

Please join us for worship at 8:30 or 11:00. Sunday school at 9:45

the LUMC May 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



**Chelsie Radcliffe:
My Mission to Haiti (page 10)**



From the Pastor

***Be still, and know that I am God.—
Psalm 46:10.***

THE WEEK AFTER EASTER, I went to Nashville to finish a program that I started two years ago called “Companions in Ministry.” The program is designed to help pastors deepen their spiritual lives and equip them to deepen the spiritual lives of the people they serve. At the center of this experience was the conviction that a pastor’s ability to care for another’s soul is directly tied to how well he or she cares for his or her own.

The final session of Companions in Ministry was guided by a Quaker retreat leader. Quakers are big on silence. They believe God speaks to us all the time, but to hear God, we must quiet the voices around and within us. The world is full of a million distractions, human and non-human, each demanding our attention. God, according to the Quakers, simply won’t compete with all this noise. If we truly seek to hear God’s voice, we’ll need to shut up and shut out much of the background noise.

To do this, Quakers sit for long periods of time, saying nothing to one another. This is one thing that occurs in a Quaker meeting. This is what I did in Nashville. It was hard at first. I’m not really a vociferous talker, but I’m also not the “strong, silent type,” either. I was able to sit and not talk out loud, but turning down the volume of my “inner talker” was a challenge. I kept thinking about all the people I’d left behind in Lansing. Here I was in Nashville doing “nothing,” while my family

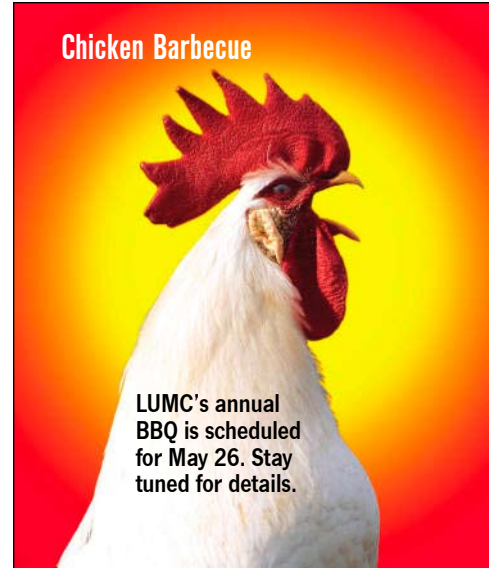
and my church were taking care of business back home. It didn’t seem right. I worried about the things I thought I ought to be doing. Talking to the other clergy there (when we were allowed to talk!), I discovered I wasn’t alone in my struggle.

But our Quaker leader insisted we live into the silence, and so I persevered. I’m so glad I did, because I discovered something: the deeper I moved into the silence, the more connected I felt to my family, my congregation, and my own soul. The Quakers believe in the silence you are able to hear not only your own heart beat, but (figuratively at least) the heart beat of your neighbor and the heart beat of your God. I’d have to say I think the Quakers are on to something.

The warmer weather and renewed schedule of outdoor activities will ensure that our pace will pick up this month. Most of us will have too many opportunities and chores to fit into too few days. I know I’ve got a “to do list” a mile long to complete before my Sabbatical begins in June. A lot of voices will be calling after you and me. But let’s not deprive ourselves of at least few minutes of silence. Is anything we’re doing more important than hearing God’s word for us?

+Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ben



Summer Picnics

The LUMC tradition of picnics will continue this summer. This is a nice opportunity to gather in a relaxed way and either meet new people or catch up with friends.

Dates for the picnics are July 11, July 17, August 2, August 14, and August 23. As you see they occur on different days of the week so everyone gets a shot.

You could be a host family for any of these picnics, by offering your backyard. Hosts provide a fire for cooking and a beverage. Guests bring a dish to pass and any meat or meat substitute that they wish to grill.

Rain rarely cancels these picnics. We’ve had picnics in the hosts’ dining rooms, garages, and in the fellowship hall when rain threatens.

Prayer Chain

- Roberta Beach, 57 Jersey Hill Rd., Ithaca
- Betty Butler, 3005 Watkins Rd. A5, Horseheads, 14845
- Paul Dietrich, 716 Auburn Rd. (Groton)
- Bishop Violet Fisher, 1010 East Ave. Rochester, 14607
- James Hall
- Keith and Kristen Hansen, 21 Manchester Dr., Clifton Park 12065
- Deforest Heffron, Elcor Health Center, Horseheads, 14845
- Amber Heimbuecher, Anne Czymmek’s sister
- Phil Hopkins, 5054 Erron Hill Rd., Locke, 13092
- Ruth Juraka, 367 Bill George Rd.
- Russell Nalley, 261 Myers Rd.
- Marion Ostrander, Cayuga Medical Center
- Tom Payne, 30 E. Meadow Dr., Ithaca
- Erma Powell, RD5, Box 5338, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
- Lorraine Reardon, Cayuga Medical Center
- Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd., Groton, 13073
- Barb White, 96 Auburn Rd.
- Hilda Wilson, Buck Rd.

Mourning family of Geraldine Fish

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 |

May Worship at LUMC

BACK IN SEPTEMBER we began organizing our worship life around a version of the biblical story we called “A Journey through the Seven Cs: Creation, Crisis, Covenant, Community, Christ, Church, and Consummation.” Since then we’ve journeyed with Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, David, Jeremiah, Mary and Joseph, Jesus (of course), and Paul. We finish our journey this month by taking up the last “C” —Consummation. The dictionary defines consummation as “completion” or “finish.” Consummation is about how God completes what was begun on the first pages of Genesis. Indeed, we’ll be turning to the Bible’s final book Revelation, to get a glimpse of where “all of this” is moving. It’s likely to move us to awe, which is what worship is all about.

May 6—Fifth Sunday of Easter. Before we break bread and share the cup this morning during Holy Communion, the book of Revelation will invite us to imagine what a “new heaven and a new earth” might look like. Read: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; and John 13:31-35.

May 13—Sixth Sunday of Easter. On this Mother’s Day, the book of Revelation will help us imagine an intimacy between God and mortals deeper than any human love. Read: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5 and John 14:23-29.

May 20—Ascension Sunday: The story of the Risen Christ ascending into heaven (not to return until the completion or end of time), reminds us we live (and must, therefore, live out our faith) in an “in between” time. Read: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; and Luke 24:44-53.

May 27—Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday: On the day when the Church remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit, eight of LUMC’s youth will affirm their faith in Christ and invite the Holy Spirit to fill their lives and direct their steps. Read: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; and John 14:8-17, (25-27).



Summer is Coming!

And so is summer camp.

The Aldersgate and Casowasco schedules are available at www.aldersgateny.org and www.casowasco.org. You can sign up right online. Remember, everyone gets a campership support for church camp! Just ask...

The Power of Prayer

“Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for us in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

I am currently serving as a prayer partner for one of our Confirmation candidates. I feel privileged to participate in the Confirmation program and faith journey of our young people. I would invite you to pray for all of the Confirmands as they take a significant step in their faith and become full members of this church on Sunday, May 27.

I would also ask you to pray for our church as Pastor Bill prepares to leave for his sabbatical and Rev. Dave Nicholls and Rev. Roland Ryan prepare to step in to assist with worship and pastoral care. Pastor Bill will lead an **open forum** on this matter during Sunday School hour on Sunday, May 20, in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Bill will share his plans for his June and July Sabbatical leave, focusing especially on how he will use his time away to explore the theme of “missional leadership.” To read his project proposal, go to our web page, www.lansingunited.org, and download a copy.

As we wrap up our **Sunday School** year, the last two units that the children will study are on Jesus and prayer. “Jesus and the Children” is based on the Gospel of Mark, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” (Mark 10:14). The message reflects on how we are all children of God and the importance of our connection as a faith community. The final unit is “Teach Us How To Pray,” based on Matthew 6 and

Luke 11. The children will discuss the Lord’s Prayer and what it was like for Jesus and His disciples to pray. Sunday School concludes on June 3.

Teacher Appreciation and the Sunday School Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 10. Join us for a dish-to pass celebration after the 11:00 AM service. The children and youth will lead both services that day.

Vacation Bible School bring us together over the summer for fun, fellowship and the word of God. It will be held Monday, July 23, through Friday, July 27. Registration begins in June.

Lansing Christian Women’s Group continues their discussion of *Having a Mary Spirit*, by Joanna Weaver. This study concludes on Monday, May 21, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall with a dish-to-pass supper.

I pray that the month of May is filled with joy and thanksgiving as we observe National Day of Prayer (May 3), Mother’s Day (May 13), Christian Family Week (May 7-13), and Pentecost and Confirmation (May 27). God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Modest Proposal

Many of you may recall that for fellowship time, we used church china for many years. That’s because I washed that china, with the help of many people. With the two-service schedule, we seem to be back to one-use coffee cups. So how ’bout this to reduce resource use and save a couple of bucks: Bring in your travel mug for fellowship time. Then take it home with you. Just a thought.—gw


Worship times

May through June 17: 8:30, 11:00

June 24 and July in the Park: 9:30

August summertime worship: 9:30

September 10 and thereafter: 8:30, 11:00

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>May 2007</i></p>		<p>1 Quilt Bee 9:30</p> <p>Youth Ministry 7:00 Staff Parish Relations 7:00</p>	<p>2 Bell Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>3 Senior High Gathering 7:00</p>	<p>4 LOAP Dinner setup 5:30 M.O.P.S. Pampered Chef 6:30</p>	<p>5 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 LOAP Dinner 10:30 Rummage setup 3:00</p>
<p>6 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 New Members 9:45 Worship 11:00 COMMUNION Childrens Ministry 12:00 Rummage setup 12:00</p>	<p>7 RUMMAGE DROPOFF LATE SUNDAY, MONDAY, AND TUESDAY ONLY</p>	<p>8 Quilt Bee 9:30</p>	<p>9 Bell Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>10 Senior High Gathering 7:00 Trustees 7:30</p>	<p>11 RUMMAGE SALE OPENS 8:00 BOTH DAYS</p>	<p>12 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 RUMMAGE CLEANUP NOON-ISH</p>
<p>13 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 New Members 9:45 Worship 11:00 MOTHERS DAY FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME Youth Mission 6:00</p>	<p>14 Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>15 Quilt Bee 9:30</p> <p>Discernment 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight</p>	<p>16 Bell Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>17 M.O.P.S. 10:00 Senior High Gathering 7:00</p>	<p>18 Note: This calendar is current as of April 25. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org and see our virtual church calendar and check the bulletin and announcement sheets when you're in church on Sunday.</p>	<p>19 Mens' Breakfast 7:00 Bloodmobile 10:30 Progressive Dinner 6:00</p>
<p>20 Worship 8:30 Sunday school 9:45 Worship 11:00 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY Food Pantry Setup</p>	<p>21 Food Pantry 4:00 Christian Women Book Study and Dish to Pass 6:30 Membership 7:00</p>	<p>22 Office Closed Quilt Bee 9:30 Nominations 7:00</p>	<p>23 Bell Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>24 Senior High Gathering 7:00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00</p>
<p>27 PENTECOST CONFIRMATION COMMUNION Worship 8:30 Sunday school 9:45 Worship 11:00</p>	<p>28 Memorial Day Observed Office Closed Haiti 7:00</p>	<p>29 Quilt Bee 9:30 Nominations 7:00</p>	<p>30 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>31 Senior High Gathering 7:00</p>	 <p>Lansing united methodist church</p>	

Discernment Meeting

Tuesday May 15, 7:00-9:00 PM
Church fellowship hall.

Over the last couple of years our North Central New York annual conference has been talking with three geographically adjacent annual conferences (Western New York, Troy, and Wyoming). An 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. Our guiding question has been, "What is God's yearning for the United Methodist Church in the North Central New York, Troy, Western New York, and Wyoming Annual conferences?" As one part of the discernment process, our church will host a "Discernment Meeting" on Tuesday, May 15, 7:00-9:00 PM, to provide information about the New Conference Vision and receive feedback. You are encouraged to attend this event. Another opportunity to participate in this process would be September 23, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM at Casowasco.

Medical Mission to Congo

Joy Cruikshank, wife of former pastor Bill Cruikshank, is planning to share her nursing skills on a mission work trip to the Congo in October. Her medical team will be doing eye surgery. Joy needs to raise about \$3,000 altogether to go on this mission trip. If you'd like to help out, write a check payable to St. Luke's UMC, and send it to Joy at 25022 Maplewood Drive, St. Michaels, MD 21663.



A Mission Opportunity in Your Backyard

Lansing Residents Sharon Dean and Rich Chrappa, 156 Ridge Road, continue to deal with Sharon's increasing MS limitations. Their "Share the Care" group continues to visit Sharon to chat, read, do puzzles and play games, help around the house, and so forth. There is no physical care involved. If you could devote 2 to 3 hours per week or would like more information, please contact Pastor Bill or Connie Conlon (533-4175). Volunteers complete a questionnaire and identify what they would like to do to help and when they are available. The coordinator matches the volunteer's preferences and time available to Sharon's needs. A monthly schedule is made up and is available through Google or other means. It is a well organized program and has proven to be as enjoyable for volunteers as it is for Sharon.

Thanks for considering this opportunity to serve and to benefit as well.—*Connie Conlon*

A Really Big Shoe...

Wanted: Gently used children's shoes, sneakers or boots. This is a continuing ministry of love that sends these items to the children of Afghanistan. There is no time limit to this project. Please drop off your shoes at LUMC or Tops Pharmacy Triphammer Road. Thank you—Ed LaVigne.

Church World Service Health Kits

Don't forget the Church World Service kits. If you see a sale on any of the items below, think about bringing it in to church.

- One hand towel
- One bath size bar of soap
- One washcloth
- One toothbrush
- One comb
- One tube of toothpaste
- One metal nail file
- Six Band-aids

Zimbabwe School Supplies Update

As of mid-April over two dozen North Central New York congregations (and several other agencies) are taking collections for the Container Project for Zimbabwe School Children. We also have heard from people across the Northeastern United States who have books, supplies, and other materials to send to Zimbabwe.

The project involves collecting school and over-the-counter medical supplies, bringing them to annual conference at the end of May, putting them in a giant container and sending it to school children in Zimbabwe. The Mutambara faculty has made specific requests, found on the missions page at christcommunityUMC.com. Questions to B.J. Norrix at bjnorrix@aol.com.

Southern Tier Still Needs Flood Relief Help!

Several Tioga County families and individuals are still displaced and hoping to get back into their homes. Some are stuck in FEMA trailers. You could help put a home back together with a work groups on Saturday, May 12. The team will meet at St. Patrick's Church, 300 Main St., Owego

The plan is to meet at (9:00 and work till about 4:00). You get fed! Coffee & donuts in the morning and lunch at the house you're working in. Tasks will include gutting rooms, hanging sheet rock, spackling, replacing insulation, and related work. If you don't know how, then we can pair you up with someone to help you learn.

If you can help please call Angela Klopff at Tioga Outreach Center of Catholic Charities, 866-326-1373 or 607-565-7580.

Rummage Sale Is on the Way

The Rummage Sale continues. Wanted: willing participants to help with any or all aspects of the Rummage Sale. No amount of time is too little or too much. Those of you who have participated before, please lead by example & bring someone new with you. There is fellowship, fun & a great sense of belonging. Set-up starts at 3pm, Saturday, May 5th & continues after second service on May 6th. May 5th thru 12th is the right time to help. Details to follow, Ed LaVigne.

PS. **Donate stuff** from May 6, 3:00 PM until May 8, 6:00 PM.

Rummage

Sale

Save the Date: Progressive Dinner

The Progressive Dinner is on May 19, starting at 6:00 PM.

Appetizers will be at Woodsedge (6:00 PM)

and then awayyyyy we go to other houses for dinner and desserts.

The menu is lasagna dinner with salad and garlic bread, with desserts being up the the dessert maker.

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

*My Haiti Experience *

By Chelsie Radcliffe

IT WAS FINALLY HERE: my second trip to Haiti! I was so excited! Once again, I was headed down to spend more than a week with some of the most wonderful people I know. Also, I was again traveling with a group of almost-strangers (except my mom and Diane, of course!) who would become very good friends to me.

As I was preparing for the trip, I was running through the many memories of my previous trip and contemplating my approaching experience. I couldn't wait to get to Haiti. First to Jude's house, where we were lucky enough to be having a private concert by the Union Brothers Singers, and then finally to Banique.

When we finally arrived, hot and sore, at Harry and Anita's house, and I saw the familiar faces, the heat and discomfort of the ride melted away and my heart was instantly reminded of the love for the people of Haiti



that filled it. I constantly thank God for giving me the opportunities that I have had and never feel like I could ever be grateful enough. It is very moving being there, feeling the love of the people. Everyone is friendly—you can't go anywhere without a child's hand (or two!) in yours, and seeing a smile on everyone's face.

Since this trip was my second, I was able to connect with the kids in a different way than on my first trip. This was partly due my furthered education of French, and to Sarah and Ashley, who speak French very well and were able and glad to translate to the rest of us when we were not able to understand.

I was able to learn more about the culture, beliefs, and society and achieve a greater understanding of these things. I became closer to many of the friends I had made on my earlier trip, and I made many new ones. I learned that Haitian teens are quite similar to American teens in their tastes in music, their outlook on life, and many other things. Most of the kids around my age have dreams of going to university and becoming things like engineers and doctors!

Many young people attended the English class, taught by Ashley and Sarah, and were excited to learn

Continued at right



Haiti Mission Team, December 2006. From left, Mahima Walter, Haitian hosts, Sarah Sandsted, Ashley Dean, Chelsie Radcliffe, and Dianne Walter.

Haiti Connection, concluded

and communicate with us. (They also had fun singing!)

This is a learning experience unsurpassed by any other I have had in my life. One night, the kids were teaching us a clapping game, similar to the American Miss Mary Mack. Nadege was teaching me, and I was catching on, except for the last part. But she was patient and happy to help me and correct my mistakes. Finally, after many failed attempts, I got it right. Nadege and I cheered and she gave me a hug! We had so much fun, and we continued playing until the younger kids went home for the night.

We can all learn from each other. On this trip, I learned a little more about and began to get a better understanding of Haitian culture and my many Haitian friends. Also, I discovered for myself the power of God's love and how He uses us to work through Him to help others. I felt His presence in every hand I held, every house we visited, and every face I was able to share a smile with. I am glad that he chose me, and this great team that I have come to know and admire, to work for Him in Haiti, and I can only hope that our work there will continue. I hope that I will have more opportunities to serve and to learn from the people of Haiti.

I would like to thank the team of my mother, Trudy Radcliffe, Dianne and Mahima Walter, Ashley Dean, and Sarah Sandsted, and of course, Harry and Anita who allow us to use their house and make it a comfortable and spiritual stay. Thank you for making the trip such a fun and educational one, and I hope we will be able to work together in the name of Jesus Christ again soon.

Ridge Road Cleanup...

Adopt-a-Highway helpers met Sunday, April 29, at 1:30 PM to pick up LUMC's section of Route 34B, which goes from just above LUMC up to Rogues Harbor. Stay tuned for next time. (If you received this before April 29, good news, you can help out.)

All are welcome! LUMC provides the orange vests, hard hats, gloves and large plastic bags. Please bring any tool that might help pick up, um, stuff. Thanks for considering helping with this great service to the environment and the public.

Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Recovery Update

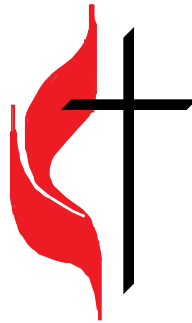
Mississippi's flood recovery center in Vancleave opened the first of three planned multi-purpose buildings in mid-April. Dubbed "Camp Hope, the building is full of materials and now needs to be filled with volunteers. UMCOR has been able to save nearly 50 percent on materials for homes by buying contractor kits and in bulk; that alone will more than pay for the cost of the buildings in the long run.

It is truly amazing how God has provided for this first building. No UMCOR direct assistance money was spent on it. The money has come from grants, churches and individuals who have seen the need for it. We have started the second one, and most of the steel has been erected as of mid-April.

We still have a long way to go in helping people get back into their homes and these will help us do just that. Thanks to all who have helped in this part of our disaster response.

May God bless you all!—Robert Sharp, coordinator of the Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Recovery

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The Sunbeam

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Rummage Sale May 11 and 12

Lansing United Methodist Church

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