, the church will be closed except for the office area. Sunday worship will continue through July and August at Myers Park.—*Judy Hinderliter*

Vacation Bible School Is Ready to Roll

July 10-14, 6:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m. @ All Saints RC Church



VBS is just a couple weeks away, but it's not too late to participate in Maker Fun Factory! Go to makerfunfactory2017.eventbrite.com to sign up your kids right now! Note that VBS is taking place all week at All Saints Catholic Church this year, due to construction at LUMC. When you arrive, please check in your kids at the welcome table in the rear

parking lot. We hope to see you there for a week of great fun! Please contact Kevin Klippel (youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org) with any questions.

Volunteer Walk-through for Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 9, 5:30 p.m. at All Saints

If you're volunteering for VBS, please join us for a walk-through the Sunday prior for a brief and informative walk-through. This will help everyone understand everything that's going on around them. Talk to Kevin Klippel if you can't be there or have any questions.—*Blessings, Kevin Klippel, Christian Education Coordinator*

**Church in the Park
All of July and August**

9:30 a.m. at Myers Park, Pavilion D

Come as you are and worship in God's creation.
Bring your favorite lawn chair, or join us on the picnic tables.

**Save The Date! Women's Bible Study Dish-to-Pass
Summer Luncheon**

Tuesday, August 15, 11:30 a.m. Bidlespachers, King Ferry

The Women's Bible Study dish-to-pass summer luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 15, at the home of Loretta Bidlespacher (223 Red Fox Lane, King Ferry). There will be opportunity to car pool from the church. If interested, meet at 11:00 a.m. in the upper parking area. Loretta will provide the beverage and table service. For more information, contact Jan Nagel at 533-4086.

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!

Every Sunday in July, there will be an ice cream social at 6:30 p.m. Buy your favorite cone, dish, or shake, and enjoy a summer evening becoming better acquainted with one another in a social atmosphere during the summertime. Or just come to hang out. All ice cream socials are open to church members and non-church members alike. Invite a neighbor!

July 2: Scoops- 104 Auburn Rd Lansing

July 9: Laurie's Diner- 1097 State Route 34, Genoa

July 16: Lake Breeze- 2035 E Shore Dr Lansing

July 23: Cream at the Top- 1295 Rte 34B, King Ferry

July 30: Scoops

Flower Thank You

Thank you to all of our congregation members who have made our worship more complete by providing flowers for the altar, dedicated to loved ones. Thanks especially to Dorothea Schrader, who has filled in the empty slots with lovely arrangements. If anyone has garden flowers and wants to share them any Sunday in the park in July and August, please feel free to do so. There will be a sign-up sheet near the refreshment table at the park for your convenience in providing this wonderful enhancement to our worship.—

Jeanne Bishop, for the Altar Flower Committee

**Report to congregation about
Lakeview Christian Life Church's gift to LUMC**

On July 2, 2017, I will make a formal announcement concerning the request that LUMC accept a gift from the Lakeview Christian life Church. This gift includes 4.35 acres of land with a building that currently houses the Robin's Nest Preschool.

There are three requirements to accept this gift: (1) the district superintendent and the district building and grounds committee must agree that this gift is acceptable; (2) we need to accept this gift at a charge conference; and (3) LUMC and the Lakeview Church will file a motion with the NYS supreme court to consolidate the properties and assign the property as a Lansing United Methodist church property, at which time the Lakeview church will cease to exist.

As I said, this property is the home of Robin's Nest Christian Preschool, a children's ministry started by the Lakeview Church in 1976. Robin's Nest has served the Tompkins County community for 41 years providing a quality preschool education, using a school readiness curriculum and hiring qualified certified teachers who are assisted by teachers who educationally and experientially qualify for the position of assistant teacher. The school was established on a foundation of basic Christian beliefs and values that embrace the commonalities of faith and not denominational theologies. It is highly sought after as a preschool that prepares 3- to 5-year olds academically, socially, and emotionally for the kindergarten curriculum established and mandated by the NYS Education Department.

Tuition has been kept attainable for as many families as possible by maintaining a nonprofit status and charging only what would provide fair salaries for teachers, school supplies, and reasonable facility upkeep. It is a mission of the heart where everything that is planned is done in the best interest of the children.

The acquisition of the property allows LUMC to continue the ministry to children of a Christian preschool. This meets the goal of the expansion and improvement of the child education area, a top priority at the last set of congregation home meetings. This priority is part of LUMC Forward plan. The need for good preschool opportunity for the Lansing community was seen by the congregation as a valued community need that we could in some way assist.

Detailed written information will be available by July 9, and a question and answer session will be scheduled. A charge conference date will be determined when the district superintendent gives his acceptance of this gift.--
Bill Hinderliter, Chair of Church Council

Spotlight on the 8th Upper New York Annual Conference

From June 1 through June 3 this year I had the privilege of joining Pastor Alison and about 1,000 others who traveled to the Oncenter in Syracuse to do the important work of our Upper New York Annual Conference. I was joined by active and retired members of the clergy, members of laity from across the conference, and equalization members, as well as many young people representing their local churches.

I share with you warm greetings from our three previous pastors, Pastor Jane Sautter, Pastor William Gottschalk-Fielding, and Pastor Marti Swords-Horrell, each of whom have continued to follow the wonderful work that has been happening with LUMC over the past years. Each send their blessings for the future of our church.

As a lay member of the Upper NY Annual Conference, I joined the others gathered to acknowledge the many ways in which God is at work in our individual lives, our life as part of the body of Christ, and the life of the world around us. This was an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to God to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In the days following Annual Conference I have had the chance to reflect on my experience, and I hope to be able to adequately share my reflections with you.

I felt the power of the Holy Spirit fill the Oncenter as we spent time together in worship, prayer, study, fellowship, the sharing of music, conversations, and discussions, as well as time for discernment for the important decisions that needed to be made. The days were long, and sometimes brought concern for the direction things were headed, but were absolutely filled with God's love and Grace.

This year's theme was Together in Prayer—Trusting that God Is Enough. We were called upon by Bishop Mark J. Webb to embrace who we are, and whose we are, and to gain a greater understanding of the incredible privilege and responsibility we have to boldly be the Church in the 21st Century! Each and every one of us is invited and fully equipped by God to accept and share the amazing Grace of God in our lives and the lives of others.

During my time at Annual Conference I heard from an amazing study leader, Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, professor of youth, church and culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, who shared messages of new ways to be the church. One of Dr. Creasy Dean's messages was of "Missional Entrepreneurship," and ways in which churches could be entrepreneurial in connecting with folks outside of the traditional church venues to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She also shared a message of "Doing a New Thing: The Church of No Excuses," which called us to be open to change, suggesting that churches need to gain an understanding of the times we are in, while looking for the wisdom to determine how to respond

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Annual Conference (concluded)

to the changing times. Dr. Creasy Dean also asked us to consider what we might be willing to do to let go of what we know now, and what we have known in a new way to show young people that God is up to something wonderful, while providing them with hope.

As one might expect there were reports, resolutions, recommendations, discussions, and of course the approval of the 2018 Upper New York Conference Budget.

We shared Holy Communion with our sisters and brothers, and received ashes as an outward and visible mark of repentance. The amazing young people of our Conference led a moving opening worship service which provided us with a great sense of hope for the future of the United Methodist Church. Their personal testimonies were meaningful, and served as a great reminder of God's love & grace!

Throughout our time together we were reminded of our call by John Wesley to Do Good, Do No Harm, and Stay in Love with God, as we continue to share the good word to those near and far.

Our Upper NY Conference connects over 867 local churches, as well as 65+ New Faith Communities which have evolved by those who have heard the call to be "Church Planters." It is an exciting time to be part of the Upper NY Conference.


There were opportunities for laity and clergy to attend a number of workshops as part of Annual Conference. For many in attendance at Annual Conference, the discussions centered around the topic of the work of a relatively new committee established by the Council of Bishops—The Commission on a Way Forward—were difficult. This committee has been charged with focusing on helping to find ways to resolve the division that exists relative to the topic of sexuality in the Methodist Church.

As a member of the broader community of faith, I was saddened to learn of the discontinuance of five local churches within our conference. This served as a reminder to me to pause and give thanks for all that God has provided for us at LUMC. May we continue to serve in ways that are pleasing to him.

The closing ceremony of the Service of Commissioning and Ordination of Deacons and Elders was moving and inspirational, and the beautiful music of the Buffalo Metropolitan United Methodist Church Choir was incredible.

In closing I wish to thank you for the privilege of representing LUMC as a member of Laity to the 8th Session of the Upper NY Annual Conference. I invite you to consider ways in which you may be hearing God's call on your heart to serve in any capacity as we continue to do the work we have been called to do.

May we be Together in Prayer, Trusting That God Is Enough!—*Blessings,*
Sharon Butler Bowman, LUMC Lay Member to Annual Conference and Lay Leader

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
<p>2</p> <p>Worship 9:30 Myers Town Park Pavilion D</p> <p>Ice Cream Social at Scoops South Lansing 6:30</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Communion at Woodsedge 11:00</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>4</p> <p>The United States of America by the Grace of God Free and Independent for 241 Years</p> <p>Needleworkers Group 10:00</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00 8</p>		
<p>9</p> <p>Worship 9:30 Myers Town Park Pavilion D Sunday School 11:00</p> <p>VBS Walkthrough at All Saints 5:30</p> <p>Ice Cream Social at Laurie's Genoa 6:30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Needleworkers Group 10:00</p>		<p>12</p>		<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00</p> <p>Sunbeam Deadline Midnight</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship 9:30 Myers Town Park Pavilion D Sunday School 11:00 Rescue Mission Dinner 3:00 Ice Cream Social at Lake Breeze South Lansing 6:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive</p>		<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Haiti Committee 7:00</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Needleworkers Group 10:00</p> <p>Courageous Conversations Group 5:30</p> <p>Worship Committee 7:00</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 7:00</p>	
<p>23</p> <p>Worship 9:30 Myers Town Park Pavilion D Sunday School 11:00</p> <p>Ice Cream Social at Cream at the Top King Ferry 6:30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Needleworkers Group 10:00</p> <p>Finance 7:00</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Interfaith Dish-to-Pass Myers Park Pavilion A 6:00</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>		
<p>30</p> <p>Worship 9:30 Myers Town Park Pavilion D Sunday School 11:00</p> <p>Ice Cream Social at Scoops South Lansing 6:30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>			 <p><i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i></p>		<p><i>July 2017</i></p>		

K.A.N. Wraps Up Another Busy Year

Kids in Action Now (K.A.N.) just celebrated the end of its ninth year of “Serving One Another in Love” (Galatians 5:13). We’d love to share with you the journey of our past year.

In September we began by exploring what it means that God has a purpose for each of us and blesses each of us with special gifts and talents to aid in carrying out that purpose. We saw that God’s power can come through each one of us when we are used in the ways God intends through the unique way He created us. But it doesn’t stop there! When we bring those individual gifts and talents together in a group like K.A.N. we can work together



as a team to shine God’s light even brighter. Each K.A.N. member decorated a piece of a puzzle representing themselves with their individual gifts, likes, and uniqueness. Then, as the puzzle was

put together, it showed how we each fit together to accomplish larger, bigger things which are only possible when we come together in His perfect way. Our theme song for the year, “The Very Next Thing,” by Casting Crowns, urged us to be ready and open to “the very next way You’re going to use me.”

K.A.N. members packed nutritious “manna meals” at the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack in Ithaca on Saturday, September 24. Prior to the MobilePack, the K.A.N. kids raised over \$400, paying the cost for 1,818 of these meals. Packing meals involved scooping measures of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a vitamin and mineral powder into bags which were vacuum sealed and packed in boxes to be sent to malnourished children in over 70 countries around the world. As part of a celebration of the session’s packing enough meals to feed 87 children for a whole year, the K.A.N. kids saw a personal example of what those meals mean by allowing God’s children to thrive and grow to carry out the purpose God has planned for them.

Church World Service. Assembly lines are a K.A.N. tradition! We used one to do The Very Next Thing in October: putting together school kits for Church World Service to distribute around the world. Ms. Peg MacKenzie and her nephew Max explained how these school kits, health kits, and emergency cleaning kits are assembled, warehoused, and shipped to communities in need. In no time, we assembled boxes of kits for shipping. We also used

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K.A.N. (continued)

a friendship matrix to find out something we didn’t know about each of our K.A.N. friends and also things we have in common.

Giving tree. November was a time for us to find the true joy in celebrating all that God provides. With pebbles in shoes and candy to eat, as well as the thought of what donuts can teach us about gratitude, we focused on paying attention to all the good that God provides rather than allowing what might be missing to prevent us from noticing all of His blessings. We then focused on giving to others in grateful response to the Greatest Gift of All, Jesus, Son of God, who came to bring hope, peace, joy, and love. The gift of service for November was to create beautiful beaded cross ornaments to place on the Giving Tree with gift tags for local families in need. Miss Debbie told

us about how the Giving Tree program is set up at LUMC and All Saints and answered several thoughtful questions from the K.A.N. kids. These ornaments, made with love and surrounded with prayer, communicate God’s love both to those who select the ornaments from the tree to provide presents for children of different ages, but also to the families who thankfully receive these gifts of love at Christmas.



Games at Woodsedge.

We truly had a merry time in December, visiting our friends at Woodsedge for carols and sharing the gift of smiles, laughter, conversation, nourishment, and play. Residents had a chance to share their favorite games and were also eager try out some new games brought by the K.A.N. kids. Our times at Woodsedge are always one of the highlights of the year, not only for the K.A.N. kids, but also for the residents.

Ending malaria. The Very Next Thing to start a new calendar year for K.A.N. was to continue to explore God’s purposes for us and to serve through helping the people of Africa fight against malaria. Our focus on God’s purposes for us was illustrated by teams innovating ways to make ice cubes vanish. Then, we saw, like the ice cubes which vanished without a trace, our own plans and purposes can start out seeming strong as ice, but then can vanish without a trace. However, God’s plans and purposes for us stand firm forever (Psalm 33:11). Understanding that one of God’s purposes for K.A.N. is to reach beyond borders to share his love, we learned that malaria

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K.A.N. (continued)

is preventable and treatable, but for many, especially in Africa, the medicine needed to treat the disease is hard to get to impoverished people in remote areas. Nothing But Nets, an organization for which the United Methodist Church is a founding partner, focuses on bringing bed nets to protect people from getting bitten by the nocturnal mosquitoes that carry malaria. These nets are impregnated with pyrethrin-based insecticides, which are harmless to humans, but kill the mosquitoes that touch them.

KAN has been raising funds for Nothing But Nets for nine years, during which time the number of childhood deaths from malaria in Africa have been reduced from 1 in every 30 seconds to 1 in every two minutes. That means for every 4 children that died before, now only 1 dies. That's a huge difference, but there is still important work to be done to help the rest of the children. This year, K.A.N. raised money and awareness through partnering with the Lansing Cub Scouts for concessions at their Pinewood Derby on Saturday, January 28. As a result, 36 more nets were sent to bless many families by keeping them safe, allowing their children to grow into the future, and letting them feel God's love shining through.

Rescue mission. Mrs. Laura and Mr. Steve Alexander were our guests in February to talk with us about the support LUMC's Adults in Mission group provide to the Ithaca Rescue Mission and invite us to serve at a monthly meal provided at its hospitality center.

We learned about shelter and care that is provided to people without homes, their food pantry, and other services provided at the Rescue Mission. Following their talk, we did some brainstorming about ways K.A.N. could help, and then played a game of finding the missing



Serving love and a hot meal at the Rescue Mission.

item, from a tray of healthy snacks, health care items, and items to help keep people warm in the cold. Talking about how each item might be helpful, including information about other items that are not helpful to people without homes, we put together 24 blessing bags (using another assembly line) with decorated cards to bring down to the Rescue Mission when we served a nutritious meal of tasty dishes prepared by members of the LUMC congre-

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K.A.N. (continued)

gation. The smiles and gratitude expressed by everyone who came for a meal reflected back the power of personally sharing God's love, whether it be by kindness, nourishment, or blessings in a bag. We saw that when we reach out in Jesus' name and love, we can do more than help, we can provide healing.

At our March meeting, we saw how the quality of the love, care, and service we pour out in K.A.N. comes from how filled we are with God's love. When we are filled up with God's love, we can overflow with God's love to others. Verses such as 1 Thessalonians 3:12, "And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows," were reinforced by an exciting experiment involving water, hydrogen peroxide, dish soap, and yeast, which overflowed, and continued to overflow throughout the rest of the meeting.

Along with this theme, we had a slide show and talk about Pouring Out God's Love—Hope for Guatemalan and Haitian Families. Miss Bonnie shared about her recent trip to Guatemala with half of the Lansing Youth Mission team. They helped a Mayan Indian family by raising funds needed to build them a home and then helped to build the concrete floor. Additionally, she shared about meeting children that had been sponsored as part of Unbound's program to provide educational and sustainable means of support to Guatemalan families. They also visited a school where teens shared about the projects they worked on to help pay for their schooling, the sites of sustainable businesses that families had started using benefits from the sponsorship program, and a mission that has been supporting many programs to help the people, including a women's center for skills training and gathering for mutual support.

Haitian student. Meeting the people of Guatemala was a very enriching experience. They were so welcoming and gracious, and thankful for everything they have, rather than focusing on what they don't have. This mission trip gave everyone a personal understanding of what it means to do The Very Next Thing by sharing what we have to provide God's children opportunities to grow into the purposes the He has planned for them. In a similar way for the past nine years, Kids in Action Now has poured out God's love on a Haitian boy and his family by sponsoring his education. Cherkens Methelus is about to start his final year of secondary school thanks to our Palm Sunday bake sale fundraising to pay his schooling costs.

Food pantry. For our April meeting, we took a field trip to the Lansing Food Pantry, located at the Field. After putting on official pantry volunteer nametags, we heard about how the food pantry operates from Mrs. Nan-

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K.A.N. (continued)

cy Myers, the food pantry director. We could imagine how the shelves are stocked with low-cost groceries ordered from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. We helped our fellow K.A.N. members make selections to fill grocery bags for senior citizens in need. After learning about the mobile food pantry, we also helped organize donations that had been made to prepare for the next monthly food pantry. Playing a “pricing game” helped us to understand the cost of putting food on the table for families and appreciating the importance of the local food pantry. Truly, our hands opened to help others in Jesus’ name is evidence of God’s love for each and every person.

Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties held its seventh annual Women Build Weekend over Mother’s Day, and K.A.N. has been part of that since the beginning, providing support with thank you gifts to over 100 volunteers. This year the gifts were personally painted flower pots, later filled with donated flowers to let the volunteers know how much their hard work was appreciated. The volunteers always appreciate the love you pour into these thank you gifts, which encourage others to follow God’s leading to do The Very Next Thing.

Chuck Newman, construction supervisor for TC Habitat, came to our May meeting and explained that Habitat for Humanity is a Christian housing ministry that puts God’s love into action by building homes, communities, and hope. As the “hands and feet” of God’s love for all, Habitat seeks to help people get out of poverty housing by providing decent, safe, and durable shelter around the world. He shared with us how families apply to have a Habitat home built, how they contribute “sweat equity,” working alongside other volunteers, and how they receive interest-free mortgages from Habitat (following Biblical principles of lending without profit or interest charged) to make owning their home affordable. As Habitat families pay their mortgages, those payments are used to build more houses. This year at Women Build Weekend, volunteers built wall panels for a duplex home going up in Ithaca for two new Habitat homebuyer families.

We wrapped up this ninth year of K.A.N. with a family celebration of the year’s service and growth in Christ and a special ceremony to send off the sixth graders who are now officially K.A.N. alumni. We are so grateful for God’s gift of support and encouragement from parents and church family members, as well as His gift of inspiration we receive from witnessing the serving hearts of these K.A.N. kids, rooted in Jesus’ love. They have truly stepped out to do each Very Next Thing, and we appreciate your prayers for each one of them as they continue their journey of growth and in His name.—*Bonnie Blair*

Angst and Applause

Our Annual Conference session was marked by angst and applause this year June 1-3 in Syracuse. We had much to celebrate with the commissioning of three Deacons, and we saw many provisional Elders commissioned and Full Elders ordained. This generated applause at God’s working among us. We heard exciting testimonies from our young people and we were led in glorious song by many of them. We danced and marched and laughed and recapped the work of God among us throughout the year. But then...

...Some people strictly used Robert’s rules to effectively stall the body’s business and focus us too much on our theological divides. Some urged unity, and that concept passed with flying colors, while angst still under laid the votes. Voting creates winners and losers. Dialogue is healthier.

We sometimes criticize and disrespect our leaders, draw up caucuses, and misquote each other’s comments and speeches for our own gains. Some think the loudest shouter is Spirit-filled and the quieter one is not. We resort to blame and categorize and label. This ought not to be.

We are not all of one mind and heart on what it really means to include and love *all* those who think or look or act differently: progressive and traditional thinkers and in between, small church and large church members and in between, those of different educational levels, clergy and laity, young and those of us with indomitable youthful souls, country and city dwellers, various gender identifications, Latino and Caucasian, baldies and haired people! Sometimes it feels like basic emotional maturity eludes us when we gather. But God. . . .

I believe the Body of Christ corrects itself over time. I believe we return to humility of spirit when we are at our best. I believe honesty with ourselves about our real motives in church politics returns once we let God in for real.

Angst and applause: normal too long. God can help us get to something higher: Adoration and Acceptance. Adoration of God and Acceptance of each other. We can be better. We can decide to be Christ’s Body, redeemed by his blood. Let’s do this, instead of the other.

Adoration and Acceptance.
Jeff McDowell, Finger Lakes Superintendent

Interfaith Picnic

July 27, Myers Town Park • Pavilion A, 6:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass and enjoy an evening in the park with your neighbors from Lansing, Ithaca, and beyond. Park entry is free for the dinner. Just let the booth attendant know you’re headed for the dinner.

The Sunbeam

July 2017



Lansing United
Methodist Church

CHURCH IN THE PARK 9:30 A.M.

INTERFAITH PICNIC
JULY 27 AT MYERS PARK, 6:00

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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