

Please join us for Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00
Sunday school for all ages at 9:45

the LUMC November 2007

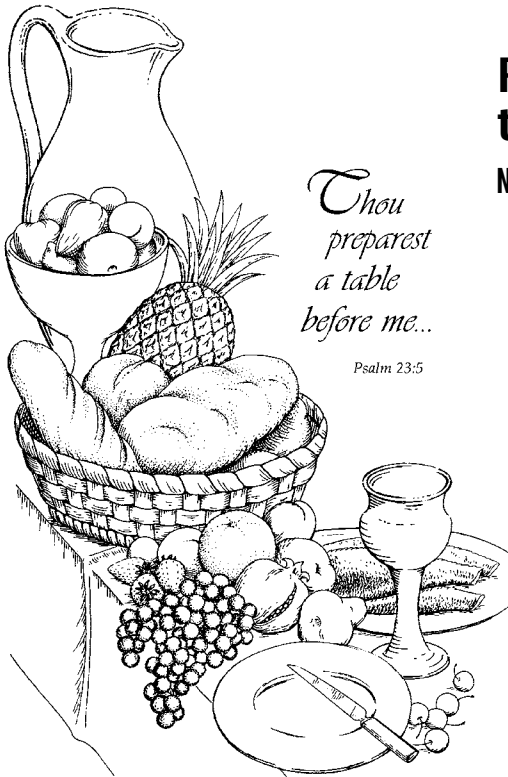
Sunbeam

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



*Thou
preparast
a table
before me...*

Psalm 23:5

Remembering the Saints

November 4



From the Pastor

Remembering the Saints

As we do each year, our congregation will observe All Saints Day the first Sunday in November (November 4). In addition to the usual ways we worship Sunday mornings, on this special Sunday we'll also light candles in memory of a deceased loved one. Lighting a candle can help us express visually the deep feelings of gratitude and sorrow which are often difficult to articulate in words. A lighted candle becomes our testimony that our loves still burns bright for our loved one.

A lighted candle also serves as a symbol of our most fervent hope as Christians: that though we can no longer experience the warmth and light of a loved one's presence, God will not let death extinguish life. Like a cupped hand shielding a flame against the wind, God's love is "stronger than death."

Our faith, of course, doesn't inoculate us against death. The Christian hope is not based on the belief that the soul is "immortal," but on our trust in God's infinite compassion. When it comes to death, Christians are sober realists: apart from God's loving

action, nothing about us, not even our souls, would survive death. But God has acted decisively in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, making public his intention to rescue us from the power of death. We needn't fear death, but can live and love without counting the costs as Jesus did. Whatever happens to us, God will shield the "flame of our life."

As Paul reminded the church in Thessalonica, trusting God means we needn't "mourn as those with no hope." As an "Easter People" we can light candles of thanksgiving and hope even as we shed tears of sorrow and grief. I'm confident the One who overcame death will stand with us, holding our hand as we light each candle.

+Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bin

Harvest Bazaar

November 10, 2007

Shopping in our specialty booths from 2:00–7:00 PM, with dinner served from 4:00–7:00 PM. **Please help** with this wonderful event. Sign-up sheets are found in the Narthex and your help is needed, both for the dinner and the specialty shops.

Here's the menu for this year's dinner Sandsted's Savory Pork with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy. Peas. Winter Squash, Applesauce, Rolls & Butter, and Assorted Pies and Beverages
Adults \$8.00, Children 5-12 \$4.00, under 5 free

We especially need help in the kitchen, and lots of helpers at 7:00 PM for clean up. Thanks—*Nan Makela*

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot

November 22

9:00 AM

Start your Thanksgiving Day with a pleasant, noncompetitive 5K run or walk on a loop that begins and ends at Lansing UMC. This is a casual, self-paced and self-monitored event, so if you want to run for time, bring your stopwatch. The route is on the town roads in the church's neighborhood, including Brickyard, Wilson, and Buck.

Plan to arrive in the church kitchen a couple of minutes early to gather everyone together for the start, and bring a snack for after the run.

If you have questions, ask Joel Brock (jdb20@cornell.edu). This is our third LUMC turkey trot, a fun way to get your day

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for Healing

Brian Cleveland, % 18 Lakeview Dr.
Eileen Cundy, % Woodsedge Apts
Kelly Deprisco, 2475 E. Stephens St.,
Gilbert, AZ 85296
Keith Hansen, 21 Manchester Dr., Clifton
Park, NY 12065
Vern Hansen, MM Ewing CCC, 350 Parrish
St., The Gardens, Rm 55, Canandaigua
14424
Deforest Heffron, Elcor Health, 48 Colonial
Dr., Horseheads
Roy Hogben, 35 Janivar Dr., Ithaca
Amber Heimbuecher
Steve Makela, 67 Sweazey Rd.
Kate Payne and Thomas Payne, 30 East
Meadow Drive, Ithaca
Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
Helen Rounds, Groton Healthcare Center
Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd.
(Groton)
Robin Sundquist, 51 Concord Dr., Buffalo
14215-1905

Prayers for Strength

Mourning family of Gladys Sweazey

Please pray for those in our armed services:

Ken Allen	Trevor Judd
Richard Butler	Shaun McCray
Matthew Cornell	Travis Potter
Scott Cowles	Nick Prabhavat
Steven Cowles	Josh Randles
David Ferris	Matthew Ravas
Robert Gudbranson	Vanessa Valentine
Daniel LaBar	Monica VanEvery

Worship in November

The other day I was looking on my bookshelf for a book on worship with the wonderful title *Reaching Out without Dumbing Down*. I knew I owned the book, but I just couldn't find it. Then, remembering the color of the binding and the typeface of the title, I took another look. Lo and behold, it was right in front of me all the time. This book suggests worship has basically two purposes: (1) to provide us the opportunity to praise God, and (2) to allow us to submit our selves to God's spirit for transformation. For either of these things to happen, we need to sense God's presence in our hearts and in the sanctuary Sunday morning. We need to believe God is with us, listening to our hymns, anthems, prayers, Scriptures, and sermons. We need to believe the One who can change us from the inside out is within arm's reach. I wonder how vividly we believe these things. I'd like to challenge you to be intentional about what (and Who) you look for in worship this month. It often seems like we wind up finding only what we've learned to look for.

November 4—All Saints Sunday: Our annual occasion to remember and honor loved ones who have died. In addition to sharing Holy Communion together, you are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one (candles will be provided for all). Read: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; and Luke 6:20-31.

November 11—Celebration of Charles Wesley's 300th Birthday: We'll celebrate one of Jesus' faithful servants, Charles Wesley. Charles (a younger brother of John) wrote over 1,000 hymns, many of which remain standards in the hymnbooks of various denominations. For Methodists, Charles hymns allowed us to "sing" our theology, sinking the truth and power of the gospel deep into our souls. You can count on doing a lot of singing today, so come ready to "make a joyful noise" and remember a great saint of the Church. Read: Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; and Luke 20:27-38.

November 18—Children's Sabbath: Our annual celebration of the gift of children. The children will serve as ushers, greeters, liturgists, and singers today. Come and enjoy all that God gives our congregation through its youngest members. Read: Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; and Luke 21:5-19.

Tuesday, November 20, 7:00—Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service: Our congregation will host this annual community-wide event. Friends from Grace Baptist, Asbury, and All Saints churches will join us to thank God for all we have received. A joint choir will sing during the service with refreshments and fellowship to follow. Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; and John 6:25-35.

November 25—Christ the King: This Sunday, marking the end of the liturgical church year, asks us to consider what the world would be like if Jesus were king and the current rulers of the world were not. Read: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; and Luke 23:33-43.

Thanksgiving

Thankfulness is a major theme in the Bible. From cover to cover, God's Word calls us to be thankful. There are over 140 references to giving thanks in the Bible. As Christians, we are called to live by faith and share with gratitude. Paul expresses thanksgiving to God 18 times in his letters. For instance: "Be a thankful people; let it become such a part of your being that you overflow with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:7). Likewise, the Psalms encourage us many times to give thanks to God. One well known example: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name" (Psalm 100:4).

I am thankful for many things, including some special programs we are offering this month. On Sunday, November 4, Dave Stoyell will lead the adult Sunday School with a presentation on "**Caring for Aging Parents.**" This is a subject that many of us know too well.

Pastor Bill concludes the **Touching B.A.S.E.** series on Wednesday, November 7, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The series ends with a dialogue on prayer, one of the essential practices in following Jesus.

On Sunday, November 11, Rev. Dana Horrell will visit LUMC and speak on **Global Discipleship.** Dana is the pastor of the United Methodist Church in Auburn and the husband of LUMC's former pastor, Marti Swords-Horrell. Ken Hover may be making a return visit to LUMC during November.

The eight week **Disciple Bible** class continues to meet on Sunday evenings at the Baker residence. Please don't miss these special events.

Children's Sabbath and Bible Sunday will be celebrated here on Sunday, November 18, during both services. National observance of Children's Sabbath reminds us that we are all beloved children of God and that each of us is equally cherished by God. Children will lead both services on this day. Parents: please let me know if you would like your child to participate in the liturgy on this Sunday, and if you would like them to receive a Bible as part of Bible Sunday. (November 18-24 is National Bible Week.) It is a tradition here at LUMC that we present 3rd graders with a personal Bible during this Sunday's worship service.

"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" (Colossians 2:6-7).

I gratefully invite you to participate in these programs and wish you God's blessing during this Thanksgiving Season.—*Marilyn Paradise*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



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

1 Senior High Gathering 7:00

2

3 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 Reminder: Daylight time ends 2:00 AM, November 4. Set your clocks back tonight.

4 STANDARD TIME Worship 8:30 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL & NEW MEMBERS 9:45 Worship 11:00 Junior Choir 12:00 Children's Ministry 12:00 Disciple at Bakers' 6:00

5

6

7 Women's Bible Study 9:30 M.O.P.S. 10:00 B.A.S.E. Seminar 7:00 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00

8 Trustees 7:30

9

10 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 Annual Bazaar 2:00 and Dinner 4:00

11 CHARLES WESLEY TRICENTENNIAL VETERANS DAY Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Junior Choir 12:00 Dessert Auction Noon-ish Disciple at Bakers' 6:00

12

13 Quilt Bee 9:30 Church Council 7:00

14 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00 Finance 7:30

15 Men's Group 10:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight

16

17 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00

18 Worship 8:30 CHILDREN'S SABBATH Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Food Pantry Setup Junior Choir 12:00 Disciple at Bakers' 6:00

19 Food Pantry 4:00 Haiti 7:00 Ecumenical Choir 7:00

20 Quilt Bee 9:30 Community Thanksgiving Service at LUMC 7:00 Membership 7:00

21 Women's Bible Study 9:30 M.O.P.S. 10:00

22 Thanksgiving Office Closed

23 Office Closed

24 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00

National Bible Week

25 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Junior Choir 12:00 Disciple at Bakers' 6:00

26

27 Quilt Bee 9:30 Worship 7:00

28 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00

29

30

November 2007



Changing Plans in Haiti

On September 6, Pete and Carol Loveland of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and Larry Driscoll of the Seneca Falls United Methodist Church joined Barb Denhoff on their first mission trip to Verrettes, Haiti.

The following is their report.

We thought we knew why we were going to Haiti. We thought we were prepared: numerous shots, screen tent for our bed, canned foods, sunblock, and bug spray. But, as Erik, one of our high school interpreters would say “Jesus knows”—meaning we will have to be patient and see what God’s plan is. Jesus knew why our first trip in retirement was to Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. We thought our purpose was to visit Mitspa School, deliver some much needed school supplies and meet the students. Barb Denhoff had been talking about the school for the past ten years, and we had been giving through our mission’s dollars to the lunch program and teachers’ salaries, but God’s plan was far bigger and better than anything we planned.

First, God had to get us out of our comfort zone, where we think we are in control. Sweating 24 hours a day, with little or no electricity, and surrounded by people who speak a language you don’t know—that got us out of our comfort zone. Then God could do his work, in us and through us. Whether it was in a two-room home in the mountains or the sunbaked streets of Verrettes, God was showing us how to share His love. We were

constantly reminded that joy comes from the Lord, and not from things. Haitians have a joy and peace that many Americans rarely enjoy, yet Haitian have so very little in material goods.

Rarely, if ever, do we as Americans consider education a gift of great value, but in Haiti to be able to go to school is a gift. Imagine a 20-year-old, Jordany, pleading to be allowed to go to school to finish his primary (grade 6) education, and then finishing in the top of his class. We visited this young man’s home, where he lives with his aunt and four cousins because his parents are both dead. Imagine our surprise to see a board hung on the front of his aunt’s two-room house with math problems on it. Our interpreter explained that Jordany comes home from school and then teaches his cousins, who can’t afford to go to school. Imagine hearing a high school student explaining that he walks a mile or two into town several nights a week to read and do school work on the wall by the bank because its solar security lights are the only lights in town.

At times it was overwhelming. Everybody had needs—basic needs—food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical. We had to make hard choices; we had to say I’m sorry I can’t help you. It hurt. But God showed us that we (all who support our mission work in Haiti) are like the boy with the five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:18). Our gifts are small compared to the needs, but what will God do with what we offer? Yes, there will always be poor people. The question is how will we open our hearts and our pocketbooks to allow God to work in and through us.—Peter Loveland, Carol Loveland, and Larry Driscoll

Second Annual Roast Pork For the Holidays

Jeff Sandsted will be cooking Whole Boneless Pork Roasts again for Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. He’s now taking orders for either or both holiday days.

The roasts are dry-rubbed with herbs and spices several days in advance and slow cooked over a combination wood and charcoal fire. They’ll be ready for pick up at Baker’s Acres at 1:00 PM. This is also the same roast pork that’ll be served at the Harvest Bazaar Supper on November 10, if you’d like a preview.

The cost is \$35.00 per roast. Weighing in at around 8 or 9 pounds, it’ll stand up to a good-sized hungry family and their guests. The proceeds will go towards covering some of Jeff’s expenses on his mission trip to the Rural Mission this winter. Last year was the first time Jeff offered this, and it was a big hit and went a long way towards helping with mission trip finances.

So, if you’d like to be saved the trouble of cooking the meat for your Thanksgiving or Christmas Day dinner, get a hold of Jeff and he’ll be happy to help out. Find him at church or at Jsandsted@aol.com.

Gulf Coast Volunteer in Mission Opportunities

Vanceleave, MS, UMC—Camp Hope Jan 12 - 19 Sandy Hall, 315-483- 8029 shall3@rochester. rr.com	Gulfport, MS Feb 16 - 23 or Feb 24 - Mar 2 Diane Albright Phone: 607-868-3945 wgc2@empacc.net
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Haiti Committee

Dessert Auction

Sunday, November 11
12:15 until 2:00 or so

Here’s how you can participate in the Haiti mission, as described at left. From noon-ish until 1:00 you may taste samples of all the desserts for a nominal fee. There will be a light lunch available if you want to eat something more solid before you dive into the goodies. At 1:00 the auction begins, once again with Charlie Cuykendall. It promises to be lots of fun.

Proceeds will benefit mission work in Haiti.

California Wildfire Relief

UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, offers supports to those affected by the wildfires in California.

Cash gifts are the best way to help the recovery effort right now. It will be some weeks before the situation is such that volunteers will be an effective help. Anyone wishing to volunteer when the time comes should contact the coordinator for their jurisdiction.

Meantime, put a check in the offering plate, or send to the NCNY Conference Office. Write UMCOR Advance #901670, or just California Wildfires on the memo line of your check. You can also visit www.umcor.org for more info or to donate.

Remember, UMCOR keeps no overhead fees. One hundred percent of every donation to any appeal, including appeals for California wildfires, goes to support the designated program.

Groovin' in Ghana

FAQs for Caitlin Hardie's Peace Corps Experience

Note: Caitlin Hardie is spending the next two years with the Peace Corps in Ghana. She sent this message in October.

Maaha/Good Afternoon!

Life is flying by here in Ghana and things couldn't be going better. I've had a few questions about life so far so I will try to answer some of the most popular ones.

1. What do you eat?

My new favorite meal is rice balls and ground nut soup. It's essentially a peanut butter soup with a tomato base with garlic, onions, hot pepper and whatever meat is available (goat, chicken, beef, pork, or mystery) with big balls of white rice that you use your fingers to dip in the soup. Nobody uses utensils here; my table manners have gone down the tubes. Other common dishes include fufu and banku with light soup. Fufu is made by boiling cassava and plantains then mashing it into a gooey, sticky substance. Again, you use your fingers to grab a chunk of fufu and dip it in whatever soup or stew is being served. This takes me back to the days where I would sit at the dining room table refusing to eat my lump of cold mashed potatoes. Luckily there are plenty of delicious things, too, and my African mama loves to feed me, so I'm usually stuffed on a regular basis.

2. What is the weather like?

Hot. Hot. Hot. It's usually not unbearable, just very warm most of the time. Mornings and nights tend to cool off, and I have a fan in my room, so it's not too bad, but we try to stay out of the sun during the afternoon. In the area I am in now it is the end of the rainy season, so we get a good soaking either at night or in the afternoon—usually every other day. I've already requested extra sunscreen from the peace corps.

3. Where do you stay?

I am staying with the queen mother of 'Nsuta. She is one step under the chief of the village and is in charge of all women's issues in the village. Besides my mom, I live with my dad Joseph (but I call him papa), my 14-year-old brothers Desmond and Isaac, and my 17 year old sister Mary. There are constantly people in and out of our compound, especially my new best friend, a 95-year-old woman who lives next door. She shuffles over to our house at least once in the morning and then again in the afternoon just to sit with me. Communication is limited as she knows no English, but we usually sit and laugh at each other. I have my own room in a small compound: bed, fan, makeshift couch, desk, and chair. There's a latrine and "shower room" right in the compound and, compared to some other places I've been so far, I've got some of the nicest facilities. All cooking is done outside on open fires, and I've mastered the art of washing laundry by hand. Most nights I spend in our village consists of the neighborhood kids trying to teach me twi (while everyone laughs at me) and my father trying to speak "broken eeeenglish" to me. I'd say maybe 60% of things actually get translated by my brothers and sister (their English is pretty good) and the rest of the time is spent laughing.

4. Are you healthy?

Yes! For the most part I've been perfectly healthy, hardly even a sun burn. Occasionally I'll eat something that doesn't sit, but so far nothing has really put me down and out.

continued at right

Groovin' in Ghana (concluded)

5. Tell me about your latest fun adventure?

Well, maybe this isn't really a popular question but you all want to know anyway right? Last weekend we went on a hike to see some bat caves. We were told it was a short hike with great scenery and some bats. I'm not a big fan of bats but thought I might as well tag along and take some pictures. We ended up hiking for 5 hours (and I forgot to bring snacks). I stepped in a lot of guano and offered "libations" to the traditional gods. Some pretty cool stuff but a long, very hot day.

6. Plans for the immediate future?

Also not really a question, but thought you would like to know. We leave this Saturday for a 5-day field trip to go visit a few current volunteers. We will be spending some of the time in one of the Peace Corps sub offices with high speed internet so hopefully I'll be able to upload a few pictures of my life so far.

I would love to write to everyone but I wasn't smart enough to bring an address book. Easy solution: as soon as I receive a letter from you I'll have your address and be able to write back!

miss you all
love to all
—CBH

To get yourself into Caitlin's address book, drop her a note:

Caitlin Hardie PCT
Peace Corps Ghana
PO Box 5796
Accra-North, Ghana
West Africa

Mission to Congo

Joy Cruikshank has been in the Congo, using her nursing skills with a medical team. Joy is a member of LUMC who now lives in St. Michael's, Maryland, with Bill Cruikshank, a former pastor of LUMC. The account below begins with the brief communication that Bill sent in mid-October, when the team had just arrived in Africa. Joy returned to the U.S. October 22.

The communication is somewhat difficult, but we understand that yesterday they were able to purchase replacement equipment. The team flew to Kananga on or about October 11. Later that day, one-half of the team was scheduled to fly in a small plane to Wembo Nyama, with the rest of the team following on Friday. They were hoping to perform surgery the following several days. Then, they would return to the capital, Kinshasha on or about October 18. All reports indicate that everything is going OK. Joy called from Kinshasha. Very brief call, but things are going well for everybody on the eye surgery team to Congo.

The Rest of the Story

The team had to do some improvising. They had sent solar electric generators in advance, but that was destroyed in a plane crash before they arrived. They bought a generator in Kinshasha and then paid \$1,000 to have the generator and fuel airlifted to Wembo.

Through it all, they were able to conduct their planned eye surgeries.

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**The
Sunbeam**
November 2007
*Lansing United
Methodist
Church*

Inside:

**Harvest Bazaar and Dinner
November 10**

**Lansing Community
Thanksgiving Service
November 20, 7:00
Lansing United Methodist Church**

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
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South Lansing.

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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
tucked away near the church office.

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LANSING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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