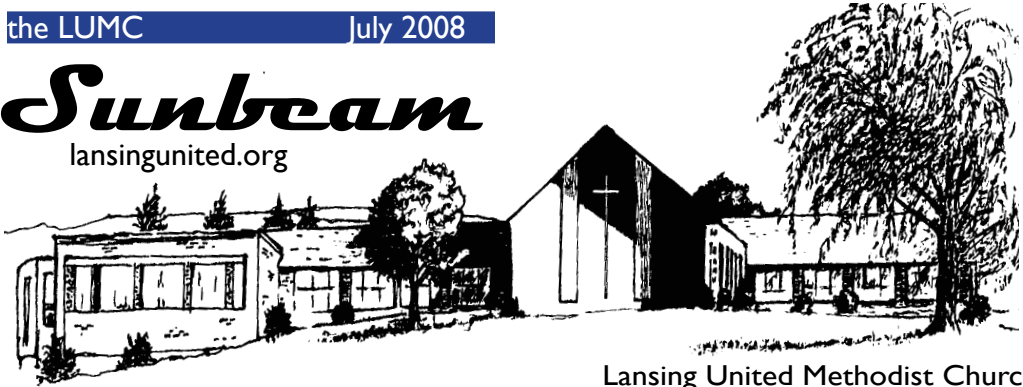


Please join us for worship at 9:30 in Myers Town Park, Pavilion D

the LUMC July 2008

Sunbeam

lansingunited.org



Lansing United Methodist Church
Route 34B and Brickyard Road, South Lansing

Pastor: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn

Hooray! It's time for Vacation Bible School!



July 21-25



Thinking Small

From the Pastor

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying a bit of summer. Maybe you're out on your porch sipping a little lemonade or putting the last couple of items in your suitcase before heading out on vacation. If these kinds of things aren't happening for you today, I do hope they're in your "not-too-distant" future. Summer is a time for much needed recreation and re-creation.

But while you're sipping and packing, I wanted to share a few words about something to look forward to in the fall. Beginning September 14 and continuing for five weeks, you and I will have the chance to grow deeper

spiritually by participating in a small group. These groups will meet weekly for about an hour to study some pretty basic and essential stuff about living a Christian life. The book we'll be using is called "Three Simple Rules," but I'm not going to say any more about it. Just make a mental note to give this small group emphasis some consideration. Though summer is the time to grow a garden, fall will be the time we're going to focus on growing one another.

Enough said! Just wanted to plant a seed of interest. Go finish that lemonade and don't forget to pack the sunscreen

Pastor Bin

Summer Worship Times

Month of July, Lansing Town Park: 9:30

Month of August: Summertime worship at the church: 9:30

September 7: Two services resume. 8:30 and 11:00

LUMC Summer Picnics

The dates have been set for the LUMC Summer Picnics: July 9 and July 29, August 13 and August 19.

Hosting involves offering a lawn or patio, some beverages, and a way to cook food (grill, charcoal fire, whatever).

Guests bring a dish to pass, meat if they want it, and chairs and table service. Meals are totally luck of the draw. Ask old timers about the "no dessert picnic," which was followed by the "all dessert picnic."

The usual pattern is for people to gather between 6:00 and 6:30, put the meat or tofu on the grill, and plan to eat about 6:30. For more information, call Bill Hinderliter at 533-7287 or Beth Bacorn at 257-2944. They'll be happy to answer any questions.

Prayer Requests

Brian Cleveland 7358 Cedar St., Akron, NY 14001
Bill Earl 2000 East Shore Dr.
James Hall, % Church Office
Pauline Gottschalk
Keith Hansen, 21 Manchester Dr. Clifton Park 12065
Bill King (Vicky Swanson's father)
Jackson Magill and Katherine Magill (Mary Searles's great grandchildren)
Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. (Groton)
Allison Selby Stratton
Rev. Virgil Versteeg
Kylie Walley
Charlotte Wilson 6 Conlon Rd.
Marian Wilson Groton Nursing Facility, 120 Sykes St., Groton 13073
Kenny Woodfield

Mourning families of Wilma Clark and of Patricia Collins

Pray for the Haiti Mission Team, traveling this month

Thanks to Our LUMC Church Family

Words can not express the depth of our gratitude for all the special prayers for our son, Brian. These prayers have sustained us during the past 10 months and God's healing powers have been with him. Your cards and calls and your gifts of food and money have been a source of support and strength to our entire family. Although his healing journey will not be over for sometime yet, he is making good progress. We pray for God's guidance and ask for your continued prayers to help us win this battle.

May God Bless our church family for your compassionate caring love.—*Sid and Sandy Cleveland and Family*

Please pray for those in our armed services:

Ken Allen	Steven Cowles	Matt McDonald	Matthew Ravas
Richard Butler	David Ferris	Travis Potter	Adam Ward
Matthew Cornell	Trevor Judd	Nick Prabhavat	Michael Zhe
Scott Cowles	Shaun McCray	Josh Randles	

Worship in July

Beside the phrase “the season after Pentecost,” another name for the liturgical season we’re in is “Ordinary Time.” I guess compared to the intense liturgical focus of Advent and Lent, the Sundays of summer could seem more “ordinary.” For Methodists and other Protestants who don’t normally recognize saint’s days and feasts, there aren’t any major church celebrations over the summer. Yet summer is such a different time for most of us, I’m not sure I can call these days “ordinary.” Nature is literally in full bloom and work and school routines are interrupted (thankfully) by vacations, picnics, and evening swims. Who can watch a summer evening sunset and call that explosion of crayola color ordinary? If you’re open to wonder, I guess you can find it present anytime and anywhere. Even Sunday morning under Pavilion D at Myers Park.—*P.B.*

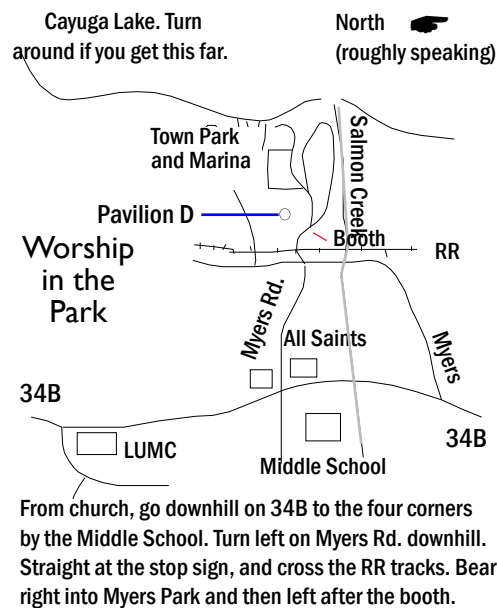
July 6– Haiti Sunday: our annual celebration and reaffirmation of LUMC’s ministry in and with the people of Haiti. The theme this year is “Seeds Sown—Fruit Harvested.” Members of our Haiti Committee will share stories “from the field,” and Pastor Bill will preach on how even “mustard seed-size” inputs are used by God to work big changes. Communion will be served this morning using traditional Haitian bread. Read: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 13- Ordinary Time/Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: The wild and wonderful adventures of the Old Testament “hero” Jacob will shape our worship and reflections the next couple Sundays. Brother Esau was willing to trade his birthright to Jacob for a pot of stew. Most would consider this a pretty poor trade. We’ll use this story to reflect on what’s of most value to us and how careful we are to hold onto what matters most. Read: Genesis 25:19-34

July 20- Ordinary Time/Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: In this morning’s lesson, we find Jacob on the run. He’s double-crossed his brother, left home in a rush and wound up in the middle of nowhere. Yet, it’s precisely then and there he has a vision of God. Do you have to hit “rock bottom” to get a glimpse of high heaven? Read: Genesis 28:10-19a

July 27- Ordinary Time/Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Our last Sunday in the Park. Have you invited someone to worship yet this summer? Today would be a great day. Read: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Where to Find Worship in the Park month of July



New Books in the Library

A couple of months ago I wrote about the church library and how time has allowed us to update it with a new look and some new books. We now have a copy of *The Last Lecture*, by Professor Randy Pausch. Randy, a 47-year-old computer-science professor at Carnegie Mellon University, has terminal cancer. In his inspiring book he shows “the beauty of life, even while staring death in the face.” He gave his last lecture entitled “How to Live Your Childhood Dreams.” The book reflects both truthfulness and hopefulness. He has a young family and is devoting the rest of his life to taking care of details for their future and spending as much time with them as he can. Be sure to check it out.

We also have *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder. With the love and passion that this church holds for Haiti, everyone should own a copy of this book! It is the true story of Paul Farmer, a physician and anthropologist. He, too, loves Haiti. Early on in his career he made it his mission to help transform health care on a global basis. He works in the field of infectious diseases and his desire is to cure the world’s poorest and sickest communities. Dr. Farmer practices medicine four months a year at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and the remaining eight months in the small village of Cange in Haiti. The details of his life are fascinating.

I also brought a couple of books from the Women of Faith conference. They include *Get Off Your Knees and Pray*, by Sheila Walsh, and *I Second That Emotion*, by Patsy Clairmont. Both Sheila and Patsy were Conference Team Speakers who openly share the obstacles they have faced on their life journey. Both authors beautifully write and speak about how they deal with their personal challenges with the power of God by their side. I always feel it’s a great privilege to hear them speak at our yearly Women of Faith Conference.

That’s it for now. Stop by the office and borrow a book. Have a wonderful summer. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*



VBS is Finally Here! Don’t miss out, all ye kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. Join up with a pirate crew during the week of July 21 to 25, for a great week of Vacation Bible School featuring VeggieTales The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything. We’ll be meeting from 6:00 pmo to 8:15 pm with our friends from All Saints Church, as well as anyone you’d like to bring along for the adventure. Think about a friend who would like to come! Please preregister, if possible—forms are available at the church office or on the church website. We’ll be meeting at LUMC on Monday and Tuesday nights; All Saints Church on Wednesday and Thursday nights; and at Myers Park, Pavilion B for a dish-to-pass supper with your families on Friday Night. Call the church office or Bonnie Blair, 257-0721 with any questions.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



*Lansing United
Methodist Church*

1
Quilt Bee 9:30

Staff Parish 7:00

2

3

4
The United States of America

by the grace of God
free and independent for
232 years

Church Office Closed

5
Mens' Breakfast every
Saturday at Linda's in North
Lansing 7:00

6
HAITI SUNDAY
Worship 9:30
Myers Town Park Pavilion D

7

8

Church Council 7:00

9

Church Picnic 6:00

10

11

12
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

13
Worship 9:30
Myers Town Park Pavilion D

Youth Mission Information Meeting
6:00

14

Food Pantry 4:00

15

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

16

17

18

19
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

20
Worship 9:30
Myers Town Park Pavilion D

21

Haiti 7:00

22

Finance 7:00

23

24



26
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

V A C A T I O N B I B L E S C H O O L

27
Worship 9:30
Myers Town Park Pavilion D

28

Food Pantry 4:00

29

Church Picnic 6:00

30

Note: This calendar is current as of June 25. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org and see our virtual church calendar, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

*July
2008*



Update on Greening Haiti

by Sarah Sandsted

As you peer from the passenger window while flying into Port Au Prince, everything is brown. Long stretches of barren earth stretch as far as the eye can see. Mountains once covered with thick green foliage are now naked: a fierce reminder of the obliteration of a natural paradise. Erosion threatens the mere existence of buildings and homes, and leaves the soil void of any nutrients or value. This profound and devastating deforestation and erosion plagues the country, and prohibits the people of Haiti from rising above poverty.

These issues are on the forefront of many humanitarian efforts to help the people of Haiti. In Banique, a village that has stolen the hearts of the LUMC congregation, a tangible and successful effort has finally surfaced. A few years ago, before I had the opportunity to travel to Haiti, my mom and a team of agriculture experts went to Banique with the goal of terracing and reforesting a hillside. The steep and barren hill that rests directly behind the church and school was eroding quickly, and the foundations of the church and school were suffering a serious threat. Visions of the crumbling

foundations buckling under the weight of these very important community buildings motivated the team to begin to terrace across the hillside.

I'm sure many of you have heard this story. Perhaps you remember the team's return back to LUMC with slides portraying the rocks they had stacked, barbed wire they had stretched and the thick fence of cactus they had constructed to keep the goats from grazing and destroying their efforts. I remember traveling to Haiti the next year, right after the project had been launched. I remember the look my mom and Dianne and Debbie had as they came down from the hillside on a hot January morning. The project had been destroyed, all of their efforts had been uprooted: literally.

Why this project didn't work is incred-



ibly complicated, but many of the mistakes that were made were worth making, to learn a valuable lesson about making positive change in Haiti. It is imperative that the people are behind you and really understand what it is you are trying to do and why you are trying to do it. Now, just a few years later, a project has blossomed in Banique that will forever change the way the students, teachers, and community members understand trees and plant life.

This past January, a team traveled to Haiti and met with a man by the name of Jean Michel. Jean Michel is a US-educated Haitian who has returned to the country he loves to make positive changes, particularly in the area of agriculture. He worked for the United Methodist Church of Haiti as an agriculture specialist, and immediately fell in love with our vision for Banique. His forward thinking allowed him to truly appreciate and admire what the mission had attempted to do in the previous years. He then traveled to Banique, assessed the situation, and created a plan of action for the community. My mom and Dianne were so impressed with his proactive spirit that they came home raving of his ability to help us solve the problem of erosion in Banique. The first installment of money was sent, and now the project is underway.

Seedlings are being planted in a greenhouse constructed adjacent to the school. A man has



Haitian school children work on planting reforestation seeds.

been hired to oversee the planting of these seedlings and the watering and cultivation of the soil. To date, 20,000 bags have been prepped for seedlings. Students are the most crucial part of this project. As a part of their curriculum at the school, they must listen to the trained nursery caretaker explain the importance of trees in their community and in their lives. They are required to help with the process of planting these trees and they are graded on their ability to care for the seedlings. When the seedlings are ready to be transplanted on the hillside, the entire community will come together to reforest.

The Haitians are behind this idea now. From the pictures we have been sent of this project, it promises to be an incredible success. In July, a few of us plan to go back to Banique to witness first hand the positive change being made in this community. Haiti is like a second home to us, and we finally have the tools we need to make it green again.

You are invited...

65th Anniversary for the Bensons

Sixty-five years of marital bliss will be celebrated by Clarence and Mary Benson at their home at Woodsedge on July 6, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Friends and family are invited to share the celebration. Light refreshments will be served. There will be a sing-a-long of some of the golden oldies at 11:00 AM.

Clarence and Mary were married on June 26, 1943, in the West Groton Congregational Church. It was during the Second World War. Food and gas were rationed. Their wedding reception was held on the church lawn. It was legal to drive to only one destination for a wedding. The bride and groom drove to Cortland for their honeymoon. It was legal to drive to town to buy groceries.

Their new home was the tenant house on the Hattie Buck Farm, at 810 Buck Road.

Madeleine Horrell Anointed at Annual Conference for Mission Trip to Nicaragua

Bishop Fisher (far right) anointed Maddie Horrell for her upcoming year of mission work in Nicaragua and invited The Rev. Dr. Thom W. W. Fassett (at left) to offer prayers of blessing. He called for God's blessing on Maddie as she goes forth to heal a hurting world. "We stand in Grace, ready for each moment, knowing that you guide us, Oh, God, as we continue this journey together in the name of Jesus Christ."



After her mother, The Rev. Martha Swords-Horrell gave thanks to the conference for its support and encouragement of young people, Maddie added, "Two years ago, you sent me to Nicaragua for mission work. It was that seed that grew to make me want to go back for a year. Thank you all."

Madeleine attended LUMC in the 1990s.

UMCOR Aids Flooded Areas of Midwest

"The images we are seeing are heartbreaking," said Sam Dixon, UMCOR's top executive in a release issued by UMCOR—the United Methodist Committee on Relief— on June 16 about severe storms and flooding that are affecting 10 states and approximately 11 million people throughout the Midwest. UMCOR is working with the affected annual conference partners and disaster coordinators to assess and respond to the wide spread damage caused by recent storms and rising flood waters. Dixon urged United Methodists to be in prayer, prepare to volunteer, and give to UMCOR's US Spring Storms-Domestic Disaster Response, Advance #901670. Checks can be dropped in church offering plates or mailed directly to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write the Advance number and name on the memo line of the check. Credit card donations can be made by calling (800) 554-8583 or online at gbgm-umc.org. As a reminder, UMCOR keeps no overhead from designated donations, so every penny goes to help those caught by the flood.



The Sunbeam

July 2008

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship in the Park
9:30
Pavilion D
Lansing Town Park at Myers

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: Kay Thomas

To reach the pastor in confidence:
pastor32@twcny.rr.com

www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published each month
by Lansing United Methodist Church.

Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
at grw4@cornell.edu, or use the Sunbeam folder
near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is July 15, 2008.