

Worship 8:30 and 11:00. Sunday school 9:45.

the LUMC April 2007

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

**Behold the lamb of God who
was slain, to receive power and
wealth and wisdom and might and
honor and glory and blessing!—
Revelation 5:12**

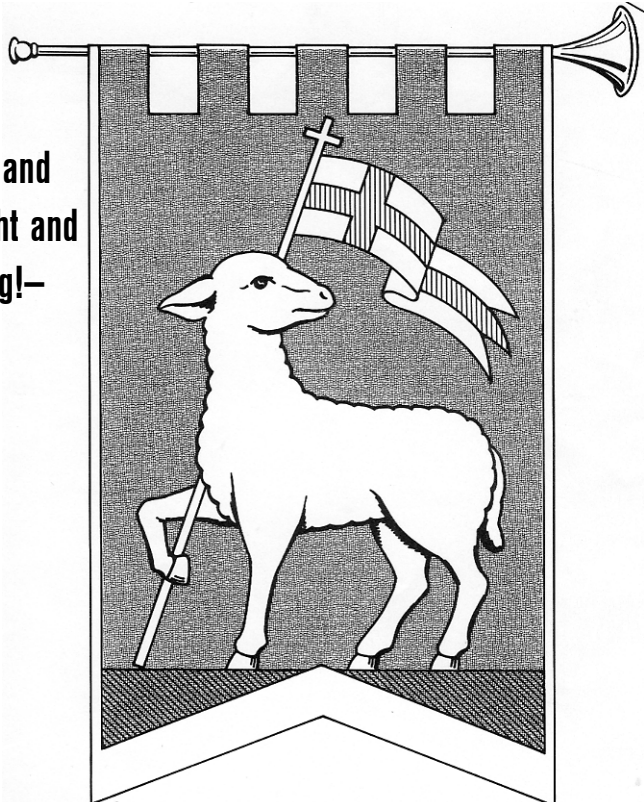
Holy Week 2007

Palm Sunday, April 1

Maundy Thursday, April 5

Good Friday, April 6

Easter, April 8





A Savory Mixture

From the Pastor

Occasionally when I sit down to write my “pastor’s column,” I struggle to find something to share. This month I face the opposite problem: I’ve got many things I want to share with you. So, call this column “pastor’s potpourri!”

- **My Study Leave:** As you read this, I’m about two months away from taking my eight-week study leave. I’ll be spending much of June with Dori and the girls in England and then most of July in Lansing reading and reflecting. The theme guiding my leave is “missional leadership.” Specifically, I’ll be searching for ways to share the good things of Christ with people who currently know next to nothing about him. Methodism’s John Wesley and Celtic Christianity’s St. Aidan will be my “teachers.” While in England, I’ll be visiting historic sites and seeking fresh insights. Back “in the States,” I’ll be looking around our neighborhood for new ways to connect with people we aren’t currently reaching. During this time the District Superintendent (DS) and Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) have relieved me of all my pastoral duties, including preaching and pastoral care. Since I’ve worn a “pastor’s stole” for seventeen years, I know it’s going to take some discipline to set aside my duties for a time.

Thankfully, the pastoral needs of the congregation will be well cared for by two seasoned and familiar pastors: The Reverends Rollie Ryan and Dave Nicholls. Rollie and his wife Susanne

and Dave and his wife Maxine have worshipped at LUMC for some time. I’m personally grateful that Rollie and Dave have stepped forward to preach and provide pastoral care while I’m away. I know you’ll be in good hands. Our annual conference’s Board of Ordained Ministry has also stepped forward to help us by providing \$1,500 dollars for interim pastoral support.

- **Envisioning a New Conference:** Two years ago Bishop Fisher asked me to chair a taskforce for our North Central New York annual conference charged with entering into conversation with three geographically adjacent annual conferences (Western New York, which adjoins our conference on the west, Troy, which extends from Albany through the eastern Adirondacks and western Vermont to the Canadian border, and Wyoming, which extends from Binghamton and Oneonta to Scranton). Our annual conference is the basic unit of the United Methodist Church akin to a Roman Catholic diocese. It is a regional body, an organizational unit, and a yearly meeting. The four annual conferences soon discovered we share much in common: financial challenges, changing demographics and membership losses, and a longing for a better future. It soon became evident one way to prepare for that better future was to form a new conference out of these four. This spring and fall members of these four annual conferences will be discerning whether this is the direction we are being led to follow. As one part of this discernment process, LUMC will host a “Discernment Meeting” next

Continued at right

Pastor’s Message (concluded)

month (May 15, 7-9 p.m.) to provide information about the New Conference Vision and receive feedback. You are encouraged to attend this event. I also ask for your prayers as I continue to provide leadership to this project. This has been one of the most challenging responsibilities I’ve been asked to fulfill.

- **Renewing a Focus on Adult Spiritual Formation:** A number of experiences have convinced me that the number-one priority for us in the future is renewing our focus on adult spiritual formation. We are doing pretty well with our children and youth. Improvement is always possible, but our Sunday school and youth programs are faith-building, fun, and growing. Our adult ministries are all of those things, too, but we need more adult opportunities. Growing adults bring children to church; growing adults step up to take leadership; growing adults enjoy abundant life. When it comes to adult offerings, what limits us more than anything else is space. We have room for just one adult class on Sunday morning. Sunday morning is prime time for us. If we don’t reach people on Sunday morning, we won’t reach them. That’s why as we continue to search for ways to find resources for our growing needs, I’m more and more convinced the place to start is adult Sunday school space.

So, that’s what’s on my heart and mind. I hope you find in this “potpourri” a bit of Easter color and the bouquet of resurrection fragrance. Surely the Risen Christ is working among us, leading us forward into the future.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Ben

Prayer Chain

Deloris Babcock, 2549 No. Triphammer Rd., Ithaca
 Roberta Beach, 57 Jersey Hill Rd., Ithaca
 Clarence Benson, 100 Woodsedge Dr., Apt. 119
 Bishop Violet Fisher, 1010 East Ave. Rochester, 14607
 Keith and Kristen Hansen, 21 Manchester Dr., Clifton Park 12065
 Deforest Heffron, Elcor Health Center, Horseheads, 14845
 Amber Heimbuecher, Anne Czymbek’s sister
 Phil Hopkins, 5054 Erron Hill Rd., Locke, 13092
 Ruth Juraka, 367 Bill George Rd.
 Russell Nalley, 261 Myers Rd.
 Tom Payne, 30 E. Meadow Dr., Ithaca
 Erma Powell, RD5, Box 5338, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd., Groton, 13073
 Ed Trainer, 8 E. Meadow Dr., Ithaca
 Barb White, 96 Auburn Rd.
 Hilda Wilson, Buck Rd.

Please pray for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other locations, including these family members and friends:

Shawn Butler,	Travis Potter
Matthew Cornell,	Nick Prabhavat
David Ferris	Josh Randles
Robert Gudbranson	Matthew Ravas
Daniel LaBar	Eric Tee
Trevor Judd	Vanessa Valentine
Shaun McCray	Michael Wolfe

At Rural Mission in South Carolina
 Jeff Sandsted

Worship in April

The first week of April provides us with four opportunities to meet God through worship: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Not everyone's schedule will allow so many times in worship, but most of us will make 3 out of 4. What a journey of heart and soul this will be! I'm reminded of the praise song "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" I sang with our confirmands during our March retreat:

You came from Heaven to Earth, To show The Way, From the Earth to The Cross, My debt You paid,	From The Cross to the grave, From the grave to the sky, Lord I lift Your Name on High!
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The song captures the movement the events of that fateful week we call "Holy Week." As we commemorate this week through our worship, our hope and prayer is we, too, may experience great movement in our hearts and souls.

April 1—Palm and Passion Sunday – A service of story and song led by our choir. Come journey with Jesus through the last week of his earthly ministry. You will become part of the crowd watching...and participating in...the events in Jerusalem leading to Jesus' crucifixion.

April 5—Maundy Thursday. 6:00 PM. "Do this in remembrance of me." We will relive Jesus' last supper with his disciples as we share a simple supper followed by a simple service of bread and cup. Read: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; and John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

April 6—Good Friday. 7:00 PM. New this year is an opportunity to worship together in our sanctuary the evening of Good Friday. As we work our way, verse by verse, through the wonderful African-American spiritual, "Were You There," three contemporary witnesses will share what the cross means to them.

April 8—Easter Sunday: Three services of worship to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection: Sunrise Service (6:00 AM) in our Butterfly Garden, with refreshments to follow; and

two Worship Services (8:30 and 11:00 AM) in the sanctuary with choir and brass ensemble. Read: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; and John 20:1-18 (or Luke 24:1-12).

April 15—Second Sunday of Easter. What do you do if you missed Easter? I mean, the lilies are gone now, and the choir's not going to sing all that wonderful music again, and we're certainly not going to get the brass ensemble back any time soon. But what if the Risen Christ was willing to stop by again, just for you? Outrageous idea? Check out Thomas's story. Read: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; and John 20:19-31.

April 22—Third Sunday of Easter. Sometimes what we need most is right before us; we just can't see it. Such is the story of Cleopas and his friend as they flee Jerusalem Easter Sunday night. As we remember their story, perhaps our eyes will be opened to what (who?) is right before eyes. Read: Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; and Luke 24: 13-35.

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Responding To God's Will

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Do we discern God's will in our lives? Do we prayerfully seek God's purpose in our lives, being open to His will, and naming that gift?

We have certainly been a witness to God's presence in the lives of some of the young people here at church. They have been seeking and responding to God's call. C.J. Griffin attended a conference a few months ago on pursuing a career in Youth Ministry. He is considering this field of study as he graduates from high school.

CJ will share his hopes, dreams and what a vocation in ministry entails on Sunday, April 1, in the adult Sunday School class. Nicole Earl was selected to travel with 19 other youth on a Mission for Peace trip to Nicaragua. (Please read Nicole's moving article of her time away and the blessings she received as a result of this trip.) Nicole will highlight her mission trip on Sunday, April 15, during Sunday School hour. Please join us as we listen to these young people respond to God's call in their lives. Mahima Walter, Sarah

Sandsted, Ashley Dean and Kelsey Radcliff were among the young adults who participated in the Haiti mission trip this year. We anxiously await a date to hear about their journey.

There are also opportunities here at church to respond to God's call and share one's spiritual gifts. The Christian Education program with a rotation Sunday School curriculum invites many to participate as teachers, shepherds, and assistants. Please prayerfully consider becoming involved next fall. The Adult Ministry Committee seeks your help in expanding the program and vision. Adult Ministry is responsible for Women's Bible Study, Sunday's adult forum, Lectionary bible study, and other small group studies. Please consider serving on this committee as growing in faith is a lifetime journey.

With so many new faces among us, we encourage you to prayerfully discern God's will in your life.—*Marilyn Paradise*

April Worship (concluded)

April 29—Fourth Sunday of Easter. Hard to imagine a name for Jesus more precious to his followers than "Good Shepherd." When we call Jesus this, what are we saying about him? (And what are we saying about ourselves!?) Read: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; and John 10:22-30.

Tired of chilly weather? Warm things up with thoughts of summer camp. The Aldersgate and Casowasco schedules are available. Visit the camps on line at www.aldersgateny.org and www.casowasco.org. You can sign up right online. Remember, everyone gets a campership for part or all of the cost of church camp! Plus, if you sign up before the end of April, you get a discount on the camp fee. Adults: Volunteer as a counselor and you get to go for free!

Mission of Peace to Nicaragua

For two and a half weeks this past December and January, I was one of 19 youth that had the opportunity to go on a Mission of Peace trip to the beautiful country of Nicaragua. This trip was amazing. At first I was apprehensive of going. I don't speak Spanish and I've never considered myself an outgoing person, but I am so thankful that I went. On this trip, I was with youth from all over the Northeastern Jurisdiction. We had youth from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and West Virginia. When we first arrived in Nicaragua, I was surprised at the scene. We stayed in Managua, the capital city. It was very much a city, with fast-food restaurants, Coca Cola advertisements, and McDonald's. All of this in the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. That was surprising, but we soon found out that Nicaragua was not all fast-food-filled cities.

The most emotional portion of this trip for me happened on the seventh and eighth days of the trip. We went to Project Chacocente and La Churreca. Project Chacocente was a project inspired by Mission of Peace and created by Cheryl (Charito) Avery, our translator and guide, as a reaction to La Churreca. La Churreca is the Managua city garbage dump, where approximately 100 families live. These families live at the dump, and off of the dump. They recycle materials by using them in their own homes at the dump, or by selling them to other families.

Project Chacocente is a place of hope for the people of the dump who have no other alternative. Currently there are eight families involved in Project Chacocente. The families are interviewed and then are picked to be moved from the dump to Project Chacocente,

a rural land. Once at Project Chacocente, the families must work with Charito and other leaders to build their homes, work the land, create a business, and become active society members, something they never had the opportunity to do before. After five years of living like this and learning and growing, the house and about two acres of land is theirs to keep. This project is fairly new. It was started in 2003.

The first time we were at the project, I was taking pictures of the Project Chacocente kids. These kids all loved having their pictures taken. One boy kept jumping in front of the camera in every shot I took, making funny faces. Through the whole tour of Project Chacocente that Charito was giving us, this boy held my hand and would point things out to me. Even though I couldn't understand him, that didn't stop him from wanting to tell me everything. At the end of our tour, when we were about to leave, this little boy, Elvin, handed me a bracelet that he had made. The next day we returned to Project Chacocente and I immediately searched for Elvin. We found each other and were around each other for the remainder of the days that I was at Project Chacocente.

While there, we were working on different houses, adding onto them and helping build parts of them. At the house I was at, we were building a cement wall. I was using cement to fill in between the blocks and everything was fine until I reached the top of the block. I couldn't figure out how to smooth off the top of the cement, keeping things even. One of the men helping me, Pedro, was trying to show me how, using arm gestures, and even

Continued at right

Mission of Peace (concluded)

with those, I still couldn't figure it out. He then put out his hand, and I went to hand him the trowel so he could quickly finish off the top and we could move on, but as I was handing him the trowel, he communicated that he didn't want it. He then placed his hand over mine and showed me exactly how to smooth off the top. Pedro understood that I didn't speak his language and he knew that he could have had the wall finished in half the time it took us, but he didn't care. He wanted us there and he wanted to work beside us and help us learn how to do the work.

Pedro was so patient the entire time I was with him. He would explain things in a way we could understand, and he never got frustrated when we didn't get it. He was amazing.

I learned through Elvin and Pedro that love is truly unconditional, and it knows no boundaries. It doesn't matter what language you speak, love first and everything else will fall into place. I also learned on this trip that life is precious and beautiful. When we were at La Churreca, I saw shining smiling faces, and I learned the definition of life.

Save the Date: Progressive Dinner

Membership is preparing another Progressive Dinner on May 19, at 6:00 PM. We need 3 or 4 families to host parts of the event. Also, there will be sign up sheets in the narthex for food contributions from church members who are planning to attend.

The event usually proceeds as follows:

Appetizers at House 1 (6:00 PM)

Entree at Houses 2 and 3 (7:00- 8:00 PM)

Desserts at House 4 (about 8:30PM)

The menu has consisted of lasagna dinner with salad & garlic bread, & appetizers & desserts, as contributor desires.

This is a fun evening for all & an excellent way to get to know other members of the church family.—Beth Bacorn

They were truly happy while living in a dump. Appreciate life, be happy, show patience, and love unconditionally. That is what I learned on this trip.

If you would like more information on Project Chacocente, please visit www.outofthedump.org

If you would like to help the families of Project Chacocente, here are a few ways. Use www.goodsearch.com, a Yahoo-based search engine that can benefit Project Chacocente. It is free for you. All you have to do is go to the website and in the 'Who do you search for?' box, type in Project Chacocente, then search

If you would like to give money or donations, they can be given to me in person or mailed to me (Nicole Earl 100 Bower Rd. Lansing NY, 14882). They can also be mailed directly to the Project Chacocente headquarters, Project Chacocente, 33 Forest Street, # 310, Lexington, MA 02421 (Checks can be made out to Project Chacocente).

If you have any questions or would like to talk to me more about the trip, please feel free to email me at nearl@twcny.rr.com.

4WORD '07 - Together Youth Lead the Way!

What? The third Annual event for the youth in Grades 7-12 of North Central NY, Troy, Western NY, and Wyoming Conferences! (Note to adults: Policy is one adult to every eight youth participants.)

Where? Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY
When? April 27-29, 2007

Speakers: Bishop Violet Fisher (Western and North Central Conferences), Bishop Susan Hassinger (Troy and Wyoming Conferences), Youth from each Conference

Workshops: Everything from faith issues to fun times, Youth Service Fund, Bible Trivia, Volleyball, New Games, Prayer Labyrinth, Mission of Peace, Basketball, Adult Leader Workshops, and Open Mic!

Registration fee: \$95 per person. Registration: /www.wnyumc.org/ and click on the link for 4 Word 07 registration .Questions? Call or email Ted at: 716-357-4045, hurlbut@madbbs.com

SEE YOU THERE !

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 1, 8:30 and 11:00. Liturgy of the Palms and Passion in scripture and song. Become part of the crowd waving palms for Jesus, spreading cloaks as he triumphantly enters Jerusalem. Come to the Garden of Gethsemane, and experience Jesus' betrayal, trial before Pilate, and his sacrifice for us all.

Maunder Thursday, 6:00. Jesus broke bread with his disciples for a simple meal before he shared communion with them and left them to do his work. Come break bread for a simple meal and share communion before we go out to do his work.

Good Friday, 7:00. Meditations on the cross. Were you there? Are you there?

Easter Sunday, 6:00. Sunrise service. The tomb is empty and Jesus is raised. Begin the day with this good news. Then join in festal worship at 8:30 and 11:00. Join the choir and our brass ensemble to close each service with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. (Come fifteen minutes before each service for a rehearsal to refresh your memory. Scores will be available.)

Church World Service issues urgent appeal for school kits

On February 27, 2007, Church World Service issued an urgent appeal for school kits. This situation has arisen because requests for school kits since the first of the year have exceeded requests during the whole of last year.

CWS SCHOOL KIT

One pair of blunt scissors
Pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8" X 11", containing 140-200 sheets of paper. No filler paper, please.
One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
One pencil sharpener
Six new pencils with erasers
One large eraser
Twelve sheets of colored construction paper
One box of 24 crayons
One 12"W X 14"L cloth bag with handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, button etc) Pattern available at www.cwscrop.org/newyork/kits/.

Funds for processing and shipping are always needed. Your donation of \$2 per school kit will help cover these expenses (make checks to LUMC, marked Church World Service).

Calling All Cooks!

MOPS is hosting an evening of food, fellowship and fun with a Pampered Chef Fundraising Event. Come one and all on Friday, May 4, at 6:30 PM to the Fellowship Hall for cooking demonstrations, yummy snacks, and door prizes. This is your chance to support MOPS through your purchase of Pampered Chef products and a silent auction of cooking-related items. Please RSVP by May 1st to Stacy Wilder at 533-9202 or lansingmops@gmail.com.

\$1 Million Food Pantry Challenge

If you are thinking of donating money or food to Lansing Food Pantry, this is the month to do it. Donations count toward Alan Shawn Feinstein's \$1 million challenge to hunger fighting agencies nationwide.

The more of a donation you make to Lansing Food Pantry from now to April 30, the more of the Feinstein money will be added to your donation! The donations can include cash, checks, and food items as well as pledges. Yes, pledges. The \$1 Million will then be divided proportionately among all agencies participating.

Feinstein's past \$1 million challenges to fight hunger have raised a record \$620 million for agencies nationwide over 10 years.

Our Lansing Food Pantry is participating again this year in this program. Please make your checks to Lansing Food Pantry and place in our offering plate. Donations of food can be left with Mary Searles or in the Narthex lobby. God bless everyone for your help in this challenge and your support throughout the year.—*Mary Searles, Food Pantry Director*

Help Zimbabwe school children

Another call for school supplies

At June 2007 Annual Conference in Liverpool, the plan is to load a shipping container (8' x 8' x 20') with school supplies for United Methodist Missions in Zimbabwe. Churches are asked to take a collection of school supplies (different list from Church World Service): paper, pens, pencils, children's books for all ages and grades (not textbooks), crayons, construction paper, notebooks, binders, and related items. Also, health-related and hygiene items such as toothbrushes and soap will also be welcome.

Pastor Bill and our lay members can bring materials to Annual Conference. Cash donations—to help with shipping and the purchase of items—will be welcome.

The conference mission team visited UM missions in Zimbabwe in July 2006. The economic situation there deteriorates. Inflation is at 1600% or worse. It is extremely difficult for schools and hospitals to obtain the necessary teaching tools to educate the children. United Methodist schools at Mutumbara and Old Mutare will directly benefit from this effort.

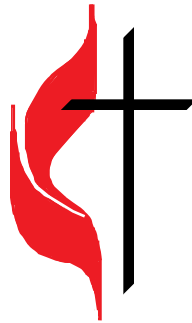
If you have any questions please contact: B.J. Norrix at 315-457-9382 pastorbj@ChristCommunityUMC.com.

Youth Mission Work Project

The Youth Mission, made up of youth from All Saints & LUMC Churches, are seeking donations to fund their ministry, which involves working in Guatemala and South Carolina. They are seeking jobs to do in return for a donation toward these ministries. Projects may include: spring clean-up outdoors or indoors, trash removal, help with moving, babysitting, pet sitting or any other worthwhile projects. Please contact Ed LaVigne at 533-7603 or 533-4070.

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The Sunbeam

April 2007

*Lansing United
Methodist
Church*

**Palm Sunday
April 1**

Liturgy of Palms and Passion

Maundy Thursday

6:00

Good Friday

7:00

Easter, April 8

6:00, 8:30, 11:00

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: Mindy Dahl

To reach the pastor at home: 533-4191
pastor32@twcny.rr.com (in confidence)

www.lansingunited.org

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

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