

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

the LUMC October 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



“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Matthew 25:23

Responsibility

The Good and Faithful Servant

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Guest Message: Looking at Lansing's Growth

From the Pastor

I recently spoke with the Reverend Lauren Swanson, the staff person who works on congregational development with our annual conference, about LUMC's growth (and growing pains!). What he shared with me was so interesting and relevant, I asked him to write a "guest column" for the Sunbeam so you could hear what he had to say, too.

Pastor B.M.

It was a real joy for me to visit with your senior pastor Rev. Gottschalk-Fielding recently and hear the stories that give content to your statistics. You are a vital and growing church in an area with great potential. You are the eighth largest church in our Annual Conference. You have the third best growth record of the top ten in the last ten years. Your success in reaching your growing community is to be applauded.

Your area has been growing for some time and is projected to grow another 5 percent over the next five years. Average household incomes are 16 percent above national average. (By comparison, income in most of our annual conference is well below the national average.) You have an educated neighborhood. Twenty-seven percent of your population over the age of 25 has earned a master's, professional, or doctorate degree, compared with a national average of 9 percent.

Claritas, our demographic provider, identifies your top two social groups using the terms landed gentry and country comfort. Together these residents constitute two-thirds

of your population. The landed gentry are described as wealthy Americans who migrated to the smaller boomtowns beyond the nation's beltways. Many of these households contain baby boomer-age families and couples with college degrees and professional jobs. The country comfort folks are predominantly white, middle-class homeowners. In their placid towns and scenic bedroom communities, these Americans tend to be married, and between the ages of 25 and 54. They may or may not have children at home. They enjoy comfortable upscale lifestyles.

This kind of demographic bodes well for your future as you continue to reach out to those around you. I do have a concern about space in your building. I know that you have been talking about an addition. Let me encourage you to think big and act soon! People with upscale lifestyles have upscale expectations for all the institutions they inhabit. They will not tolerate overcrowding or cluttered spaces. You are already cramped and need room for those people and programs that you have. You have no room to add to your numbers. I fear that this current crowding will not only prevent future growth but lead to some decline if it is not addressed.



Again, congratulations on your growth. I pray God's blessing on you as you continue to step out in faith.

Yours truly,
Rev. Lauren W. Swanson
Director of Congregational Development
NCNY Conference, United Methodist Church

Save the Dates!

Peanut Brittle Bee Is a Sweet Time

Peanut brittle dates are Wednesday, October 24, and Thursday, October 25, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Also in the evening both of those days from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. On Friday, October 26, we will make peanut brittle from 9:00 AM till 1:00 PM.

We need lots of help to cook, pull, and put the candy in cans.

A signup sheet will be posted in the Narthex the week of October 14. Please sign up for the hours you can work.

If you need more information about this project, you can phone Meredith Davis, 533-4980, Fannie Welch, 533-4466, or Dot Buckley, 533-4289.—Dot Buckley



On September 23, Pastor Bill lifted up the work of Casowasco, which brings the message of Jesus' love to many children who have never been to church. Casowasco is upgrading its dining hall, and part of that will be the Courtyard of Churches, shown here. LUMC has donated \$2,000 to this courtyard, for which our name will appear on two of the pavers.

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:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Richard Butler | Travis Potter |
| Shawn Butler | Nick Prabhavat |
| Matthew Cornell | Josh Randles |
| David Ferris | Matthew Ravas |
| Robert Gudbranson | Vanessa Valentine |
| Daniel LaBar | Monica VanEvery |
| Trevor Judd | Michael Wolfe |
| Shaun McCray | |

God's Creation

Traditional Celtic Christian spirituality embraces the created world as God's special gift to you. Celtic Christianity is deeply rooted in Christ and the simultaneous celebration of the Creator and creation. The reference to a "thin place" where heaven and earth meet implies that God is not far away. Celtic spirituality in the 21st Century is the theme for a **women's one-day retreat** being offered on Friday, October 12, at the Stella Maris Retreat Center in Skaneateles. The presenters, Michael & Andrea Bregg are pilgrimage hosts at Avelin, Ireland. Michael, a pastor and counselor, will focus on how to "be still" in the Celtic Tradition for our time. He notes that the Celtic life was grounded in the beauty and totality of creation. The retreat will be held from 9am-3pm with lunch included. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in attending.

Here at church, if you are interested in a short-term bible study, we will begin an eight-week **Disciple Bible study** class with Ed LaVigne on Sunday, October 7 through Sunday, November 25. Classes will be held on Sunday evenings 6-8pm at Jackie Baker's residence. The class will begin with the Old Testament and newcomers are encouraged to attend. Please sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. Study books will be provided.

Cayla Griffin and Dianne Walter will lead presentations in the **adult Sunday School class** in October. Cayla will share her involvement as a camp staff this past summer and the powerful experience that living in a Christian community has on the lives of our young people. Dianne will present a program on Mother Teresa. Dianne lived in India and had the opportunity to meet Mother Teresa. She titles her presentation: A Timeless Story of a Modern Miracle. Dianne's remarkable and, by her own admission, seemingly accidental encounter with Mother Teresa was hardly accidental. (as if anything orchestrated by God is ever "accidental"!) Dianne refers to this time as a miracle of happenings and

timings that resulted in a blessing that filled both her family's home and their hearts. Dianne's life would never be the same, her understanding of ultimate faith would be clearly defined, and her story would become timeless. Dianne will share her story, accompanied with slides, on Sunday, October 14, during the Adult Sunday School hour.

Lansing Christian Women's Group will gather for a Salad Supper on Thursday, October 18 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Just a casual evening to spend time together, we will watch the video of this year's Women of Faith Conference. If you were unable to attend the conference or if you had the opportunity to attend and need a boost from the incredible experience, please join us.

The youngest in the congregation will celebrate God's beautiful creation at the **Children's Fall Festival** on Sunday, October 28 in the Fellowship Hall. This is an event for the entire family and we hope that you will attend.

Using a presentation/discussion format, Pastor Bill will introduce us to the four essential practices we need to really follow Jesus. These practices, called "**Touching B.A.S.E.**," include Bible Study, Association (spending time with fellow disciples), Spiritual Disciplines (especially prayer) and Engagement (sharing your faith and working for justice). Over the course of three Wednesday evenings, we'll learn together

continued at right

Worship in October



October is one of the busiest months of the year. Work, school and church are in full swing. In church this month we'll hold our fall rummage sale, gather financial commitments toward the church budget in 2008, and start new member's classes. Add to those activities all the things we began doing last month – Choir, Sunday school, Women's Bible Study, youth groups and M.O.P.S.—and it's easy to see why the calendar

looks packed. Thankfully, we're a people who like to be busy. But as I've started saying at the beginning of worship each Sunday, we are called to be both the "Church at Work" and the "Church at Worship." The Good Life is about balancing these two activities. Come to worship Sunday morning and help keep the balance in your life.—*P.B.*

October 7—World Communion Sunday. We will experience and celebrate our unity with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world this morning as we gather for Holy Communion. Read: Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14 and Luke 17:5-10.



October 14—Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. Thanking God is much more than "good manners;" it's the heart of true worship. Why do we so often miss this opportunity? Read: Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; and Luke 17:11-19.

God's Creation (concluded)

how to make the practices a more vital part of our lives. We begin on Wednesday, October 24 at 6:00 pm with a light meal and child care provided.

*Bible Study • Association •
Spiritual Discipline • Engagement*

October 21—Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost. Worship this morning will focus on our responsibility to use the gifts God has given each of us. Because we'll be making financial commitments to next year's church budget, we'll pay particular attention to our financial responsibilities to fund the work God is doing through our church. Look for a silly skit, too. Read: Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; and Matthew 25:13-40

October 28—Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost. Luke's gospel lesson makes one of the most radical claims in scripture. It is the classic "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable" text. Come Sunday no matter which category you find yourself in. We'll also receive and dedicate our "estimate of giving" cards this morning. Read: Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; and Luke 18:9-14

The Celts believe that their spirituality embraces their entire lives. Please explore the programs that we are offering and let us know how we may serve you on your spiritual journey. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Quilt Bee 9:30 Caregivers 10:00 Staff Parish Committee 7:00	3 Women's Bible Study 9:30 M.O.P.S. 10:00 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	4 Pie Bee 8:30	5	6 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
7 Worship 8:30 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 Worship 11:00 Junior Choir 12:00 Disciple at Bakers' 6:00 Confirmation 6:30	8 R U M M A G E S A L E • D O N A T I O N S •	9 Church Council 7:00	10 S O R T I N G Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	11 Trustees 7:30	12 Women's Retreat 9:00-3:00 Skaneateles • R U M M A G E S A L E ! •	13 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
14 LAITY SUNDAY Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Junior Choir 12:00 Disciple at Bakers' 6:00	15 Haiti 7:00 Membership 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight	16 Quilt Bee 9:30	17 Women's Bible Study 9:30 M.O.P.S. 10:00 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	18 Men's Group 10:00 Women's Supper 6:00	19	20 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 Progressive Dinner
21 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 CROP Walk 11:30, Myers Food Pantry Setup Childrens Ministry 12:00 Disciple at Bakers' 6:00	22 Food Pantry 4:00	23 Quilt Bee 9:30 Outreach 7:00 Finance 7:00	24 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Discipleship Seminar 6:00 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00 P E A N U T B R I T T L E B E E S	25	26	27 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
28 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Fall Festival Disciple at Bakers' 6:00	29	30 Quilt Bee 9:30	31 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	<p>Note: This calendar is current as of September 24. 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.</p> <p>October 2007</p>		

Help Church World Service fill a truck with school kits

Church World Service (CWS), has issued an urgent appeal for children's school supplies. The demands of disasters, both overseas and here in the U.S. in the past two years, have taken a toll on inventories of CWS kits. Especially low are supplies of children's school kits. Here in Lansing, our CWS people have put out a basket in the Narthex (just inside the door) for school supplies. So far the response has been wonderful, reports the Outreach Committee: 400 spiral notebooks, 200 pairs of scissors, hundreds of pencils, reams of paper, a number of tote bags, and so forth. Keep 'em coming!

The conference has secured a truck to transport school kits to the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland, before the end of October. Please help us fill the truck!

Individuals, businesses, churches, and groups are urged to assemble School Kits and drop them off by October 17, 2007.

CWS School Kit

Three 70-page spiral-bound notebooks of ruled paper
Six new pencils with erasers
One large eraser
One pencil sharpener
One 12-inch ruler
One box of 24 crayons
One pair blunt scissors

Please enclose only items listed.

All items go in a canvas or fabric tote bag approximately 14" X 16". A donation of \$2 per kit towards the shipping costs will help deliver kits to children in poverty-stricken areas around the world.

Church World Service Response to Worldwide Emergencies

CWS ships approximately a half million kits each year, including personal hygiene kits for disaster victims, baby kits, school kits, and emergency cleanup buckets (flood buckets) to victims of flooding here in the U.S.

Donna Derr, Director of the CWS Emergency Response Program, reports that there are substantive requests for school kits now pending and the supplies on hand are critically low. "This reflects new interest on the part of many international partners in receiving material resources to support their program work, which is wonderful but it means that we have to work hard at keeping our inventory at consistent levels to meet the increasing need," Derr said.

For updates on the work of Church World Service visit www.churchworldservice.org

Lansing CROP Walk

Lansing CROP Walk, October 21

This is another facet of Church World Service. You can be part of a 60-year tradition. Support or walk in Lansing's CROP Walk on October 21. Watch for details.

Progressive dinner

The membership committee invites you to a progressive dinner on Saturday, October 20. A progressive dinner is a two- or three-course meal with each course at a different host's home. A fun time for all. Watch for a signup sheet in the Narthex for homes and food. We need everyone who will plan to participate to sign up, as the hosts need to know how many to expect. Depending on participation, we may need more than one home for the main course. Woodsedge has traditionally hosted the appetizer course. The main course is veggie or meat lasagne, with garlic bread and tossed or other vegetable salad. Desserts are whatever you most like to eat (or to share). Final signup day is October 14 so that we can find the correct number of host homes. Questions to Beth Bacorn, 257-2944.



New Member Orientation Classes

October 21, 28, and November 7 and 14

Interested persons are invited to consider membership in the Lansing United Methodist Church by attending a "New Member Orientation Classes" to be held during the Sunday School hour (9:45 - 10:45 Sunday mornings) on October 21, 28, and November 7 and 14.

Church membership is an important step in a person's faith journey, signifying the desire to deepen and expand one's personal relationship with God by uniting with a particular congregation in faith and service.

Attendance at these classes doesn't obligate you to become a member, but will help you explore this important decision.

Shared Missions in NYS

As part of the North Central New York Annual Conference, LUMC helps support missions determined at the meeting of the Annual Conference. Here are two of those missions. **The Onondaga Nation UMC** is a true mission of the Annual Conference. Its members are faithful people who have retained their Christian faith. The Rev. Sharon Schmidt works with the members to keep the Christian presence while helping them find ways to reconnect with the indigenous culture. This can be personally difficult at times.

While the government has dithered with health care issues, the UMC has addressed at least one problem. At the New Creations Ministries in Mohawk District, health care has been an issue of major concern where the uninsured rate is 25 percent above the national average. The addition of a **Parish Nurse** has enabled the 14 member congregations to provide services including a health fair which brought experts from several areas together to provide valuable information. According to The Rev. Bill Mudge, supervising pastor, several persons were discovered with potential blood pressure and sugar problems. "We are really pleased with the parish nurse program and look forward to additional ways the New Creations Ministries can work together" This ministry area is generally north of Rome, running from the towns of Western and Ava through Grieg and Steuben to Boonville.



Hi to everyone from sunny and hot Haiti, Everthing is O.K. here. I typed you a long letter earlier this morning about our life here the past several weeks and some of the things we have been doing. I inadvertently hit the wrong key, it went out to cyber space someplace and I couldn't retrieve it.

The others on my team left Haiti yesterday and I am now staying at the home of Esnel Cene and will be commuting to Verrettes, 2-3 mi. on the back of a moto each day. Esnel is a former student who has a very responsible position at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital and also helps with our student program. He is a great addition to our program in many ways.

We have been very busy, many experiences. Can't begin to tell you at this sitting, but will be writing a full report sometime after I arrive home and gather my wits about me. The heat here is not conducive to writing.

Thanks to all of who make this mission possible .

Sincerely,
Barb Denhoff
Just outside Verrettes, Haiti
September 24, 2007

Upcoming Outreach Projects:

(1) Pumpkins: for the Food Pantry (50) and for (63) Lansing School for Girls. Contact Mindy in the office with ideas for sources of pumpkins.

(2) Cookies: Thanksgiving or Christmas: Form a group to take cookies over to LRC (girls school) and for a session of decorating them with the girls. Contact Mindy if you could make cookies, supply decors, or become part of the decorating party.

(3) Christmas Stockings: Last year we purchased stockings and a wonderful group of women embellished them. Our goal this year is to fill 100 with all the love and happiness we can stuff in them. Contact Mindy if you wish to volunteers to make the stockings and a crew to decorate them.

If anyone has any ideas or would like to contribute in any way...on the above projects, please call the office at 607-533-4070.

Rummage Sale

LUMC's annual rummage sale is October 12 and 13. But that's just the end of the process. It starts October 6 and 7 with setup, and then workers spend all week sorting donations or serving food in Cafe Rummage. Stop by, even for just an hour, for fun, fellowship, and your chance to participate in Tompkins County's biggest recycling effort!

Special opportunity this year: Be a shift supervisor or co chair. Long time rummage chair Ed LaVigne is not available this time around, and we figure we need at least ten people or so to replace him. Anyone who steps in gets lots of support and appreciation.



"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Matthew 25:23

Responsibility

October Is Time for Stewardship

A bit later this month you will be receiving a letter from our Stewardship Committee, asking you to consider your pledge for 2008. There are two ways to think about supporting Lansing United Methodist Church. One of them is to "make the budget." That is, to cover our expenses. This is an important thing to do, and it certainly makes life easier for our treasurer, who has to pay the bills and for our finance committee, which has to work out the church's financial picture.

But if you spend any time reading what Jesus said about stewardship, you'll see that he never once mentioned "making the budget." As with the quote above from Matthew, Jesus was more interested in our responsibility for supporting his kingdom by expanding the possibilities of bringing more people to God. If money helped with that, he was all for it: "give to God what is God's." When money stood in the way, he warned about the "love of money."

So, when you think about your pledge to the LUMC, think about the possibilities. Think about our responsibility to move ahead with the work Jesus started. The missions that we support...and the missions that we could be supporting. Yes, let's "make the budget," but let's also go far beyond that.—gw

Here's the schedule for the Stewardship Campaign.

October 7—Campaign chair Joel Brock will announce the campaign from the pulpit.

October 14—Pastor Bill will be away, and this is Laity Sunday. You'll learn the specifics of the church's financial needs for 2008. You'll be able to pick up a letter and pledge card (or it will be mailed to you if not picked up). This letter will have preliminary budget figures and other information

October 21—Pastor Bill will offer a scriptural view of supporting the church.

October 28—Commitment Sunday and celebration.

Stewardship 2008

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The Sunbeam

October 2007
*Lansing United
Methodist
Church*

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October 28

Fall Festival
October 28

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
near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is October 16, 2007.