

Worship 9:30 AM

**in the Church on Brickyard Road
OR STREAMED AT LANSINGUNITED.ORG**

PLEASE JOIN US!



November 28

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner

Christian Education Coordinator: Debbie Geise

Organist: Sharon Powell

Choir Director: Diane Withiam

From the Pastor

Taking It to the Streets



"I will submit to be more vile."

Those were the words of John Wesley, a stuffy priest of the Church of England, when he humbled himself to preach in a field instead of a church.

He famously wrote, "At four in the afternoon, I submitted to be more vile and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation."*

Wesley didn't give up his high church sensibilities easily, but he did recognize that all the orthodox practice in the world happening behind closed doors where people did not see or hear it would not help Jesus transform the peoples' lives or encourage the people to transform the world.

Since Wesley felt preaching outside a church building was scandalous, imagine what he would think of Worship in the Park, or Worship Online! He would probably also reject the idea of giving each household a baggie of bread and juice, with instructions to share the gift of Holy Communion with others who might not even attend worship!

Sacraments are holy rituals--actions performed in a prescribed manner--that connect us to God and to the historical and present community of faith. They are actions through which God has promised to be present.

The sacrament of Holy Communion usually has at least five characteristics:

1. common elements, shared and consumed (bread and juice or wine),
2. context (a worship service in which scripture is read and interpreted),
3. consecration (the Great Thanksgiving prayer, particularly the words of institution),
4. clergy (a duly licensed or ordained minister of the gospel officiating), and
5. Christian community (a gathering of people committed to following Christ, together).

While none of these characteristics is sufficient on its own, they work together to give the sacrament its meaning.

My understanding of the importance of each of these has been challenged by the reality that those conditions are increasingly difficult to meet (especially when taken together).

I still think these things are meaningful and important, but I also realize we may need to reinterpret some of them in order for people to have an opportunity to taste and see that the Lord is good, even during times of pandemic.

Prepackaged juice and wafers aren't my favorite form of bread and wine,

Continued at right

Pastor's message, concluded

but they are more shelf-stable than pieces of “real” bread and juice (although we have done reasonably well with frozen “bread cupcakes”). Prepared items also can be dispersed with less contact between server and receiver. It would normally be most efficient to have people come to church to receive communion from the pastor, but nearly half of our congregation is not worshipping in the sanctuary at this time. Some say COVID restrictions are too strict, others say they are not restrictive enough, and perhaps others are just out of the habit of attending. Whatever the reasons for their absence, if these non-attenders receive Holy Communion, it will be because someone delivers it to them where they live.

Would you be willing to deliver a sign of Christ's presence to your neighbors? Would you be willing to “submit to be more vile”--changing church traditions for the sake of the gospel? For the sake of one who healed on the Sabbath, talked to foreigners and prostitutes, accepted a water from a Samaritan woman, washed dirty feet, and talked to the mentally ill and convicted criminals? Please let the church office know.

We have lots of baggies.

Blessings,

Pastor Alison

Advent Gatherings

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. beginning
November 28

with Pastor Alison in Fellowship
Hall

*Light of the World: A Beginner's
Guide to Advent*, by Amy Jill
Levine

- Embrace the Christmas message of the Gospels.
- Experience glad tidings of great joy.

- Spark your imagination to receive the sublime message of Jesus: Emmanuel (God-with-us).

“She makes the wonder-filled stories of John's and Jesus' births come alive. The Gospels tidings of comfort and joy become sources of rich spiritual contemplation...”—Matthew L. Skinner

“Trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.”—Amazon



Fall Festival Fun at Moore Family Farm

LUMC's annual Fall Festival took place at Moore Family Farm, the wonderful new bright spot in our community created by Carrie and Jason Moore. It was made brighter by the sounds of exuberant children, youth, and adults alike on Monday, October 11, when Carrie and Jason opened their farm to the congregation and friends at a special time on this school holiday.

Lansing United teamed up with Lansing Food Pantry director Toni Adams to open the Fall Festival to those in the community who might not have the financial means to participate. Flyers were distributed through Lansing Lunchbox, a program that provides free breakfast and lunch foods to Lansing Central School District students. The Food Pantry received generous donations from Cargill, Cayuga Lake National Bank, and the Lansing Events Committee to help cover the costs for the Lansing Lunchbox families to attend. Due to the generosity of these donors, the Moore Family Farm,



and Lansing United, all the Lansing Lunchbox families who signed up were able to share quality time together while laughing and taking in the many activities at Moore

Family Farm. Those of all ages were delighted by the jump-o-lantern, huge tractor tires to climb, wagon rides, apple cannons, duck races, human foosball, honey bee express train, a 5-acre corn maze that honored first responders, and so much more.

Having the Fall Festival at Moore Family Farm allowed 128 people to gather in a COVID-safe, outdoor, expansive, open space. People were free to move about the many acres of the Family Farm, feeding their bodies and souls with physical activity, fresh air, fun, and fellowship. Dave Hatfield was

Fall Festival (concluded)

on-site barbecuing so everyone could feed their bodies with delicious chicken while they filled their souls with fellowship.

What a blessing it was to watch people in all stages of life come together to enjoy the extensive variety of activities that the Moore Family Farm offered. Another beautiful blessing was watching three generations of the Moore Family working together to make this new venture a reality. Ainsley helped her Mom Carrie in the pre-picked pumpkin area. Jacob and Brooks helped their Grandpa Richard, Grandma Kay, and Dad Jason in various ways throughout the afternoon. Their wide smiles told the story of the enjoyment, teamwork, and love invested in this family-run farm.



Along with the Moore Family, were many other Lansing United members who were working at Moore Family Farm. Beth Wilcox was running the Snack Shack, Scott Bishop was in charge of the apple cannons (to his great delight!), and Abby Thomas drove the tractor that pulled the honey bee express train. We are grateful

for Karen Bishop's and Nan Farkas's assistance serving chicken and Ed LaVigne's direction as parking lot attendant.

An abundance of thanks and appreciation goes to the local organizations and businesses that contributed financial support, demonstrating their commitment to help our community stay healthy in mind, body, and soul. The power of teamwork and compassion resulted in much joy. Thank you to Cargill, Cayuga Lake National Bank, Lansing Events Committee, Lansing Lunchbox, and Toni Adams. We are in awe of the Moore Family (Carrie, Jason, Kay, and Richard) and are so grateful for their sharing what they have worked so hard to create. Dave Hatfield's commitment to our community and to Lansing United is so greatly apparent and valued. You all made this joy possible. Well done, good and faithful servants!—Debbie Geise



Calling All Breakfast Enthusiasts!

Are you an early bird? Do you like to cook? Is breakfast your favorite meal? Are you willing to bring all of that to church and join a group of teens who get up early on a Monday morning to gather together for breakfast and prayer? Youth Ministries needs you!



We're looking for ministry partners who will prepare pancakes for our youth each week, once a month, or however often you are able to lend a hand. Please contact Bonnie Blair by phone or text at 229-2847 to find out more about supporting our youth through Pancakes & Prayer.

Welcome Our Neighbors to Lansing

Ushers and greeters are needed to help welcome our faith community with God's love! Please use this link (<https://tinyurl.com/signupgeniusgreeterusher>) to sign up to be a greeter who welcomes each person and writes down contact information at the Narthex door or an usher who seats people in the Sanctuary, library, Asbury Room, or Fellowship Hall. Please see Debbie Geise or contact her at children@lansingunited.org if you have any questions.

The Giving Tree

The Lansing Food Pantry, All Saints Church, Lansing Lunchbox, and Lansing United Methodist Church join together to support Lansing families in need each Christmas season. Families sign up their children to receive two



gifts, a clothing item and a toy item. Your help is needed to provide the gifts for these families. Please look for a link in the weekly email coming in mid-November to sign up on-line to support a child this Christmas and for more information about dropping off gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Geise at children@lansingunited.org. Thank you so much for blessing Lansing families in need with hope and joy this Christmas!

Adults in Mission



A team of seven people gathered in Whiteville, North Carolina, in glorious October weather to work on a house that desperately needed updated siding. The team comprised LUMC members Laura and Steve Alexander, Sharon Bowman, Diane Skrobach, and Glenn Withiam, as well as Bryce Ginther (Sand Lake, NY) and Paul Ginther (Ashville,

NC). Together, we removed rotted T111 siding (vintage 1970s) and replaced it with Hardieboard (a weatherproof concrete panel). In five days of work, we were able to update and paint three sides of the house. (The fourth side had power lines, which we thought would best be addressed by professionals.)

We worked under the aegis of Follow Me There, a new 401c3 organization created in the framework of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which suspended its Volunteer in Mission teams due to the COVID virus.

As is the case in most mission trips, we were delighted to meet the homeowners, Kim and Kerry, who welcomed us and shared their faith. Physical issues prevented them from doing the construction work, and we were privileged to be their hands in this work project. Together, we could see God at work in this project (one small example: the aforementioned glorious weather, since there was no bad weather fallback plan; one large example: the Ginther brothers brought a huge assortment of essential tools, even though we incorrectly thought we wouldn't need them).



Thinking about the trip, Sharon Bowman wrote: "I am still feeling so grateful to have had the privilege to be in community with each member of our team, and beyond humbled to have been in the presence of Kim & Kerry.

I will continue to pray for their well being, and for the work that Vickie & Brian have begun through their not-for-profit—Follow Me There! Our God is an awesome God!"

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.

Kinship Ministries

"In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other." -Romans 12:5

You are called and invited to be a part of the movement to nurture existing relationships in our Lansing United Family, and build connections to people who may be new to our church community.

Be the light. Share the light. One hour, one phone call, one email or hand-written card can make all the difference.

Contact Karen Veaner to join this ministry partnership: AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org or (607)592-1386

Women's Bible Study: Galatians

Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. on Zoom, with Dianne Walter

"What matters is a new creation. May peace and mercy be on whoever follows this rule and on God's Israel." Galatians 6:15b-16 CEB

Paul shares the good news of God's mission to build a new family with no divisions.

Lansing United Book Club:

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church

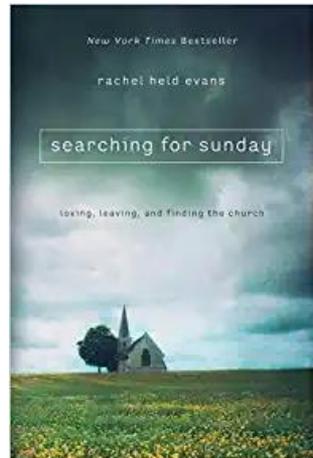
with Karen Veaner, Thursdays at 10am on Zoom

"I didn't know I was hungry." -Rachel Held Evans

Are you feeling peckish? It's not too late for a spiritual knosh.

One lovely aspect of this book is its organization. By traveling the liturgical year through the sacraments, each section stands on its own. This means there is always an open seat at the table to include a new voice to the conversation. Pull up a chair as we discuss Communion, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage.

"A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church". - Amazon



Universal Christ

Illuminating Justice, with shared leadership

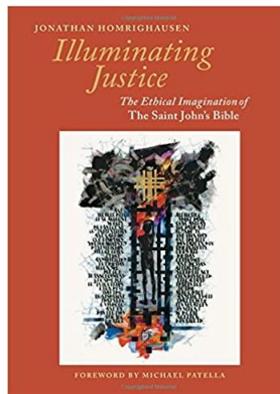
Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Ignite your imagination and Experience the call to social ethics through art of the Saint John's Bible. "Beauty and Justice woven together"— Surely the Holy Spirit was at work in the artist's hands as they offer a window into the full depth of the scriptures.

Illuminating Justice: The Ethical Imagination of The Saint John's Bible

"The experience of studying The Saint John's Bible has caused me to consider what happens to us when we welcome sacred words into our hearts."—*Review, Real Live Preacher*

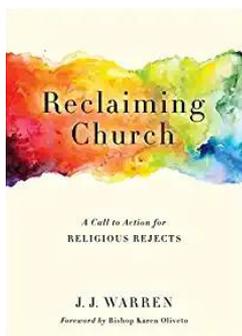
Join the conversation!—*Karen Veaner, Adult Ministries Coordinator*



Focus

with Pastor Alison, Sundays at 5:00 p.m., in the Asbury Room

Reclaiming Church: A Call to Action for Religious Rejects, by J.J. Warren



We are a Reconciling Congregation. Hallelujah!
Now what?

How will we advocate for our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters? How do we seek justice, love kindness and walk this worldly path humbly, with our God? Join us as we focus on this fresh voice on a path to social justice in the church.

J.J. Warren is a speaker, preacher and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights in the religious realm. He is a seminary student at Boston University School of Theology and a candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church.

Wired Word

Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., with Judy Hinderliter, Asbury Classroom, and with Karen Veaner on Zoom

How can we respond to current events in a way that reflects God's love? How does scripture speak to a modern world? Join in a rich discussion of current events.

Advent Wreaths—Prepare the Way!

Sunday, November 21, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon, in the Fellowship Hall
An indoor, physically distanced experience!

Dress warmly, windows will be open for ventilation.

Does Advent always get the jump on you? Ever late getting the wreath prepared? Greens and supplies will be provided to prepare your family wreath or make a new one. Bring pruning shears, a wreath form if you have one, scissors and a heart ready to open to this wondrous season.

Join us as adults, children, and youth engage in the rich tradition and preparation of the Advent wreath.

UMC Student Day Offering: November 28

Not long ago, the commencement speaker at Morehouse College, billionaire Robert F. Smith, pledged that his family would pay off the \$40 million student loans of all 396 graduating seniors.

We can do something just like that by supporting United Methodist Student Day, on November 28. With a generous gift, we can help students graduate from college without the burden of overwhelming debt.

On United Methodist Student Day (which started in 1940), we receive a focused offering that will provide scholarships to deserving students. This offering has raised more than \$400,000 and helps more than 300 students a year. You can write a check to LUMC with student day in the memo, or log on to umcgiving.org/giveUMSD. Please be in prayer with the students who are recipients of the education made possible through this special offering.

Adjusting to COVID-19 Precautions

To reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from one person to another at worship, please:

- Wear a mask covering your nose and mouth, whenever inside the building
- Enter through the Narthex Doors, facing Brickyard Rd.
- Offer your name and phone number, in case it is needed for contact tracing.
- Wait for an usher to seat your household. (You decide who is your household)
- Keep a distance of 6 feet from one household to another, sitting every other pew.
- At the end of the service, ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row.

Alzheimer's Association, Central New York Chapter

Caregiving Resources During COVID-19: Free virtual Education Programs for Individuals living with dementia, care partners, and the public.

Communication and Intimacy

November 9, 6-7:30 p.m.

Close relationships are built on shared experiences, emotional intimacy, and physical expressions of love. As the disease progresses, your relationship with your spouse or partner who is living with Alzheimer's disease will change; however, your connection can still be rich and fulfilling. This program will help care partners to better understand the changes in communication that occur with disease progression. Identify ways to connect with your partner at every stage of the disease and learn to nurture your relationship.

Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia

November 8 at 6:00 p.m. (30 minutes), November 10 at 12:00 Noon and November 15 at 11:00 a.m., (60 minutes)

What happens to the brain with Alzheimer's and dementia; covers risk factors, treatments, research, and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Dementia Conversations: November 2 at 4:00 p.m. (60-minute program)

Helpful tips to have honest and caring conversations with family members about dementia, and reinforce the need to plan ahead and build a care team. Topics include driving, doctor visits, and legal and financial concerns. Intended for anyone that interacts with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

Understanding & Responding to Dementia Related Behavior

November 8 at 10:00 a.m. (90-minute program)

Practical information and resources to decipher how best to respond to dementia-related behaviors. Intended for anyone that interacts with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

Effective Communication Strategies

November 4 at 5:00 p.m. and November 17 at 3:00 p.m. (60-minute program)

Explore strategies to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone living with dementia, and ways to connect and communicate at each stage of the disease. Intended for anyone that interacts with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

How to Join

Advance registration is required to receive a link and instructions to join a program. Reserve your seat by calling 800-272-3900 or visit alz.org/cny and click the link for Virtual Education Programs.

Choir Notes: Return from Exile

Go, thoughts, on golden wings (“Va Pensiero”)

Check out the podcast link below and come along on a brief journey. Verdi’s opera Nabucco, is based on the Old Testament story of the Jews in 6th century B.C. as they were captured and exiled from their homeland by the Babylonian king Nabucco a/k/a Nabucodonosor a/k/a (in the more familiar English rendition) Nebuchadnezzar. The best-known song from this opera is the “Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves” which begins “Va Pensiero,” based on Psalm 137, in which the exiles yearn for their lost home.

Psalm 137 reads, in part (NIV): “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’”

Stifle a musician’s voice and she hangs her harp in a tree and cannot bear a joyful song. Psalm 137 continues: “How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.”

We have been in a kind of exile during these long months since March 2020 (though surely nothing like the exile experienced by the Babylonian captives). How could musicians working alone with their recording device remember what joyful choral song felt like, with isolation, fear, anger, illness, and death circling?

The choir sang this beautiful chorus at the beginning of a recent rehearsal. We still stand one foot in that place of exile and isolation but we emerge. We seek signs of hope and look to the future. Joy is coming!

Link to the podcast here: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/aria-code/episodes/aria-code-verdi-nabucco>. (Or remember Don McLean? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTnspbSjKVc>)—*Diane Withiam*

Note from Page 2:

*The quote is from an Amazon.com advertisement for “Submitting to Be More Vile: The Illustrated Adventures of John & Charles Wesley” <https://www.amazon.com/Submitting-More-Vile-Illustrated-Adventures/dp/1501889478> (as of 11/7/21).



Virtual Church Calendar lansingunited.org

Lansing United Methodist Church November 2021

Sunday worship services: 9:30 a.m., at the church on Brickyard Road or via YouTube (link through lansingunited.org/events)

Sunday school for all ages, 11:00 a.m., following worship
Wired Word Adult Sunday Discussion, 11:00 a.m. in person
Reclaiming Church, Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Asbury Room

Pancakes and Prayer, Mondays, 7:00 a.m.,

Women's Bible Study: Galatians, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Universal Christ: *Illuminating Justice*, Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall

Lansing United Book Club, Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Advent Gathering, November 28, Fellowship Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Church Meetings

(all but Staff-Parish are open to all):

Stewardship, November 15, 22, and 29, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Church Council, November 2, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Curriculum Meeting, November 3, 10, 17, 23, 9:00 a.m.,

Choir, November 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00 p.m.,

Safe Sanctuary Team, November 4, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Trustees, November 8, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Safe Gatherings Task Force, November 9 and 23, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Staff-Parish Relations, November 11, 6:30 p.m., (personnel committee open only to members)

Haiti Committee, 7:00 p.m., November 15

Worship Committee, November 16, 7:00 p.m., Asbury Room

Youth Ministry Team, November 18, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom



WORSHIP
9:30 A.M. AT THE CHURCH
OR VIA YOUTUBE
VISIT LANSINGUNITED.ORG/EVENTS



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, NOVEMBER 28

The Sunbeam November 2021

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
one mile north of the spotlight on
Route 34B in South Lansing.
Church office: 607-533-4070

E-mail: office@lansingunited.org
Lonnajeane Yoest,
Pastoral Administrative Assistant
www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published monthly by
Lansing United Methodist Church.

Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.