

Please join us for worship at 9:00. Sunday school at 10:30.

the LUMC

March 2009

*Sunbeam*

[lansingunited.org](http://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



Lent 2009

**Children's Musical**  
Paul & Co.  
March 25  
9:00 AM



## Talking the Walk

From the Pastor

While the family and I were in England on sabbatical a couple of summers ago, Dori kept a journal of where we went and what we did. She is an excellent writer, able to capture not only the details of each day but also the impact these experiences had on each of us. I find reading these entries does more than remind me of our time in London or Scotland; it actually deepens and expands my experience.

I share this reflection with you as a way of introducing our congregational focus for Lent this year: "Talking the Walking: Telling the Story of Our Life with God." The theme originates with the saying from the African-American church about matching faith promises with faithful actions. If you say you love Jesus, you've got to live as he directs—you've got to "walk your talk."

There's no doubt in my mind that this is true. But it's also true that talking about our experiences with Jesus enriches our faith. Indeed, as we "talk our walk," we often discover facets of our experience we'd missed. It's also the case when we hear others talk about their life with God; we're encouraged to look at our lives in a new light.

During Lent you and I are invited to examine our life with God and talk about it. Each Sunday during March a member of the congregation will offer a brief testimony or story

about their journey of faith. During the Sunday School hour Rich Flaville and I will be leading the "Adult Forum," exploring how four different Christians—St. Francis, C.S. Lewis, Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, and President Barack Obama—have talked about their faith. Like last fall's "Three Simple Rules" study, a daily devotional (written by LUMC members) will also be available guide us in our private time with God. Small groups will also be formed to provide interested persons an opportunity to explore their lives with God together. Look for sign-up sheets just inside the front doors.

Looking forward to "talking the walk" together this Lent!

+Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Ben*



## Goods and Talents Auction

Plan now to make your offers for the annual Goods and Talents Auction, to be held on March 29, at 1:00. Then, plan to come and bid high on offers from other church members. Baby sitting, a lakeside dinner—there's no telling what might be up for auction, but it's fun and for a good cause, missions. Who knows? You might be the one to end up with a valuable pile of manure this year!

## Gulf Coast Mission Trip

My trip to Louisiana for Hurricane Ike recovery went well. I spent the week in Dulac, about two hours south of New Orleans, "down the bayou," as they say. We had a team of six high schoolers and seven adults. I'll give you a more complete report in next month's *Sunbeam*, but I want to thank all those who made a contribution to this mission trip. By now, I should not be surprised by the generosity of this church. We donated \$573 toward hurricane recovery materials. As I'll explain next month, we did run out of materials in the middle of our job, and these funds came in handy. Thanks so much.—  
*Glenn Withiam*

## Prayer Requests

Clarence Benson, Groton Nursing Facility,  
120 Sykes St., Rm 213A, Groton, 13073  
Michelle Brantner (LHS Principal)  
Brian Cleveland, 7358 Cedar St., Akron, NY  
14001

Susan Davidson, 1812 Ridge Rd.  
Carol, friend of Karen Bishop  
James Hall

Hannah, friend of Meredith Czymmek  
Barb Hebert, sister of Karen Bishop  
Diane Hoag (cousin of Loretta  
Bidlespacher) Austin, Texas  
Michael Huber (director of Casowasco and  
Aldersgate)

Bonnie Huff, Judy Butman's friend  
Sheyanne Loveless

Paul and Sandy Lutomski  
Karen Lee Marquis, friend of Sharon  
Bowman

Sheryl Mattoon, friend of Barb White  
Lorraine Phillips's mother

Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.  
Dave and Beverly Restey, Lakeside Nursing  
Home, 1229 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca  
Tucker Rossiter

Marge Rundle (grandmother of Melissa  
Ferris)

Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd. (Groton)  
Helen Stoll, Groton Nursing Facility, Rm 117A

Shelley Uhl Stark's father  
Kylie Walley, friend of Anne Czymmek

Judy Wilson, 136 Searles Rd. (Groton)  
Charlotte Wilson  
Judy Wilson

Mourning family of Eugene Doyle  
Mourning family of Vern Hansen

## March Worship

The Sundays in March are a time to prepare ourselves to remember the Lord's great sacrifice for us.

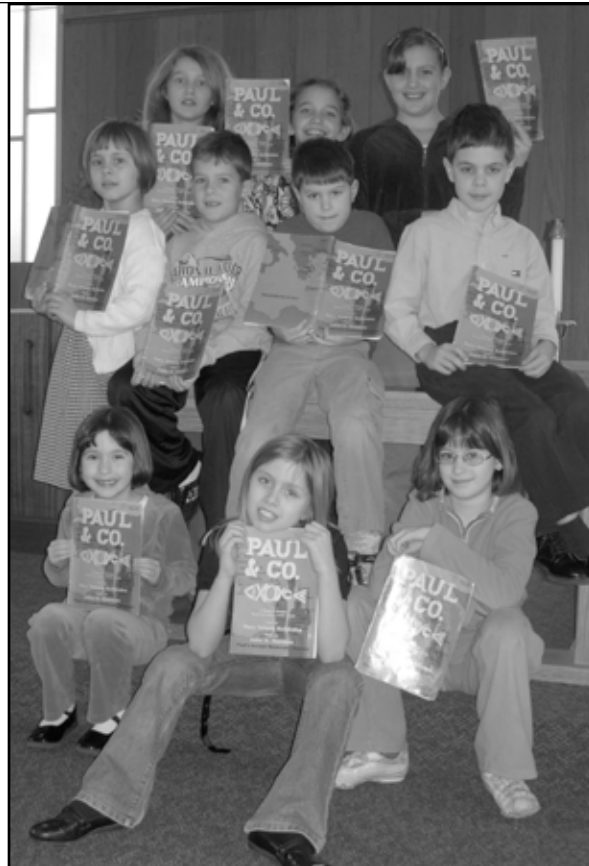
**March 1—First Sunday in Lent.** Our theme today is "Beginning our Life with God." In Mark's gospel Jesus' ministry begins with baptism. "You are my beloved Son," God exclaims from heaven, "In you I am well pleased." How did our life with God begin? What about our beginnings should we remember and reclaim? Read: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; and Mark 1:9-15.

**March 8—Second Sunday in Lent.** "No Easy Path to Follow" is the guiding theme this morning, encouraging us to explore the difficulties we find as we follow Jesus. Peter had a difficult time getting his mind and heart around the way of Jesus. How are we doing? Read: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; and Mark 8:31-38.

**March 15—Third Sunday in Lent.** Jesus was no pussy cat, especially when it came to injustice. Today's theme, "Christ's Passion For Justice," draws our attention his justice-seeking mission. What is Jesus seeking to chase out of the Temple today? Read: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; and John 2:13-22.

**March 22—Fourth Sunday in Lent.** "Christ Came to Save the Whole World" - that's today's huge topic, reminding us Jesus always had a big picture in mind when he envisioned the scope of his work. Read: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; and John 3:14-21.

**March 29—Fifth Sunday in Lent and Children's Musical.** Relive the second voyage of Paul and Silas in "Paul & Co.," by John Horman and Mary Nelson Keithahn. Paul and Silas travel to Phiippi, where they share the good news of Jesus Christ. Join our spirited cast (above) for a new reading of Paul's voyage. Read Acts 15:35-16:40.



**Note: Daylight time begins on March 8. Set your clocks ahead on March 7!**

## Lenten Offerings

Could we come together once a week (not necessarily in person) for prayer? Every Wednesday morning we gather here in the sanctuary for our weekly Prayer Service. The service is not very long and it's very informal, yet we feel it reaches folks and situations beyond the walls of this building. During Lent, we invite you to join us, wherever you may be at that particular time, whether in person or in spirit, to spend just 5 minutes with us in prayer. You know that where two or more are gathered, God is in our midst. Please prayerfully consider making this a part of your Lenten journey.

Did you know that the word "lent" is derived from the Middle English word "lente" which means "springtime"? Lent is a special time for meditation, a time for prayer, a time to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and resurrection and a time for renewal and recommitment to our Christian faith. Prayer is speaking with God in "spiritual communion." Reflection is examining our life thoughtfully. Lent offers us a time to pray and reflect quietly.

Find a quiet, secluded place so you will not be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.

—(Matthew 6:6) *The Message*

During Lent the adult Sunday School class will engage in a five-week study entitled "Spiritual Autobiographies." Please join Rich Flaville and Pastor Bill in exploring the spiritual journeys of four remarkable Christians: St. Francis, C.S. Lewis, Barbara Brown Taylor and Barack Obama. As we explore the spiritual journeys of others, we will be challenged to explore our own.


Speaking of our journey, the Lenten small groups will be meeting in homes throughout the month of March. The study is entitled "Talking the Walk: Telling Our Story with God." Weekly devotional themes include: beginning our life with God, struggles we have living the way of Jesus, standing by Jesus, seeing God's love reaching out, and finding God in the midst of serving others. Devotional booklets are available to be used as a guide for the study and are available in the narthex.

Children's Sunday School begins a new unit entitled *The Garden of Gethsemane*. Children will learn how Jesus, too, struggled to find ways to be faithful to God. Jesus found strength from trusting God. The children will hear of Jesus' time in the garden and his experience with the disciples. We hope the children will understand how this bible story applies to their own lives—where they can receive strength when they trust in God.

While we explore the offerings that best speak to us, please consider taking 5 minutes to make God a part of your day as we begin this Lenten season together. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Please pray for those  
in our armed services:

Ken Allen	Thomas Deis	Travis Potter
Mike Beaudoin	David Ferris	Nick Prabhavat
Richard Butler	Jason Halton	Josh Randles
Shawn Butler	Andrew Jacobsen	Matthew Ravas
Matthew Cornell	Daniel Jacobsen	Joan Sullivan
Scott Cowles	Trevor Judd	Adam Ward
Steven Cowles	Matt McDonald	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>1</b> FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 11:30 Confirmation Bible Study 12:00 Disciple Bible Study 2:30 K.A.N. 5:30	<b>2</b> Church Directory photography continues throughout March. Make sure you have an appointment.	<b>3</b> Quilt Bee 9:30  Staff Parish 7:00	<b>4</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>5</b>   Senior High Youth 7:00	<b>6</b> World Day of Prayer	<b>7</b> Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00  Children's Musical Rehearsal 2:00  NOTE: SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD TONIGHT.	
<b>8</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Eastern Daylight Time Sunday School 10:30 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 11:30 Children's Ministry 12:00 Disciple Bible Study 2:30 Confirmation Bible Study 4:00	<b>9</b>  New Worship Service Task Force 7:00	<b>10</b> Quilt Bee 9:30  Church Council 7:00 Membership 7:00	<b>11</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>12</b>   Senior High Youth 7:00 Trustees 7:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00  Blood Drive 8:30-2:00  New Member Orientation 9:00	
<b>15</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 11:30 Disciple Bible Study 2:30 Confirmation Bible Study 4:00 Junior High Mystery Night 5:30 (We don't know either.)	<b>16</b>  Haiti Committee 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight	<b>17</b> Quilt Bee 9:30  Membership 7:00	<b>18</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<b>19</b>   Family Game Night 5:30-8:00	<b>20</b>   Confirmation Retreat		<b>21</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00  Paul & Co. Rehearsal 10:00
<b>22</b> FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Food Pantry Setup  Paul & Co. Rehearsal 11:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 11:30 Disciple Bible Study 2:30	<b>23</b> Caregivers 9:00  Food Pantry 3:30	<b>24</b> Quilt Bee 9:30  Youth Ministry 7:00	<b>25</b> Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30  Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00	<b>26</b> Paul & Co. Rehearsal 6:15  Senior High Youth 7:00	<b>27</b> Paul & Co. Rehearsal 6:15	<b>28</b> Mens' Breakfast 7:00  Paul & Co. Rehearsal 10:00  Senior High Youth 1:00	
<b>29</b> FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 CHILDREN'S MUSICAL PAUL & Co. Sunday School 10:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 11:30 TALENT AND GOODS AUCTION 1:00 Disciple Bible Study 2:30 Confirmation Bible Study 4:00	<b>30</b> <i>March 2009</i>	<b>31</b> Quilt Bee 9:30	Note: This calendar is current as of February 26. For updates to all LUMC events, visit <a href="http://lansingunited.org">lansingunited.org</a> , and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.		 <i>Lansing United Methodist Church</i>		



### K.A.N. Is Raising Money to Sponsor a Child in Haiti

Our Kids in Action Now (K.A.N.) group started the new year by enjoying a fascinating presentation by Judy Hinderliter on the Haiti education and feeding mission. We learned about many of the challenges facing the children of Haiti and what LUMC and their partners in the Haiti mission have been doing for years to help make a difference in Haiti. Mrs. Hinderliter surprised us with Haitian rice and beans which we sampled and many enjoyed. With that came the sobering understanding that this meal, which is served for lunch at school may be the only meal these children have, and yet they share it with siblings who can't attend school by passing food out the open windows. Needless to say, this presentation gave us a lot to think about and made us very grateful for those in our church who work so hard on behalf of these Haitian communities. Then came the important question: What do you think K.A.N. can do to support the Haiti mission? That discussion resulted in a goal of raising enough money to sponsor an elementary school child for next year's schooling and lunches.

To reach that goal, we'll be asking for the congregation's help in a playful way. The kids of K.A.N. would like to make dessert for your Easter dinner. K.A.N. will be taking orders for Easter Bunny Cakes between now and Palm Sunday. For \$12.00, you may order a bunny cake, which will be a yellow cake, frosted with vanilla frosting, and decorated with coconut and candy to look like a bunny. Please fill out the form below and place it in the box on the storage cabinet shelf at Fellowship Hall, or call 257-0721 or e-mail theblairs@twcny.rr.com to place your order. (We will only be working from orders and will not be selling additional cakes on Easter.) We hope you'll enjoy having this sweet treat for your Easter celebration.

#### Easter Bunny Cake Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Cakes: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00

I would like to pick up on (check one):

Saturday, April 11th \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, April 12th (after Easter service) \_\_\_\_\_

Need to arrange an earlier time \_\_\_\_\_

(We will follow up with you to arrange specific times on these dates.)

### K.A.N. Helping to Publicize Food Pantry Grant Opportunity

Bunny cakes are not all K.A.N. has been up to this new year! We've also got a project in the works



to help the Lansing Food Pantry. Nancy Myers was our guest at the February K.A.N. meeting, and she informed us about how the food pantry works from the many volunteers and donations to purchasing food from the Southern Tier Food Bank. It was exciting to learn how far a dollar donation can stretch to buy food from the food bank for those in need. We also learned about a special grant program from the Shawn Feinstein Foundation during the months of March and April.

Because the adult food pantry volunteers are extremely busy running the food pantry, K.A.N. has taken on the project of publicizing this special grant opportunity, with the goal of making a difference in our local community. We'll be distributing a flyer through the schools, and sending out public service announcements to local radio stations and print media. We've also initiated an effort to provide Lansing area churches with information to provide their congregations along with an offer to provide posters, collection boxes, and transportation of collected goods to the food pantry. The kids have also prepared posters and boxes to place in local grocery stores and donation cans for local businesses willing to put them out for the public.

#### The Feinstein Challenge: How You Can Help

March and April are special grant months for the Lansing Food Pantry, and we wanted to spread the word to as many people in the community as possible. All donations received between March 1st to April 30th help earn grant money from the Feinstein Foundation, which has committed to donating \$1 million to anti-hunger agencies throughout the United States. This money is divided up according to a formula based on the amount of money and food collected during the challenge period. The more we donate, the more of this grant money the Lansing Food Pantry will receive. (See [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org) for more information.)

If you are able to make a monetary donation or donation of non-perishable food items, your gifts would be greatly appreciated. One hundred percent of your donations are used by the Lansing Food Pantry for members of our Lansing community in need. Monetary donations may be sent to Lansing Food Pantry, 32 Brickyard Road, Lansing NY 14882. Food donations may be dropped off at that same address in a special collection basket inside the front door.

Thank you for fighting hunger in our local community!

We invite all 3rd to 5th graders to join us for our K.A.N meetings: at 5:30 on March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7 in Fellowship Hall. Friends are welcome too! Please contact Bonnie Blair, [theblairs@twcny.rr.com](mailto:theblairs@twcny.rr.com); Sandy Dhimitri, [sd255@cornell.edu](mailto:sd255@cornell.edu); or Marilyn Paradise, 533-4070 for more information.



**Dear  
Brothers and  
sisters in  
Christ,**

I feel like I have been given a unique opportunity to write a newsletter article for two churches; both the Lansing UMC and the Fayetteville UMC. Geographically we are separated by more than 60 miles, but the connectedness of our United Methodist system allows us to bridge miles and work together for a common good—to serve Christ as one family of believers. I first heard about the Haiti connection from Peter and Carol Loveland of the Waterloo UMC. As they shared about their trips to Haiti I found myself saying I should do that “some day.” How many of us promise God a lot of “some days”? God calls and we say, why? I realized God is looking for the why not.

To cut to the point, my some day turned into applying for my passport, then asking my congregation to support my trip to Haiti financially and prayerfully. All along the way I prayed that if this is God’s will He will make the way. He did. My church family donated enough money to get me to Haiti and back with extra to go toward the mission.

The trip to Haiti this past December has changed me forever. I am not well traveled. I now live 45 minutes from where I grew up; I have lived a fairly sheltered life. I now know that in some ways the United States is like a bubble and the rest of the world is very different.

While sharing our evening meal at the mission house where we stayed, we enjoyed stories and jokes with the two Haitian high school boys that were staying with us. Each trip the mission team enlists some older school kids from the program to stay with us and help as interpreters. Without warning, one of the young men put his face down into his hands and began

to cry. After some awkward moments of not knowing what had triggered John to become so upset, Maxo, the other student spoke to him in Creole and finally calmed him to the point that he could again speak to us. He said he felt very sad because his belly was full of food while he was quite certain that his brother and sister and niece had not eaten at all that day.

Our light-hearted atmosphere of laughing and sharing with new friends while sharing pasta and red sauce had been abruptly interrupted by the very reason we were in this far away third-world country. We gathered our leftovers, pulled a bag of rice from our cupboard and sent John into the night with the first food his siblings and niece had to eat in over twenty four hours.

As we wait for our government to put the “bail out package” into action, and hear of people losing jobs, homes, 401k values.... I try to remember my new friends in Haiti who also wait to see: will I eat today? Will my school be open today? Will our town get electricity for a few hours today?

I recently have been thinking of how Jesus went about His work. Much of it was one on one interaction: the woman at the well, the invalid at the healing pool. None of us has the power, wealth or ability to solve a poor nation’s problems. Lucky for us that is far from the example that was set by Christ. God gave us Jesus to teach us and show us how to help the world be a better place by each of us helping one person at a time. That is a job we can all handle.

I challenge you to remember when God calls on you and you want to say, why? Try saying, why not. When we want to say, how, instead say, “Lord show me how.” There is still time to make a better world; it starts with helping one person at a time.

—Forever changed, your brother in Christ,  
*Jeff Haines, Fayetteville UMC*

## LUMC Pictorial Directory

Don’t forget to sign up for your portrait sitting for the new LUMC Pictorial Directory! Photos will be taken March 18 – 21. We will be scheduling remaining sitting appointments on March 8 after worship during fellowship and coffee hour in Fellowship Hall—look for the Directory Sign-up Table!

Pictures will be taken on:

Wednesday, 3/18, 10:00AM–2:00PM, and  
4:00PM–8:00PM

Friday, 3/20, 4:00PM–8:00PM

Saturday 3/21, 9:00AM–1:00PM and 2:00PM–  
6:00PM

Sunday, 3/22, 10:00AM–3:00PM

We are producing our own directory, for a cost of \$5.00 per directory. The photographer, Sue Sheerer of True-Life Photography, will provide a free 8”x10” print and have reasonably priced packages available for purchase.

At the same time, to be good servants to our congregation, the church must ensure that we have the most accurate information on our members. Therefore, we will also be asking you to update your contact and membership information for our church records during the creation of the pictorial directory. The church office thanks you so much for your time and attention to the small details that are so important to accurate church membership records!

## Lenten Offering

This years Lenten Offering will be given to the Lansing Food Pantry, with collection starting now through Easter. The Lenten boxes are available in the Narthex. Please fill up as many as possible! Since this collection will be received in April, it will count toward additional funding from the Shawn Feinstein Foundation challenge. Every dollar you give now is magnified by the Feinstein money. Thank you for donating.—*Ed LaVigne*

## A Note from the Thomases

Dear Friends,

Do you remember the old childhood taunt?  
I am rubber.

You are glue.

Everything you say bounces off me and gets stuck on you.

As amazing as it sounds our family has found real truth in that rhyme.

You have thanked us for being friendly and welcoming when it is you who welcomed us with open hearts and beautiful smiles.

You have thanked us for serving when it is you who were serving and said to us, please join us.

You have thanked us for leading when it is you who were leading and asked, please lead with us.

You have thanked us for burning brightly in your midst when it is you who are aflame.

Finally you sent us off with a blessing and while you sung it aloud we were singing it to you in our souls:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

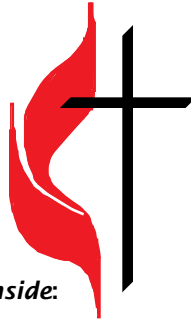
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Thank you for being friendly, welcoming, servants, leaders, fellow Christians, our friends.

Until we meet again,

*Stuart, Kay, Ansley, Meg and Hogan Thomas*



# The Sunbeam

March 2009

Lansing United  
Methodist Church

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Worship 9:00  
Sunday School 10:30

Prayer Service  
Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Kids' Musical  
Paul & Company  
March 29

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## Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882  
one mile north of the stoplight on Route 34B in  
South Lansing.

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Office manager: Laurie Moskow

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[www.lansingunited.org](http://www.lansingunited.org)

***The Sunbeam*** is published each month  
by Lansing United Methodist Church.

Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,  
at [grw4@cornell.edu](mailto:grw4@cornell.edu), or use the Sunbeam folder  
near the church office.

Deadline for the next issue is March 16, 2009.