

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM AND 6:00 PM; SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30

The Sunbeam

February 2012

Lansing United Methodist Church
lansingunited.org

Pastor: Jane Sautter

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



Youth Mission in Guatemala

**First of Three Lansing Teams Works with
and Learns from Local Residents**

See page 8

From the Pastor

Being a Disciple

How many times have you heard these expressions, “I’m spiritual, but not religious,” or “They’re not church people, but are good people,” or “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are a good person”?? In theory, I find these expressions may be true, but in reality, I find them somewhat disturbing. What do they mean at the core? Is it enough to be good and kind? Or is there more to the story?

Very soon (February 22, to be exact), Lent will be upon us. During this period of reflection, we will be looking at the differences between being a humanitarian vs. being a disciple of Jesus. Through worship and study, we will look at “why” we engage in humanitarian activities and how that is influenced, shaped and directed by Jesus. We will explore some of the above expressions and discover what, in fact, they are lacking.

As we approach Lent, it certainly is appropriate to reflect upon our personal lives, but it is also appropriate to reflect upon our lives in community. Whether we choose to look at our faith community, our local community, our national community or our global community (or any combination thereof), there is plenty to ponder. Does discipleship shape us? How radical should discipleship be? How far should we take discipleship? How far should we let discipleship take us?

My prayer for us all is that we may truly be disciples in all our work and play. May it be so!

*Blessings,
Pastor Jane*

Work trip to Johnson City

You are welcome to join in the effort to help recovery from the flood in the southern tier. The plan is to restore one person’s home and then move on. We’re starting with Becky Bovier, who has worked hard on her home but has run out of resources. The LUMC team (which is whoever shows up) will plan to work on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, starting February 11. It would be great to have more people and more work dates as time goes on. Thanks to the great donation of time and expertise by contractor Leigh Marshall, we know the scope and cost of the work to get Becky back into her house. Next we will meet with Becky to pick out materials, and determine fit and finishes. Our general plan will be to meet at 7:30 AM at LUMC, carpool or caravan down to Johnson City, and work till midafternoon. Please join in. See Marcia Lynch or Glenn Withiam with questions.—*gw*

Where Is God Leading?

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. —James 1:2-4

Whether we realize it or not, times of adversity can be times of intense personal and spiritual growth. Our difficult days are also times when we can learn and relearn some of life’s most important lessons.

The next time you experience a difficult moment, a difficult day, or a difficult year, ask yourself this question: Where is God leading me? In times of struggle and sorrow, you can be certain that God is leading you to a place of His choosing. Your duty is to watch, to pray, to listen and follow.

Lord, sometimes life is difficult. But even when I can’t see any hope for the future, You are always with me. And, I can live courageously because I know that You are leading me to a place where I can accomplish Your kingdom’s work.... And where You lead, I will follow, Amen

—*Bill Thomas, on behalf of Lansing United Methodist Men’s group*

Prayer Concerns

Mourning family of Lloyd Georgia, Carolee Vink’s father
Christopher Bordononi and family, Nancy Cleveland’s nephew
Ray Buckley
John Davis, friend of the Butmans
Glenlyn, friend of the Butmans
Layne Grover
Marvin, friend of the Butmans

Bill & Sande Thomas wish to thank everyone that helped to clean the church in Gary Travis’s absence. All of us have come to appreciate and understand what has to take place each and every week of the year to keep the Lord’s house clean and tidy.

The Bible tells us: Each one helps his neighbor, and says to his brother “Be strong!” Isaiah 41:6.—God is good

Join the Choir for Lent (or Longer!)

It’s a great time to join choir. We can use any musician who is willing to commit to Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings on a pretty regular basis.

If you are interested, but would like a more limited involvement, you are most welcome to join for the Palm Sunday cantata, “Hear Us, Holy Jesus,” by Douglas Wagner. Rehearsals for the cantata will begin in early February. See Diane Withiam for details.

Endless Possibilities

At this week's Adult Sunday School class, a great analogy was made—on an airplane, if the oxygen masks deploy, we are instructed to put on our own mask before trying to assist others. Isn't that how it is with God? We must first breathe in God's wisdom for our own spiritual fuel, so we are equipped and energized to serve.

LUMC is a place of service and mission. It is what I first came to appreciate about the people and the spiritual energy which flows throughout. I also know this takes a lot of energy.

The question for me then becomes—How can I help fuel you to serve as disciples at your spiritual best?

The Adult Ministry Team believes the best way to answer this question is to ask all of you a few questions. In the March Sunbeam you will find a survey asking about your needs for spiritual growth, fuel, or journey—whatever term you are most comfortable with.

We ask everyone to complete the questionnaire and return it to the church as soon as possible. Yes, you will be getting regular reminders to do this!

In no way are we looking to dismantle current Bible studies, Sunday school classes, or any other group that already exists. Instead we want to meet you in another place and respond to the challenge presented by both Rev. Dick Barton and our own Pastor Jane.—What is our plan to grow in faith together and as individual disciples of God?

I am excited for the possibilities!

—Sarah Crossgrove

Adult Sunday School Class Update

I have enjoyed getting to know folks on Sunday mornings! The conversations are rich and animated. We begin each class discussing Pastor Jane's message then move into a time of Bible study. We have discussed how God knows us, and Calls us. Between now and Lent, when Pastor Jane will be leading the class, we will be exploring different ways of Listening to that call and communicating with God.

Jan. 29—Breath of God (NOOMA video and discussion)

Feb. 5—Protestant Prayer beads—a tactile prayer experience

Several other ideas for Feb. 12 and 19 are still works in progress. Keep watch in Church at Work for upcoming topics.—S.C.

Bible Readings for February

Feb 5: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Feb 12: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Feb 19 (Transfiguration): 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Feb 22 (Ash Wednesday) Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb 26 (First Sunday of Lent) Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Readings are based on the Lectionary.

Haitians "Pay It Forward"

Our Haitian university students are back in school in the Dominican Republic after the Christmas holiday. They have done well in their studies and are exceedingly thankful that they have an opportunity to attend one more trimester of college. The next tuition bill is due in April, and the tuition, rent, food, and books total \$4,230 for the two students who aren't completely sponsored. Please consider making a donation so that they can continue their education. Checks should be made out to LUMC-Haiti, with "university students" written in the memo line.

In the emails we receive from the students, a recurring theme is they are so grateful to God and to their sponsors for the opportunity to attend college, and they are committed to returning to Haiti to help others as they have been helped. Over the fifty years that LUMC has been sponsoring students, that theme has been echoed many times, and graduates are true to their commitment. Gerald Augustin, a child of a poor



peasant family, was sponsored through our program and became the Comptroller of Hospital Albert Schweitzer. He went on to secure funding and started a school for the poorest students in Deschapelles. Naderge Guillaume was sponsored in secondary and nursing school and now works in an operating room where she uses her training in anesthesiology. David Joseph began our program in 2nd grade, and now years later, is the assistant director of l'Ecole la Providence, the K-9 school in Verrettes. On his own he started a school for the children who can't afford to come to school. These young Haitians say that the example set by LUMC motivates them to give back to their fellow Haitians. They are living the Golden Rule.

—Judy Hinderliter, on behalf of the Haiti Connection

You Can Register Now for Summer Camp

Yes, really. You can go to casowasco.org and register online for summer camp 2012 programs! Brochures have just been put in the mail. So you should be getting one if you've been at camp, and all the programs are on the web. Casowasco staffers love kids, and as a camper you can experience an unforgettable life-changing week. You'll find out that God loves you and made you just as you are. Not only that but you could check out camps at Aldersgate, Sky Lake, Camp Findley, and Skye Farm. Each one is a special experience. Also remember that LUMC will help you go to camp. Money should not stand in the way, and we will send any child to camp. You don't even have to be a member here! So, you can invite a friend to camp.

For more information, e-mail info@casowasco.org or call 315-364-8756. It's a free call from Lansing! —gw

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**Lansing
United
Methodist
Church**

*February
2012*

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

2

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

3

SOLID YOUTH RETREAT AT CASOWASCO

4 Men's Breakfast at Linda's
in North Lansing Every
Saturday 7:00

Prayer Shawl Ministry
and Caring Ministry Joint
Meeting 10:00

5

Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30
Kids in Action Now 4:00
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00
Men's Group 7:00

SOLID RETREAT CONCLUDES

6

Disciple Bible Study
12:30

Staff Parish 7:00

7

8

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

9

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

10

YOUTH MISSION
SWEETHEART DINNER
5:00-8:00

11

Mens' Breakfast
7:00
Southern Tier Work
Team 7:30

K-6 ALMOST LOCK-IN
6:00-9:00

12

Worship 9:00
Sunday School 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00
Men's Group 7:00
Youth Mission at All Saints 7:15

13

Mobile Food Pantry 10:00
Prayer Service at Woodsedge
11:00
Disciple Bible Study 12:30

Trustees 7:00

14

VALENTINE'S DAY

15

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

16

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

17

18

Mens' Breakfast 7:00

19

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
Worship 9:00
Sunday School for Adults 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30
Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive
Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00
Men's Group 7:00

20

PRESIDENTS DAY

Haiti Committee 7:00

21

Membership 7:00
Youth Ministry 7:00
Worship Committee 7:30

22

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

ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE 7:00

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir follows worship

23

Adult Study Group 7:00
Senior High 7:00

24

25

Mens' Breakfast 7:00
Southern Tier Work
Team 7:30

26

Worship 9:00
Sunday School for Adults 10:30
Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Praise Singers Rehearsal 5:00
Fireplace Praise Service 6:00
Men's Group 7:00

27

Disciple Bible Study
12:30

Food Pantry and Clothes
Horse 3:00

28

29

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

Bell Choir 6:00
Choir 7:00

Note: This calendar is current as of January 28. For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

Youth Mission to Guatemala

Guatemala Mission Trip, December 2011

by Peg Stoyell

This past winter vacation time, The Stoyell family (Peg, Dave, Sally, Jimmy, and Danny), the Alexander family (Laura, Steve, Patrick, and Tom), and two Veiners (Karen and Ali) were blessed to be able to travel to Guatemala to visit the San Lucas Toliman Mission. Our group was led by Steve Palladino and Veronica Palladino. What a privilege to travel with friends! There are two more trips planned, so more people from both LUMC and All Saints will be traveling to Guatemala in the near future.

I cannot possibly convey to you the feelings and emotions of this adventure by using words. Having said that, here goes.

We learned so much about the history of Guatemala's people. We learned and were able to experience the programs that Father Gregory and the St. Lucas Toliman Mission have been able to start and foster. We got to experience a piece of the life of people living in the town, and people living in the mountains. We got a chance to see the coffee production, pick some coffee beans, sort coffee, and even try a new product they are testing: coffee wine! We sifted some rocks out of the sand and used wheelbarrows to move rocks to a needed location. We built stoves in homes for four families up in the moun-



tain community of St. Martin. We were able to tour the hospital, farm, and reforestation project of the mission. We heard a talk from the local doctor who runs the clinic and was born and raised in San Lucas. We got to visit the Women's Center (another project of the mission), and see the hoped-for playground area.

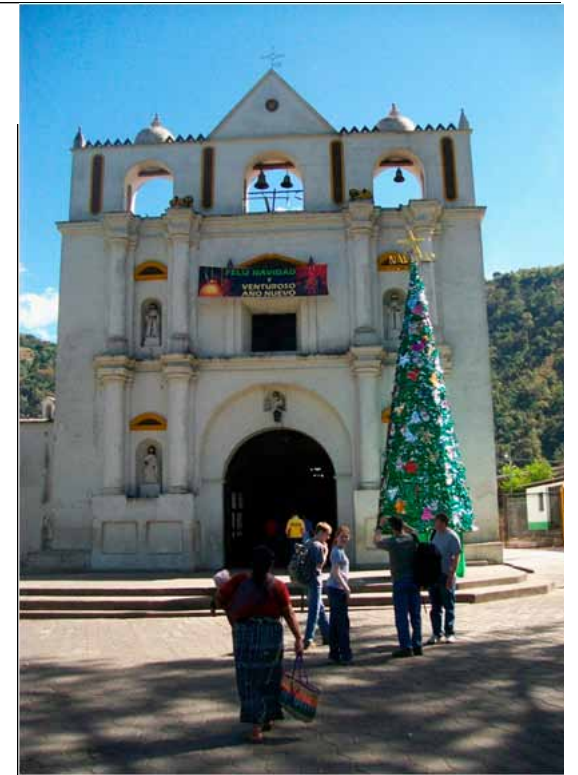
There. The activities have been put into a list. Nice, but I cannot possibly tell you what it means to **feel**. We loved the warm climate as we looked out over the panoramic view of mountains and volcanoes. I can't tell you the delight and fun of riding in an open pick-up truck up the mountain road as we watched a volcano smoking! How do I explain the feeling of watching women carry a large basket of food or clothing on their heads, while

continued at right

Youth Mission in Guatemala, continued

holding onto the hands of their toddlers and walking long distances. Or playing with children who are happy and energetic as they watch a stove being built! And then on our return trip to finish that stove, the joy of being recognized and welcomed by the children we had met! For some of us, there was the helplessness of not really understanding what was being said (good thing my family knew Spanish—I stuck close to my offspring so I could understand and communicate.). Did that feeling help me understand what it must be like to be given the chance to vote, but having the ballot written in a language that is not your dialect?

How do I tell you about being allowed to learn to make tortillas in a three-room house with a tiny kitchen? And I thought it looked easy--ha! What a privilege! How can I tell you the feeling of being allowed to try a few rows of weaving at the Women's Center? Someone helped me, laughed at my all thumbs, and showed true patience and kindness in sharing this skill! We connected when she shared that her mother had the same name as me. How could I explain the gut-wrenching feeling as we heard a woman (not much older than me) tell the story of when she had to hide her little children so they would not be killed by the military? And hearing that same woman explain how she saved many children through sheer guts and bravery? So many times on our visit, hearing how in their history, people have been murdered, tortured, and raped. People have been oppressed and discounted. We learned that Father Gregory was able to bring the mes-



sage that in God's eyes we are all equal. I am sure I will never know what that means to a people oppressed, put down, and denied opportunity and liberty.

And as we reveled in the warm, fresh air and beautiful scenery (really, it was like being in Jurassic Park! Even the weeds were six feet high with beautiful flowers!), we saw the effects of a mudslide...knowing that mudslides wiped out a whole community... between nature and the horrible injustice of political oppression, that realization that people there have lived a life requiring more

continued at next page

Youth Mission in Guatemala, concluded

heightened alertness; with not as many layers of protection. Yeah, I am always watching out for the safety of my children here at home (an anxious mom—anybody relate?), but that feeling of vulnerability was more raw and real to me in Guatemala. I now know the names and faces of children who may not have the same opportunities and open doors that I believe my own children will have.

Have you seen my head spinning at church? So much to see, so much learned, and a gut sense of having been blessed to have been allowed to immerse and **feel** this culture and people. It took my breath away. Before going, I wondered whether my money would be better spent by simply sending my contributions. How can I possibly communicate the felt sense of now knowing that I actually needed to be there?

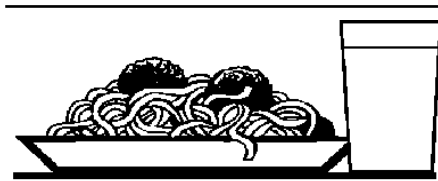
But the stories of hope and the evidence of taking some control were so clear in the mission—in the stories we heard, in the people we met, in the programs we visited. It was not a feeling of hopelessness, but a feeling of people rising above oppression, sadness, and fear.

Don't get me wrong. Even as my head was spinning I was able to do my part in supporting the local marketplaces and economy (shopping!!!). The beautiful weaving, ceramics, and artwork were amazing. Hand woven clothing...days of intricate work...and to know the people I met in the mountains wove the clothing for their families!

So now begins for myself and my family

that period of thanking God for this blessing, a period of sorting out in our minds and hearts what we have seen, and a time of trying to decipher how it will, in practical terms, change our lives. What will we **do** to be more responsible global citizens? We now have names and faces and impressions that can guide our hearts. It's different than pictures and stories. I can't wait for you to hear even more impressions from my fellow travelers. I know each adult and youth has his or her own perspective to share. I believe from any point of view, it was a fun and exciting shared experience as well as a personal inward journey. I wish you could all have this amazing, thought-provoking experience.

—Peg Stoyell



Sweetheart Dinner

February 10, 5:00-8:00

You can support youth mission and have a lovely dinner at the same time by planning to go to the sweetheart dinner. The youth mission team will convert the LUMC fellowship hall into a warm, friendly pasta restaurant. Plan to attend.

Church World Service Kits

Collection of items for the Church World Service Kits continues throughout the year. You can make your donation any time. This is a case where a little here and there adds up to a lot when it's all collected in one place. The only rule is, no substitutions, due to international shipping rules. If you don't want to go shopping, you can always donate cash, to help with shipping costs.

School Kits

- 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

Baby Kit

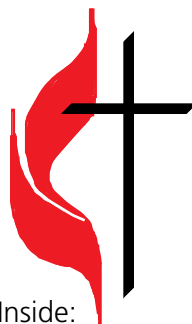
- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Remember, all items should be new.

Health Kits

- One hand towel (about 16" by 28", not a fingertip or a bath towel)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One bath size bar of soap, in wrapper
- One toothbrush, in original packaging
- Six Band-aids
- \$1 to buy toothpaste later

Regarding the toothpaste, instead of donating tubes that may go out of date, donate a buck to cover the cost of buying a fresh tube just as the kit is actually distributed.



The Sunbeam

February 2012

**Lansing United
Methodist
Church**

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Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

Fireplace Praise Service 6:00 PM

Lansing United Methodist Church

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam, editor,
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near the church office.

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