



The Sunbeam September 2017

Lansing United Methodist Church

Worship IN THE PARK 9:30 AM

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Christian Education Coordinator: Kevin Klippel

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner



LUMC Construction Continues Steadily

**Current Anticipated Sanctuary
Move-in Date: October 1**

See you in the park for September!

From the Pastor

Renovate

This summer, in addition to constructing a new wing, Lansing United Methodist Church has been renovating the existing structure. For many weeks, changes were subtle: dirt was moved, pipes were placed, and concrete was poured. Then work became more noticeable: walls went up, and a roof was created. As the new building took shape, the process generated questions that I associate with summer road trips: Are we there yet? How much longer? Tentatively, worship will return to the sanctuary on October 1.

Interior work, although often invisible from the outside, is crucial. Rooms need doors, lights, and air handlers. Classrooms need electricity, internet, and carpeting. The kitchen needs appliances, and the bathrooms need new plumbing. Safety systems must be operational for us to receive a Certificate of Occupancy.

Jesus warned his followers about outward appearances that do not match inward realities (Matthew 23:25-27). When we return to the sanctuary hopefully on October 1, we will begin a worship series called Renovate. The premise of Renovate is that it is of little benefit to renovate church facilities without also spiritually renewing the congregation.

The work of interior renovation of human beings is not a do-it-yourself project. Our renovation comes through our relationship with God and each other. Christian friends provide the spiritual support and encouragement we need for spiritual renovations on our lives. That's why I hope you'll step out of your comfort zone into a small group to help spiritually renovate our congregation this fall.

Echoing Paul's words to the church at Philippi, I am confident that God will not leave our spiritual development unfinished: *"I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 1:6)

Blessings,
Pastor Alison

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 10, 9:30 a.m.

Back to school time is here!! Children and youth are invited to bring their backpack to worship in the park on September 10 for a blessing of the backpacks!

Note: Kevin Klippel will be leaving the Christian Education Coordinator position in mid-September. Let's give him thanks for a job well done and bid him farewell on September 10, after church in the park.

Beginning in September...

Senior High Youth Group

Begins September 15, 6:00 p.m.

The first Senior High youth group, for students in grades 9 through 12, will take place Friday, September 15, at 6:00 p.m. We'll be going on a field trip! Place TBA, so keep an eye out for details!

Kids in Action Now

KAN is having their first meeting September 10, from 5:30-7:00 p.m., location TBD.

Junior High Youth Group

If you are in 7th and 8th grade, we would love to have you join us for Jr. High Youth Group! We will be meeting in the Adult Classroom at LUMC on Friday nights, time to be determined. This is a time for fun, faith, and fellowship! Through awesome theme nights that feature games, object lessons, crafts, music, service projects, and Bible study, you will have the opportunity to be part of exploring who God is and the relationship that He wants with YOU! Pirate Night, D.O.T.S. Night, and Candy Land Night are just a few of the many fun-filled and meaningful themes we will be exploring this year. We can't wait to see the 8th graders again and welcome a new crew of 7th graders to our group! You will be receiving a letter in the mail as September quickly approaches with all of the details of our start date, time, and first theme. It's going to be a wonderful year and we can't wait to share it with you!!—Debbie Geise and Bill Dhimitri

Sunday School Begins in the Park!

Sunday school registration for all ages (including adults) will take place Sunday, September 10, after worship. Ice cream will be served! Adult Sunday school classes start September 10, and children's Sunday school will begin on September 17. Youth Sunday school is TBA.

Adult Ministries

Thank you to Pastor Alison, the SPRC, and the LUMC Congregation for the opportunity to worship with the Forest Home UMC on Sunday, August 13. I experienced a rich and timely sermon, entitled, "To Live with Compassion," from Carolyn McPherson, who eloquently reminded us that we have the opportunity to shape the world and our experience every day, by how we treat others.

The "Do unto others" message is more relevant than ever. We were invited to remember that compassion is a global issue, held not only by Christians, but all of the world's major religions. From the bulletin:

Major Religions the Golden Rule www.weekofcompassion.org

Christianity: In everything do to others as you would have them do to you. ~
Gospel of Matthew

Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not do to others. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. ~ *The Talmud*

Islam: No one of you is a believer until they desire for their brother or sister that which they desire for themselves. ~ *Hadith*

Buddhism: Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. ~ *Udana-Varga*

Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: do nothing to others which if done to you would cause you pain. ~ *The Mahabharata*

In addition to a great sermon, I was doubly blessed with the opportunity to enjoy the musical stylings of Jack Reid, who was serving as the guest organist. What a treat!

I also learned of their great mission and passion for Adult literacy. Want to meet some UMC neighbors? On September 10, the Forest Home UMC Congregation will support Karaoke for a Cause, a fundraiser for Tompkins Learning Partners. TLP helps adults (U.S. Citizens, residents, immigrants and refugees) who live or work in Tompkins County meet their personal goals, free of charge, by improving their ability to read, write, speak English, learn math, and use computers.

If you would like more information on how you can support adult literacy in Tompkins County, visit www.TLPKaraoke.org.—*Karen Veaner*

Retreat Opportunities

September 15–16: United Methodist Men's Retreat—Casowasco

September 21–24: Quilt by Faith/Adults—Casowasco

September 29–October 1: Craft & Quilt Retreat/Women—Asbury

October 6–8: "Ladies of the Lake"—Sky Lake

Camp and Retreat catalogues are available in the church office. Learn more about the content and cost of these retreats at: www.campsandretreats.org

Sunday School Registration: September 10

Sunday school registration for all ages will be Sunday, September 10 after worship. Adult classes start September 10 and children's classes start September 17. Stay tuned for youth Sunday school schedules.

Adult Sunday School

Two Adult Sunday school groups will meet in Myers Park, September 10 and 17 from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

Following Fellowship Time, each class will meet at a picnic table under the pavilion.

Listening: Reflections by the Water, with shared leadership

Be still and know that I am God – Psalm 46:10

Join us for a time of Holy awareness.

The Wired Word with Judy Hinderliter

Confront world news with scripture and hope. The Wired Word pulls topics straight from the headlines and offers thought provoking questions to encourage us to dig deeper. Join in a rich discussion of current events in relation to scripture and everyday life.

Discussing Mere Christianity

In February 1941, a letter arrived from the British Broadcasting Service asking C.S. Lewis to provide a series of talks to help with the work of religious broadcasting. In 1952, his talks, which were immensely popular, were collected in the classic entitled *Mere Christianity*. This fall in an 8-week class, we have an opportunity to look at these talks Lewis gave to examine not the issues which divide us, but the issues that we, as Christians, can all agree on. Alister McGrath, Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford University, sums up Lewis's point: "God doesn't just tell us what is right. He helps us to live out the good life." The first in the video series can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcQ70cPYcB8>

More information will be coming soon. Please look for a doodle poll to establish interest, times, and places.

Church World Service

School Supply Donations Needed

Church World Service school kits help children attend school. Look for spiral notebooks, crayons, and scissors, as well as pencils, rulers (with metric,) erasers, and pencil sharpeners. Thanks to Janet Keefe, we still have plenty of tote bags! A donation bin is located in the hallway near Pastor Alison's office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. For more information, please call Peg MacKensie at 522-4432. Thank you!

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Lansing United
Methodist
Church

September
2017

					1	2 Men's Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00	
3 Worship 9:30 CHURCH IN THE PARK	4 LABOR DAY	5 Needleworkers Group 10:00 Ladies in Faith Together (LIFT) 6:30 Crossroads	6 Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 See Sharon or Diane for Temporary Rehearsal Location	7	8	9 Mens' Breakfast 7:00 LUMC Kazoo Band Lineup 9:30 Lansing Bicentennial Parade 10:30	
10 Worship 9:30 CHURCH IN THE PARK BLESSING OF THE BACKBACKS Sunday School Registration 10:30 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Farewell to Kevin Klippel	11 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen 7:00	12 Needleworkers Group 10:00	13 Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 See Sharon or Diane for Temporary Rehearsal Location	14 Staff Parish 7:00	15 Senior High Youth Group 6:00 Sunbeam Deadline Midnight	16 Men's Breakfast 7:00	
17 Worship 9:30 CHURCH IN THE PARK Adult Sunday School 11:00 District Prayer Meeting 2:30 Milo Center Rescue Mission Dinner 3:00 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive Bring items to church at handicap parking sign	18 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30	19 Needleworkers Group 10:00	20 Adult Mission to Atlantic City		21	22	23 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
24 Worship 9:30 CHILDREN'S SABBATH CHURCH IN THE PARK	25 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Wingmen 7:00	26 Needleworkers Group 10:00 Bishop's Meeting on A Way Forward 6:30 Seneca Falls UMC	27 Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 See Sharon or Diane for Temporary Rehearsal Location	28 Interfaith Dish-to-Pass Dinner 6:00 Location to Be Announced Stay tuned!	29	30 Mens' Breakfast 7:00	

Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality:

Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness

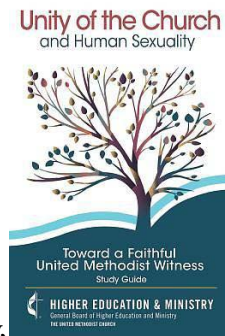
Last fall, it was a significant challenge for two dozen Lansing United Methodists to agree on colors and finishes for our new building. After two meetings spanning more than six hours of intense conversation, we finally chose options from the interior decorator's suggestions. Participatory self-governance is time consuming!

Getting 12.8 million United Methodists in 125 countries to agree on anything is next to impossible. In particular, church members interpret scripture differently, especially as it relates to homosexuality. This ongoing disagreement led to impasse at the General Conference in summer 2016.

Since the 1970s, every meeting of the General Conference has been presented with resolutions related to welcoming "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" into the life of the church. Specifically, the resolutions have challenged the UMC to change its polity in order to allow (1) United Methodist clergy to officiate same-sex marriages, and (2) "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" to be ordained and employed in leadership positions within the church. These attempts to make the UMC open and affirming to homosexuals have been defeated. Even a resolution indicating that "faithful United Methodists are not of one mind" on this issue was defeated.

In 2016, the General Conference asked the Council of Bishops to take leadership to move the church beyond the current impasse. The Council of Bishops appointed a "Commission on a Way Forward" to study the issue and present a recommended way forward at a special General Conference Session in spring 2019.

"The Commission on a Way Forward was convened to "design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality, but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition." (umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-about-us).



continued at right

Church Unity, concluded

The Commission on a Way Forward has met four times, and on July 26 released a summary of their work as of that date, posted here: <http://www.umc.org/wayforward>.

A small group from Lansing UMC is discussing our understanding of these issues. We started with a study guide *Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness*, which is available for purchase from Cokesbury.com. If you would like to join this conversation, contact Pastor Alison (alison.schmied@gmail.com or (607) 533-4070).

Praying for Our Church, Our Denomination, Our Nation

Our Finger Lakes District Superintendent, Jeff McDowell, and District Lay Leader, Shafeegh Habeeb, invite you to a guided prayer meeting Sunday, September 17, at 2:30 p.m. at Milo Center UMC (1421 Milo Center Rd, Penn Yan, NY 14527).

Rev. McDowell writes: "We will be in prayer together for 1 hour, leaving time open afterward for people to continue in prayer in the sanctuary, or fellowship over light refreshments with one another in the fellowship hall."

This prayer event (and others like it) are a local response to the initiative of the Council of Bishops called Praying Our Way Forward. We are called to a posture of prayer, praying for God's leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission of the church. All are invited, all across the global United Methodist denomination—clergy and laity, conferences, and congregations—to pray for God's guidance.

In prayer, we can be one in Christ, even as we contemplate issues on which we disagree. The Upper Room has developed UMCprays.org, a website where spiritual leaders and intercessors can share prayers, information, and resources.

If you would like to carpool to the prayer meeting, contact the church office (607-533-4070).

LUMC Kazoo Band Sept. 9

Please join the LUMC kazoo band for the Lansing Bicentennial Parade in South Lansing on Sept. 9 (gather at 9:30 a.m., march at 10:30). Stay tuned for more info....No musical talent necessary! Rehearse on September 3, after worship. Kazoos provided!



Choirs at LUMC

Adult Choir resumes in September. The door is always open to singers who are high school age or older. We rehearse each Wednesday evening (7-8:30 p.m.) and sing in worship service almost every Sunday morning from the first Sunday after Labor Day through June. Things work best when choir members make a commitment to be involved on a regular basis, but it can be for a few months, season, a year, or decades.

Special this year: Choir will have a prominent role in “Lessons and Carols” during Advent.

Our first rehearsal this fall will be September 6 at our temporary location. Please email diane.withiam@gmail.com or ask Diane or Cindy for instructions to the location where we will hold choir rehearsals in September.

Junior choir also resumes in September for its fall season. Junior choir is for children in grades 3 through 8. Or 2 through 9! Or for any children who are interested. Parent volunteers are always welcome. We meet regularly but due to church building construction, we will not be able to begin on our normal rehearsal schedule (which would be after Sunday School) and we need to find another plan. For this reason, your director desperately needs to identify those children who will be participating ASAP. Please email Diane at diane.withiam@gmail.com.

Promo: It would be great to gather junior choir the weekend of September 16-17 to have junior choir members participate in a celebration of Children’s Sabbath on September 24.

Why do we sing in choir at LUMC?

Here are some thoughts from folks who have been members of the adult choir.

From Jim: Music connects me to God better than anything else, and singing is how I pray. Singing with a choir multiplies my feeling of connection to each other and God. I’m reaching for the God inside myself and each of us, to make all of us feel our spirits in sync. That’s when the magic happens, and we rise together and have a Moment. I live for those glimpses of something beyond ourselves.

From Laurie: For me personally, singing provides an opportunity to offer heartfelt expressions of praise and prayer. I cherish the fellowship and spiritual and musical nourishment of being part of our choir.

From Kathryn: To me, singing together is praying together—and it doesn’t matter what faith you believe in, or what language you speak. It is beyond language and thought. A study done in a nursing home showed that after residents formed a choir and sang for a month, they reported lower levels of anxiety and depression. choir = connection choir = group prayer choir = entrained breath and heartbeats

From Lisa: I come to choir and sing to connect with myself, to connect with others, to connect with God, and to be whole.

From Cindy: I sing in choir because it is part of who I am! Singing with a group of people who are all sharing their love of God and music is how I want to live. It is a blessing to be part of this.

From Carol: To praise God and use the God-given gift that comes naturally and just pours out with joy. I hope I am helping the congregation in their worship to feel the spirit and hopefully fill their hearts with praise, joy, and worship.

From Betty: It’s the best seat in the house!

Why do we have choir in worship? TELL US. Jot down your thoughts and communicate with Diane or any choir member.

Interfaith Community Dish-to-Pass

Thursday, September 28, from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

We will gather at a spot to be determined. Please check our church calendar for the dinner location at www.LansingUnited.org.

Please bring a labeled dish-to-pass and an open heart to meet new friends. If time or budget, make “the dish” a hardship, please, be our guest! Neighbors getting to know neighbors. Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship and conversation. All are welcome!

Adults in Mission Hurricane Sandy Rebuild Trip

Atlantic City, NJ, September 17–22

If you have ever wanted to serve Christ in Mission but were hesitant, we have the perfect opportunity for you. There is still rebuilding needed from Superstorm Sandy in the Atlantic City area and we are answering the call. You are welcome to join us. All you need is a longing to assist others in need and belief in the Lord. No special training—no tools—no experience is required. (Next trip will be in March.) Contact Laura or Steve Alexander at 533-4869 or lalexander1169@gmail.com.



The Sunbeam

September 2017



Lansing United
Methodist Church

CHURCH IN THE PARK

9:30 A.M.

DUE TO CHURCH RECONSTRUCTION,
CHURCH IN THE PARK
CONTINUES THROUGH SEPTEMBER

PLEASE JOIN US!

P.S. OUR CONTRACTOR IS MAKING
EVERY EFFORT TO RETURN US TO THE
SANCTUARY ON OCTOBER 1.

Lansing United Methodist Church

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.
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