

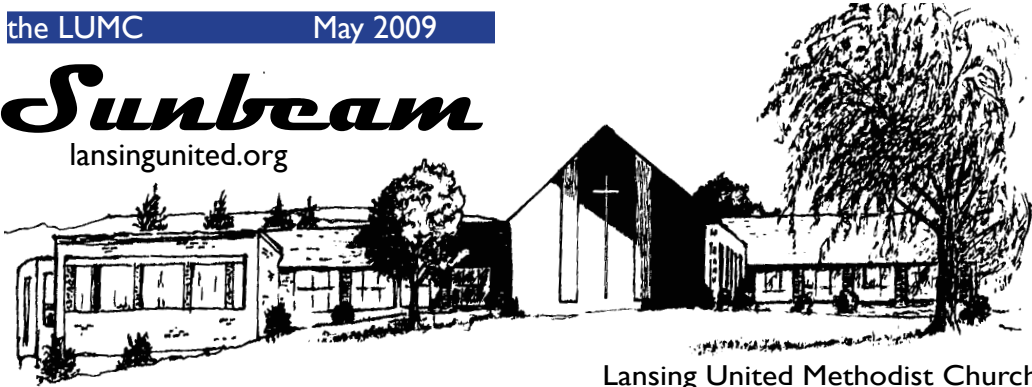
Please join us for worship at 9:00. Sunday school at 10:30.
Praise and Prayer at the Fireplace, 6:00 PM

the LUMC

May 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



Praise and Prayer at the Fireplace: 6:00 in Fellowship Hall



From the Pastor

Spirit-filled Energy

May is such a wonderful month. Outdoors just bursts with life. One of my favorite spots to experience this vitality is under the flowering tree of the parsonage front yard. It's a multi-sensory experience: the red pastels of the flower petals, the sweet fragrance of pollen and the pervasive buzz of hundreds of bees furiously at work gathering the nectar.

Another favorite spot to experience this vitality is next door to me, at church. As you'll discover by reading through this *Sunbeam*, our church is buzzing with activity this month, running the gamut from the Spring Rummage Sale to Confirmation Sunday. Although we'll have to be sure to pace ourselves and not become too busy (or buzzy?), it's great to be in the midst of so much life.

So, I'll see you at church this month. And if you don't find me in the building, come look for me under that tree with the bees!

Pastor Bin

Thanks from Church World Service

LUMC has received a thank you note from the New York Church World Service coordinator, in appreciation for the 850 or so health, education, and baby kits that we have sent this year. These kits are sent to people who need them in this country and around the world.

LUMC is one of the most consistent churches in donating CWS kits. They would like to know how we do it. We think it's the committed group of people who purchase materials for the kits, headed up by Peg MacKenzie.

If you'd like to become part of this remarkable ministry, all you have to do is donate an item or two for the kits, or make a financial contribution to cover the cost of shipping (and purchasing more items).

To get you started, here's what goes into the school kit. Remember, the only rule is, no substitutions.

School Kit

- **One pair of blunt scissors**
- **Three spiral or tape-bound 70-count pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" (or 8" X 10 1/2"), containing 200-210 sheets of paper. No loose-leaf, filler paper, please.**
- **One 30-centimeter ruler (12")**
- **One hand-held pencil sharpener**
- **Six new pencils with erasers**
- **One large eraser**
- **One box of 24 crayons (no more, no less)**
- **One 12" x 14" cloth bag with cloth handles, to hold the above items**

Mother's Day Basket Sale

On May 8th and 9th Charla and I will be selling flower baskets to raise money for the LUMC campership program. We will be on the corner of Brickyard and 34B. All proceeds will go to campership program. If you are interested in a campership contact the church office.

— Thanks, Rick Hayes

Attention all knitters and crocheters!

You have a golden opportunity to join me in a new ministry: the Prayer Shawl Ministry! I am putting my faith in action by knitting and crocheting prayer shawls to be given to folks in their time of need, such as health issues, grief, or loss of job. Prayer shawls have a long faith history which I am still learning about. For me the prayer shawl symbolizes an extension of Christ's love and grace, warming the hearts of those receiving this gift. Want to learn more about this ministry? Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Contact *Karen Bishop* at kbishop2@twcny.rr.com or 533-4744.

Annual Church Chicken BBQ

Memorial Day Weekend May 23

Spring is here and soon Memorial Day will be too. So, plan your picnics and invite the people, and we will have the food ready at the annual LUMC Memorial Weekend BBQ. We will again serve chicken or pork along with full dinners or just the meat. Eat in or take out.

We could use help preparing the food and barbecuing the meat. Signup sheets for food or work shifts will be up in the Narthex right after the rummage sale. Thanks in advance for your support.

Any questions, please contact *Cheryl Dykeman-Loveless*, 315-515-7220.

Prayer Requests

Dave Ackley (Sue Munson's father)
 Mia Avramis
 Clarence Benson, Groton Nursing Facility,
 120 Sykes Street, Room 117A, Groton, NY
 13073
 Brian Cleveland, 7358 Cedar Street, Akron,
 NY 14001
 Bill Cook
 Susan Davidson, 1812 Ridge Road
 Adam Frey (Cayla' friend)
 Valerie Glass, 2724 No. Triphammer, Ithaca
 Shirley Graves
 James Hall
 Nancy Hall
 Hannah, Meredith Czymbek's good friend
 Dave Hardie
 Barb Hebert, sister of Karen Bishop
 Bonnie Huff, friend of Judy Butman
 Sheyanne Loveless, granddaughter of
 Cheryl Dykeman-Loveless
 Sheryl Mattoon, friend of Barb White
 Pat Neimi, Lakeside Nursing Home
 Lorraine Reardon
 Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Road
 Marge Rundle, grandmother of Melissa
 Ferris
 Frannie Sampson
 1138 Auburn Road, Groton, NY 13073
 Teresa Sharp
 Jane and Richard Simmons (sister and
 brother-in-law of Peg MacKenzie)
 Helen Stoll, Groton Nursing Facility, Room
 213A, Groton, NY 13073
 Shelly Uhl-Stark's father
 Kylie Walley, friend of Anne Czymbek
 Charlotte Wilson
 Judy Wilson
 Mourning families of:
 –Marilyn Curry (mother of Lealyn DeChellis
 and sister of Barbara Curry)
 –Diane Hoag (cousin of Loretta
 Bidlespacher)



Worship in May

As you'll see from the notes below, we're adding a new worship opportunity to our schedule: **Worship @ The Fireplace** on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM. The music and style will be different than the morning service, but the Spirit present will be the same. Come and check it out. Please invite your friends and neighbors, especially those with no current connection to a faith community. Offering a warm welcome to newcomers is our top priority. On May 10, 17, and 24, we'll be discussing our response to uncertainty. In

these months of economic chaos, where is God? With personal job loss and our livelihood on the line, where is God? What do we do when all hope seems lost? If you've ever wondered about these things, please join us for "Where Are You?"

May 3—Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Morning worship (9:00 am): Jesus called himself the "Good Shepherd." What makes him so good? Come and see! Holy Communion will be served this morning. Read: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Worship @ The Fireplace (6:00 PM): Kevin wraps up a three-part series on "You've Got Style." Worship will be brief tonight so we can help set up for the rummage sale.

May 10—Fifth Sunday of Easter (Mothers Day):

Morning worship (9:00 AM): Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Worship @ The Fireplace (6:00 PM): Where Are You? Part 1

May 17—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday morning (9 AM): Reverend Rollie Ryan will lead worship this morning while Pastor Bill is on vacation. Read: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98 (UMH 818)

1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

Worship @ The Fireplace (6:00 PM): Where Are You? Part 2

May 24—Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday

Morning worship (9:00 AM): Memorial Day weekend. Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Worship @ The Fireplace (6:00 PM): Where Are You? Part 3

May 31—Day of Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday:

Morning worship (9:00 AM): As we remember the Acts story of the Holy Spirit infusing the early church with new life and purpose, we'll witness six of our youth reaffirm their faith and invite the same Spirit to infuse their lives. Read: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35 b (UMH 826)

Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

Worship @ The Fireplace (6:00 PM): Tonight Pastor Bill starts a 4-part series called "It's Personal" where we'll look at the different ways we know God. Tonight we'll talk about God as our Friend.

Mission Work: Finding God in the Midst of Serving Others

"Whatever you do for one of the least of my brothers, you do for me." (Matthew 25)

At the recent Ministry Fair various church committees were represented and shared information on how to become a part of their particular mission. With that in mind, if you are looking for a church that embraces the biblical call of serving others, you have found a home here at LUMC. Whether you are called to unpack bags of rummage sale donations; head south to Haiti, John's Island, or the Gulf Coast; or plan a meal for the folks at Woodsedge, you are a part of a congregation that believes when you serve others, you are serving God.

We have people of all ages involved in all kinds of mission projects. For example, the **K.A.N. program** invites children in grades 3-5 to explore and participate in monthly service projects. They are currently raising funds to support a child's education in Haiti (see page 9), and next they are planning to visit Woodsedge to help with gardening and landscape projects. The **Youth Mission** teams from LUMC and All Saints Church are actively involved in various mission work both in and out of the country. We have young adults from our own congregation who are spending extended periods of time in third world countries. There are projects available for any able and willing adult. The **Lansing Food Pantry, Church World Service** kits program, the local **Habitat for Humanity**, and **Helping Hands** are programs that serve others here at home.

In May we present reports on three different work trips by LUMC members. On Sunday, May 10, Glenn Withiam will speak about his recent work trip to the UMCOR mission at **Dulac, Louisiana**. The following Sunday John Aasen and members of the Youth Mission team will share their work experience in **Guatemala** (see page 10). On Sunday, May 31 Nan and Carrie Makela, along with the Dhimitri family will speak about their trip to **Johns Island, South Carolina**. All presentations will be held during the Sunday School hour (about 10:30) in the Fellowship Hall.

If any of these projects speak to you personally and you would like more information, please call the church office, and we will provide you with the appropriate contacts. These are just a few examples of how we honor God by serving His people. God Bless.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Paperless **Sunbeam**?

Instead of a paper version that arrives whenever, would you rather receive the *Sunbeam* more timely as a pdf file by email? If so, send a message to the church office, and Laurie will build an email group for the paperless *Sunbeam*. This might be especially advantageous if you live in the Groton ZIP code.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Confirmation Disciple Class 4:00
 K.A.N. 5:30
 Fireplace Worship 6:00

4

5
 Quilt Bee 9:30

6
 Prayer Service 9:00

7
 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

1
 Rummage Sale 8

2
 Men's Breakfast 7:00
 LOAP Banquet 11:00
 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
 9 Rummage Sale

Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting All Week

10
 MOTHERS DAY, FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Fireplace Worship 6:00

11
 Caregivers 9:00

12
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Church Council 7:00

13
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Choir 7:00

14
 Senior High Youth 7:00
 Trustees 7:30

15

16
 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

17
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 FOOD PANTRY SETUP
 Children's Ministries 12:00
 Fireplace Worship 6:00

18
 Food Pantry 3:00
 Haiti Committee 7:00

19
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Membership 7:00

20
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Choir 7:00
 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight

21
 Senior High Youth 7:00

22

23
 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
 Annual Church Barbecue

24
 Worship 9:00
 Fireplace Worship 6:00

25
 MEMORIAL DAY
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

26
 Quilt Bee 9:30
 Youth Ministry 7:00

27
 Prayer Service 9:00
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Adult Choir 7:00

28
 Senior High Youth 7:00

29

30
 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

31
 PENTECOST AND CONFIRMATION
 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School 10:30
 Children's Ministries Curriculum 12:00
 Fireplace Worship 6:00



Lansing United Methodist Church

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

May 2009

Getting to Know You

Do you remember the first person that talked to you at LUMC? Do you remember who reached out and got to know you, or how you got to know others? Do you remember what that was like?

The reason I'm asking is because I've been here for over two years, and I feel like I still don't know most of you. I see your faces on Sundays, but I don't necessarily even know all of your names or anything else about you. I don't know anything about your skills, your education and occupation, your hobbies, or your family. Your joys, tragedies, and walks with God remain mysteries to me, unless I overhear a conversation or stumble across a church record somewhere.

I mention this because these are all things I'd like to know, for professional as well as personal reasons. One of the integral parts of the Youth Ministry program here at LUMC should be interaction across all generations, and I often wish I knew more about you so that our youth could benefit. When I think of a particular program or activity that youth are involved in, I don't necessarily know who would be a good source of knowledge for it; my lack of outreach to you has been due to my ignorance, not my reluctance.

It's more than just the youth ministry program, though. After all, the church is more than

just a building; it's a community of believers. I know that we know this, but I still often question: "How does someone join a community like this? How do you intentionally get to know 200 people?"

Unfortunately, I don't know the answer to that, which is why I still only know the littlest bit about many of you. I know that most of this is my fault, and I apologize if I've ever seemed standoffish to you. Simply put, I often feel like a small fish in a big pond, where all of you know each other and your histories and I know nothing.

I'd like to change that. From now on, I'm going to be a little more forward in asking you about yourselves, and I'd appreciate it if you'd do the same to me. (Also, feel free to stop and grab me and tell me more about yourself at any point: I'd enjoy it!) Being in community takes time and effort, I know, and so I guess I just wanted to renew my commitment to you that I'm willing (and eager) to invest that time and effort. Thanks for listening; I hope to talk with you soon.

—Kevin Dunn, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Invite a Friends to Summer Camp at Aldersgate and Casowasco

2009 Summer Online Brochure and Registration

The 2009 Summer Camp Schedule, Brochure and Registration is available online at www.campsandretreats.org/. Here you'll find the program listings and descriptions of what will be offered at Aldersgate and Casowasco this summer. Online registration is set up and ready for campers to register for programs.

LUMC wants every child to attend camp! You do not have to be a member of this church. We'll help pay the cost, so check the brochure and sign up. Some popular weeks fill fast.

If you are a camper, invite a friend. The church will help pay some or all of the cost. Your friend does not have to be a member of this church, or any church. Your friend doesn't have to be a Christian. Your friend only needs to want to have a fun time among people who share the love of Christ. That's what camp is all about. So, think about inviting a friend to camp!

K.A.N. Kids Thank You

The Kids in Action Now want to thank the congregation very much for their support of the bunny cake fundraiser to sponsor a child in Haiti. Thanks to your kind support, K.A.N. was able to raise enough money to sponsor an elementary school child and make a significant donation to the canteen. Additionally, K.A.N. would like to thank the parents who helped us bake the cakes, the Moms who helped us with frosting and decorating, and Robert Acoff, manager of Rite Aid, and his wife Beth, for collecting and transporting the cardboard boxes we used for cake boards. Thank you all for helping us make a difference!

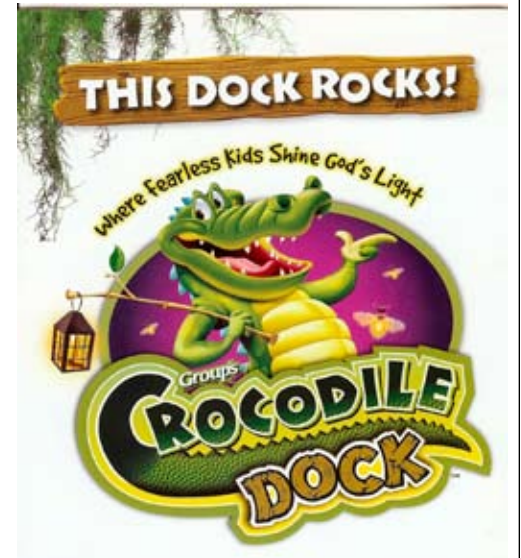
A Huge Thank You

On a Sunday afternoon early in April, a crew of volunteers (Peter, Marilyn, and Marisa Paradise, Mike Walter, Glenn Swanson, Nan Makela, Bill Dhimitri, Ed LaVigne, and Derek Overstrom) built a ramp at my home. I am now able to safely enter and exit my home. What a Blessing!!

Since my return to my home this spring I have been fortunate to have the help of my family, friends, neighbors, community friends, Nancy Myers, and the LOAP van so that I can make my doctors appointments, church functions, bible study and classes at Woodsedge.

Not driving is difficult, but because of my wonderful circle of friends, I am able to attend events.

May God Bless you,
Love, Mary Searles



VBS Rocks the Croc, or Docks the Rock, or ...

Save the Dates! Vacation Bible School will be held for 5 action-packed evenings from **July 13th- 17th**. We're looking forward to an unforgettable week at Crocodile Dock for kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. We need lots of adult and teen volunteers, so if you're interested in helping out, please contact Marilyn Paradise or Bonnie Blair, 257-0721.

Mission Trip to Guatemala

It was a sunny morning February 13, when Ed Pasto and his brother-in-law Bill Allen stopped by our house around 11:00 to pick up Martin and myself along with our overloaded suitcases. We were quite excited about going to a warmer climate for the next week to build stoves in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. It would be my third trip, but Martin's first.

Our next stop was to meet up with four more to add to the group, Chris Muka, his daughter Kelsey and son Nate, also his niece Brittany. The other two in the group, Norm and Linda Mayright, we were to meet at the airport in Guatemala City. We left Lansing around noon, drove to Newark, New Jersey, where we stayed over, and caught our flight Saturday morning, our flight was direct from Newark to Guatemala City. When we arrived at the airport in Guatemala, the Catholic missionaries were waiting to take us to San Lucas. The ride from the airport to where to San Lucas at least two hours. Along the way we could see the many sugar cane fields, with trucks hauling the cane to be processed.

Once we arrived in San Lucas we checked into our hotel, Casablanca, with a great view of Lake Atitlan. The hotel is only a two-minute walk from the mission where we would meet and get our meals. Sunday, our first day, we started by going to mass, then went on a boat trip to visit some villages around the lake. Our first stop was Ponahachel, then Santiago, after visiting the shrine of father Stanley Rother, a priest who was killed in 1983 during the revolution. We spent some time looking through the many shops with all of the colorful clothes, handmade crafts, and just about anything you could imagine buying as a gift. The vendors are very friendly and willing to help you find a good value to bring home. Martin was especially interested in the machetes and swords.

There seemed to always be something to do, or somewhere to go, one morning a group of six of us left at 6:00 am to hike the nearby hill, and a couple nights around dinner we played soccer



with Ed Pasto's sponsored family on a concrete field. Between working on the stoves in peoples homes we went on some local tours to the hospital, the new women's community center, the forestry project, and the local food market.

One afternoon Father Gregory gave a presentation on Guatemala, and how he became a priest there, with some history of the Mayan culture and the revolution in the '80s. We worked on seven stoves during our visit to San Lucas. Everyone worked hard to be as helpful as we could be to the masons, Carlos, Jose, and Julio.

The importance of the stoves is that they replace open fires in the people's homes. By reducing smoke inside, this cuts down on ear, eye, nose, and throat illnesses. The stoves are also more efficient than the open fires.

The people seem to appreciate our efforts in the stove project, we grew in our faith as Christians, and we were able to help our fellow humans improve their living situation a little. We experienced a culture different from our own but also with a similar Christian faith. We will do a Guatemala presentation during Sunday school time (about 10:30) on May 17, at LUMC.—*John Aasen*

Advance Giving: Sharing the Love of Christ

The Advance for Christ and His Church, a second-mile giving program, was set up in 1948 by what is now the United Methodist Church, in part as a response to the damage wrought by World War II. It is still going strong 60 years later. The latest estimate for total Advance giving since 1948 is \$1,201,211,569. Yes, 1.2 billion dollars. Ironically, when the Advance began, its organizers expected that the work (of rebuilding) would be completed in four to eight years. Hunger, disease, and war have been far more persistent than those foresighted church elders anticipated.

The Advance itself is a way—a channel or path—to reach people in the name of Christ. This way of giving does something that other no other charity does (as far as we know): it promises that 100 percent of the donations given are sent down the path to reach the people and projects for which the funds are intended.

The Advance provides a channel of giving to projects in 100 countries around the globe. Advance projects not only work to alleviate suffering and respond to disasters, but also work to address the root causes of poverty and injustice, and make long-lasting improvements to the quality of life through development and education. Moreover, The Advance not only seeks to improve the physical quality of life, but also the spiritual and religious quality of life by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church growth.

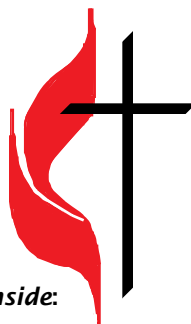
Here are some Advance projects, just as a sample of the diverse nature of this program. In Haiti, for instance, the Advance supports these projects, with fundraising goals in parentheses:

Training community health workers and goat farmers to improve their basic health and

income (\$40,000); Caring for children and families suffering particularly from TB, HIV/AIDS, and respiratory problems (\$382,800); Partnering with the Haiti Methodist Church to provide a clean, safe home for homeless children (\$73,750); and Providing farm families with Creole pigs to improve their nutritional intake and increase income (\$20,000). UMCOR also provides daily, hot, nutritious meals for children at Methodist schools (\$138,000), as LUMC does at L'Ecole la Providence and Banique.

Here is just a tiny sample of the programs conducted in the U.S.: Providing relief, education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and cottage industry initiatives, Oklahoma (\$50,000); Working to address the damaging effects of poverty among infants, children and pregnant women, Florida (\$25,000); Providing day-care, pre- and after-school programs for Navajo children of single, low-income parents, New Mexico (\$20,000); Assisting the culturally Deaf (those who use sign language) and Deaf-Blind community, Maryland (\$30,000); Supporting UMCOR's response to natural disasters in the United States (unlimited); Operating the mission that offers ministry to children, fish processors, and fishing crews, Alaska (\$14,000); and Ministering to the Bering Sea Fishing Fleet, processors, stranded crew members and workers, Alaska (\$20,000).

The full list is found in an Excel spreadsheet at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance/projects/overview/>. To give to any Advance project or appeal, just write a check to LUMC with the name or number of the Advance on the memo. Every penny goes to its intended purpose!—*gw from General Board of Global Ministry*



The Sunbeam

May 2009

Lansing United
Methodist Church

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Sunday School 10:30
Fireplace Worship 6:00

Pentecost, and Confirmation May 31

Rummage Sale May 8 and 9
Chicken and Pork BBQ May 23

Lansing United Methodist Church

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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 May 15, 2009.