

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



# The Sunbeam

January 2012

**Lansing United Methodist Church**  
[lansingunited.org](http://lansingunited.org)

Pastor: Jane Sautter

Christian Education Coordinator: Adam Bacher • Adult Ministries Coordinator: Sarah Crossgrove

New Year

New  
Church

New You

(page 2)



WHEN YOU  
SEND YOUR  
**SPIRIT,**  
THEY ARE  
**CREATED**

AND YOU  
**RENEW**  
THE FACE  
OF THE EARTH

PSALM 104:30

## From the Pastor

### New Year, New Church, New You...

We often think of newness as being bright and shiny with or no dings dents, rips or tears, stains or spots. But we come into a new year bringing all of our baggage from years past...we never really start completely new. We bring into this new year all our worries and fears, our problems and concerns...our "issues."

We can, however, always start fresh with God. We can say (even multiple times a day!), "Let's start over," and God is ready and willing to take us at our word. I really like this notion. Sometimes, when things seem to pile up, it is comforting to know that God is waiting patiently for us. God truly wants us to be attentive to what God is saying. God wants us to spend as much time listening as we do talking. God wants the very best for us, but our very best would be to turn our hearts toward God in the first place!

We will hear a lot (at least for the next couple of weeks) about resolutions for the new year. May I suggest one? When we think of all the things we will do to improve our health, finances and lifestyle – let us also think about our relationship with God. Let's be intentional about letting God into our everyday life. Let's resolve to set aside the time and space for our spirit to grow in God's grace. Perhaps we will find that our other resolutions will fall into place if we put God first...G. O. D. can stand for Good Orderly Direction. May it be so! Happy New Year!!

—Pastor Jane

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**Editor's note: Welcome to our new staff members, Adam Bacher, Christian Education Coordinator, and Sarah Crossmore, Adult Ministries Coordinator. You can reach Adam at [youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@lansingunited.org). Sarah is at [SarahCrossgrove@gmail.com](mailto:SarahCrossgrove@gmail.com). A message from Sarah appears on page 3.**



### January at the Fireplace

**January Theme:** Jesus calls us to be his followers, not his fans. The fan can applaud and admire, but the follower is drawn into the way of Jesus and so is formed and continually re-formed by him.

*January 8:* Pastor Jane is scheduled to speak.

*January 15:* Ideas include steps you have taken to allow your self to be "drawn into the way of Jesus" and "continually re-formed by him."

*January 22:* Watch the Nooma video "Dust." In this video, Rob Bell talks about the significance of Jesus calling his disciples, and what it means to "walk in the dust of your rabbi."

*January 29:* Making the choice not to be an "arm chair Christian"

*February 5:* Super Bowl Sunday!

## From Our New Adult Ministries Coordinator

Greetings to all. I am so excited to be part of the LUMC family and begin my work with Adult Ministries and Outreach! I was first introduced to LUMC in 2010 when I joined the Disciple Bible Study class. What a wonderful outpouring of love to an "outsider!"

For those who may wonder—I grew up in Clarence (in the Buffalo snow-belt) and moved to Ithaca in 1990 when I finished graduate school. I currently live in Moravia with my husband, John, and two children, Courtney (16) and Jordan (12).

I am a life-long Methodist, worshipping and working for the church. I have worked for the Moravia UMC and currently serve St. Paul's UMC in Ithaca as well as LUMC. I take seriously the connectional nature of the UM Church!

You will find I am a bit of an introvert, quiet and observant—watching, listening, asking questions and trying to learn names. I look forward to hearing your ideas and responding to your needs as you seek and grow in your relationship with Christ—

knowing this is different for everyone. Together we can explore the Biblical Word, listen for God's direction for our lives and prayerfully seek new and creative ways to experience God's constant presence.

Over the next few weeks I plan to meet with both the Adult Ministries and Outreach Committees and set direction for my work. I invite you to stop by and visit while I am in the office (Monday 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM and Tuesday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM). You may also email me at [sarahcrossgrove@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcrossgrove@gmail.com).

I hope to see you in the Adult Sunday School class. For several weeks we will focus on the liturgical calendar exploring Epiphany and God's calling for us. It will be a wonderful time for us to get to know one another.

—Peace, Sarah



### Children's Musical

Which Bible story will we feature in this year's children's musical? Children and their parents are invited to gather **with your calendars (!)** immediately after worship on January 8 for a quick meeting to look at the upcoming children's musical.

This brief meeting will be to check dates for this year's spring musical. The musical is open to all children in grades 3 through 8 (and grade 2 by permission). Rehearsals are generally scheduled after Sunday School until about 2 PM each week with a few extra early evening rehearsals and a Saturday dress rehearsal in the last week. —Diane Withiam, Lisa Ryan, and Laurie Gillespie

### Prayer Concerns

Marion Bickal  
Ray Buckley  
Lane Grover  
Diane Pool

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p> <p>Worship 9:00</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Disciple Bible Study 12:30</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>EPIPHANY</p>	<p>Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry and Caregivers Meeting 10:00</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Ministries 11:30</p> <p>K.A.N. 4:00 Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 LUMC Men's Group 7:00 Youth Mission at All Saints 7:15</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Mobile Food Pantry 10:00 Prayer Service at Woodsedge 11:00 Disciple Bible Study 12:30</p> <p>Trustees 7:00</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>15</p> <p>HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive</p> <p>Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00</p> <p>LUMC Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Disciple Bible Study 12:30</p> <p>SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Membership 7:00 Worship Committee 7:30</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 LUMC Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Disciple Bible Study 12:30</p> <p>Food Pantry and Clothes Horse 3:00</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Youth Ministry Team 7:00</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Prayer Service 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Senior High 7:00</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Mens' Breakfast 7:00</p> <p>Habitat Build Day Sperry Lane 8:30-4:30</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:30</p> <p>Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00 Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 LUMC Men's Group 7:00</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Disciple Bible Study 12:30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Note: This calendar is current as of December 30. 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.</p>	<p><i>January 2012</i></p>		<p><b>Lansing United Methodist Church</b></p>

### Choosing Wisely

*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.—James 3:17*

Because we are creatures of free will, we make choices—lots of them. When we make choices that are pleasing to our Heavenly Father, we are blessed. When we make choices that cause us to walk in the footsteps of God's Son, we enjoy the abundance that Christ has promised to those who follow Him. But when we make choices that are displeasing to God, we sow seeds that have the potential to bring forth a bitter harvest.

Today, as you encounter the challenges of everyday living, you will make hundreds of choices. Choose wisely. Make your thoughts and your actions pleasing to God. And remember: every choice that is displeasing to Him is the wrong choice—no exceptions.

We are either the masters or the victims of our attitudes. It is a matter of personal choice. Who we are today is the result of choices we made yesterday. Tomorrow, we will become what we choose today. To change means to choose to change.

—Bill Thomas, on behalf of Lansing United Methodist Men's Group

Please join us at 7:00 PM Sundays.

### Planned Giving

#### "Coming Soon To A Pew Rack Near You!"

Look for a brochure on Planned Giving that will be available in late January.

Vital to our beloved Church and its programs is the idea of giving back to God. An important recent example is our congregation responding to the Stewardship appeal by making pledges from our annual incomes in support of the 2012 LUMC yearly budget. Those pledges enable our church to offer important religious services for the year.

Also in the spirit of generosity is planned giving—giving back to God from our accumulated wealth—in thanksgiving for all that we have received through God's divine grace.

The new brochure on this important gesture will show how we can make gifts to our Living Memorial Endowment Fund that supports new or existing mission works of LUMC. Planned giving can also be directed to the Trustees' Buildings and Property Fund.

—Dave Frahm for the PEC (Permanent Endowment Committee)

### Septic Project Update

Thanks to Steve Varga for replacing our failed septic system, with management by and Mike Coles. Now it's time to pay the bill, which is \$13,455 (far less than it might have been). Please contribute soon so that we can cover this expense. Thanks.

### Giving Tree Thanks You

Thanks to your donations, LUMC supported Christmas gifts for 58 children. That is 116 gifts to brighten Christmas for our neighbors right here in Lansing.

### Human Relations Day Offering

January 15, 2012

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. It supports 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.

(2) **United Methodist Voluntary Services Program** (33 percent). This program supports community organizations that work through volunteers to challenge injustice and to improve the lives of those whom Jesus called the "least of these." One UMVSP example found on the UMC website was students at United Methodist-related Philander Smith College in Little Rock. One Thanksgiving week students hosted a Faces of the Homeless symposium, volunteered at a shelter and soup kitchen, slept in cardboard boxes outdoors overnight, and collected food and clothing for 100 needy families.

Other lessons have come from a letter-writing campaign to lobby for tougher drunk-driving laws and public forums with consciousness-raising guest speakers.

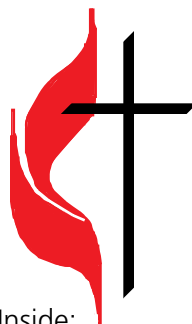
### Youth Mission on the Move

As this issue of *Sunbeam* went to press, the first of three groups were on their way to Guatemala. We call this program youth mission but both adults and youth are involved. Please be in prayer for these missionaries, even if they have returned by the time you read this. Other groups will be going to Guatemala later this spring. It takes an immense amount of planning and fundraising, so thanks to all for your support and prayers.

### A huge Thank You from the Food Pantry!!!!

What a huge year we had! It could not have happened without the help from volunteers. I will not name them as I would be concerned I would miss someone and everyone is very important in making this happen. I want to thank everyone—those who set up the tables, those who pick up bread at Panera, Tops, and Lansing Market, donations of food and money, Tri County Turkey Federation for turkey dinners, Lansing Rod and Gun Club, Lansing Schools for the beautifully decorated boxes full of food, volunteers who take food to the folks at Woodsedge, those who bring us potatoes, apples, and extra produce from their gardens, who come to unload the truck, and the clean up crew. Our numbers for December were: 85 families got food at the Mobile and 100 families got food at the Monthly Food Pantry. Thank you !!!!—Nancy Myers

(3) **Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program** (10 percent). To break the cycle of crime, this includes providing childcare, after-school tutoring, gang intervention, work with at-risk teens, outreach with current and former prison inmates, homeless services, emergency aid, and jobs training. The idea is to set children of prisoners on the right road.—Compiled from the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministry



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January 2012

**Lansing United  
Methodist  
Church**

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**Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:30 AM**

**Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM**

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