

Streaming Worship 9:30 AM

LANSINGUNITED.ORG

PLEASE JOIN US!



Lent 2021

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner

Christian Education Coordinator: Debbie Geise

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Krystal Cole

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES VIRTUALLY AT 11:00 AM FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS,
12:00 NOON FOR JUNIOR HIGHS, AND 1:00 PM FOR SENIOR HIGHS**

Church Can Happen Anywhere: Join Us Online!

From the Pastor

Lent: Gift of the Spirit



Dear Church Family,
This year, the season of Lent begins on February 17. Lent is a time of considering the reality of our own mortality, and the reality of God's grace. We remember that we are mortal and we'll die someday: ashes to ashes, dust to dust. In the face of our certainty about death, we also remember the certainty of God's eternal love, revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Through him, we are invited into eternal life.

The 40 days of Lent mirror the length of Jesus' spiritual preparation for ministry. The devil tried to persuade Jesus to take short-cuts to achieve his mission. Jesus was tempted to use methods requiring less personal investment than death on a cross: assuaging hunger by using his divine nature to create bread, gaining authority over all the world's kingdoms by worshiping the devil, or proving his identity as Son of God by surviving a deadly fall from a Temple pinnacle. Jesus resisted every enticement to abandon his fully human nature (see Luke 4).

Some Christians use the season of Lent to build up spiritual strength by "giving up" something they enjoy. That hardly seems necessary this year! We have been living in a Lent-like season since March 2020. Every time we put on a mask (and the CDC is now recommending wearing two masks, for greater protection against a more contagious strain of the coronavirus), we remember our mortality. Many months ago, we gave up many of our familiar patterns of life. We have resisted the temptation to go to restaurants, sports events, music venues, even church—as well as the comfort of visits and hugs from friends and relatives.

This Lent will be a "season of recovery" from the painful experiences of the last year. We will focus on the healing God offers for our brokenness—personal and communal. One of our guides will be the book, *Mosaic: When God Uses All the Pieces*, by Shane Stanford. Daily scripture readings are printed on page 3 and are posted on our website. Another available guide is a set of Lenten Cards with suggestions for family members of all ages to participate in the work of healing and building up spiritual strength in ourselves and in our community.

One Ash Wednesday tradition is receiving a mark of ashes as a sign of our mortality and of God's grace. The ashes, made from a previous year's Palm Sunday palms, are applied in the form of a cross, with the words "repent, and

Continued at right

Pastor's message, concluded

believe the Gospel." If you wish to receive ashes (on your forehead or your hand, while you stay in your warm vehicle), meet me at Myers Park near Pavilion A between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the 17th, or drive by the Sanctuary entrance to the church building between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

May you "observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit within the community this Lenten season. Remember that we are in this together, even though we are physically separated from one another.

Blessings, *Pastor Alison*

Ashes: Symbol of Repentance

Asbes have been used as a sign of penitence for at least 1,000 years. Since the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a general rite for all in the church. In earlier centuries, ashes were used to mark those who had been separated from the church because of serious sins and were seeking to be re-admitted to the fellowship of the church.

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.—*Adapted from Ask the UMC, United Methodist Communications*

Reflect ~ Refine ~ Respond

Lent 2021 Daily Scripture Readings

From *MOSAIC: When God Uses All the Pieces*, by Shane Stanford
Devotion suggestions:

- (1) Read each day's Scripture passage
- (2) Journal your thoughts, feelings, and impressions, including the insights from that day's Scripture passage.
- (3) Describe how these insights can be applied to your daily life.
- (4) Include a list of prayer requests, praises, and concerns.

2/17	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> : "When God Uses Our Rebellion," Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	2/22	Numbers 20:1-13
2/18	Judges 2:10-15	2/23	Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
2/19	Ezekiel 20:13-20	2/24	Romans 5:1-2
2/20	Jeremiah 3:19-20	2/25	Ephesians 2:14-18
2/21	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> : "When God Uses Our Restlessness" Matthew 11:28-30	2/26	Mark 8:11-13
		2/27	Philippians 4:6-7
		2/28	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> : "When God Uses Our Regret" Psalm 51:1-15; Luke 19:1-8

Lenten Activities

Walking the Scriptures

with Pastor Alison in Myers Park

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30 a.m., beginning February 17, Ash Wednesday, Meet at the Kayak Rack

Mask up and share in holy conversation with Pastor Alison and Bailey the canine curate. Stretch your legs and your minds while discussing the Lenten scripture of the day (see Lenten daily scripture schedule). Be sure to dress for the weather!

MOSAIC: When God Uses All the Pieces

A Lenten Journey, by Shane Stanford

Sunday Adult Form, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,
Begins February 21

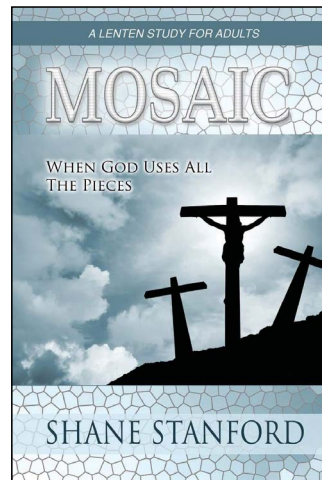
Wednesday Evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Begins
February 24

Stanford reminds us that we all have “jagged edges,” broken pieces within us that can continue to wound ourselves and others, or be healed and used to create something useful and beautiful.

“Over the course of this Lenten Journey, we will look at how the God of the universe uses broken pieces, places, and people of our lives to create God’s artwork, a glistening masterpiece that reframes our potential and our purpose...

“...In the end we will not be the same. We shouldn’t be. Any journey worth its value moves us to new places to accomplish new possibilities. That is God’s point for you and for me—to recast the shards of discarded hopes and dreams into something beautiful and useful—a mosaic where God uses all the pieces.”—Shane Stanford

Books available in the airlock. \$7 Suggested donation



Children’s Sunday School Learns About Prayer

The 2nd through 6th grade Sunday School classes have been learning about how to strengthen their communication with God through prayer. They have explored why it’s important to pray and how Jesus is our example of how to regularly and consistently talk to God in prayer. They have studied the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray, in what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Defining the difficult words and concepts in this prayer has brought meaning and understanding of the words they are saying. These young people have matched different 3-dimensional objects that represent each line of the prayer, made a bracelet of colored beads that correspond to each line of the prayer, and built a tower of Legos that featured all of the lines of the prayer in order. They have also listened to the beautiful renditions of “The Lord’s Prayer” sung by Andrea Bocelli with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and another by Michael W. Smith.

They have used the ideas represented in “The Lord’s Prayer” to think about what they can pray to God themselves. Praising God, thanking God, petitioning for others and for ourselves, and asking for forgiveness and guidance to forgive others are among what we can bring to God in prayer. What a friend we have in Jesus and what a privilege it is, indeed, to bring our cares to God in prayer!

For the season of Lent, the children will have lessons that build on the Mosaic and “Holy Vessels” Lenten studies being used with the youth and adults.

Kintsugi

Ashogun in 15th century Japan broke his favorite tea bowl. He sent the pieces to China to be made whole again but was displeased with the aesthetic of the work performed. The shogun’s own artisans took the repaired bowl and filled the cracks with golden lacquer. A new art form thus rose, containing the elements of mottainai, regret when something is wasted, and mushin, the need to accept change. The bowl, its brokenness incorporated, became the shogun’s favorite. The technique was named kintsugi, the art of golden repair.

This past spring, I was one of 17,000 voices to record “Sing Gently,” by Eric Whitacre. My one small imperfect recording was seamed with all those other small imperfect recordings to create a visual and audio thing larger and more beautiful than its components. You may view the recording at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=eric+whitacre+sing+gently. Does the visual accompaniment to “Sing Gently” make you think of *kintsugi*?

Youth Ministries



In January, we painted like pros! Junior and Senior High youth created artful masterpieces in the Fellowship Hall.

We also teamed up with the First Congregational Church of Ithaca and created door decorations for our friends living at Woodsedge.

In February we are planning a trip to go ice skating, and we will be creating our own individual time capsules.

Confirmation began the last Sunday of January, and will continue throughout the month. Parents and youth are working through the book of Luke with leaders Christa, Dianne, and Pastor Alison.

Sunday



School for our Junior and Senior High will shift to a curriculum matching the *Holy Vessels* series Pastor Alison is preaching on throughout Lent. It's about how God sees our imperfect lives as ones perfectly fit to be loving Christians.



Adult Ministries

Lansing United Book Club: from The Moth

Fridays, at 1:00 p.m., with Karen Veaner

All These Wonders, True Stories About Facing the Unknown, compiled by Catherine Burns. Stories presented on The Moth, a PRX program that presents live true stories. This book includes 45 unforgettable true stories drawn from the best ever told on their stages.

Feel free to jump in any time. Each story stands by itself and will be used as a starting place for sharing stories of our own. Books are available in the church airlock, suggested donation is \$15. Also available on Kindle.—*Karen Veaner*

Jump in Any Time!

These are ongoing activities. See the calendar at LansingUnited.org for dates, times, and Zoom links

A Story Telling Walk Through the Bible

with Bonnie Blair, Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

From early on, God's interaction with people involved trying to get them to understand how to live in relationship with Him. Walk through the story of Abraham and God's Covenant. What is this covenant? How does this relate to me?



Women's Bible Study

with Dianne Walter, Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Finding God in the Psalms

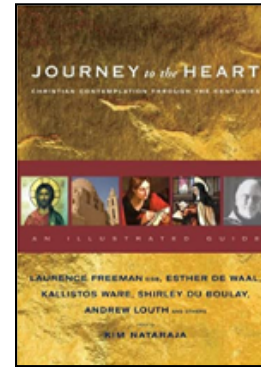
Universal Christ

Christian Contemplation, Mondays, 1:00 p.m.

Journey to the Heart: Christian Contemplation Through the Centuries, edited by

Kim Nataraja

Introduce yourself to key figures and movements in the history of Christian spirituality. Each week covers a different figure. For the Christian mystic of the week, call Daisy Kirkpatrick, 607-733-7143. Jump in or out of the group as your schedule allows!



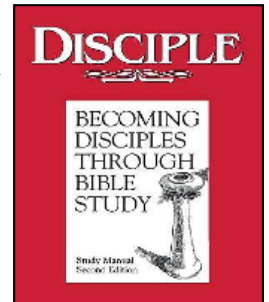
Disciple

with Bonnie Blair & Pastor Alison

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.,
or Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Get the big picture. Look

at all of those familiar Bible stories and see how they are tied together. Participate in a rich discussion that just might help you to connect scripture to your everyday life.



Alzheimer's Workshops

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

with Carianne Wilson, associate program director,
Alzheimer's Association, Central New York Chapter
Thursday, February 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 11, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Zoom Celebration

Tuesday, February 16, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday. *Mardi Gras* is French for Fat Tuesday.

This refers to the practice of a final night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. As this is the last day of the liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one gives up for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations.

You are Zoom-vited! Wear a crazy hat or crazy hair. Watch the fun begin. Whip up your favorite pancakes!

Zoom Winter Festival

People of all ages are invited to the annual Winter Festival on Zoom.

Sponsored by the Children's Ministry Team, the Winter Festival will be on Thursday, February 18, at 4:00 p.m., which is during the Lansing School District's winter break. Play Jeopardy, Bingo, Pictionary, and other fun games, take on Minute-to-Win-It challenges, get your groove on with some music, share in a hands-on winter project, and enjoy a hot chocolate treat. We can't wait to come together for some socially distant fun to warm our hearts on these cold winter days! Please sign-up using this link so we can prepare a bag of materials for each person participating in the festival: <https://signupschedule.com/debbiegeise>

Simple Suppers

Wednesdays, 5:30–7:00 p.m. on Zoom, beginning February 3,

Community is more important than ever. We may not be able to share a dish in person, but we can share recipes and conversation. Grab some soup and gather at the Zoom table! New to Lansing United or looking to meet members of your church family in an informal setting? You are invited! Where 2 or more are gathered—even virtually, it's a celebration!

Upper New York Annual Conference 2021 to Be Held Remotely

After consultation with the Upper New York (UNY) Committee on Sessions, Conference Leadership Team, Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee, and the Upper New York Board of Trustees, Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb and the Upper New York Cabinet are announcing that the UNY 2021 Annual Conference (AC2021) session will be held remotely.

The dates for this year's Annual Conference will be June 17-19.



Wild Cards!

Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m. with Sue Frahm on Zoom

I Miss You—I Love You—I Care About You card-making workshops

Have a heart for art? Ever wished you had a special, homemade card to send to someone on your mind or on your heart? Sue Frahm will get you started, give suggestions and answer questions with a new theme each week.

Choose your medium—watercolor, acrylic, colored pencils, crayons, colored papers, fabrics—whatever you have on hand. (Need supplies? Just let us know.) 1 card & envelope provided for each week. Pick up your starter pack in the church airlock.

All are welcome! Working on another project? Tune in and join the conversation.

Please register with Karen Veaner: AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

Bring your cans and bottles to the shop at the north end of Triphammer Road, at your convenience. Just tell them it's a donation for Lansing Youth Mission.

Meal Cooking and Packing

LUMC volunteers have scheduled cooking and packing meals for those sheltering in hotels on the afternoon of February 27. Note that coronavirus protocols are in effect, so contact Laura or Steve Alexander for information.

Hello, My Fellow Believers

Recent economic stimulus checks may provide financial assistance to many in our congregation. For some, this money will help keep food on the table. It may also present an opportunity to minister through our church family, by giving to the LUMC operating fund, capital campaign, or pastor's discretionary fund.

My stimulus money will be donated to the LUMC operating fund, supplementing my annual pledge. I feel blessed knowing that whatever challenges arise, God will always be at my side. I am grateful for the ways our congregation embodies this promise, and I want to do what I can to ensure a strong LUMC is always there for others through our ministries.

I invite those fortunate enough to view their stimulus check as "extra money" to pray about how to best use it, and then act on God's divine guidance.

God bless you and your loved ones.—*Ed LaVigne, Stewardship Committee Chair*

Interfaith Community Dish-at-Home

Thursday, February 18, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Welcome Our Neighbors! This evening we gather around the Zoom table to celebrate the new home of our friends from Al-Huda Islamic Center, Newly located at 10 Cayuga Vista Drive in South Lansing. We are pleased to announce the first mosque to serve Ithaca and Tompkins County. Members of the Muslim community will share their news and their plans for their new space.

Please consider sending a Lansing United card of welcome and friendship to Mahmud Burton and the congregation of Al-Huda Islamic Center. We have been honored to share in many beautiful collaborations, and look forward to many more in the future.

Virtual Church Meetings

(all but Staff-Parish are open via Zoom):

Safe Gatherings Task Force, February 2, 9, 16, 23, 5:00 p.m.

Church Council, February 2, 7:00 p.m.

Safe Sanctuary Team, February 4, 7:00 p.m.,
Trustees, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Staff-Parish Relations (Personnel), February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Worship Committee, February 16, 7:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry Team, February 18, 7:30 p.m.



Virtual Church Calendar lansingunited.org

Lansing United Methodist Church February 2021

Sunday church services: 9:30 a.m., via YouTube (through church website, lansingunited.org); music stream begins at 9:15; "Coffee time" follows at 10:30

Sunday school: Adults, The Wired Word, 11:00 a.m.,
Pre-K to 6th grade, 11:00 a.m.,
Junior High, 12:00 p.m.
Senior High, 1:00 p.m.

Note: Sunday school will meet in person when Lansing Central School resumes in-person classes. Otherwise, classes are via Zoom.

Ash Wednesday Service, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Drive-by imposition of ashes: 7:30–8:30 a.m. at Myers Park (Pavilion A), or main church entrance 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Walking the Scriptures, Myers Park, February 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 8:30 a.m., starting near the kayak racks and Salmon Creek

Confirmation class, February 7, 21, 28, 3:00 p.m.

Junior High Sunday Youth Group, 5:00 p.m.

Senior High Sunday Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday via Zoom, February 16, 5:30 p.m.

Youth Snow Tubing at Greek Peak, February 15, 1:00 p.m.

Winter Festival, February 18, 4:00 p.m., on Zoom

Disciple, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.; Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Universal Christ Group, Mondays, 1:00 p.m.

Storytelling Walk through the Bible, Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Kinship Ministries, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Choir Rehearsal, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Lansing United Book Club, Fridays, 1:00 p.m.

Alzheimer's Workshops, February 4, 6:30 p.m.; February 11, 1:00 p.m.

Simple Supper via Zoom: February 3, 10, 17, 24 5:30 p.m.

Wild Cards Workshop, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 6:30 p.m.

Packing Meals for Those in Shelters, February 27, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Clothing Giveaway at Lansing Community Center,
Saturdays, 12:30–3:30 p.m.

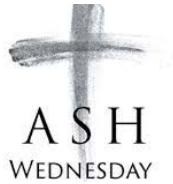
Interfaith Community Dish-at-Home, February 18, 6:00 p.m.



The Sunbeam

February 2021

VIRTUAL WORSHIP
9:30 A.M. VIA FACEBOOK OR
VISIT LANSINGUNITED.ORG
MUSIC STARTS 9:15



FEBRUARY 17
7:00 PM

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: office@lansingunited.org
Lonnajeane Yoest,
Pastoral Administrative Assistant
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