

Please join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday morning, starting September 9

the LUMC September 2007

Sunbeam

lansingunited.org

Don Queen



Lansing United Methodist Church
Route 34B and Brickyard Road, South Lansing

Pastor: Bill Gottschalk-Fielding • Program Associate: Marilyn Paradise • Youth Coordinator: Kevin Dunn

All Are Invited



*Join us for
waffles at
9:45 AM, SEPTEMBER 9
CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 16*



Listening for God

From the Pastor
Sunday mornings

It's been good to be
"back in the pulpit"

after my two-month sabbatical. Preaching is one of my greatest joys. I mostly enjoy every part of the process, but the very best part is sharing the message with you. Though a lot of my focus is on what I'm saying, I'm also acutely tuned into your reception and reaction to what you're hearing. If you've ever compared what I put on paper to what I share "live," you'll see there's always a difference. You make up a big part of that difference. Your body language, laughter, and silence often influence how I say something. Your presence often draws new words or ideas out of me. The interaction is subtle and "under the radar." I'm not always conscious at the time about what's going on, but when I look back, I can see how the sermon became very much "our" thing.

Of course, what gives a sermon real impact is the Holy Spirit gathering up all you and I offer and transforming ordinary human communication into a Word from the Lord. That's why I'm so serious about the prayer I share just before I preach: Lord, take these lips and speak through them; take these thoughts and think through them; and take this heart and set it on fire. I'm not attempting to be humble or holy by praying those words; I'm begging God to speak amid my chatter.

One of the insights I gained while studying the work of John Wesley and the early Methodists while on sabbatical was the

importance of intentionality for spiritual growth. If you and I want to grow, we've got to intend it, seek it, and work on it. Christianity isn't a spectator sport. It's not the game of the clergy or a few spiritual elites. If you want to be a disciple, you've got to get off your backside and walk with Jesus. When we're talking about preaching, this is especially important, because it might seem that listening to a sermon is pretty much a passive affair. But it's not. When a sermon "works," it's always because preacher and listener have worked hard at hearing what God is saying in the sermon.

That's why I want to encourage you to listen actively on Sunday morning: Was what was said true to the Scripture? How is it relevant to what's going on in your life? Do you see your world a bit differently? Do you feel nudged to make a change?

My aim is to share what I hear God saying in the Scripture in such a way that you'll hear it, too, and be able to apply it to the living of your life. I'd love to know what you're hearing Sunday morning. Feedback from you is about the only way I'll ever grow as a preacher. If you want to give your pastor a gift, jot a few notes some Sunday about the sermon and send them to me. I'm particularly interested in how what you heard relates to how you are living your life. I'd be grateful for your feedback and it would certainly help the preaching you and I share on Sunday morning.

+Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bin

Back From HERO Training at Casowasco

Phew! Well, after spending my summer counseling at Casowasco, I'm back here in Lansing. It was a whirlwind of singing, blobbing, chatting, sailing, hugs, tears (sometimes), and of course, fun! Getting to hang out with youth from LUMC was always great, too!

The themes at Casowasco have built upon each other the last several years. Two years ago, we talked about how God has been telling an Epic story throughout history, and in this day and age, we get to be a part of that story. Last summer, we talked about what the Soundtrack to God's story sounds like; what should our life sound like if we're a part of His story? This summer we delved even deeper and said, "If God is telling this epic story throughout history, don't all great stories have main characters? What do these heroes look like? How can we be a HERO in God's story?"

We started off with three main qualities of heroes: Heart, Eyes, and Resolve. Having Heart means to have the willingness to act, regardless of the situation. Using your Eyes means to see clearly what needs to be done, no matter how others try to confuse you. By having Resolve, you commit to seeing something through, no matter how long it takes. Finally, we talked about how all heroes have a source for their power. Our source, the One, is Jesus Christ, who has offered to us the very power He had. With Christ as the source of our power, we can do the amazing things that God wants us to do. In any given situation, He wants us to have the courage to do the right thing, see clearly what we should do, and have the commitment to seeing it through, even when it's hard.

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Prayer Concerns

Prayers for Healing

Lou Barr, 2791 No. Triphammer, Ithaca
Brian Cleveland, % 18 Lakeview Dr.
Eileen Cundy, %Woodsedge Apts
June Darfler, %172 Brown Hill Rd.
Kelly Deprisco, 2475 E. Stephens St.,
Gilbert, AZ 85296

Robin Eastman and family
Vern Hansen, Living Cntr South, 196 North
St., Geneva 14456

Deforest Heffron, Elcor Health, 48 Colonial
Dr., Horseheads

Amber Heimbuecher
Ruth Juracka, 367 Bill George Rd.

Noni Krom, 106 Drake Rd.
Kate Payne and Thomas Payne, 30 East
Meadow Drive, Ithaca

Erma Powell, RD5, Box 5338, East
Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Harry Reinhart, 615 Ridge Rd.
Helen Rounds

Frannie Sampson, 1138 Auburn Rd.
(Groton)

Dianne Southard.
Robin Sundquist, 51 Concord Dr., Buffalo
14215-1905

Tori Swanson, 57 Brickyard Rd.
Betty Trinkl, 35 Myers Rd.

Prayers for Strength

Diane Skroback and family

Please pray for those in our armed services:

Richard Butler

Shawn Butler

Matthew Cornell

David Ferris

Robert Gudbranson

Daniel LaBar

Trevor Judd

Shaun McCray

Travis Potter

Nick Prabhavat

Josh Randles

Matthew Ravas

Vanessa Valentine

Monica VanEvery

Michael Wolfe

Worship in September

We clearly feel the impact of the public school schedule this month. When the schools down the hill from the church (and in Ithaca and Groton) open their doors, our lives change, even if no one from our household will be walking through those doors. The beginning of a new school year functions like a new liturgical season in the church. Attendance at Sunday morning worship picks up, Sunday school opens (ice cream and waffle breakfast and registration on September 9 and classes on September 16), and the choir once again fills our worship time with song. A “back to” spirit seems to pervade. Whatever the impetus, it’ll be good to find ourselves gathered in worship Sunday mornings, seeking challenge and hope from Jesus our teacher and friend.—*P.B.*

September 2—14th Sunday after Pentecost.

9:30 AM only. Blessing of the Backpacks:

Who would you most like to have dinner with tonight? The answer to that question could tell us a lot about ourselves. Jesus’ guest list certainly reveals much about him and the kingdom he came to inaugurate. We will celebrate Holy Communion this morning and bless the backpacks (and the children) as the school year starts again. Read: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; and Luke 14:7-14.

September 9—15th Sunday after Pentecost,

8:30 and 11:00 AM: It’s a cliché, but it often holds true: “there’s no free lunch.” Jesus wants his disciples to know the blessings of being his disciple come with a cost. And he wants us to understand its best to calculate the cost before counting the blessings. Read: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; and Luke 14:25-33.

September 16—16th Sunday after Pentecost,

8:30 and 11:00 AM: Jesus’ parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin are featured in today’s gospel. They’re well

known and much loved word pictures.

But maybe we ought not to get too comfy with these parables. They contain a revolutionary idea which, if we believe it, will radically change how we look at other people. Read: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; and Luke 15:1-10.

September 23—17th Sunday after Pentecost,

8:30 and 11:00 AM: Jesus tells a story about a “dishonest steward” to teach us about what it means to use our wealth in a responsible way. But wait! How can a crook serve as an example to us? Read: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; and Luke 16:1-13

September 30—18th Sunday after Pentecost,

8:30 and 11:00 AM: What are we, as followers of Jesus, to do in a world of haves and have-nots? What’s our responsibility for others in need? Jesus tells a story about a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus to challenge our thinking on this matter. Read: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; and Luke 16:19-31

Sunday School begins...

Sunday School registration takes place on Sunday, September 9, during the Annual Waffle Breakfast after the 8:30 AM service of worship. Parents will be asked where they might be available to assist in our Christian Education program. Nursery registration will take place at this time. Parents who plan to use the nursery during the services of worship are asked to register their child with us. Stacey Wilder, nursery coordinator, will be handing out nursery rules and will be available to answer any questions. Currently our Sunday School program will be led by the following members: Melody Lombardo will lead the Kindergarten class. Jeanne Taylor and Beth Acoff will lead the Arts & Crafts classroom for grades 1-6. Kay Thomas and Bill Butman will team up in the Hagar’s Theater room. Peg Stoyell will lead the Bible Center class. We are still looking for someone to team teach with Peg. Please let us know if you are interested. Dianne Walter and Kevin Dunn will lead the Jr High Youth class, with Mary Adie and Stuart Thomas leading the

Senior High class. Shepherds, the adult assistants who travel with children to their classrooms, include Dori Gottschalk-Fielding, Janet Keefe, and Karen Yahn. We need lots of helpers. We are in need of substitute teachers, nursery volunteers, and parents who will assist with various events including (looking ahead to December) the Christmas Pageant. Please prayerfully consider joining our Christian Education team. The children in grades K-6 begin the first unit entitled Life in Bible Times on Sunday, September 16.

Women’s Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 19 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The group will study Galatians, with Jan Nagel leading. This is an informal study group that welcomes newcomers.

Adult Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 16, with Pastor Bill giving a presentation about his sabbatical studies.

God bless you all as we begin again on another road of our spiritual journey together.—*Marilyn Paradise*

Adult Choir Resumes

Interested singers, from high school age on up, are invited to join choir—for a season, a year, or indefinitely. We meet in rehearsal on Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 beginning September 5. Choir members sing during one or both of the regular worship services, as they choose. While we are happy to have new members in all voice parts, for some reason we have a particular shortage of **altos**. We’ve been delighted to welcome some new altos, but we sure could use more (along with tenors, basses, and sopranos).

Junior Choir

Junior choir for children in grades 3 through 8 (and 2d by permission) will begin September 16—watch for a signup and information table during the waffle breakfast on September 9. Further information from Diane Withiam.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2  Worship 9:30 COMMUNION BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS	3 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4 Quilt Bee 9:30 Caregivers 10:00	5 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	6 Staff Parish Committee 7:00	7	1 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 8
9 Worship 8:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF Waffle Breakfast 9:45 Worship 11:00 Children's Ministry 11:00	10	11 Quilt Bee 9:30 Church Council 7:00 Outreach 7:00	12 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	13 Trustees 7:30	14	15 Mens' Breakfast every Saturday at Linda's in North Lansing 7:00 SUNBEAM DEADLINE 12:00 Midnight
16 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00	17 Haiti 7:00	18 Quilt Bee 9:30 Membership 7:00	19 Women's Bible Study 9:30 M.O.P.S. 10:00 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	20	21	22 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
23 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Food Pantry Setup Childrens Ministry 12:00	24 Food Pantry 4:00	25 Quilt Bee 9:30	26 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Bells Angels 6:00 Choir 7:00	27	28	29 Mens' Breakfast Linda's in North Lansing 7:00
30 Worship 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00	Note: This calendar is current as of August 27. 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. We can hardly wait! The rummage sale is set for October 12 and 13, with setup starting October 6 and 7. Woohoo!			<i>September 2007</i>		 Lansing united methodist church

Church World Service:

How LUMC Does It

In April 2007 Lansing United Methodist Church donated 335 Church World Service (CWS) kits—175 school kits, 100 health kits, and 60 baby kits. Knowing that LUMC is not the largest church in the land, the regional CWS office asked how we do it. Here's how.

Residents of Woodsedge, Lansing's senior housing complex, clip 40-percent-off coupons from the A.C. Moore and Michael's weekly ad flyers and give them to Ed LaVigne, who uses them to purchase packages of three cloth tote bags (14 by 12 by 3 inches) for the school kits. These coupons are also used to purchase 500-sheet packs of construction paper. Ed gives the bags to Marie Larison, who sews a Velcro closure at the top and a pocket on one side—useful and decorative. Marie gives the bags to Peg MacKenzie, CWS coordinator, to be filled with the requisite school items (listed at right).

Kit items are collected throughout the year, with Peg's home having an area set aside as a mini CWS warehouse. In addition to this *Sunbeam*, we publish at least one kit list each month as a reminder. Peg frequently receives items for the kits on Sunday mornings, and she also finds items left in the church narthex, the church office, and her own back door. Thanks so much for all those donations and keep them coming.

The best time to acquire school supplies is right now through mid-September, during back-to-school sales. During these weeks, 70-page spiral notebooks can be had at a price of ten for a dollar, boxes of 24 crayons are 10 cents to 20 cents a box, blunt scissors are often two or four for a dollar, and pencils, rulers, and erasers are all on sale.

LUMC's rummage sales also help supply materials for the kits. Alert rummage workers set aside CWS kit items, such as new pencils, construction paper, and rulers.

Yarn also comes from the rummage sale. Each baby kit requires two receiving blankets—one of which may be knitted or crocheted. Jan Nagel and Harriet Larin have each made a commitment to make 25 baby blankets per year, and other church members contribute knitted or crocheted baby blankets. The rummage sale goes a long way in assisting this effort.

The baby kits also include cloth diapers, but we were receiving no donations of cloth diapers. When this problem became known during a Sunday coffee hour conversation, two people stepped up and volunteered to purchase one dozen cloth diapers each per month.

June Darfler has knit approximately 50 sweaters and has sewn 60 to 70 nighties per year for the baby kits. She also enjoys searching for and purchasing "nice, but affordable" shirts for the baby kits.

In February 2007 we put out a request for just one item—bath-size bars of soap. Two weeks later we had collected 152 bars of soap, which allowed us to complete the health kits on hand and gave us a good start for the 2008 kits.

We've had help from the community, too. Twelve school kits were assembled and contributed by the Lansing Leo Club, a high school club affiliated with Lansing Lions.

Finally, Peg's brother Bill has willingly taken on the responsibility of transporting all of the boxed kits to the pick-up depot for Tompkins County.

As you see, assembling CWS kits has quietly become a continual, year-long church and community effort, with wonderful results—*Peg MacKenzie.*

Church World Service Kits

Health Kit

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One comb
- One metal nail file or nail clipper with file
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids

(Note: Due to expiration-date issues, toothpaste is no longer included in the health kit.)

Baby Kit

- Six cloth diapers
- Two shirts
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be knitted)

School Kit

- One pair of blunt scissors
- Pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11", containing 140-200 sheets of paper. No filler paper, please.
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser
- Twelve sheets colored construction paper
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12"W x 14"L finished size, cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button)

The only catch is that the kits must contain exactly what is specified. If you're not interested in shopping you can make a donation to Church World Service. As noted at left, our CWS shoppers will buy the kit items for you. Also, we have to pay shipping on the kits. We'd be delighted if you'd like to make a contribution for shipping.

Just think of what a single dollar will buy: 10 notebooks, 3 erasers, and a chance for child to read!
—Outreach Committee

You can be a missionary without ever leaving Lansing...

Church Service at Girls School

Members of our church meet with residents of the Lansing Girls School at about 11:00 each Sunday morning for worship and praise. Ralph and Eleanor Barnard and Rich ("Casey") Flaville, among others, have been leading this worthwhile ministry and would welcome more people to participate. The residents thirst for the living water of Jesus. Worship services take whatever form that the spirit takes leaders and participants. See Ralph, Eleanor, Rich or Pastor Bill to learn more.

MOPS—Mothers of Preschoolers—meets the first and third Wednesday of the month. We need volunteers to staff the nursery for this growing ministry. Just two hours per morning! See Denise Wyszowski for more information, or call the church office.

Casowasco HERO (concluded)

The messages we talked about at camp aren't just for kids; they're for us adults, too. In the latest Superman movie, Superman says to Lois Lane, "You wrote that the world doesn't need a savior, but every day I hear people crying for one." His world may be fictional, but ours is not. Every day, we are surrounded by opportunities to be a hero to somebody in our lives. With our reliance and foundation on Jesus Christ, we can be the hero that others need us to be and that God created us to be. Let's go out and be that hero.

In Christ,
Kevin Dunn
Yourh Coordinator



The Energy of Youth, the Wisdom of Age, and the Power of God in Haiti

Our Haiti service in Lansing Park, on July 22, represented not only the continuing presence of God working through the undying energy and love of our Haiti missionaries but also the joy of knowing that our presence and God's work will continue here because of the new life that has sprung up in The Haiti Connection.

In January Trudy Radcliff and I led a team consisting also of four young women with hearts ready and eager to serve where needed but also with some apprehension of what this trip would mean for them. These missionaries, Sarah Sandsted, Ashley Dean, Mahima Walter, and Chelsie Radcliff, were the featured speakers at our Haiti service. Their ability to share with our congregation their honest reflections and insights from this experience left many people moved and responsive to the needs of the people of Haiti. Each young woman took her own special and individual gifts and talents to Haiti and each brought back her own personal experience and gift from God. In their own words this trip had changed them from the inside out, and they would never be the same. No one can go to Haiti and return the same.

The contrast between the work of tireless people that has gone on for over 30 years in Haiti from the home base of LUMC and the emergence of young people with new energies, skills of communication, new insights, and a heart for Haiti was powerful and heart-warming.

We rest assured that God is in control and His work will continue through the ages. "Praise Him from Whom all blessings flow."—*Dianne Walter*

The young people who went with Dianne to Haiti constitute the fourth generation of missionaries sent from Lansing United Methodist Church through the Haiti Connection to Haiti—the first being Jo Ernstein who started this work in the '60s as a personal mission. At the Haiti service, Jo was posthumously honored by the presentation of her biography, written by Judy Hinderliter with assistance from Jo's family, Tom and Katie Payne and Pat and Connie Conlon. They are among the 2nd generation, as well as Barb Denhoff who was presented a cake by the Haiti Committee in honor of her retirement from administering the Verrettes ELP mission (following her trip in September 2007). The 3rd generation is now the backbone of our Haiti mission, with Reenie Sandsted as chair of the Haiti Committee. The 4th generation is in training, as well as actively participating.

We were privileged at the park service to have with us one of the beneficiaries of our long time work in Haiti, Lamartine Longchamp. He had long looked forward to the day he might visit the Lansing church and meet his sponsors, Paul and Dianne Southard and Paul and Fannie Welch. It was God's plan that this visit would coincide with our Haiti Service. That was a joyful meeting, and the entire congregation greeted Lamartine warmly.

He is a shining example of the results of our commitment to the education of worthy students, not only through primary



Haiti Committee and Missionaries at the July Park Service. Standing from left: Dave Farmer, Dave Nicholls, Kate Payne, Bob Cockram, Judy Hinderliter, Beth Wolfe, Sarah Sandsted, Reenie Sandsted, Deb LaVigne, Sue Beck, Mahima Walter, Janice Downey, Glenn Downey, Barb Denhoff. Kneeling, from left: Dianne Walter, Ashley Dean, Lori Wade, Trudy Radcliffe, Chelsea Radcliffe, Molly Shoemaker.

and secondary school, but through University and Vocational school.

Lamartine went to La Providence primary and secondary school in Verrettes, then on to the three-year Methodist Normal School Course for training of Primary teachers. He taught primary school in Port au Prince for several years, at the same time studying and paying for advanced education in Pedagogy and Administration. He is now Director of a 900-student school for students from kindergarten through secondary, on the outskirts of Port au Prince. My administrative team to Haiti will visit this school in September.

At a dish-to-pass dinner following the service, Lamartine shared stories of his life, his schooling, and his work. Many people had an opportunity to talk with him during the afternoon.

This service was memorable in so many ways. It honored Jo for the start of our Haiti involvement, traced the continuation through the 4th generation, and ended with one example of "the fruits of our labors" for the Lord, in the person of Lamartine. His work

in Haiti will certainly multiply many times over what we have done for him. We have had, and continue to have, other students like Lamartine. May God bless them all. May He also bless all those who participate in the mission in any way, here or in Haiti, by work or by financial contribution...

As a closing note, I have to "put in a plug" here for more volunteers for this mission, both for Banique and Verrettes ELP. We need sponsors of students, we need people willing to go to Haiti, and others to help here at home. I am retiring, so need and opportunity coincide. For me, receiving gifts of the spirit has always exceeded the giving, and we heard this, too, from the young people who spoke at the service.—*Barb Denhoff*

Editor's note: As you receive this copy of Sunbeam, our Haiti missionaries, including Dianne and Barbara, are either on their way to Haiti, in Haiti, or about to leave for Haiti. Please pray for them as they seek to start another school year for the Haitian children.

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The Sunbeam

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Lansing United Methodist Church

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
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