

Please join us for Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00, Sunday school at 9:45

*the LUM*uary 2008
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



**Who are these people and what are they
doing on this Sunbeam cover?**

(see page 3)



The Light of the World

While walking through London's St. Paul's Cathedral last June, I came upon one of my favorite paintings, Holman Hunt's "The Light of the World." (If you've ever worshipped at Cornell's Sage Chapel, you've seen a pretty good copy of this work in stained glass in the nave). Hunt was a member of the "Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood," a group of 19th century English painters who sought to combine detailed attention to Nature with religious and spiritual themes. "The Light of the World," which depicts the Risen Christ "knocking on the door" of the heart, certainly reveals both of these qualities.

Besides its visual merit, what appeals to me in this painting is the challenging image of Christ out in the world seeking the least, the lost, and the last. It's become a visual depiction of a dream I have for our church. It's a dream of a church which not only welcomes those who step through its doors, but which steps into the neighborhood to reach the people living outside its doors.

Having been accosted by a few "door to door" evangelists, I'm not necessarily suggesting that we need to literally go knocking on a bunch of doors. Christ calls us to be servants, not pests! But I am imagining a church passionately committed to sharing the love of Christ with neighbors, strangers, and outsiders—a church even willing to be inconvenienced and disrupted from time to time in order to reach these people.

A couple of authors I read while on sabbatical articulate this vision differently, turning to physics instead of painting. They say

Christ is seeking a church which is centrifugal in its primary focus as opposed to centripetal. You may recall those terms from high school physics. Centripetal means moving toward the center while centrifugal means moving outward toward the margins. I dream of a church which looks and moves outward.

Its not an "either/or" vision. No healthy church ever stops looking within to care for its members. But a church which is centered in the Spirit and teachings of Jesus is also always looking to the margin, seeking out the people who aren't yet part of the community. In thinking and praying about our direction as a congregation in this New Year, I'm sensing this is the place we are invited to go. I'm planning to preach and teach a lot about this in the weeks ahead. I hope you'll let me know what you think. Check out www.lansingunit-ed.org for **PB's Blog** for more thoughts and a way to give feedback.



Pastor Bin

Winter Weather Policy

This past December was one of the coldest and snowiest in memory, and it seemed that the worst weather often hit on Sunday morning.

When wintry weather hits, Lansing UMC will hold church services as scheduled, except when the sheriff officially closes the roads. When Tompkins County roads are closed, Lansing UMC will cancel services.

Individual activities may be held or canceled independently of church services. Contact the leaders of these activities directly with questions.

Groundbreaking 1987

Many of you will recognize at least some of the people pictured on the cover this month, and you either know or can guess that this is the groundbreaking for the church addition. I believe that many of you can name only a couple of the people in this photo.

These folks are members of the building committee for the addition. For one reason or another, several of them have moved on from LUMC or from Lansing. The people that you cannot recognize all have one thing in common—they built an addition for people they did not know. By so doing, they set the foundation for the growth of LUMC's congregation and missions.

My question is, can we make this the year that we decide to do the same thing—that is, to build a church for the people yet to come? Or will we decide not to move at all? We should make an effort to make the call this year.

From left, Bob Nagel, Dave Cox, a fellow I cannot name (Claire Tusch perhaps?), Bill Cruikshank, Dave Hardie, Nancy Snyder, and Ken Hover.—*Glenn W.*

Prayer Chain

Prayers for Healing

Marrian Ahrens, 53 Lansing Station Rd.
 Brian Cleveland, Roswell Park Cancer Inst.,
 (5 East) Elm & Carlton St., Buffalo 14263
 Kelly Deprisco, 2475 E. Stephens St.,
 Gilbert, AZ 85296
 Deforest Heffron, Elcor Health, 48 Colonial
 Dr., Horseheads
 Amber Heimbuecher
 Pat Neimi, Woodsedge Apt 109
 Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
 Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd.
 (Groton)

Tom Skroback, 401 Fenner Rd.
 Robin Sundquist, 51 Concord Dr., Buffalo
 14215-1905
 Tori Swanson, 57 Brickyard Rd.
 Barbara White, 183 Auburn Rd.

Prayers for Strength

Mourning family of Mary Jane Meal

Please pray for those in our armed services:

Ken Allen	Shaun McCray
Richard Butler	Travis Potter
Matthew Cornell	Nick Prabhavat
Scott Cowles	Josh Randles
Steven Cowles	Matthew Ravas
David Ferris	Adam Ward
Robert Gudbranson	Michael Wolfe
Daniel LaBar	
Trevor Judd	

Worship for January 2008: Epiphany

A New Year invites a fresh start. I remain grateful to share these days with you! Epiphany is the name of the church season which begins January 6th. It is a season focused on God's desire for the Good News about Jesus Christ to bless all people, not just Jews or church people. The symbol for this season is "light." Christ is like a candle spreading light out into the world. Just as light can pass through, around, and even between many obstacles, so the love of God we meet in Jesus can cross over racial, gender, class and national boundaries. Epiphany is the season when the Church reminds itself and the World the Good News about Jesus is for everyone.—*P.B.*

January 6—Epiphany Sunday: Though Christmas crèches often depict the Wise men present on Christmas morning, they actually arrived in Bethlehem much later. They had a long way to come, crossing geographic, religious, racial, and national boundaries. But they found their way because God planted a deep longing in their hearts which they bravely followed. The sermon this morning will focus on people like this in our community and what sort of welcome God is expecting you and me to offer them (see Pastor Bill's column). Read: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; and Matthew 2:1-12.

January 13—Baptism of the Lord: When Jesus came to John the Baptist for baptism, John attempted to send him away. "I need to be baptized by you," John said. But Jesus insisted so he could share in all that his followers experienced. Baptism is the rite of inclusion: it signifies our share in Christ and our share in each other. Our congregation is made up of a diverse group of people: women and men, young and old, black and white, married and single, members and non-members. Though we come Sunday morning with some of our family, what makes us one with each other is our baptism. The sermon this morning will focus on this radical connection we share with each other by virtue of baptism. Read: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; and Matthew 3:13-17.

January 20—Second Sunday After the Epiphany: Jesus invited a couple of curious would-be disciples to "come and see" what he was all about. We're invited this morning to "come and see" what Jesus has in mind for us. Read: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; and John 1:29-42.

January 27—Third Sunday After the Epiphany: Scholars tell us this Sunday's gospel the story, the calling of the four fishermen, is a "paradigmatic" discipleship story. That's a fancy way of saying the story models some basic features of what it means to follow Jesus. In particular the story challenges us to acknowledge what must be left behind in order to move forward with Jesus. The sermon this morning will focus on both sides of discipleship in the 21st century. Read: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; and Matthew 4:12-23.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18–25, 2008

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was initiated in 1908. Beginning on the feast of St. Peter, this is its centennial year. It has evolved through the years into an ecumenical observance. The theme for 2008 is "Pray without ceasing," based on First Thessalonians 5:17. The "week" is actually eight days long, by design.

Looking Forward

The beginning of the year is a good time to look at our spiritual selves and the places that nourish that part of us. I know that in my case I find that a variety of places satisfy my spiritual appetite. I need to hear the message during the sermon on Sunday morning, I need the fuel of Women of Faith in the spring, and I enjoy the fellowship of our occasional book studies. I hope that you, too, will find what best fills your needs.

During three weeks in January we will study the **Book of Psalms** during Adult Sunday School time. Psalms is the longest book, at the center of the Bible. This collection of songs and prayers expresses what my Bible calls "the heart and soul of humanity." The Psalms invite us to share every part of our lives with God, trusting in God. We begin on Sunday, January 6, with Rev. Dave Nicholls leading the study.

Rev. Dave writes: "The Lord is my shepherd..." begins the beloved 23rd Psalm, perhaps the most familiar and quoted of all scripture after the Lord's Prayer. The 23rd Psalm can be recited from memory by many and is widely recognized and turned to in times of distress even by those who have a minimal faith connection.

"What about the rest of the 150 (or is it 151) Psalms? Was Jesus having a crisis of faith on the cross when he cried out "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" or was he passionately praying Psalm 22? How are we to read the Psalms, and what do they have to say to us in this modern age?"

"In this three week journey through the Psalms we will explore the depth and power contained within these scriptures, and ways we might use them in our own prayer life. Rather than a scholarly, historical, or liter-

ary study, we will look at how Psalms were used and how they can guide us through life as they have people of faith for thousands of years.

"We will explore and share together from our own experiences. Come prepared to read, write and hopefully share, so bring a copy of Psalms and pen and paper."

The Children begin a new unit entitled **Lost & Found**. They will hear the stories of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son. Each story emphasizes the love and concern for the one who has lost something. They each end with a celebration when the lost are found and discover that God's love is always there for us. "*There is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to.*" (Luke 15:7)

We take 26 women again this coming June to **Women of Faith Conference** in Rochester. Let me know if you are interested in attending. Deadline to sign-up is March 1.

If you haven't done so already, pick up (or borrow the church's copy) of the book **Eat, Love & Pray**, by Elizabeth Gilbert. The book is about a woman searching for God in her life, and you'll find it interesting in what places she finds her God. Some time over the winter we will gather and share some thoughts about it. Judy Hinderliter has offered to lead the discussion. We will plan some small group gatherings, salad suppers, Lenten studies along the way.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year and hope that as you look forward in this new year, you will find places and opportunities to feed your spiritual needs.—*Marilyn Paradise*

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

*January
2008*

Note: This calendar is current as of December 17.
For updates to all LUMC events, visit lansingunited.org to see our virtual church calendar, and check the bulletin when you're in church on Sunday.

1
Happy New Year
Office closed

2
MOPS 10:00
Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

3
Senior High Youth 7:00

4

5
Mens' Breakfast 7:00

6
EPIPHANY
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00

7

8
Quilt Bee 9:30
Church Council 7:00
Staff Parish 7:00

9
Women's Bible Study 9:30
Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

10
Methodist Men 10:00
Senior High Youth 7:00
Trustees 7:30

11

12
Mens' Breakfast
Linda's in
North Lansing
7:00

13
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
Lectionary at Bakers' 6:30

14

15
Quilt Bee 9:30
Membership 7:00
Worship 7:30
SUNBEAM DEADLINE
12:00 Midnight

16
Women's Bible Study 9:30
MOPS 10:00
Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

17
Senior High Youth 7:00

18
Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity

19
Mens' Breakfast
7:00

20
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00

21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Office Closed
Haiti 7:00

22
Quilt Bee 9:30

23
Women's Bible Study 9:30
Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

24
Senior High Youth 7:00

25

26
Mens' Breakfast
7:00

27
Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00
Food Pantry Setup

28
Food Pantry 4:00

29
Quilt Bee 9:30

30
Women's Bible Study 9:30
Bells Angels 6:00
Choir 7:00

31



Updates from LUMC Youth

Let me be one of the first to say that I'm very excited about this new year! The Youth Ministry Team and I have some great ideas on how to engage our youth and bring them closer in their relationship with Christ. Before we move on to this new year, though, I wanted to update you on some information from last year.

Operation Christmas Child

Participating for the first year in Operation Christmas Child, the Youth of LUMC spearheaded the gathering of boxes of toys, and school supplies for this international organization which delivers these presents all around the world to children who otherwise would have nothing. At the same time, the organization shares the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ. Thanks to your outpouring of love and support, as well as the hard work and wrapping skills of the Youth, we were able to send an astounding 46 boxes to Operation Christmas Child. This is much more than I had hoped for, and I am humbled by how much we were able to accomplish in such a short amount of time. Thank you so much for your support, and we look forward to sending even more boxes next year!

LUMC Youth - Conference-wide Leaders

The Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) is a group of youth from around the North Central New York Conference that gathers together throughout the year to plan various events for the youth of the area. We at Lansing are very fortunate to have several youth represented on and in leadership positions within CCYM. Cayla Griffin is serving as the Chair of the Youth Service Fund, which helps raise money at different events to

be used directly by youth in ministry. Bethany Sharpless serves as the Devotional Leader, and Stephanie Peter serves as the Praise Leader. Additionally, Stephanie traveled to Cuba at the end of December with the Mission of Peace program. This is a program of the Northeast Jurisdiction of the UMC which sends youth all around the world to serve as ambassadors of peace and love. Last year, Nicole Earl traveled with Mission of Peace to Nicaragua. We are very thankful that we have such great young leaders in our midst!

A Great Learning Experience—NYWC

In mid-November, I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Atlanta and attend the National Youth Workers Convention (NYWC). NYWC is put on annually by Youth Specialties, a company that publishes Christian youth curriculum and ministry resources. The schedule was similar to any other conference—general sessions lasting around two hours, three times a day, with many short seminar options in between. In addition to hearing many great speakers and music groups, I was very thankful to sit in on many informative lectures and discussions. Topics ranged from the future trends of the Church to how to adapt to ever-changing youth culture, to what has the most influence and impact on young lives. I look forward to sharing the information I learned with the Youth Ministry Team and the congregation as a whole as time goes on. I am grateful for the experience of going to this conference, and am very thankful to the church for providing the resources to make this trip happen.

Thank you for all your support to the Youth program!—Kevin Dunn, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Youth Mission Update

The Lansing Youth Mission team is preparing for mission work in Guatemala in 2008. The team consists of 38 members from LUMC and All Saints which has been broken into three mission trips. The first trip will depart Lansing on February 14 and return on the 24th. The second group will travel in March with the third group going in April. The teams are looking forward to building stoves for local families, learning about a different culture, and making new friends. In addition, many families sponsor children from Guatemala so the travelers will have a chance to visit with them.

In the last two years the youth mission members have worked tirelessly to raise the money needed to fund this trip. Fund raisers efforts have included can & bottle drives, spaghetti dinners, sno-cones sales, cross Cayuga swims, BBQs and more. Thanks to the support of members of the LUMC and All Saints churches and the Lansing community in helping the team reach their fundraising goals.

On January 13, 2008, the Mission team will host a pancake breakfast at Applebees from 8:00–10:00 am. The cost is \$5 per person; see mission members for tickets. In February look for the return of the Sweetheart dinner. We look forward to seeing many of you there!—Sandy Dennis-Conlon

Gift of the Heart Kits for Church World Service

When you are out shopping in the next few weeks, remember to pick up an item or two for the Church World Service Baby Kits. Call Peggy MacKenzie with any questions, 533-4432.

Stewardship Update and 2008 Budget Approval

Stewardship Appeal Update:

As of December 11, we had received 114 pledges totaling \$217,600. This was still approximately \$22,000 short of the pledges needed to meet expenses in the proposed 2008 budget. A more detailed breakdown on response to the 2008 Stewardship appeal is available on the table in the narthex.

If you have not yet submitted an estimate of giving (pledge card) and plan to do so, it would be helpful to receive it by January 4. Extra pledge cards are on the table in the narthex. Please mail your card to LUMC, 32 Brickyard Rd., Lansing, NY 14882, or contact Richard and Kay Moore, our financial secretaries, at Kay@mooretrees.com.

2008 Budget Approval

An expanded Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 7:00 pm to approve or modify the proposed 2008 LUMC budget. All are welcome to attend.

(Note: Copies of the proposed budget are also on the table in the narthex. You can also be sent a copy of the proposed budget and stewardship update by calling the Church office.)

- Four cloth diapers
- Two shirts
- Two washcloths (adult size)
- Two gowns or sleepers (onesies)
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one may be knitted)

Mission Focus:

Our Camps and Retreat Centers

In addition to the many hundreds of children who attend the summer camp programs, Aldersgate and Casowasco welcome groups of all types for faith-building gatherings and retreats. You can support this mission financially or with "sweat equity" by being a volunteer at Casowasco or Aldersgate. Watch for next summer's brochures...they'll be here soon.



Casowasco Camp, Conference and Retreat Center on Owasco Lake has a rich history of summer camping. Since 1946, the site has been owned and operated by the United Methodist Church and has provided "a place where lives are changed." People of all faiths and backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Four main lodges, a cabin village and The Highlands tenting area house summer campers for more than 50 different programs from June 26 to Aug. 18. One mile of shoreline allows Casowasco to offer a full waterfront program including sailing, rowing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, tubing, waterskiing, the Iceberg and the Blob. Programs for youth ages 6- 18 years. Short programs are available for young campers having their first resident camp experience. A two week program is available for 10-18 year olds. Main camp activities include crafts, boating, challenge course, nature study, and team and individual sports such as soccer, basketball, fishing, volleyball and archery. Bible exploration, dynamic worship, campfires and all kinds of traditional camp activities add to the fun!

You'll be able to register online or see our Summer Camp 2008 brochure at www.casowasco.org. For a hard copy, phone us at 315-364-8756.

Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center On Brantingham Lake You'll be able to register online or see the Aldersgate Summer Camp 2008 brochure at www.AldersgateNY.org. Summer camp programs for the Christian spiritual development of children and teens ages 6-18. Sessions from June 26 to August 19. Programs for adults, families and special populations are also available. People of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to attend. Programs include Bible Study, traditional camp and specialized activities including: challenge course/rock climbing, environmental/nature studies, horseback riding, soccer, gymnastics, dance, fishing, backpack and canoe trips, and vocal and instrumental music. For information or to register call 315-348-8833, fax 315-348-4279, email info@AldersgateNY.org or visit us at www.AldersgateNY.org.

Mission Focus:

Meridith Kay Whitaker

In connection with the United Methodist Church, LUMC is represented by missionaries around the world. Merideth Whitaker is one of them. If her work with the Cherokee speaks to you, you can support her directly, by sending a check noting missionary code: 982994 made to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068.

Reverend Meridith Whitaker is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as a Church and Community Worker. She is the Director of Cookson Hills Center United Methodist Mission, a mission project to the Cherokee Indians in Cookson Hills, Oklahoma.

As an administrator, Ms. Whitaker administers a thrift shop, craft shop, cottage industries, food-cooperative, summer work camps, counseling and health programs, special projects and other programs that focus on child and health education issues.

Meri is a graduate of Brockport State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. After teaching high school physical educa-

tion for four years she returned to school at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, where she received a Master of Religious Education degree. While in seminary, she served as a student intern working with Kiowa and Wichita Indians in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Rev. Whitaker served a large church in Lockport, as the Director of Christian Education and provided an outreach ministry in the Niagara County jail and on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation.

Rev. Whitaker was appointed to the World Methodist Council in 1996 and in her spare time she pastors a 12-step Church (for people in recovery from drugs and alcohol) in Vian, OK.

More information about United Methodist missions at ncnyumc.org/missionaries/index.html.



Bring a Donation for Food Pantry

One way to make donations for Food Pantry is to bring a can or other nonperishable food when you come to church each week. The Food Pantry would particularly appreciate the following hard-to-get items: tuna (packed in water), peanut butter, macaroni and cheese dinners, and spaghetti, macaroni, or other pastas.



**The
Sunbeam**

**January
2008**

**Lansing United
Methodist Church**

Inside:

The Light of the World, page 2

Looking Ahead, page 4

Youth Updates, page 8

Lansing United Methodist Church

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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. Please sign your contri-
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