



# *The Sunbeam* September 2018

Lansing United Methodist Church

**Summertime Worship 9:30 AM, SEPTEMBER 2**  
**REGULAR 9:00 WORSHIP RESUMES SEPTEMBER 9**  
**PLEASE JOIN US!**

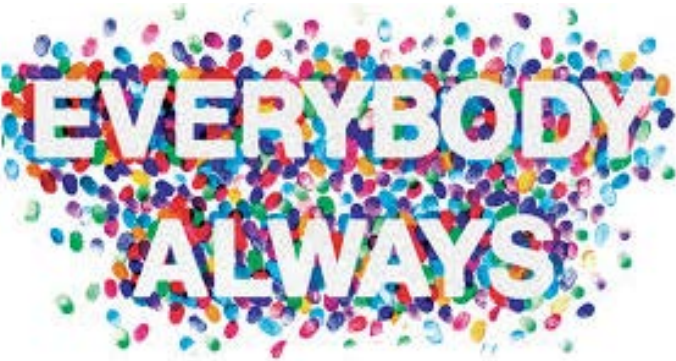
**Pastor: Alison Schmied**

**Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner**

**Christian Education Coordinator: Debbie Geise**

**Youth Ministries Coordinator: Iain Cockram**

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**Churchwide Experience**

**See page 2**

## From the Pastor

### Everybody, Always



In the Law there are many commands, such as,  
"Be faithful in marriage. Do not murder. Do not steal.  
Do not want what belongs to others."

But all of these are summed up in the command that says,  
"Love others as much as you love yourself."—(Romans 13:9, CEV)

**L**oving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves are the most important commandments (See Matthew 22:37-39). Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is LUMC's spiritual focus this fall.

To practice our neighbor-loving skills as a congregation, we will introduce a church-wide fellowship experience, "Everybody, Always," on Sunday, September 9, the day we return to 9:00 a.m. worship.

Last year, you may recall that we focused on building a new wing of our church facility, a place to do ministry to benefit the community, especially children and youth. This year, we're focusing on building Christian community, the spiritual work for which this facility is intended.

As our facility's capacity has grown, so has our congregation. We don't all know each other. What a wonderful "problem" to have!

In Lansing, our nearest neighbors may be a mile away. In worship, our neighbor may be closer, sitting in front of or behind us, to our left or right—but we still may not know more than their name.

One of the things that makes Jesus' command to "love our neighbors as we love ourselves" challenging is that we don't know our neighbors. It requires reaching out and moving out of our comfort zone to listen to the stories of people we haven't met yet.

Each of us is on a faith journey, growing in our understanding and practice of God's love. No matter where you are on your journey, I hope you will accept the invitation to take the next step forward this fall, to participate in an "Everybody, Always" small group.

The focus of "Everybody, Always" is to get us talking with one another, building stronger friendships with God and with one another as we discuss what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves—and practice doing it, together.

*Blessings*

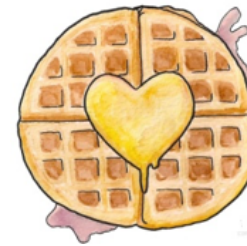
*Pastor Allison*

### Blessing of the Backpacks

**I**t's that time of the year when the children and youth fill up their backpacks with fresh, new pencils, markers, paper, and folders as they anticipate a fresh, new school year adventure! It is also time to remember that God goes with them as they learn and grow each day of the year. Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks for a special back-to-school blessing on their new school year during the Children's Message on Sunday, September 9. We will be very excited to see you!



### Waffle Breakfast and Registration for Sunday School and Adult Forum



**O**ur Children's, Youth, and Adult Ministry Teams have been hard at work planning and preparing for a new year of growing in faith and relationship with Christ. On Sunday, September 9, you will have the opportunity to register for Sunday School and Adult Forum and to see what's ahead and what's new in our Christian Education programs. You will be treated by Tony Todi to homemade waffles topped with ice cream and fixings at our annual waffle breakfast directly following worship. God has good plans for the Body

of Christ at LUMC this year, and we value your presence in discovering all that He has in store! You make all the difference! Please join us!

### Safe Sanctuaries Training

**September 29, 9:00 a.m. to noon**

LUMC will offer Safe Sanctuaries Basic Training for the beginning of the academic year. LUMC requires basic training for all those who work in ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. (If you trained with Pastor Jane in 2016 or participated at LUMC in Safe Sanctuaries training in 2017, you have satisfied the requirement for basic training.) Our Safe Sanctuaries policy states that our intent is "to protect from abuse and exploitation children, youth and vulnerable adults who come into our presence to participate in worship and our ministries." More info is available from Bonnie Blair or Diane Withiam. Sign up through LUMC office.

## Adult Ministries

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;” and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” – Luke 10:27

### Adult Forum Opportunities, Sunday 10:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

**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 in relation to scripture and everyday life.

**Everybody, Always**, *with Pastor Alison*. Loving your neighbor begins with getting to know your neighbor. In this fellowship experience, we will get to know more about each other and learn what it means to love everybody, the way God does. Through the magic of video, you will meet Bob Goff, the founder of Love Does, a nonprofit organization that operates schools and safe houses and pursues justice for women and children in conflict areas such as Uganda, Somalia, and Iraq. Bob is a lawyer and serves as the honorary consul for the Republic of Uganda to the United States. A gifted story teller, Bob shares his journey learning to love all people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits. He invites us to build greater connections with God and with each other by sharing our own stories with each other.

*Note:* This small group fellowship experience will be offered at multiple times and multiple places throughout the week with various facilitators.

**The New Testament**, A Great Courses video lecture series, *with Bart D. Ehrman*. View an historical introduction to the 27 books of the New Testament. This series will try to address such significant questions as who wrote these books, under what circumstances, and for what audience. Ehrman will consider what the Books of the New Testament say, what they mean, with the goal of coming to a fuller appreciation and understanding of these books that have made such an enormous impact on the history of Western civilization and that continue to play such an important role for people today.

The James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Bart Ehrman is a New Testament scholar.

## Welcome to Iain Cockram

As this issue went to press, Iain had just signed on as our new Youth Ministries Coordinator. He is the grandson of Robert and the late Martha Cockram, and his dad, Stephen, grew up at LUMC. He has been at Casowasco for six years. More about Iain next month.

## World Peace Begins in Your Backyard

Interfaith Community Dish-to-Pass Dinner, hosted by The Lansingville Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary, Thursday, September 27, 6:00–8:00 p.m., at the Lansingville Fire Station No. 3, 1235 Ridge Road (about five miles north of the church, on Route 34B).

YOU can make a difference. It's not just about a great meal and great conversation (although you will experience both of these). It's about building relationships and setting an example for our children, our community, and the world.

Check out the renovations to the Fire House while you connect with your neighbors! Please bring a labeled, vegetarian dish-to-pass and an open heart to meet new friends. If time or budget, make “the dish” a hardship, please, be our guest (there will be lots food)!

These monthly Interfaith Community dinners are a result of collaboration among LUMC, Al Huda Islamic Center, Congregation Tikun v'Or (Ithaca Reform Temple), and members of the Lansing community. Bring a friend! Neighbors getting to know neighbors. All are welcome!

Is God calling you to be a part of this mission? Do you know of a church or organization that might be interested in hosting a dinner? Do you have the spiritual gift of hospitality? Contact [AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org](mailto:AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org).

## Dear United Methodist Church...

“Where did the use of Acolytes originate?”

“What is Grace?”

“Can a layperson celebrate communion privately, at home?”

“How do we love our enemies?”


“What is the Commission on a Way Forward?”

Do you have questions about The United Methodist Church? You are not alone. Need help deciphering the hows and whys of who we are or what Methodists believe? Want to see what others are asking? Maybe you have a faith question you've been pondering?

You can now [ASK THE UMC](#). Go to: [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) and click on “What We Believe.”

## North Carolina Disaster Relief Mission Trip: 16-22 September

No construction skills needed and we have several places available. Cost is \$225 per person. If you are interested please contact Steve Alexander (845-238-8666), Laura Alexander ([lalexander1169@gmail.com](mailto:lalexander1169@gmail.com)), or Glenn Withiam ([grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu)). We will take new team members up until the week prior.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>Worship 9:30</p> <p>Last week of summertime worship.</p> <p>KAN (Kids in Action Now) 5:30</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>LABOR DAY</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Needleworkers' Group 10:00</p> <p>Ladies in Faith Together (LIFT) at Crossroads 6:30</p> <p>Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00</p> <p>Choir 7:00</p>	6	7	<p>Men's Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship 9:00</p> <p>BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS</p> <p>Waffle Breakfast 10:30</p> <p>Sunday School and Adult Forum Registration</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Trustees 7:00</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Needleworkers' Group 10:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00</p> <p>Choir 7:00</p>	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00</p> <p>Rummage Sale Setup Outside 9:00</p> <p>VIM Trip to NC Departs</p> <p>Sunbeam Deadline Midnight</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship 9:00</p> <p>Everybody Always Introductory Session 10:00</p> <p>Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30</p> <p>Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive</p> <p>Rescue Mission Dinner 3:00</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>Worship Committee 7:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Choir 7:00</p>	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>Rummage Sale 8:00 Each Day</p> <p>Rummage Sale Cleanup Begins 12:00</p> <p>VIM Trip Returns from NC</p>
Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting • Donations Accepted Monday and Tuesday						
<p>23</p> <p>Worship 9:00</p> <p>Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30</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>26</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00</p> <p>Choir 7:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Interfaith Dinner 6:00</p> <p>Lansing Fire Hall #3</p> <p>1235 Ridge Road</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>Safe Sanctuaries Training 9:00</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Worship 9:00</p> <p>Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30</p>	 <p>Lansing United Methodist Church</p>				<p>September 2018</p>	

## “Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!”

The Red Friendship Pad in the Pew: It’s more than an attendance sheet... It’s a friendship opportunity.

While visiting family in Minnesota, I worshiped at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, a church I had discovered last Christmas. As I sat down in the pew, I noticed a familiar-looking pad. Even though it was blue, I knew what to do with it.

When I opened the pad, it wasn’t just a sign in sheet, but a message as well: “Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! As we worship today, it is our hope that each person experiences something of the graciousness of God and the Love of Jesus Christ. Through the songs we sing, the words we hear, the sacraments we celebrate, and the prayers we offer, God’s presence is here to bless each of us; from this sacred place we scatter to share the blessing with others!

We are so happy you are with us today for worship.”—Followed by a list of upcoming events.

Brilliant and beautiful. Yes, I snapped a photo. Love bringing new ideas back to LUMC. What happened next was even better. I signed the pad and passed it to my neighbor. As soon as she saw that I had checked the visitor box, she turned to me and introduced herself, Loraine. Loraine welcomed me and said she was glad I had joined them for worship. She and I had a lovely conversation about family and summer and did I have any questions about Grace Lutheran?

The Friendship pad is more than an attendance sheet. Here’s a “life hack” idea, want to learn someone’s name, but too shy to ask? Sit in their pew. Read the friendship pad. Your secret is safe with me! Here’s a crazy thought. Sit in a different pew each week.

The Friendship pad is more than an attendance sheet... What message would you include?—*Karen Veaner*

## Hate Has No Home Here

HHNHH was started in Chicago by a group of neighbors and has since spread across the United States and beyond. “The Hate Has No Home Here project seeks to declare neighborhood residences, businesses, and places of community free from hate speech and behavior, providing safe places for conversation, work, learning, and living.” —[hatehasnohomehere.org](http://hatehasnohomehere.org)

This project has no political affiliation. It is meant to remind us what it means to be American. We can disagree with each other without hating each other. Spread the message that **hate has no home** in our community. Put a sign in your yard. Hang a poster in your school or place of business. Free yard signs and posters are available in the Library. For more information, contact Karen Veaner, [AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org](mailto:AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org).



## K.A.N.: Calling All 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Graders!

One of the joyous parts of September’s back-to-school time is gathering together to start a new year of Kids in Action Now. K.A.N.’s first meeting will be Sunday, September 9, from 5:30 to 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. We’re looking forward to seeing all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders with the friends they faithfully bring. We’ll kick off a year with a new

theme: “Proclaim, Praise, and Glorify God’s Good Works!,” as we rejoice in the past 10 years of following God’s call to “serve one another in love” (Galatians 5:13) and all that God will lead us in for the coming year. K.A.N. is about following Jesus and shining His light by putting God’s love into action. We are so grateful to witness together the special gifts of each K.A.N. kid blossom as each experiences the joy of serving Christ in our world.

The goal of K.A.N. is to involve kids in the helping ministries of our church, first by learning about specific programs from the people who lead these programs and then by participating in activities to support those programs. We combine those activities with some fun too! In the past years, K.A.N. kids have been involved in many projects which include: Feed My Starving Children, assembling school and health kits for Church World Service, aiding the food pantry with the Giving Tree and food collection, raising funds to sponsor an school child in Haiti, raising funds to buy mosquito nets for Africa in conjunction with Nothing But Nets, game afternoons at Woodsedge, helping the rummage sales, and supporting the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

It’s been amazing to see the impact these caring souls have on the helping ministries of our church when we let them contribute their boundless energy and enthusiasm. While allowing kids to get involved in helping others, K.A.N. also develops what we hope will be a lifelong understanding of outreach programs and possibilities within the church. These young people are at the perfect age to catch on fire with our Wesleyan heritage of reaching out to those in need. Most important, our prayer for each of these loving children is that they understand serving in Jesus’ name is more than just “helping”—it brings about God’s transforming work in the world.

For more information about K.A.N. please contact K.A.N. Coordinators Debbie Geise at [geise1019@hotmail.com](mailto:geise1019@hotmail.com) or Bonnie Blair at [theblairs@twcny.rr.com](mailto:theblairs@twcny.rr.com). We are blessed by our congregation’s whole hearted support of our Kids in Action Now, and thank you for your continued prayers as we embark in this next year’s Spirit-filled adventure with K.A.N.

## **K.A.N. 10th Anniversary Praise Service and Church Family Mission Project**

Please Save the Dates

**K**ids in Action Now have completed 10 years of “Serving One Another in Love”—my, how the time has flown. We are so grateful for the enthusiastic and faithful support K.A.N. has received over a decade from our loving church family at Lansing United Methodist Church, and want to celebrate this milestone together with you this fall. Therefore, we will be celebrating as a congregation through worship and service this fall. Please save the following dates and look for more information later in September:

**10th Anniversary Praise Service: Friday, November 2, at 7:00 at LUMC Church Family Mission Project: Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack: October 11-14 (group packing dates and time to be determined)**

As part of our worship service, we will be inviting members of the community organizations that K.A.N. has served, along with our alumni members. As another way to commemorate this milestone, we are planning to offer 10 Years of K.A.N. celebration t-shirts for sale to benefit Feed My Starving Children. We appreciate your saving the dates and your prayers as we move forward in bringing about this special celebration.

### **Adult Choir Resumes: You Can Join!**

September 5, 7:00

Singing in choir offers the opportunity for members to offer their gift of music to the congregation in worship. Members experience the joy (and challenge) of creating music in concert with others. Choir always welcomes new and returning singers. Rehearsals run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning on September 5. If you'd like to try a test drive, you may sing for a few months or for a season. Each season has its own special beauty and diversity of music. More info is available from Diane Withiam (diane.withiam@gmail.com).

### **Junior Choir**

Our children are busy! Diane Withiam has questions about whether junior choir (and children's musical) should continue in their present forms or whether there is another way of offering music and drama activities to children. To date, we have used the time following Sunday School to rehearse for choir or musical. We have seen the number of children decline as the number of competing children's activities rises. Questions: What children would like to participate in choir or musical this year? What works? What engages? Let Diane know your thoughts *and* meet with Diane to discuss thoughts on Sunday, September 23, during fellowship time.

## **Rummage Sale! September 21 and 22**

Setup and sorting September 15 through 20; Donations accepted September 17 and 18; Sale opens outside at 8:00 a.m. September 21, inside at 9:00; Saturday, 8:00 to 12 noon. Cleanup begins Saturday at noon.

One of Tompkins County's second biggest recycling programs and its longest running program! Your help is appreciated for any length of time throughout setup and sorting, the sale itself, and especially cleanup. In addition to being a church fundraiser, the sale provides a great opportunity to transfer stuff (especially clothing) from people who don't need it to people who do.

You can also participate by donating food for rummage workers—not only feeding workers, but providing one of many opportunities for fellowship.

Will this be the biggest rummage sale ever? There's only one way to find out—if you participate!

## **The Nearly Complete List of Almost Everything, Part 2: Ministry Action Plans**

**I**t's always surprising to see just how far our Church goes to offer opportunity for \*anyone\* in our church (you don't have to be a member or even a regular attendee) to coordinate good works in our space. Perhaps you too would be surprised to learn just how much LUMC encourages its members to be individual actors. We want you to feel empowered and confident in whatever good works we can help you accomplish.

“The Nearly Complete List of Almost Everything” is an effort to provide the whole congregation with the resources you need to become an informed member of our Church Community so that you too can organize good works. In it you can find everything from a tutorial on payment vouchers (so you can be reimbursed for approved items you buy to help with an event), to maps of the church, to an updated version of our Safe Sanctuaries policy. I've found these things helpful in my short time working here, and I think everyone should have access to them.

This month, I've added the “Ministry Action Plan” sheet. This is a sheet of questions meant to get you thinking about what you need to pull off a successful event. The written answers to these questions should also help future organizers look back and see how things were done in the past. This will make it possible for us to improve over time as an effective body of Christ.

So, next time in you're in the Narthex, look at the table to the left of the Sanctuary entrance—there's a table with a white binder titled, “The Nearly Complete List of Almost Everything.” Flip through to the Ministry Action plan sheet. If it strikes your fancy, feel free to take or make a copy.

And if you have any questions give me a call: 607-533-4070.

—Best Regards, Maxwell MacKenzie

# The Sunbeam

September 2018



Lansing United  
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM  
RESUME SEPTEMBER 9  
WAFFLE BREAKFAST 10:30

RUMMAGE SALE!  
SEPTEMBER 21-22

K.A.N. 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

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## Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882  
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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,  
editor, at [grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu).  
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September 15, 2018