



The Sunbeam February 2019

Lansing United Methodist Church

WORSHIP 9:00; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30
PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner

Children's Education Coordinator: Debbie Geise

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Iain Cockram



**Children's Sunday School
Art Gallery**

Opens February 17

From the Pastor

Be of Good Spirit



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Have you noticed how much easier it is to criticize than to encourage?

So often, I don't comment at all, until something goes wrong. When a situation meets my expectations, I seldom celebrate by saying "Hooray! Another average occurrence!" Only when things seem markedly different than I expected am I inclined to comment.

When my furnace is working well, I don't often say, "What a great furnace!" But when heat malfunctions or pipes freeze, it isn't long before I feel frustration.

This winter, I am trying to be mindful of and thankful for amenities such as central heat and indoor plumbing. I want to remember how uncommon this is around the globe, taking less for granted. According to the World Health Organization, 2.3 billion people lacked basic sanitation facilities such as toilets or latrines in February of 2018.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Christ-followers in ancient Thessalonica to: "*Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus*" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, *New Living Translation*).

Recently, we had a lot of snow. For my first time ever as a pastor, I cancelled worship. That morning, I was inspired by this version of the doxology.* "Praise God from Whom All Blizzards Flow: A Doxology for Those Blessed with Both Wintery Weather and a Sense of Humor."

*Praise God from whom all blizzards flow,
When snow comes down and cold winds blow!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for shovels, gloves, and plows
When four-foot drifts surround your house!
If more snow falls, praise for snow balls.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Words © 2019 Linda Bonney Olin www.lindabonneyolin.com

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Pastor's message (concluded)

My prayers for you, dear friends, include functional indoor plumbing and heat, and a healthy spirit of gratitude and sense of humor to carry you through this season. May you have the courage to share your gratitude and humor with all those whom you encounter, as a way of encouraging them.

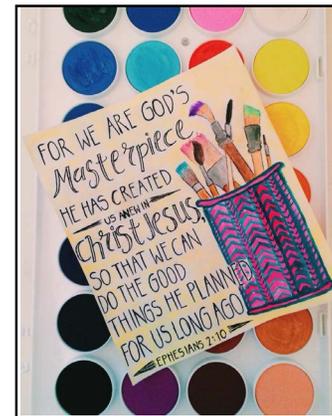
It is a great way to let God's love flow through you to a world in need.

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."—1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

Blessings

Pastor Alison

Children's Sunday School Art Gallery Grand Opening Followed by Congregational Brunch on Sunday, February 17



Before sharing a yummy brunch after worship, everyone is invited to the Grand Opening of the Children's Sunday School Art Gallery. The PreK-6th grade classes have been digging deep into the scripture of Ephesians 2:10. From the start of Sunday School in the fall, they have been exploring and learning about the different components of this scripture in relation to who they are, who God is, and who they are in Him. The children have created many masterpieces that illustrate the faith concepts they have been learning and that are on display in the new wing. The children and their teachers will be waiting in the new wing after worship for you to walk through the art gallery and view their art and ask any questions. You may even get an autograph or two! Please don't miss this opportunity to support our young masterpieces in their faith walk with the Master Artist and to have fellowship and brunch with your church family! We can't wait to see you there!

If you are able to help set up, cook, serve, or clean up for the brunch, please contact Dick or Shelly Stark at usexpressdicin@hotmail.com. Thank you!—
Debbie Geise

Spring and Summer Opportunities at Our Camps and Retreat Centers

Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries (CRM) is excited to announce that registration is now open for its 2019 Summer Camp & Retreat programs, including Casowasco and Aldersgate. CRM is pleased to offer a wide variety of programs, including classic favorites and new adventures. All of our programs offer opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, and diverse styles of meaningful worship experiences. This year during our large and small group times, we will learn how God calls us to be agents of change in our communities, and how we can transform those communities through generosity, compassion, inclusion, justice, and forgiveness. Check with campsandretreats.org.

There also are retreats coming up this spring at Casowasco.

March 1-3, 2019: Women's Chocolate Getaway (Women)

April 11-14, 2019: Quilt by Faith (Women)

May 12, 2019: Mother's Day Brunch (Families & Adults)

Info about the retreats is also at www.campsandretreats.org or phone 315-898-2026 with any questions.

VIM Trip to Danville, Virginia

April 7-13

A group from LUMC is planning a Volunteers in Mission trip to Danville, Virginia, where people are still cleaning up from hurricanes of the last two years. Recovery organizers have been approved for two UMCOR grants, with prospects of a third (see page 10 for more about UMCOR disaster grants). Once muck-outs are complete, rebuilding and renovation will begin. Our team is likely to be rebuilding, but the actual work is determined when we arrive. A volunteer coordinator is in place.

In part, we chose this location because they have been largely overlooked until recently, despite considerable damage. Our host, Pastor Lisa of Saint Luke's UMC says that some of the homes in Danville had up to 14 feet of water in them. Our team will be housed at the church, with the support of an UMCOR shower trailer. Recovery work will be extensive and varied.

Please see Laura or Steve Alexander or Glenn Withiam if you are curious about this or other VIM trips (salexander@centralrecycling.net; grw4@cornell.edu). At the moment, the church is not asking for donations or any monetary support. Usually we leave some type of donation.

Adult Forum Opportunities

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

"Making Sense of the Bible"—Meeting in the Asbury Classroom, Old Wing through February 10

Looking for a deeper appreciation of the Bible? Looking for help to hear God's Word more clearly, with more context? This book is an attempt to honestly wrestle with the difficult questions often raised by thoughtful Christians and non-Christians concerning things taught in the Bible. Join us for courageous conversation, led by Mary Adie. Newcomers are welcome. No previous Bible Study experience required.

The Wired Word—Meeting in the Library

Confront world news with scripture and hope! The Wired Word pulls topics straight from the headlines with thought provoking questions, encouraging us to dig deeper. Join a rich discussion of current events, scripture & everyday life.

Parenting Fellowship—Meeting in Fellowship Hall, near fireplace

February 3, 10, and 24 and March 3 (see page 3 regarding February 17)

Please join Pastor Alison, Karen Veaner, Debbie Geise, or Iain Cockram to share time with and support for other parents in our church family who are walking this journey. We will watch short video clips that encourage discussion about some of the most challenging and joyful parts of being a parent. We will discuss how God is with us and guides us as we parent, reflecting on wisdom from scripture as well as our experiences. Please join us for this newest addition to our Adult Forum opportunities.

Coming in Lent: Gleanings. Our Lenten Gathering begins March 10.

Women's Bible Study:

Wednesday Mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

with Dianne Walter, Judy Hinderliter, and Dianne Southard

Bring a friend! Newcomers welcome! Join the Women's Bible Study group as we discuss and study of the Acts of the Apostles. The class meets in the Asbury Classroom at LUMC.

Isaiah Study

Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the upstairs lounge at Woodsedge

with Karen Veaner

In Christian circles, The book of Isaiah is held in such high regard as to be called "the Fifth Gospel," and its influence extends beyond Christianity. All are welcome! Join us and explore the richness and depth of this scripture. (For info: AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org.)



*Lansing United
Methodist
Church*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>3</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Souperbowl Sunday Collection for Food Pantry Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 Children's Musical Meeting 11:30</p> <p>Confirmation Class 4:00 K.A.N. 5:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Needleworkers' Group 10:00 Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) at Crossroads 6:30</p> <p>Finance 7:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 7:00 at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 Childrens' Musical (tentative) 11:30</p> <p>Junior High Youth 2:30 Confirmation Class 4:00 Senior High Youth 5:30</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Trustees 7:00 Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Needleworkers' Group 10:00</p> <p>Reconciling Ministries 7:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>Staff Parish Committee 7:00</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Sunbeam Deadline Midnight</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Art Gallery Opening and Brunch 10:30 Childrens' Musical (tentative) 11:30</p> <p>Junior High Youth 2:30 Senior High Youth 5:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Needleworkers' Group 10:00</p> <p>Worship Committee 7:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>St. John's Mission Dinner 4:00 (Formerly the Rescue Mission)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 Childrens' Musical (tentative) 11:30</p> <p>Junior High Youth 2:30 Confirmation Class 4:00 Senior High Youth 5:30</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30</p> <p>Wingmen 7:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Needleworkers' Group 10:00</p> <p>Reconciling Ministries 7:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Interfaith Community Dinner 6:00 at LUMC</p>	<p><i>February 2019</i></p>	

A Special Session of UMC Seeks “Way Forward”
 Special Session of General Conference (the governing body of the global United Methodist Church) will be held February 23-26, in St. Louis, MO. The 864 delegates to the Special Session (half clergy and half laity) will receive and act upon the report of the Commission on a Way Forward concerning disparate views within the church regarding human sexuality. The report outlines 3 proposals for the future of the denomination, which are summarized below.

Three “Way Forward” Proposals

Traditionalist Plan	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan
This plan, developed more fully toward the end of the Commission on a Way Forward process, broadens the definition of “self-avowed, practicing homosexual”; puts penalties in place for disobedience to the Discipline; and requires bishops, pastors, and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline.	This plan, preferred by a majority of the Council of Bishops, would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline that prohibits same-gender weddings in UMC properties and ordination of “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.” It would add language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-gender marriages.	This plan would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences based on affinity: Progressive, Traditional, and Unity. All 3 would use a general Book of Discipline (Articles of Religion, General Rules, Confessions of Faith) with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry.

Further information, including explanatory videos by our Bishop Mark Webb can be found on our Upper New York Conference website here: www.unyumc.org/events/special-session-resources and www.unyumc.org/images/uploads/FAQ_FINAL.pdf

Wesley Heritage Tour 2020

Space is now available for a 2020 trip to England that will focus on the Wesley heritage. Upper New York Bishop Mark J. Webb and his wife Jodi will lead the Wesley Heritage tour, February 11-19, 2020. You will learn about the roots of the early church and the ministry of John Wesley. Visit London, Oxford, Epworth, and the Old Rectory where John Wesley grew up. Discounts for early registration. A brochure and more info is at unyumc.org.

2018 Kids’ Musical

What do we need to put together a kids’ musical?

- Kids who are interested and able to work together on a project;
- A Bible-focused story—with music; and
- Lots of support, including folks to help with music, direction, costumes, properties, scenery, technology, crowd control, and nutrition.

Do we want a kids’ musical this year?

- We put on our first kids’ musical in 1987 and have offered one every year since then.
- One year (2005), we did a Christmas story instead of another Bible story.
- We have built a repertoire of 18 different musicals, including Old and New Testament histories and collections of parables.
- We have done some musicals just once and one musical 4 times.

Do you want to be a part of a kids’ musical in 2019?

- If you do, you must let Diane Withiam know! This project cannot go forward without commitment from a critical mass of folk. (And it is a commitment for kids and their adults.)

Email Diane at diane.withiam@gmail.com OR

Write Diane a note and hand the note to her or put it in her mailbox *or Write* your name on the list on the choir room door.

And ... please come meet with Diane to talk about logistics and interest on Sunday, February 3, at 11:30 a.m. (after Sunday school), in the choir room.

Lansing Youth Are SOLID!

Lansing UMC sent 17 exuberant youth and 4 intrepid adults to SOLID 2019 at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center, January 25-27.

In addition to excelling at Streeball (a team game similar to street hockey) and developing a rivalry with Oswego United Methodist Church, the students heard and discussed several messages about God’s grace, delivered by Rev. Bill Mudge. Special thanks to volunteer youth counselors Bill and Sandy Dhimitri and Carolee Vink who assisted Youth Coordinator Iain Cockram in leading small-group discussions to help the youth digest the messages they heard and apply them to their own lives.

UMCOR Hurricane Response Points to the Power of Local Partnership

By Tom Gillem

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) partners with annual conferences to train volunteers from local congregations to be disaster responders and then provides grants for direct support, goods, or services to survivors.

In 2018, UMCOR disaster assistance responded to Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, and in 2017 help went to victims of Harvey in Texas; Irma in the Caribbean and southeastern U.S.; and Maria in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico. Once per year, the church has UMCOR Sunday, which allows you to donate to support UMCOR's overhead and its regular relief programs

UMCOR applies all of your direct giving for these disasters and keeps nothing for overhead. Here is a list of support grants from UMCOR for disaster relief:

Hurricane Harvey: \$15,083,849, targeting 12,903 people;

Hurricane Irma: \$9,060,300, targeting 5,760 people;

Hurricane Maria: \$22,097,001, targeting 19,416 people;

Hurricane Hermine: \$475,000, targeting 1,860 people;

Hurricane Florence: \$1,922,886 to provide long-term support to affected individuals through projects within several conferences);

Hurricane Matthew: \$3,608,164, targeting 5,825 people; and

Hurricane Michael: \$842,039.

On the Ground

UMCOR supports people who respond to disasters, by providing necessary organization (district disaster response coordinators and others), as well as shower trailers and tool trailers, relief supplies, warehouses, and housing for volunteers.

“Conference disaster response coordinators in North Carolina and South Carolina, were already taking action in anticipation of Hurricane Florence, staging supplies and readying their early response teams,” Earl said.

Disaster Response Coordinators

Disaster coordinators from other U.S. conferences across the connection participated in UMCOR conference calls to learn what the anticipated needs would be. After the disasters occurred, the conferences in the Carolinas already knew whom to contact for help.

Continued at right

Interfaith Community Dish-to-Pass Dinner

Thursday, February 28, 6:00–8:00 p.m., at LUMC

Peace begins here, in our community. In a world rife with conflict, YOU can make a difference. Hope is a verb! Choose to make time to meet and fellowship with neighbors who may have a different point of view. What you have in common may surprise you!

Good food, great conversation, and new friends await!

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)! Bring a friend! Greet your neighbors with signs of love and peace. All are welcome!

If you know of a church or community organization that might be interested in hosting a dinner, please contact AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org.

UMCOR report, concluded

The coordinators bring in Volunteers in Mission teams to assist anyone who needs help. Early responders are trained, background-checked, and badged by UMCOR. They remove debris, place tarps on roofs, and secure homes from further damage. Subsequent VIM teams muck out properties and begin the rebuilding process.

Beyond the Buckets

Assembling the UMCOR cleaning kits is one way United Methodist congregations around the nation support disaster victims. Each five-gallon bucket contains a variety of products to help with cleanup, from detergent, household cleaner and air freshener, to scrub brushes, clothespins, kitchen gloves, trash bags and more.

More than 7,000 cleaning buckets were given out just in South Carolina to help with cleanup from Hurricane Florence. Beyond buckets, however, are the volunteers who help with the cleanup, plus financial support that UMCOR receives from United Methodists.

Your Gifts

When a financial gift is given to UMCOR, 100 percent of the funds goes to relief and recovery efforts. UMCOR works with the annual conferences in the disaster areas to stretch those dollars. In addition to grant funding and disaster response resources, UMCOR provides training for local churches and conference leadership.

The Sunbeam

February 2019



Lansing United
Methodist Church

**Children's Art Gallery
Opening and Brunch
February 17**

**Interfaith Community
Dinner
February 28**

Lansing United Methodist Church

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.
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