



The Sunbeam December 2018

Lansing United Methodist Church

WORSHIP 9:00; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30

PLEASE JOIN US!

Pastor: Alison Schmied

Adult Ministries Coordinator: Karen Veaner

Children's Education Coordinator: Debbie Geise

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Iain Cockram



Advent 2018

Christmas Eve Services 5:00 and 8:00

From the Pastor

Looking for the Light

If we cannot love those whom we can see, how can we love God, whom we can't see?—1 John 4:20b

LUMC recently hosted a church-wide experience based on Bob Goff's *Everybody Always*. Because God commands us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, *Everybody Always* challenged us to intentionally meet neighbors and listen to their stories. In small groups we practiced conversing, because getting to know neighbors is a first step toward loving them.

Nearly all participants said group discussions were helpful. Evaluations showed that several participants found Bob Goff wacky or off-putting, but he did stimulate discussion! If you missed the evaluation, please complete one from the narthex table, and return to the office.

Building on *Everybody Always*, another church-wide experience is planned for December. Weekly worship messages will explore biblical truths about human nature and God's nature, addressing spiritual questions through scripture, our experience, and the life of fictional character Ebenezer Scrooge. Following worship, an Adult Forum class will discuss Matt Rawle's *The Redemption of Scrooge*.

As Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* begins, Scrooge is stuck in his self-centered misery. Scrooge is annoyed by the unsinkable hope of his nephew, who repeatedly wishes him "Merry Christmas!" Christmas has never profited Scrooge, so Scrooge sees no merriment in it. He responds, "Bah! Humbug!" Perhaps you too have had Bah! Humbug! moments.

The transformation of Scrooge's perspective is the heart of Dickens's story. Scrooge's initial response to unsolicited invitations into new life is, "Keep Christmas in your own way and I'll keep it in mine." Unexpected visits from ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future echo the pattern of God's grace pursuing us before we even know our need.

Like Scrooge, we have the ability to choose our response. May each of us choose to let Christ's love fill our hearts to overflowing this Advent season.

God bless us, every one!

Pastor Allison

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and was and is coming, the Almighty."—Revelation 1:8



Advent Study

The Redemption of Scrooge

Reading *A Christmas Carol* through a Christian Lens

Celebrate the wonder of Christmas! Discover how you can be transformed from "Bah! Humbug!" to "God bless us, every one." Just as God's presence was born anew into this world on the first Christmas, you too can be born anew, woken up, and redeemed into renewed life of joy, passion, generosity, humility, and love.

Explore the world of Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Cratchits from a Christian perspective. How does the faith journey of Ebenezer Scrooge compare with your experience? Bring your story to the table at the LUMC Adult Forum discussion after worship each Sunday in Advent. We'll be reading *The Redemption of Scrooge*, by Matt Rawle, an Advent study based on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.

Scrooge has entered our culture as an iconic figure who represents stinginess, greed, and generally being in a terrible mood. Come meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come, and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. The good news is that Scrooge can be redeemed, and so can we all.

Whether you attend worship regularly, sporadically, or never, Christmas is for you. Whether you are a person of faith or wish you had more faith, Christmas is for you. Whether your Christmas season is filled with anticipation, patient waiting, or exhaustion, Christmas is for you. Whether you can join us one week or all four, this study is for you, and your presence is a gift to us.

May it be said of all of us, as it came to be said of Scrooge, "They kept Christmas well." To order your copy of *The Redemption of Scrooge*, email lumcoffice@gmail.com.



Christmas Eve Worship

LUMC offers two worship experiences on Christmas Eve, at 5:00 and 8:00.

The 5:00 service is a family-oriented experience, while the 8:00 communion service features candlelight and carols.



Greening of the Church and Masterpiece Art Activities

On Saturday, December 1, starting at 9:00 a.m., the church will be adorned with fresh pine wreaths and greenery for the start of Advent. We would love to have families participate in making the wreaths (we'll show you how), and there will also be art activities for the children and youth. There will be several different options to make ornaments and decorations with paint and other creative materials. The masterpieces that are created will be used on Sunday, December 16, for the Children's and Youth Christmas Pageant. If you would like to offer a gift to Jesus using artistic expression, this is the perfect time to do that! All are welcome!

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.

A Little Child Shall Lead Them...

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."—Isaiah 9:2,6,7



The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus told in nine short scripture readings interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and special music. Music, directed by Sharon Powell will include organ, brass quartet, vocal solos, and dance. All are welcome. Although there is no charge for the service, in keeping with our hope that there will always be "room at the Inn," donations for Habitat for Humanity will be gratefully accepted.

The Giving Tree

The Lansing Food Pantry, All Saints Church, and Lansing United Methodist Church join together to support Lansing families in need each Christmas season. Families sign up their children to receive two gifts, a clothing item and a toy item. Your help is needed to provide the gifts for these families. The tag will tell you information about the age and gender of the child and what he or she would like. Please spend up to \$35 on your gift or gift card. There will also be tags on the tree to take to sign up to provide fruit for fruit baskets and homemade cookies for cookie tins.

The Giving Tree deadline is December 9, with distribution December 17. If you would like to help with sorting gifts on Sunday, December 9, after worship, shopping for gifts, if needed, or putting together fruit baskets and cookie trays for gift distribution on December 17, please contact Debbie Geise at child.ministries.lumc@gmail.com All help is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Pageant

It is a joy for the congregation to share in the story of the Nativity presented annually by our children who step into these cherished roles. On Sunday, December 16, during worship, our children and youth will again present their gifts to Jesus in the form of singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or speaking while they give us a glimpse into what it might have felt like for each of the people who were given the privilege to be part of this most holy experience of the birth of Jesus Christ. The children and youth will join together to present "Jesus Means Christmas to Me." Come along with our children and youth as you prepare your hearts this Advent season to receive again the Christ Child, the Messiah, the One who became flesh and dwelt among us, our Savior. We pray that through this special worship service, you will be blessed.

Birthday Party for Jesus

Following the Christmas pageant worship service, the children and youth would like to invite the congregation to share in a "birthday party for Jesus" during Fellowship Time. Please allow our young people to escort you to a seat at a table in the Fellowship Hall where they will serve you your drink and cupcake. We will end this meaningful time for our church family by singing Happy Birthday to Jesus!

Brickyard Philharmonia


Calling all instruments (and their players)! First timers and "old timers," please come Saturday, December 1, at 10 a.m., to rehearse the famed Brickyard Philharmonia. This plucky consortium will lead the music during our service Sunday morning, December 23.

P.S. Have a good instrument you can't play? Bring it to church and leave it (with ID info) in the choir room. It could be a match made in heaven. Or, well, we'll see.

Longest Night Service of Hope and Healing

December 21, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

These holy days can be more difficult than we realize. Many of us might need to share the concerns, the pain, the physical, emotional, or spiritual stresses that burden us especially in December. So let's meet near the fireplace in the Fellowship Hall for some supportive fellowship and prayer. We will hear God's promise that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot put it out. We will share Holy Communion, knowing that salvation doesn't come through wholeness but through a broken body. We may be neither everybody nor always, but we can be a special, open-hearted, mutually supportive and healing company of honest Christians amid the tinsel.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 Junior High Youth 3:30 Senior High Youth 5:30 K.A.N. 5:30	3 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Wingmen 7:00 Youth Ministries 7:00	4 Needleworkers' Group 10:00 Reconciling Ministries Group 6:00 Ladies in Faith Together (LIFT) at Crossroads 6:30 Church Council 7:00	5 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	6	7	1 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Greening of the Church Work Bee 9:00 Christmas Band 10:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 Adults in Mission 4:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Lessons and Carols Reh. 9:00 Community Dinner 3:00
9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 Junior High Youth 3:30 Senior High Youth 5:30 Lessons and Carols Service 6:30	10 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Communion and Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Trustees 7:00 Wingmen 7:00	11 Needleworkers' Group 10:00	12 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	13 Staff Parish 7:00	14	15 Mens' Breakfast at Linda's in North Lansing Every Saturday 7:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Sunbeam Deadline Midnight</div>
16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship and Christmas Pageant 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 Junior High Youth 3:30 Senior High Youth 5:30 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive	17 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30 Wingmen 7:00	18 Needleworkers' Group 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00	19 Women's Bible Study 9:30 (Holiday Luncheon) Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	20	21 Longest Night Service of Hope and Healing 7:00	22 Men's Breakfast 7:00 Rescue Mission Dinner 4:00
23 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Christmas Eve Services 5:00 and 8:00	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! Our Savior Is Come	26	27	28	29 Mens' Breakfast 7:00
30 CHRISTMASTIDE Worship 9:00	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div>	1 Happy New Year	2 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 7:00	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">YOUTH: REGISTER FOR SOLID REAL SOON. CONTACT IAIN</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 100%;">CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div>		
						Lansing United Methodist Church
						December 2018

Adult Ministries

"The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them."—Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*

Adult Forum Opportunities

Sunday Mornings, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. (except December 30)

Advent Gathering: *The Redemption of Scrooge*, by Matt Rawle

Meeting in the Library

This Advent experience based on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, with an eye to Christian faith. Learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by God and his Son, Jesus. —with Karen Bishop, Eileen Davis, Jim Evans, and Joel Brock

The Wired Word

Meeting in the Asbury Classroom

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 & everyday life—with Judy Hinderliter

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; Meeting in the Asbury Classroom

Delve into the Acts of the Apostles! This fifth book of the New Testament tells of the founding of the Christian church and the spread of its message throughout the Roman Empire.—with Dianne Walter, Judy Hinderliter, and Dianne Southard

Holiday schedule note: Holiday Dish-to-Pass Luncheon December 19. No class on December 26 or January 2. Sessions resume January 9.

Community Holiday Dinner

December 8, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This year LUMC will offer a Holiday Dinner at no charge for the whole community. It will be focused on reaching out to everyone to our community to share a wonderful evening together.

We need workers to show up, set up, and clean up (sign-up sheet in the Narthex). Donations will be accepted but not required for the event. Any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Tony Todi or Ed LaVigne 607 592 6542 or elavlumc@aol.com.

Bible Study at Woodsedge: *Isaiah*

Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Meeting in the upstairs lounge at Woodsedge

Holiday schedule note: There will be no gathering on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

The book of Isaiah describes how God will make Jerusalem the center of his worldwide rule through a royal savior, a messiah who will destroy her oppressor, Babylon. Isaiah speaks out against corrupt leaders and for the disadvantaged, and roots righteousness in God's holiness rather than in Israel's covenant. Isaiah 44:6 contains the first clear statement of monotheism: "I am the first and I am the last; beside me there is no God." This model of monotheism became the defining characteristic of post-Exile Judaism and the basis of Christianity and Islam.

The influence of Isaiah extends beyond Christianity to English literature and to Western culture in general, from the libretto of Handel's *Messiah* to a host of such everyday phrases as "swords into ploughshares" and "voice in the wilderness".

Join us and explore the richness and depth of this scripture.—with Karen Veaner, AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org.

Youth Ministries News

Greetings! I hope your Thanksgiving was full of great food and even greater time spent with loved ones. I've got two youth events in mind for the upcoming months:



First, on Sunday, December 16, both Junior High and Senior High youth groups will be having end-of-year holiday parties during their respective regular youth group times. This will be the last session of youth group for 2018, so come with holiday cheer so we can send off the old year and look forward to the new!

Second, SOLID 2019 is quickly approaching! For those who may not know, SOLID is a youth retreat held at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center where youth groups from all across Upstate New York gather to spend time together in fellowship and in fun. Lansing has been coming for the past few years and we're going to go again. The dates for SOLID 2019 are the last weekend of January: Friday, January 25, to Sunday, January 27. My plan is to submit our registration sometime in December, so if you'd like to go or have questions about SOLID, please let me know before January 1.

See you in the new year!—Iain

Fall Festival 2018

Over 80 folks of all ages gathered at LUMC to enjoy fun fall related activities and a hearty harvest meal that all tied together in this year's Children's Sunday School theme based on Ephesians 2:10—*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.* Each station that the children visited reinforced a particular faith concept that they have been learning in Sunday school this fall.



After gathering in the sanctuary to receive cross carabiner necklaces, getting their faces painted (by Naomi Littlejohn, Morgan Wilcox, and Sarah Wyszowski), the children ventured off to visit three different stations on a rotating basis. One station was making pumpkin masterpieces which involved glittering pumpkins, marbling pumpkins in a water and nail polish mix, and rolling pinecones and acorns through paint. This station, led by Lonajean Yoest, Christa Salmon, Anna Weaver-Mule, and Elena Gaffney, created both mess and beauty. The children received a glittery looking pumpkin with the theme verse from Ephesians to put on their necklace.

Another station was launching a pumpkin with a catapult. This station was led by Bonnie Blair, Stephen Geise, and John Wyszowski. Ephesians 3:18 was printed on the next glittery pumpkin that went on the cross carabiner (*And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is*). The kids discovered that their pumpkin could sail very far down the LUMC lawn and they could measure how far it went. By contrast, God's love is so boundless that measuring it is impossible.

The last station was led by Loretta Bidlesbacher, Bonnie Biata, and Izzy Gustafson. Loretta baked five dozen pumpkin and leaf cut-out cookies for the children to decorate. The kids were reminded of how God creates each one of them uniquely and carefully. Psalm 139:4 was the scripture that tied into this station (*Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it*). Christine Maloney, Naomi Littlejohn, and Avery Sigler were also part of this station, giving the children sliced apples to dip in caramel.

The Senior High youth provided the younger ones with trunk-or-treat again this year. Displays had themes such as Monsters, Inc., Star Wars, and Pirate Iain Cockram's treasure chest of booty.

We all enjoyed a scrumptious harvest meal, thanks to our hardworking kitchen crew: Dianne Walter, Laurie Conlon, Wendy Davis, Tony Todt,

Continued at right

Fall Festival, concluded

Mike Walter, Bill Thibault, Debbie LaVigne, and Ed LaVigne.

Thank you so much to all those who gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm in a multitude of ways throughout our afternoon. We are happy that so many people of all ages chose to join us this year for Fall Fest! We are grateful for all those who blessed us with yummy food, including including Colleen Hamilton, of Lake House Creamery, who donated the ice cream and trimmings.

This year, Fall Festival brought to life God's truth in Ephesians 2:10. While God's spectacular masterpiece in nature has been all around us this fall, our LUMC children have been growing in their understanding that their identity is Beloved Masterpiece.



Nursery Masterpiece

Please come visit our nursery in the new wing of the building where you will find some beautiful new creations in the form of a mural and a sensory wall. Sue Frahm painted a "This little light of mine" sunshine and tree on one end, and on the opposite wall, there is a wonderful sensory wall that she and her husband, Dave, designed and crafted. Ron Howell spent much time and effort securing the pieces to the wall.

We are so thankful for Sue's creativity, understanding of little ones' developmental needs, and love for our church's youngest disciples. Thank you so much, Sue, Dave, and Ron for using the gifts God gave you to bless and serve others! You are God's Masterpieces who created a masterpiece for your church family.

Reconciling Ministries Group

Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in this rich discussion! A Reconciling Congregation is a church that makes a public statement welcoming all persons, regardless of LGBTQ status. A group of individuals have begun meeting to develop a process to explore the interest and possibility of LUMC becoming a Reconciling Congregation. You are invited to join us to learn more and explore this process.

All are welcome! Check the church calendar for meeting dates. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Cindy Howell, Jim Evans, Holly Hardie, Marcia Lynch, Pat Pryor, Peg Stoyell, Sandy Dhimitri, Lisa Ryan, Karen Veener, Kathy Sannerud, Diane Withiam, Karen Sieburgh, or Aubryn Neubert.

The Sunbeam

December 2018



Lansing United
Methodist Church

Advent at LUMC

Church Decoration and Philharmonia Rehearsal	Dec. 1
Advent Study	Each Sunday
Community Dinner	Dec. 8
Lessons and Carols	Dec. 9
Christmas Pageant	Dec. 16
Longest Night Service	Dec. 21
Brickyard Philharmonia	Dec. 23
Christmas Eve Services	Dec. 24
	5:00 and 8:00

Lansing United Methodist Church

32 Brickyard Road, Lansing, NY 14882
one mile north of the stoplight on
Route 34B in South Lansing.
Church office: 607-533-4070

E-mail: lumcoffice@twcny.rr.com

Max MacKenzie, Pastoral Administrative Assistant
www.lansingunited.org

The Sunbeam is published monthly by
Lansing United Methodist Church.

Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
editor, at grw4@cornell.edu.
Deadline for the next issue is
December 15, 2018