



The Sunbeam March 2019

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

Lent 2019



Ash Wednesday Service
March 6

From the Pastor

Sanctification

Happy are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied.
(Luke 6:21).



For what do you hunger and thirst?

John Wesley's answer would have been something like "for happiness and holiness." He taught that the two were closely related. Growing in holiness means becoming a clearer reflection of God's love to the world, in which we find true happiness. This happiness is not a fleeting moment of amusement, but an experience of deeper fulfillment and connection with God.

Wesley's word for the process of becoming more holy is sanctification. Sanctification is the clearing away from our lives everything that prevents us from being in perfect relationships-- with God and with people.

"If we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us." (1 John 4:12b). Perfection in love is a lofty idea, achievable only with God's help. The Holy Spirit and human willpower work together. Using the metaphor of our lives as mirrors to reflect God's love to the world, sanctification cleans the mirror and the Holy Spirit works on us like windex works on glass-- to the extent we work with the Spirit.

To focus on the sanctification process, some people observe Lent by abstaining from particular food or drink. Physical hunger can remind us of spiritual realities.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry?" Feeling hungry during the 40 days of Lent can remind us of the 40 million people in the United States who struggle to have enough food to eat. Time or money saved by intentionally skipping a meal can be given to an organization that works to alleviate hunger.

If we hunger and thirst for God's reign, do our spiritual practices help us feed that hunger? Is daily prayer part of our routine? We wouldn't expect to become more physically fit without exercise. Maybe instead of giving up something for Lent, we could take up a practice to help us grow in our faith.

Focusing on ways to feed the hungers of body and soul for ourselves and for others will be the focus of our Sunday worship and Adult Forum discussions during the season of Lent. I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Pastor Alison

Please Join Us for the 2nd Annual Winter Festival
with Intergenerational Giant Game Night and Dinner
Saturday, March 16, 3:00-6:00 p.m.



You may have played Uno, Jenga, Checkers, and Sorry, but have you ever played them in the GIANT version? Here's your chance! Come enjoy fellowship and fun with your whole church family as you play a variety of favorite and new games, warm up with the hot chocolate bar, and enjoy a warm winter meal. There will also be some masterpiece process art activities for kids and adults alike. You won't want to miss this delightful event that was a hit with those who attended last year. There is fun for all ages!

Lenten Simple Suppers

Wednesday Evenings during Lent, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Take a break from your hectic week! Take a break from distractions and consider your relationship with God and those around you. Each Wednesday during Lent, an Open House Simple Supper of soup and bread will be available in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We serve an open table. Gather just for dinner, if you wish. Seven nights of no cooking—how great is that? A room for quiet meditation will be available, or join our Lenten gathering, "Gleanings" with Pastor Alison at 6:00 p.m. For those itching for a discussion of current events, Jim Evans will facilitate The Wired Word, also at 6:00 p.m.

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith. Making time to be together seems right and holy. Find your path of self-reflection and spiritual discovery. Share a meal with friends old and new. Invite others to join you as you seek to observe a holy Lent.

Mission Partners Needed for Simple Suppers

Would you like to provide food for one or more of the Lenten Simple Suppers, on Wednesdays during Lent? The menu is, well, simple: soup, bread, and dessert. If you could provide one of these on one or more Wednesday evenings, please contact Vicky Swanson at ges28@cornell.edu

Lenten Blessing

Where the hunger of the world beyond you meets the hunger of the world within you: may you find yourself in this place.—Jan L. Richardson,
In the Sanctuary of Women

Adult Ministries Opportunities

Isaiah 58:6-8 NRSV

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Adult Forum: "Gleanings," Sundays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Gleanings: A Lenten Gathering, with Pastor Alison in the Asbury Room

"**G**leanings" is a discussion that emphasizes faithful reflection and living around the topic of hunger. This new resource from the Society of St. Andrew contains both First Testament and New Testament conversations, broadly focusing on hospitality, welcome, and hunger in the Bible. Drop in any time.

**Note from the Adult Ministries Team:* As Lent is a "special gathering time," we encourage everyone to participate in *Gleanings*. This will be the only Adult Forum offered Sundays during Lent, with another section offered on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (plus the Wired Word with Jim Evans).

The Wired Word

with Jim Evans, Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. during Lent (following the simple supper)

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.

Adult Ministries Talk Back with Adult Ministries Team

Sunday, March 3, 10:30 a.m., Asbury Classroom, and Library

We would like to hear from all adults regarding their feedback and program ideas for Adult Ministries! Whether you participate regularly, sometimes, or never, we'd like to know what you like and how we can improve and grow our programming. Help us to shape the future of adult education, fellowship, and service opportunities.

Interfaith Community Dinner

Thursday, March 28, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Interfaith Center for Action and Healing, Lansing Plaza (East Shore Dr.)

World Peace begins in your own back yard. Meet our new neighbors! The March interfaith community dinner will be co-hosted by the Interfaith Center for Action and Healing (<https://interfaithcah.org>) and Living Hope Fellowship (<http://lhfithaca.org>) and will be held at The Interfaith Center for Action and Healing, 1939 East Shore Drive, Lansing Plaza (yes, the former bank, next to the Lansing Post Office).

Please bring a labeled vegetarian dish-to-pass and an open heart to meet new friends. If time or budget, make bringing a dish a hardship, please come anyway! Your presence is gift enough.

These monthly Interfaith Community dinners are a collaboration among Lansing United Methodist Church, Al Huda Islamic Center, Congregation Tikken v'Or, Ithaca Reform Temple, and members of the Lansing community. We welcome all of our neighbors. All are truly welcome.

First Look: *The Hebrew Bible, A Translation with Commentary*, by Robert Alter

Review by Jim Evans

For the past 35 years or so, Everett Fox has been publishing excellent translations of chunks of the Jewish Bible. Now comes Robert Alter, with the entire Old Testament, as Christians call it, over three thousand pages in three volumes, in English that delights the heart, voice, and mind.

The heart warms to Alter's rendering because his English feels so personal and human. These are the stories and songs of real people dealing with each other and with a God of real emotions.

The voice longs to read this Bible aloud. Alter does the impossible trick of sounding fresh without perishable trendiness, yet majestic without cobwebs. The King James Version may still reign in overall beautiful sound, but the Alter wins in both great music and clarity in our ears. With far greater accuracy.

The mind gets as much as it's hungry for. Each page averages half Biblical text and half footnotes and commentary that's by turns deep water and surfing with wit.

And he researched and wrote the whole blessed thing by hand, with a Cross mechanical pencil, on narrow ruled paper, in 10–15 years, which seems blisteringly fast to me.

No question, Robert Alter is the new champ. I want this.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30
 Childrens' Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Junior High Youth 2:30
 Confirmation Class 4:00
 K.A.N. 5:30
 Senior High Youth 5:30

4 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30

Wingmen 7:00

5 Needleworkers' Group 10:00

Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) at Crossroads 6:30
 Church Council 7:00

6 Women's Bible Study 9:30

Bell Choir 6:00
 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00
 Choir to Follow

7

1

8

2 Men's Breakfast 7:00
 Prayer
 Shawl Ministry 10:00

Men's Breakfast 7:00
 Note: Set clocks ahead tonight

10 Worship 9:00
 Eastern Daylight Time
 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30
 Children's Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Junior High Youth 2:30
 Confirmation Class 4:00
 Senior High Youth 5:30

11 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30

Trustees 7:00
 Wingmen 7:00

12 Needleworkers' Group 10:00

13 Women's Bible Study 9:30

Lenten Simple Supper 5:00
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Lenten Book Study 6:00
 Choir 7:00

14

15

Sunbeam Deadline Midnight

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

Winter Festival and Giant Game Night 3:00

17 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30
 Childrens' Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Junior High Youth 2:30
 Confirmation Class 4:00
 Senior High Youth 5:30
 Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

18 Pancakes and Prayers 7:00
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30

Wingmen 7:00

19 Needleworkers' Group 10:00

Worship Committee 7:00

20 Women's Bible Study 9:30

Lenten Simple Supper 5:00
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Lenten Book Study 6:00
 Choir 7:00

21

22

Confirmation Retreat

23 Mens' Breakfast 7:00

St. John's Mission Dinner 4:00
 (Formerly the Rescue Mission)

24 Worship 9:00
 Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30
 Childrens' Musical Rehearsal 11:30

Junior High Youth 2:30
 Senior High Youth 5:30

25 Children's Musical Rehearsal 10:00
 Bible Study at Woodsedge 10:30

Wingmen 7:00

26 Needleworkers' Group 10:00

27 Women's Bible Study 9:30

Lenten Simple Supper 5:00
 Bell Choir 6:00
 Lenten Book Study 6:00
 Choir 7:00

28 Interfaith Community Dinner 6:00
 Location TBA

29

30 Men's Breakfast 7:00

Children's Musical Dress Rehearsal 1:00

31 Worship 9:00
 Childrens' Musical: Moses and the Freedom Fanatics

Junior High Youth 2:30
 Confirmation Class 4:00
 Senior High Youth 5:30



March 2019

Lansing United Methodist Church



Moses and the Freedom Fanatics



lice, flies, and fleas—and froggies, too! Join us in worship on March 31 as our children tell the story of “Moses and the Freedom Fanatics.” Moses tries to convince Pharaoh to let the people go (aided by some helpful insects—and froggies, too). No bug spray required!

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

with Dianne Walter, Judy Hinderliter, and Dianne Southard

Study and discuss The Acts of the Apostles, which tells of the founding of the Christian church and the spread of its message to the Roman Empire. New members are welcome at any time.

Isaiah: Bible Study at Woodsedge

Mondays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

with Karen Veaner in the upstairs lounge at Woodsedge

Isaiah's influence extends beyond Judaism and Christianity to English literature and Western culture in general. Join anytime. All are welcome!, AdultMinistries@LansingUnited.org.

A Nearly Complete List of Everything: Small Groups

I am always amazed by the number of small groups that act independently within our church. A friend within our congregation once told me that the only thing we all have in common is that we believe in Jesus. What a blessing that is, that we all have different talents and interests and yet we still come together to worship and do good works.

This month, statistics were due (to the conference), which meant a lot of what I call “bean counting.” One cool statistic that I came up with is that we had forty-eight small groups that met at some point over the course of 2018. That is on top of the twelve small groups that met nearly every week! I think that's amazing! It means we provided at least sixty opportunities for people to find fellowship with other Christians over the course of last year. Just in case anyone is wondering what all these groups were, or if anyone is looking for a ministry to jump into, I will print these lists and keep a copy in the white binder I refer to as “The Nearly Complete List of Everything” located in the Narthex, near the left door going into the sanctuary.—Max MacKenzie

LUMC Youth Ministries

March is shaping up to be a pretty low-key month for youth group, but we are looking ahead to April. We'll be continuing our study of the Nooma series by Rob Bell that we started in February and find new, exciting games to play.

There are two youth events coming up in April to which I want to give some advance notice. The first is OUTWARD!, an annual youth event put on by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM). This year, as in past years, it will be held at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, from April 5 to 7. The theme for this year is “Love: Branching Out, Digging Deep.” Local band Inside Out (which your friendly neighborhood Youth Ministries Coordinator happens to play in) will provide live music during this fun-filled weekend!

The second youth event is the 30-Hour Famine, a nationwide event with a worldwide impact. For 30 hours, we'll spend time learning about hunger, who it affects, and how we can help put an end to it. We'll also spend time learning about what Jesus says about hunger and how we should treat those who need assistance. As one might expect, for the entire event we won't eat, so we can experience true hunger for ourselves! We're looking to do the 30-Hour Famine on April 26 and 27, which is the weekend after Lansing's spring break. We hope to have a great turnout and have a meaningful experience!—Iain Cockram

Summer Opportunities at Our Camps and Retreat Centers

Registration is now open for 2019 Summer Camp & Retreat programs, including Casowasco and Aldersgate. Camp and Retreat Ministries is pleased to offer a wide variety of programs, including classic favorites and new adventures. This year, we will learn how God calls us to be agents of change in our communities, and how we can transform those communities through generosity, compassion, inclusion, justice, and forgiveness. Check with campsandretreats.org.

Church Website Renovation

We have a team that is going to take on the task renovating our out-of-date website. This is an important part of being a welcoming community in today's world, so it's really an important ministry. If you have any experience in building or maintaining a website, please join our team currently made up by Jase Baese, Ted Boscia, and Lonajean Yoest.

Robin's Nest Director's Letter to the Congregation

by Erin Hays

Dear LUMC, My name is Erin Hays and I am managing director on the Robin's Nest Board of Directors. I want to share with you my experience and passion for the Robin's Nest in hopes that you become as excited and eager to have Robin's Nest join the LUMC ministry as we are. I first learned about the Robin's Nest when trying to find a preschool for my son. While spiritual, I do not consider myself a religious individual and we do not attend church, but I found myself drawn to it as I read and learned about the message and history of the preschool. I particularly liked that it was non-denominational and while it teaches about the love of God and Jesus Christ, its curriculum was not solely based on it. I grew up without much religion until my step-mother introduced us to the Catholic church. To a child my age the services were a bit long and hard to understand, so I chose to no longer attend when I was older. My husband also grew up in the Catholic faith and eventually chose to no longer attend. Because we as a family now do not attend church and had not spoken of religion in our household, I felt it was unfair to our children to not allow them an opportunity to learn about it. The Robin's Nest preschool not only taught my children in a loving and caring way, they also introduced the Christian faith to them in a way they could relate to and understand. Because of this, they would come home wanting to talk about it and ask questions, to this day sparking many a faith and spiritual conversation around the dinner table. That curiosity and openness would not have happened for them without the Robin's Nest and now I feel, as they grow, they will continue to learn and develop their own faith and spirituality to make their own choices into adulthood. I felt so strongly about this that when my daughter graduated and I had no more kids to send, I still reached out to Dianne Walter and offered my help to the school. Unknown to me, she was in the process of starting a board of directors, and so here we are!

You may ask why I am writing all this? I think that this is one of the many reasons the Robin's Nest needs the LUMC. The Robin's Nest is a self-sustaining preschool and legitimately able to be our own not-for-profit entity, but we desire to be part of something bigger. A mama bird to our baby bird as it were, under the shelter of her wing. An outreach program for the Christian faith that reaches folks like me. Being part of the LUMC ministry will help keep the preschool grounded in the Christian faith, especially in the eyes of the community. All our directors are previous parents of Robin's Nest graduates and are as passionate about the school as I am, each in their

Continued at right

Robin's Nest, concluded

own way. Several of our directors are also members of LUMC; Debbie Geise, Dianne Walter, Naomi Littlejohn, Kelly Tracy, and Glenn Swanson. We feel strongly that this fellowship will be beneficial to both the Robin's Nest and LUMC. We look forward to introducing ourselves at a service in the coming weeks and hope you will attend our Q&A session. We welcome any questions or concerns and will answer them openly and honestly. I look forward to meeting all of you!

From Pastor Alison: The LUMC Church Council recommends expanding our Christian Education Ministry by accepting Lakeview Christian Life Church (LCLC)'s offer of their Christian Preschool and its property. Adopting this preschool will give LUMC more opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world among up to 25 preschool children and their families annually.

In 2016, the LUMC Church Council directed the LUMC Trustees to inspect the gift. The LUMC Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Finance committees have examined the condition of the property and the preschool's program, operation, and finances, concluding that the preschool is financially stable and sustainable. Student tuition has funded operation and property maintenance for 40+ years. The building is mortgage free.

Under LUMC's oversight, the preschool's volunteer Board of Directors will continue to manage the preschool and the property, expanding the breadth and expertise of LUMC's Christian Education ministries. Preschool teachers will become church employees. The preschool will follow all LUMC policies regarding Safe Sanctuaries, personnel practices, and financial management.

A congregational vote is required for LUMC to accept the gift of the property. Please plan to attend a congregational information meeting after worship on March 24 to learn more. You may ask questions of members of the LUMC Church Council and the preschool's Board of Directors following the presentation.

Which Way Forward?

Regional gatherings with Bishop Webb are planned for March to discuss A Way Forward for the United Methodist Church.

At this writing, no one knows what will result from the 2019 Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis, when delegates from around the world receive the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward. Voting was scheduled for the end of February.

In March, Bishop Webb will host six regional gatherings around the Upper NY Conference to share his explanation of actions and decisions of the Special Session. The gatherings closest to Lansing are planned for March 20, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at Liverpool First UMC, and March 24, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Chenango Bridge UMC.

The Sunbeam

March 2019



Lansing United
Methodist Church

**Ash Wednesday, March 6
Service at 7:00 p.m.**

Winter Festival, March 16

**Children's Musical
Performance, March 31
during 9:00 worship**



Lansing United Methodist Church

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Please send your news to Glenn Withiam,
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