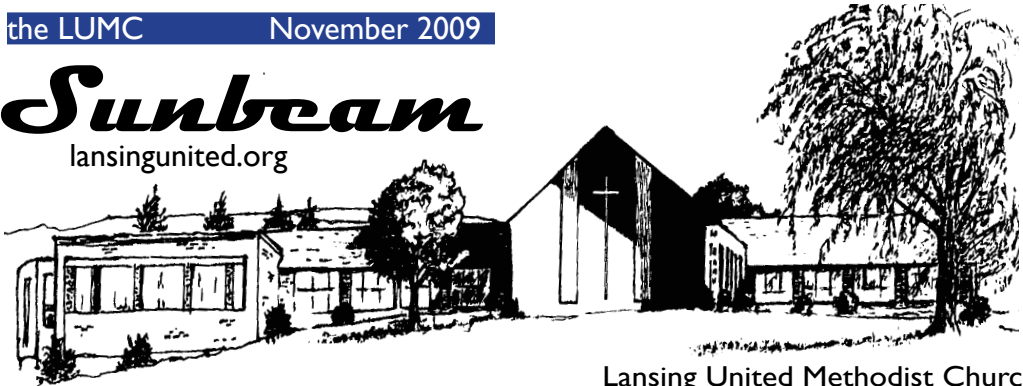


Please join us for worship at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday school at 10:30.

the LUMC November 2009

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



Let the little children
come to me....

LUKE 18:16

Children's Sabbath and Bible Sunday,
November 22



“Selfish” Giving

“People want to make the world a better place to live. They want to believe that they can truly make a difference for the better. There is embedded in us, it seems, a desire to finish out our work on this earth with a sense that we amounted to something. To sum it up, people want to be a part of something that changes lives.”—J. Cliff Christopher’s Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship

This month marks the twentieth time I’ve participated as a pastor in a church’s annual finance campaign (read about “Consecration Sunday on page 8). My involvement has always been significant but varied. I’ve written all sorts of letters and preached any number of sermons. One year I volunteered my cat to be featured in some promotional piece having to do with the campaign. I can’t remember in what way or to what effect. The cat was cool with it, so I guess it was okay.

But each of these years I’ve also participated in a more significant way than as part of the campaign leadership team; I, along with Dori, have been a giver. Each year we sit down and look at what we have available to give and determine what portion we’ll offer to God through the church. On the Sunday designated by the church we place our completed estimate of giving card in the offering plate. For me this action is one of the most significant and transforming acts of worship in which I engage each year. It grows me and blesses me in so many ways.

I shared this reflection once with someone who heard it with pretty cynical ears. “Yeah, well, you’re the pastor of the church. You’re

expected to do all that.” I made sure to set this person straight. “Only a couple of people in the church know anything about my giving,” I said. “If I wanted to, I could easily get away with doing virtually nothing. But I don’t because I’m selfish: giving adds to my life.”

That last bit about being “selfish” took my hearer by surprise, but I bet you know what I mean. When you and I give to our church, we take a stake in all the good God does through this congregation. We get to be a part of every Sunday School child’s Christian education. We help the choir obtain new music and the Trustees patch the parking lot. We help fund every worship service, food pantry distribution and Christmas pageant. And through the portion of our giving that gets passed on to the wider church, we send volunteers with Volunteers in Mission into flooded communities. We buy mosquito nets to keep children in Angola and the Philippines free of malaria.

Our giving connects us to all of this and more. It enables you and me to make a real difference in real lives. It makes us partners with a God who is always seeking new ways to bless and renew. And I want that. Don’t you?

Does that make us “selfish”? Well, not in the way we usually use that word. I think it means we have a soul that is fed on compassion and generosity.

Looking forward to feasting our souls in the days ahead!

+Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bin



Harvest Bazaar and Dinner November 7

Make your plans now for our Harvest Bazaar and Dinner. Shops will be open at 2:00 on November 7. Your donations of handi-crafts and baked goods are always welcome.

The harvest dinner will begin at 4:00 and run till 7:00. The menu will feature a full turkey dinner with all the fixings! Potatoes, squash, vegetables and yummy stuffing.

You can help by cooking, serving, cleaning up, and, of course, eating. See the sign up in the Narthex.

Prayer Requests

Judy Aguirre
Montas Joseph, Haitian guide and friend
Nick Howarth
Brent Larsen
Paul Lutomski
Mark Maciak
Larry Spiero

Mourning family of Betty Barr Lemmon

Rummage Sale: Thanks to All

This season’s sale proceeded in spite of dubious October weather with dozens of people helping out. Thanks to Ed LaVigne for heading up the sale. This is a service for our community that also benefits our church. We raised over \$9,000 for programs and mission.

Church World Service

Thanks to Dick Stark for heading up a breakfast fundraiser on October 31 to cover the cost of shipping Church World Service kits. In addition to assembling the kits, we are asked to provide a donation for each kit.

Church World Service Health Kits

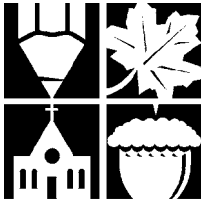
For the *health kits*, please bring in any of the items listed here.

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

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot

Meet at 9:00 AM at LUMC

This is a totally informal gathering of people who want to run or walk a 5K course on Thanksgiving morning. Bring a post run snack to share if you are so moved. Questions? See Joel Brock.



Worship in November

Last year at this time the eyes of the nation were focused on November awaiting a Presidential election many anticipated would be epoch making. Without the urgency and importance of a Presidential election, this November might feel much more ordinary than last year's. The only scheduled national event of which I know is the end of daylight savings time on November 1st (meaning we must turn our clocks back an hour). That said, you and I really follow two calendars: a secular one and a liturgical one. According to the liturgical or church calendar, November is actually an extremely eventful month, with All Saints' Sunday (11/1), Consecration Sunday (11/15), Children's Sabbath (11/22), the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service (11/24), and the First Sunday of Advent (11/29). For us each of these Sundays marks a deeply meaningful and transforming event in the life of faith. These Sundays give us the opportunity to honor our deceased loved ones, offer our financial gifts to God through the Church, praise God for the gift of children, join with other sisters and brothers in Christ in shared thanksgiving, and begin again to prepare for the birth of Christ into our lives. November turns out to be pretty important after all.—*P.B.*

November 1: All Saints Sunday. Read Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44.

November 8: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost. Read Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127 and Psalm 42; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

November 15: Consecration Sunday (see page 8): 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 113; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

November 22: Christ the King; Children's Sabbath; Bible Sunday. 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37.

November 24: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM at Asbury Church, Assembly of God, 2978 North Triphammer Road. Read Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126 (UMH 847); 1 Timothy 2:1-7; and Matthew 6:25-33.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent. Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756); 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.



Community Thanksgiving
Service
7:00
Asbury Church
Assembly of God
Triphammer Road

Counting Our Blessings

Surely one of God's greatest blessings is our children. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." (Mark 10:14) Every child is a child of God. Glancing around our church you will see that the children play a vital role in the Sunday worship service as they eagerly participate as greeters, acolytes, ushers, and singers. We as a congregation are more blessed because of them.

On Sunday, November 22, we celebrate Children's Sabbath. The Children's Sabbath is sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, guided by a multi-faith advisory committee, and endorsed by hundreds of denominations and religious organizations. The National Observance of Children's Sabbath began in 1992 by celebrating children as sacred gifts of God. This yearly event provides congregations with a reminder to renew their commitment to care for, protect, and advocate for all children. The Children's Defense Fund's Leave No Child Behind mission is "to ensure every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities." During worship, as we sing, pray, and hear God's word, we are

reminded that it is our sacred responsibility to protect all of our children. The theme for this year's Children's Sabbath is "Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow." Millions of children are living in poverty and they need us to create change today. "Creating a better world for children today brings hope and a better tomorrow for all of us."

Here at LUMC, on Children's Sabbath, we also celebrate Bible Sunday. Bibles are presented to children in the third grade during the worship service. We are asking parents to please let us know by calling the church office if you would like your child to receive a Bible. Jesus created and cared for the little children. Let us count our blessings as we care for His creation.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Children's Sabbath Mission Project

On Sunday, November 22 we will be collecting gently used books for the **Bright Red Bookshelf Project**. This is our way of caring for local children during our Children's Sabbath weekend. The Bright Red Bookshelf is displayed at the monthly Food Pantry distribution day and Food Pantry participants may help themselves to the books. Your donation of books can greatly enhance the lives of area children. Books may be dropped off at any time and left in the red crate that is labeled and located in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

Attention Parents: We will be holding our Christmas Pageant Planning Meeting on Sunday, November 15, at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Our pageant director this year is Cindy Howell. If you would like your child to be a part of the Annual Christmas Pageant that will be held on Sunday, December 13, at 10:30 AM (directly following the worship service), please attend this important meeting. More information on page 9.

Set your clock back!

SUNDAY
Eastern Standard Time

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Junior Choir 11:30
Jr High Hike 11:30

Kids in Action Now 4:00
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Worship 6:00

2

Staff Parish 7:00

3

Quilt Bee 9:30

Disciple Bible Study 6:30

4 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

5

Senior High Youth 7:00

6

Senior High Girls
Revolve in Philadelphia

7 Mens' Breakfast every
Saturday at Linda's in North
Lansing 7:00
Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00
Harvest Bazaar 2:00
Harvest Dinner 4:00

8 Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Christmas Pageant Meeting 10:30
Junior Choir 11:30
Children's Ministry 11:30
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00
Consecration Team 7:30

9

Trustees 7:30

10

Quilt Bee 9:30

Church Council 7:00

11 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

12

Senior High Youth 7:00

13

14 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
Red Cross Blood Drive 8:30-2:00

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

15 CONSECRATION SUNDAY
Worship 9:00
Consecration Sunday Celebration Brunch 10:15
Junior Choir 11:30

Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00

16

Food Pantry 3:00

17

Quilt Bee 9:30

Disciple Bible Study 6:30
Membership 7:00
Worship Committee 7:30

18 Prayer Service 9:00
Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

19 Operation Christmas Child
Wrapping Party for Youth 2:30

Senior High Youth 7:00

20

21 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

22 CHRIST THE KING
CHILDREN'S SABBATH—BIBLE SUNDAY
Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:30
Haiti Dessert Auction 11:30
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Contemporary Worship 6:00

23

24

Quilt Bee 9:30

Community Thanksgiving Service
at Asbury AG Church 7:00

25 Prayer Service 9:00
Church Office Closed

26 Happy Thanksgiving!
Turkey Trot 9:00

Church Office Closed

27 Church Office Closed

28 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
UM STUDENT DAY
Worship 9:00

Praise Singers Rehearsal
5:00
Fireplace Worship 6:00



30

Note: This calendar is current as of October 23. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

*November
2009*



*Lansing United
Methodist Church*

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the **New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program** as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. **New Consecration Sunday** encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every person who completes an **Estimate of Giving Card** does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend even if they feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

—Joel Brock, Chair, Church Council



Don't Miss the Fourth Annual Haiti Dessert Auction

On Sunday, November 22, auctioneer, Charlie Cuykendall will once again auction off delicious desserts made by Lansing's finest bakers. Serve them that night or freeze them for the holidays. At 11:30, participants may taste all of the desserts for a five dollar donation. Beverages and Hot dogs will also be available. At noon the auction begins with a fresh set of baked goods. Proceeds from the auction will support LUMC's missionary projects in Banique and Verrettes. It's a family event, it's fun and it supports two education programs in Haiti.

Christmas Pageant Schedule

The Annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 13, following the Worship Service at 10:30 AM. Parents are asked to bring a dish-to-pass for a luncheon after the Christmas Pageant, and a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party will follow the luncheon.



If your child is interested in participating you can also email the information to the church office at LUMCoffice@twcny.rr.com.

A Pageant Orientation Meeting for children and their parents is Sunday, November 8, at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Current pageant rehearsal schedule:
November 22, 10:30-11:30 am; December 6 10:30-11:30 am; Saturday, December 12, Time:TBA (Dress rehearsal)

Lansing Food Pantry Update

[Editor's note: I asked food pantry leader Nancy Myers how things are going, considering the economic situation. Here's what she said.—gw]

Lansing food pantry operations are going well. We have had two new volunteers, one from All Saints and one from another Catholic church in Ithaca. They have both been wonderful. They come in early on food pantry day and help set up and unload the truck and whatever else they can do to help. They both seem to want to help in any way they can. The new plan of not setting up on Sunday and just doing it on Monday morning is working well. It is the efficient way to do it. We served 75 families in September with a total of 185 people. It has grown but that was to be expected with this economy. We have generous people who not only donate food but money as well. In a past food pantry Matt Dedrick called to ask if he could donate acorn squash. Voila! He appeared with four bushels of squash. Life is good.—Nancy Myers

How to Help the Food Pantry

This time of year is particularly important for donations. Next time you're at the store think about:
Canned or packaged dinners, canned fruits or vegetables, packaged desserts and snacks, baking supplies, egg noodles, packaged rice, canned meat or fish, other assorted pastas, macaroni and cheese, soups, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit juices, powdered milk, baby food, baby cereal, coupons for diapers, bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, and dish and clothes detergent.
Or make a monetary donation and the food pantry people will take care of the shopping for you.



UMCOR responds to three emergencies

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is responding to people affected in the Philippines, Samoa and Indonesia following three disasters this week. UMCOR's top executive, Sam Dixon, says, "Our prayers are with the people who are hurting as a result of this devastation. UMCOR is committed to addressing their needs and especially reaching out to those who are most vulnerable."

Philippines Typhoon

UMCOR Philippines is working with its local partners including Action by Churches Together (ACT) and the National Council of Churches to provide relief to those affected by Typhoon Ketsana, also called Ondoy, in the Philippines.

UMCOR Philippines is distributing emergency provisions including bottled water, blankets, canned fish and rice. UMCOR Philippines anticipates expanding the response through local and international partners in addition to partnering with the Manila Episcopal area including local church disaster response coordinators. Support for UMCOR's relief work in the Philippines can be made through **Philippines Emergency, UMCOR Advance #240235.**

Samoa Tsunami

Four powerful tsunamis generated by a huge undersea quake crashed into Samoa and American Samoa. UMCOR's Domestic Disaster Response unit has been in touch with FEMA and with the California Pacific Annual Conference of which American Samoa is a member. More than 32,000 people are displaced and 147 people are confirmed dead.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson reports that there are no United Methodist Churches in Samoa but that there are many Samoan pastors in Cal-Pac and other places in the US. UMCOR is assessing the needs and exploring ways to respond to the disaster. To help people affected by the Samoa Tsunamis, support may be offered through UMCOR's US Disaster Response. **UMCOR Advance #901670.**

West Sumatra Earthquake

A major earthquake struck West Sumatra on September 30, 2009 causing major damage to the provincial capital of Padang and Pariaman District.

UMCOR established its field offices in Indonesia following the December 2004 tsunami. Country operations are based in Medan with field offices in Banda Aceh and Bireuen. UMCOR is working closely with its partners in the area, including Church World Service to assess the needs and coordinate an appropriate response.

UMCOR Indonesia continues to help those affected by the 2005 tsunami and the 30 year conflict preceding it. To support the relief efforts, please give generously to **Indonesia Emergency, UMCOR Advance #217400.**

Note: You have already supported these efforts through your donation to One Great Hour of Sharing. You are welcome to give further support by writing a check to LUMC with the Advance number noted.—gw

Lansing United Methodist Church Worship & Sunday School Schedule for November & December 2009

Regular morning worship service at 9:00 AM and Fireplace service at 6:00 PM every Sunday, except no Fireplace service on the Sunday following Christmas, December 27th.

November 1	Sunday School, 10:30 AM
November 8	Christmas Pageant Meeting, 10:30 AM in the sanctuary
November 15	No Sunday School, Consecration Sunday
November 22	Sunday School
Children's Sabbath and Bible Sunday (Parents, let us know if you would like your third grade child to receive a bible during the 9:00 Service)	
November 24	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Asbury Church - 7:00 PM
November 29	No Sunday School
December 4	Greening of the church, 6:00 PM
December 5	Christmas Caroling, 2:00 PM
December 6	Sunday School
December 12	Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal - Time:TBA
December 13	Christmas Pageant, 10:30 AM
Dish-to Pass Luncheon & "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party following Pageant	
December 20	Sunday School
December 24	Family Christmas Service, 5:00
Candlelight Service, 8:00	
December 27	No Sunday School

Help Send a Child to Camp

The 2010 summer camping season is a long way away for most of us, but for some children, summer camp never happens.

For this reason, our Camps, Conferences & Retreat Ministries has created the Campership Fund (Code #1705, in the conference benevolences).

This fund enables children coming from families who cannot afford to pay the full amount of the summer camp fee, to receive a Campership from Camps, Conferences & Retreat Ministries for the purpose of attending one week of summer camp at Aldersgate or Casowasco.

We try to serve as many children as possible. Each year between \$18,000 and \$25,000 is needed to fund this program. The bigger the fund, the more children are able to go to camp.

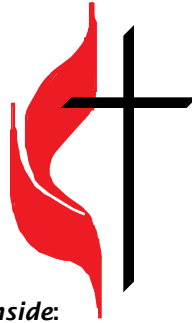
If you'd like more information about our Camps Conferences & Retreats Ministry, see Kevin Dunn, Glenn Withiam, or Bill Hinderliter. At the conference level, the contact person is Joan Newlon, at the conference office in Cicero (% CCRM, PO Box 1515, Cicero, NY 13039).

If you know a child who could benefit from this fund, please let Joan know at ccrm@nc-nyumc.org.—gw

Fill a Shoebox for Operation Christmas Child

Bring it to church November 15

LUMC's Youth Group is heading up Operation Christmas Child, which asks you to fill a shoebox with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. The gift shoeboxes are distributed in a hundred countries around the world (including the U.S.) for children who otherwise wouldn't receive anything for Christmas. Please include \$7 for shipping when you bring in the shoebox. Or feel free to make a donation to cover costs (you could fill the shoebox with money, for instance). Let's top last year's total of 51 boxes. Don't wrap your box; the youth will take care of that for you.



The Sunbeam

November 2009

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Worship 9:00 AM
and 6:00 PM

Prayer Service
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Harvest Bazaar and Dinner, November 7
Advent Begins, November 29

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: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com

Office manager: Laurie Moskow

To reach the pastor in confidence:
pastor32@twcny.rr.com

www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published each month
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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 November 15, 2009.