

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM AND 6:00 PM

The Sunbeam

January 2011

Lansing United Methodist Church

lansingunited.org

Pastor: Jane Sautter • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn



“But let
Justice
roll on like a river,
Righteousness
like a never-
failing stream!” AMOS 5:24

**Human
Relations
Sunday**

January 16

(page 6)

From the Pastor

Later
by Ann Weems

Later
after the angels,
after the stable,
after the Child,
they went back...
as we always must,
back to the world that doesn't understand
our talk of angels and stars
and especially not the Child.
We go back complaining that it doesn't last.
They went back singing praises to God!
We do have to go back,
but we can still sing the alleluias!

As we pack up our decorations and gifts, sweep up the pine needles, eat the last crumbs of the cookies...we breathe a huge sigh of relief. All our planning and shopping and secrets worked once again! And yet, in the midst of it all, there is a sense of letdown

Later

and disappointment. The time of anticipation is over and now what do we have to look forward to? Gray, cold days? Ice and snow? Broken toys and books already read? Where is the awe and wonder?

It is so easy to forget what it is we have been waiting for in the first place. As we start the New Year, let us remember Emmanuel, God with us. Knowing that God is in the midst of all we do can give us renewed energy. We can pack up the baby Jesus from the nativity, but let's not pack up God with us! Let us watch God grow in us in the same way the baby Jesus grew. Let our hearts expand to make room for the newness of God within each of us. And let us remember that the Spirit of Christ(mas) is within us, even as the world moves on. Let us continue to sing alleluias!!

Blessings and Happy New Year,

Pastor Jane

January Worship Themes

January 2 **Epiphany of the Lord**
Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12;
Matthew 2: 1-12

What is God saying? Jesus is the light of the world!

January 9 **Baptism of the Lord**
Isaiah 42: 1-9; Acts 10: 34-43;
Matthew 3: 13-17

Beloved, beloved, beloved. We are all chosen and loved by God.

January 16 **Human Relations Day**
Isaiah 49: 1-7; I Corinthians 1: 1-9;
John 1: 29-42

Come and see. Discovering who Jesus is.

January 23
Isaiah 9: 1-4; I Corinthians 1:
10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

Get on board. Jesus begins to teach and heal.

January 30
Micah 6: 1-8; I Corinthians 1:
18-31; Matthew 5: 1-12

Paths of justice. Justice, kindness, live humbly with God

Note: All are invited to an open house at the parsonage, on January 8, 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Hope to see you.—Pastor Jane

God's Amazing Grace

You and I are accepted, fully and totally by God, now, always, without condition, without deserving, without question! We are cherished and loved. We are valued, honored, and respected. We do not have to earn or deserve such care. It is simply there for us, ours as a gift. This is grace. The word grace appears in the Bible 170 times. When we speak of God's grace, we mean all the good gifts we enjoy freely in life. "The gift of life includes the wondrous gift of being human, finding ourselves plopped down in the midst of the larger gift of creation. That is the bedrock of grace—creation, life, and humanness. The grace of God is given to us at God's initiative. It is an expression of love for us, of God's desire, of God's unconditional acceptance, and expression of the very nature of God's being."

As we begin this new year together perhaps we can be mindful of God's grace in our lives. We will begin a **three-week study** entitled "The Power of God's Amazing Grace" on Sunday, January 9, in the adult Sunday School classroom. We will delve into what grace is, how it affects our life, and how the amazing fact that God's grace is a kindness from God that we do not deserve but receive anyway. We will also take a look at the beautiful hymn "Amazing Grace." This session will be lead by Sharey Travis, and we anticipate a great discussion.

The children begin a new unit entitled "Spiritual Practices," on Sunday, January 9. The children will participate in walking a labyrinth. They will learn how the labyrinth is used for centering prayer and meditation.

They will be introduced to the idea of journaling and writing down their thoughts and prayers. They will learn how to pray in color! Based on the new book by Sybil MacBeth, *Praying in Color* is an active, meditative, playful prayer practice using painting and drawing as a tool for praying. These spiritual practices allow us to better understand that our faith is an active process and that prayer and meditation gives God a path and new door into our hearts and minds.



Third graders are invited to participate in a class on Holy Communion on Sunday, January 30, with Pastor Jane. They will learn that communion symbolizes the body of Christ. They will learn how the communion table functions primarily as the place where the Feast of the Lord's Supper is held and symbolizes God's presence in the church. It is the symbolic center of the church's life. The children will prepare communion bread for the Sunday worship service.

As we begin this new year, we invite you to take some time to reflect on God's amazing grace in your life. We pray that God's grace & peace be with you always.—*Marilyn Paradise*

For those who like to play in snow...

Got a snow plow? We need you to assist Scott Bishop and Pete Peters with snow plowing the church parking lots this winter. Please call Scott Bishop at 280-0961 or 533-4744 to learn more.

—*Thank you from the Trustees.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Worship 9:00	3 Disciple Bible Study 12:30 Staff Parish 7:00	4 Quilt Bee 9:30 Youth Ministry 7:00	5 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	6 EPIPHANY Senior High 7:00	7	NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 Men's Breakfast 7:00 8 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 Altar Flower Ctee 10:00 Epiphany Open House at Parsonage 12:00-4:00
9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Outreach 10:30 Children's Musical Organizing 10:30 Children's Ministries Curriculum 11:45 K.A.N. 4:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00	10 Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Disciple Bible Study 12:30 Trustees 7:00	11 Quilt Bee 9:30	12 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	13 Senior High 7:00	14	15 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight
16 PEACE WITH JUSTICE Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00	17 Disciple Bible Study 12:30 Haiti Committee 7:00 	18 Quilt Bee 9:30 Membership 7:00 Worship Ctee 7:30	19 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	20 Senior High 7:00	21	22 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
23 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Confirmation Orientation 4:30 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00	24 Disciple Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry 3:00	25 Quilt Bee 9:30 Finance 7:00 Youth Ministry 7:00	26 Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	27 Senior High 7:00	28	29 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
30 STUDENT SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00	31 Disciple Bible Study 12:30	Note: This calendar is current as of December 20. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org , and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.		 Lansing United Methodist Church		<i>January 2011</i>

Addressing our Expected 2011 Budget Deficit

In December, we learned that we were facing a projected \$30,000 deficit in our 2011 budget. Therefore, the decision had to be made to freeze all staff salaries for the coming year. To avoid having to make further cuts in programs and staffing, the Finance Committee and Church Council decided to appeal to the congregation.

We are each asked to prayerfully consider, if we have not done so already, what portion of our income in 2011 we plan to give to God's work here at LUMC in the coming year. In so doing, we offer back to God the "first fruits" of the financial resources entrusted to us. Those who have already communicated a pledge were also challenged to prayerfully consider increasing the amount they planned to give.

Remember, a "pledge" is an estimate of giving and not a binding commitment. We know that situations can occur that make it difficult or impossible to fulfill a pledge. However, the pledge allows the church to have an idea of what resources will be available to support the many activities we have at LUMC.

If you have not yet completed a pledge, or if you can increase your pledge, we invite you to consider doing so as soon as possible.

You can make or revise your pledge by mailing or dropping off your estimate of giving to the church office with the notation "2011 Pledge" on the outside of the envelope. Or you can communicate your pledge directly to our financial secretaries, Bill and Sandy Dhimitri, sd225@cornell.edu.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.—*Dave Stoyell, for the Committee on Stewardship and Finance*

Human Relations Day Special Offering

January 16, 2011

Human Relations Day is one of the six Special Sunday offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. Funds support the following mission initiatives:

(1) **Community Developers Program** (57 percent). The Community Developers Program is a network of racial- and ethnic-based congregations and communities throughout the country committed to systemic change through: advocacy, community organizing and development, economic development, youth organizing, and social action.

Through the CDP, congregations partner with the community to raise awareness and take action to heal social ills such as the lack of affordable housing, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, and child and senior abandonment, as well as provide transitional housing and economic development opportunities.

(2) **United Methodist Voluntary Services Program** (33 percent). This program supports community organizations that work through volunteers to challenge oppression and injustice and to improve the lives and fulfill the potential of those whom Jesus called the "least of these." Through UMVS, we are in solidarity with volunteer-based groups that challenge unjust political, social and economic systems which drain the energy and resources of the poor.

(continued at right)

"Clothes Horse" Gallops into LUMC

"The Clothes Horse" makes an appearance in the LUMC Narthex each winter month on the same day that the Lansing Food Pantry distribution takes place in Fellowship Hall. As clients of the Food Pantry leave through the church's front entrance, they walk by tables, racks, and hangers loaded with gently used warm winter clothing, baby to adult.

The clothing donations have been left at the church over the previous month (you can participate in that part). The tables are placed by Gary Travis, who also brings the bagged and boxed items out to the narthex. At the end of the day, items deemed good enough to save are stored for the next Pantry. The truck is unloaded and loaded by Food Pantry muscle regulars Paul Southard, Trevor Rounds, and Joseph Jones. Clothing that has been passed over twice is taken to the Ithaca Salvation Army store.

At least 25 and often 30 people take home items each month, ranging from just a hat, scarf, and gloves to those taking a large bag

Human Relations Day (concluded)

(3) **Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program** (10 percent). This includes such caring ministries as providing childcare, after-school tutoring, gang intervention, work with at-risk teens, outreach with current and former prison inmates, homeless services, emergency aid, jobs training, and more. The goal is to break the cycle of crime. Statistics show that children of prisoners are six times more likely than other children to be incarcerated at some point in their lives.—*Compiled from the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministry*

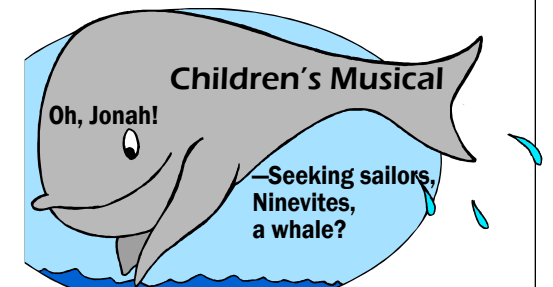
of clothes containing enough to outfit an entire family.

Over 30 newly crocheted baby blankets have been distributed at our November and December events.

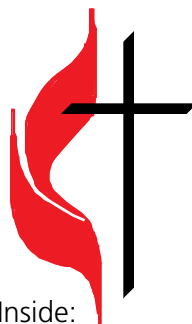
We hope to have The Clothes Horse running at the January, February, and March Food Pantries, so if you have some warm winter clothing to pass on, please drop it off at the church. It will be made available for needs right here in Lansing.

As our clients become more and more familiar with our project, they feel more and more at home with just helping themselves to whatever they or their family members need. Please continue to donate warm clothing! Comforters and blankets are sometimes given, and they are well received.

Our thanks go out to our fellow LUMC members who are making this project possible, and for the lifting and loading done by Gary and Paul.—*Harriet, Shelly, Kathleen, and Kate*



On January 9, immediately after the worship service, we will hold a brief meeting to look at dates for this year's kids' musical—focusing on dates in late March and early April. Kids in grades 3 through 8; please send your parents with their calendars to meet with *Diane Withiam and Lisa Ryan*.



The Sunbeam

January 2011

**Lansing United
Methodist
Church**

Inside:

After the Gold Rush, page 2

Grace, all for you, page 3

The Clothes Horse, page 7

Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM

Lansing United Methodist Church

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The Sunbeam is published monthly by
Lansing United Methodist Church.

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 January 15, 2011.