



# LUX

Aug/Sept. 2022

The newsletter of University Lutheran Church and One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan State University

## Mark Your Calendars . . .

### Alpha Sunday

Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.

Outdoor Worship

**Worship Expressions:**

**Bluegrass**

Potluck Picnic following

### Food Movers

Thursday, Aug. 25 & Sept. 22

Drive-thru distribution

beginning at 3:30 p.m.

### Pub Theology

Tuesday, Aug. 30 & Sept. 27

7:00 p.m. on Zoom

### Understanding Racism

Friday, Sept. 30 &

Saturday, Oct. 1

9 to 6 p.m.

Two-day virtual workshop

(More info on page 5)

## Summer Outdoor Concert Series



J & J Sounds (John Dale Smith, Janine Novenske Smith, Jonathan Smith, Jerry Krause, and Rick Cote) perform at the third outdoor concert at ULC.

Throughout the summer ULC members and friends brought their lawn chairs and blankets to the north lawn to enjoy music and fellowship. The series of three concerts, held on July 10, July 31 and Aug. 14, were funded by a grant from the ULC Endowment Fund. Between 150 –

200 people attended each concert, enjoying the beautiful summer weather, great music, popcorn, and ice cream provided by Quality Dairy. A freewill offering of \$1,654.75 was donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Go to page 6 for more information and photos.

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**Alpha Sunday**  
September 18  
10:00 a.m.

**Worship Expressions Bluegrass**  
Outdoor worship & BBQ potluck

*An integrated family journeying faithfully together, inspired by God's grace, guided by Christ, and empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit*

## Where is God Leading us Now?

At our July Council meeting our Treasurer, Louise Montag shared the news that she had just signed the final mortgage payment check! It was wonderful news. Something the congregation has been looking forward to for a long time and something many people have been contributing to for a long time. Paying off the mortgage is a significant accomplishment. It's been a long time coming.



To celebrate, the Council has planned a celebration for Sunday, Sept. 18 as part of our Alpha Sunday kick off to the new academic year. I'm not sure what this will look like, but it will include burning the mortgage, and possibly adding some items to the time capsule that was opened for the congregation's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Again, paying off the mortgage is a major accomplishment. But it's not simply an ending. It's a new beginning. Where is God leading us now?

What makes me even more excited beyond paying off the mortgage, is the new ministry that can be

accomplished with the money that has been going to the mortgage each month for many years. At Council meetings this year, we have been taking time to brainstorm and discuss ideas for new ministries and new possibilities with the money that is freed up. About a year

ago, we had congregational listening sessions to get feedback and share ideas for possible new ministries. Where is God leading us now?

We've looked at short term ministry goals and long-term ministry goals. We've considered additional specific staff positions that might help our ministry to grow. We've talked about what major maintenance issues there are coming up with our building. We've been very practical. We've dreamed "crazy far out" dreams. Needless to say. We haven't decided on anything specific yet, but at our last Council meeting we narrowed things down a bit and hope to have

some concrete decisions for next year's budget. One comment that I made to the Council is that I hope that whatever we decide will have a balance between ministry that reaches out to the community beyond ULC, and ministry that targets "us." Where is God leading us now?

So, as you enjoy summer and vacations and time away, please do some dreaming and thinking about how our ministry might grow and move in new directions now that our mortgage is paid. And as you do that, please feel free to share your ideas with anyone on the Council about where God is leading us now?

We are at an exciting time as a congregation – a time filled with accomplishment and new possibilities – a time where we get to ask, "Where is God leading us now?"

Paying off the mortgage isn't simply an ending, it's a new beginning! Where is God leading us now?

Blessings as you ponder where God is leading us,

*Pastor Gary*

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## The August Outreach of the Month Food Packing

At last! After a break of two years, ULC and the Islamic Center will once again join together to pack 10,000 meals for hungry people. The Food Packing Event will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23 at the Islamic Center. Mark your calendar now and there will be more details and an opportunity to sign up as we get closer to the date.

For now, we need to raise at least an additional \$700 so that we can purchase the rice, vitamins, minerals, and dehydrated vegetables that make up the food packets. A donation of \$35 will sponsor a volunteer to pack food for



The 2018 Food Packing event.

the day. Please consider sponsoring one or more volunteers (or yourself if you plan to pack food). The MSU Student Food Bank will be the recipient of the one third of the meals that will stay locally.

Contribute using the "donate" button on our website ([www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)), by sending a check to the church office or placing one in the offering plate, or by direct deposit in our MSUFCU account. Please designate "Food Packing" in the memo section.

Thank you for making this impactful event possible!

*Vicki Anderson*

## Welcome Students!

Please give a warm welcome to our new and returning students as you see them enter the building for worship and campus ministry programs this fall. Please wear your name tags in worship and consider adding your pronouns to your nametag as a welcome gesture. This seemingly small step can go a long way to help more than just students feel welcome in our congregation. An example of adding pronouns to my name tag would be “Pastor Haley Vay Beaman (she/her/hers)” If you have questions, please feel welcome and encouraged to ask me.

*Pastor Haley Vay*

### Returning Student Associates 2022-2023



**Rachel Drobnak (she/her)**  
**Class of 2023**

Hello there! I'm entering my last year at MSU studying Crop & Soil Science and Spanish. I could not be more excited to be one of the Student Associates this year - it's one of my favorite parts of college! This summer I studied abroad in Santander, Spain

for two months where I finished my minor, explored a new country and improved my Spanish a lot. For fun, I love dancing, gardening, and all things crafting.



**Maggie Haite (they/them)**  
**Class of 2023**

I am a senior studying Fisheries and Wildlife with minors in GIS, LGBTQ+ studies, and public policy. This summer I've been working as a field technician with the state endangered Massasauga Rattlesnake.

This is going to be my third and final year as a student associate and I'm excited to learn and grow with everyone who joins us. Along with snakes, I also really like music, community gardening, and listening to podcasts.



**Andrea Vera (she/her)**  
**Class of 2023**

I am entering my fourth year of environmental engineering at MSU this fall. I've been missing One Community and ULC since this past spring semester I was studying abroad in Quito, Ecuador, but I'm so

excited to jump back in come September and continue to grow as a student associate and in my faith alongside some of my favorite people! This past summer I was a

part of a research team in Montpellier, France, working to advance water treatment technologies to make water more affordable and accessible. When I make time for myself, I love to read, hike, go to concerts, and cook!

**Thank you, Annaliese!** We thank graduate, Annaliese Marks, for her faithful service as Student Associate! Annaliese will begin graduate study at MSU this fall and has decided to focus time and energy fulfilling those requirements. Although she will not be serving as Student Associate, she is excited to continue participating in One Community. With that in mind, we are interviewing for our fourth Student Associate position and will look forward to sharing that news with you in the next Lux newsletter!

### Refer a Student

LuMin is the ELCA's Campus Ministry Network, and we have an online *Refer A Student* Program that helps connect campus ministry congregations and students.

#### Do you know students attending college this fall?

Between university campus ministries and local congregations, the ELCA has a network of rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) and congregations who are eager to connect with your college students! We want to care for them and help them plug into a faith community while they're at school.

#### All we need from you? Make the introduction!



Visit the LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry) Network's Refer a Student Page <https://www.luminelca.org/refer-a-student/>. Help us get connected. It'll just take a minute or two. Thank you!

### Zack Sneed, Fulbright Scholar in Israel



Zack Sneed in a music video, *Love*, for ULC worship May 18, 2020.

Among the highly esteemed 2022-2023 MSU Fulbright US Student Program grantees is ULC's former Senior Choir Scholarship Student and recent MSU graduate with a BA in Linguistics, Zack Sneed. Our congratulations, blessings, and prayers go with you on your adventures in Israel, Zack! You can read the full article here:

[www.isp.msu.edu/news/article/23066?fbclid=IwAR2s0kvJodDchbhV95ugw7](http://www.isp.msu.edu/news/article/23066?fbclid=IwAR2s0kvJodDchbhV95ugw7)

[FpNS4wzeVqEHtygsaVkr93VUUMPs6QxVqMgsU](https://www.luminelca.org/refer-a-student/)

## **Our 2022 High School Graduates**

Prayers & Squares have provided countless quilts to graduates over the years of their ministry at ULC. We thank them for all of the time and creativity added to each

unique quilt for our 2022 high school graduates—they are beautiful and handmade with specific interests, colors, and characteristics of the recipient in mind.

This fall Maya Bubolz will be attending Northern Michigan University; Grace Sype will be attending



Pictured left to right: Pastor Gary Bunge, Alex Williams, Maya Bubolz, Grace Sype, Aaron Williams, Pastor Haley Vay Beaman

they discern, our prayers and blessings go with these graduates and their families in this new and exciting chapter. Graduates, we hope you always remember there's a place for you here at ULC!

Michigan State University; Aaron Williams will be attending University of Michigan; and Alex Williams will be attending Michigan State University. All are undecided on their field of study and while

*Pastor Haley Vay*

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## **Worship Wednesday & Sunday Fun Days this Fall**

Our faith formation program year with children will resume on Zoom with in-person opportunities for faith formation and fellowship during our Sunday Fun Days this fall. Worship Wednesday for children (age three through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will continue to brighten our hearts and homes with recorded highlights to be featured in worship. We plan to gather on Zoom at 4 p.m. Wednesdays, September

through December, culminating with our annual Christmas play!

In Worship Wednesday we gather to explore our faith through Bible stories, Children's Choir, music (including Bells, rhythm instruments, and movement), along with fun crafts and activities that help our children grow in faith and life.

This year we hope to offer opportunities for Children's Choir to sing in person on Sunday mornings as well as in recorded music videos. A fall schedule will be sent to families in September.

Please register children on our website or send an email to Pastor Haley Vay ([haley.vay@gmail.com](mailto:haley.vay@gmail.com)) to learn more.

*Pastor Haley Vay*

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## **Summer Sunday Fun Days!**



Our children, youth, and families enjoyed fun on the north lawn this summer exploring music through songs and bells, while adventuring in the Bible with Creation themed stories, games, and snack-crafts.

# Forum Resumes in September

We have a lively and provocative fall in the works! The forum schedule is not yet set, but here's a glimpse at the two main fall features:



Bible is less a book of answers than a book that helps us ask the right questions."

'Christian' 'Nationalism'? How is it different from Christianity? These and other ideas will be explored via video, podcasts, interviews, and more.

**The Difficult Words of Jesus** — a six-part DVD series, led by Pastor Gary, and narrated by internationally renowned scholar and university professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Amy-Jill Levine. In her book of the same title, Levine says, "Since 'Israel' means 'to wrestle with God', we do well to wrestle with passages that have and can continue to cause harm...The

The Racial Justice Team will present two or three forums on the resurgence of the **White Christian Nationalism (WCN) movement** and how it affects both racial justice and today's political climate. (Would you be surprised to learn that very few "mainstream" Christians push back on this movement?) What is patriotism? What is nationalism? What is the problem with 'White'

About **The Difficult Words of Jesus**, "...Levine goes for the doozies, sayings that puzzle not only beginners, but seasoned students of Scripture."

Watch the Weekly Announcements and ULC website for more information about the start date and schedule (probably early September)

*Linda Trevarthen*



## ULC Memorial Library

### Racial Justice Collection Expanded

The ULC Library has added a few new books to the Racial Justice Collection. All books were donated to the library for their value in telling the story of racial justice in America.



The ULC Memorial Library, in the ULC basement.

One set contains three books titled *March: Book One*, *Book Two* and *Book Three* which tell the story of John Lewis. These graphic memoirs bring to life a vivid portrait of the civil rights era, Lewis' extraordinary history and accomplishments, and the movement he helped lead. While the books are cataloged for intermediate age youth, the graphic format makes them appealing to all ages. (INT B Lewis)



Another book, *Phyllis's Orange Shirt* by Phyllis Webstad, tells the story of Phyllis who at the age of six went to a residential school for the first time. On her first day at school, she wore a shiny orange shirt that her granny had bought for her, but when she got to the school, it was taken away from her and never returned. This is the true story of Phyllis, her orange shirt, and Orange Shirt Day. (E Web)

The last book is *Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America* by Deborah Diesen. This book teaches all about the history of voting rights in the United

States—from our nation's founding to the present day. (E 324.6)

We hope you will visit the library when you are in the church. It is open when the church is open.

*The Library Team  
Jennifer Johnson,  
Judy Kindel, Connie Lenkowski  
and Linda Trevarthen*

What can I do about racism? First step, education.

## Understanding Racism

A two-day virtual workshop

Friday - Saturday

Sept. 30/Oct. 1

on Zoom

Visit [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)

to learn more and register!

Scholarships are available



Offered by the **ULC Racial Justice Team** in partnership with **Lansing Communities Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE)**

A life-changing, church-changing, city-changing event

# Hybrid Rehearsals Start this Fall!

## Children's Choir

Music will continue to be part of our awesome Worship Wednesdays - 4:15 p.m. on Zoom!

Music with Mrs. Janine will include Children's Choir, rhythm instruments, and movement.

As we sing in our opening song – “All Are Welcome.”

## New Hope Singers

Meet, Greet, and Sing!

Sunday, Oct. 2 in the Sanctuary following worship.

New Hope Singers is ULC's vocal ensemble for college students and young adults.

Come and join us for a chance to meet, greet, sing, and see if this is a ministry that is right for you.

NHS director, Janine Novenske Smith  
Accompanist, John Dale Smith

## Senior Choir

New this year - Hybrid rehearsals

The Senior Choir will rehearse both on Zoom and in-person, according to our schedule.  
Thursdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The choir will sing in-person on scheduled Sunday mornings during worship and will also record one video this semester.

First Rehearsal: Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at ULC

Senior Choir director, Janine Novenske Smith  
Accompanist, Kristie W. Wiggert



### July 10 – Lansing Concert Band

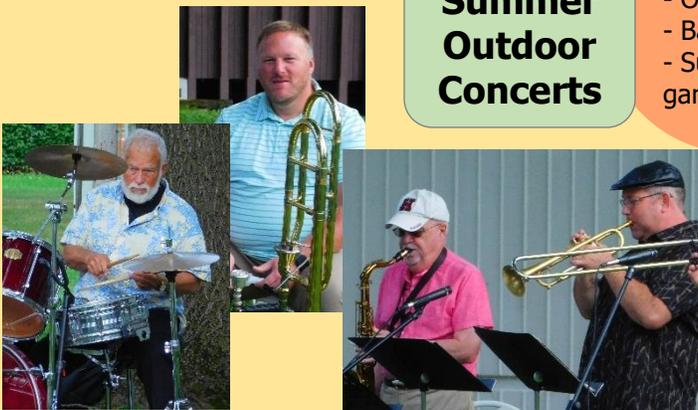
- Americana music
- 60-member Concert Band
- Approximately 200 people attended



### July 31 – Roaring 20's Party Band

- Over 150 people were entertained by the six-member band
- Band leader: Don Sovey
- Sunday Funday activities, including a Bible story and water games, were enjoyed by the children during intermission

## Summer Outdoor Concerts



### August 14 – J & J Sounds

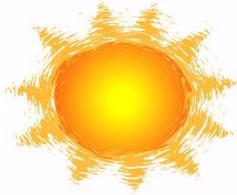
- Motown, Chicago, Blues Brothers band
- Over 150 people enjoyed the nine-member band, led by Jerry Krause and John Dale Smith.

## The Sun has Been Shining on ULC!

As people of faith and tenants of this earth we are called to care for God's creation. In 2020, as a congregational response to lower our carbon footprint, a 19.8 kw solar array was installed on our roof.

This occurred after other energy reductions, including replacing all lighting with LED bulbs, were made to the building.

These measures are having positive rewards. In the past few months our solar panels provided 75 percent of our electricity. In the past year 30 percent of our electricity was solar generated clean energy (a more



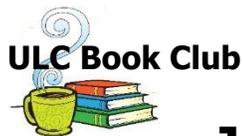
detailed report can be obtained from Dale Romsos, Facilities Team).

Following a seed money gift in 2020 to ULC from the Islamic Center for our solar array, a goal of the Earthkeeping Team was made to pay this gift of clean energy forward. It was decided to support our "neighbors" in the Lansing area to achieve their goals of reducing energy costs, using the savings to support their services to the community and reducing their carbon footprints. Since then, ULC, with the support of the congregation, has monetarily supported Haven House Shelter, the Islamic Center,

South Side Community Coalition in Lansing and now Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lansing in their efforts to take part in the clean energy transition.

There are many ways that individuals can make a difference in slowing down the degradation of our planet. Several families at ULC have invested in obtaining their electricity from the sun and one family has installed a solar powered boat lift. By working together as individuals or part of an organization, we can contribute in a meaningful way to a just and sustainable future for our creation and all who follow us.

*Judy Kindel*



### ULC Book Club

## Join us to Discuss *The Personal Librarian*

The ULC Book Club will resume meeting in September. We meet at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month, September through May. We take the month of December off to accommodate busy holiday schedules. We welcome new members to our book club and would love to have you join us.

There are three ways to participate. As long as the ULC building is open, we meet in person wearing masks. For those who are not comfortable with in person meetings or have health concerns, we also provide a ZOOM link. Finally, if you would like to read the books along with us, but cannot make one or more meetings, we record the discussion and can provide you with the audio file of the meeting. If you aren't able to make the meeting and want to make sure an observation or question is discussed by the group, you can email Beth Rahe at [bwojan1@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan1@gmail.com) or Mary Kotnik at [mkotnik@comcast.net](mailto:mkotnik@comcast.net) and we will make sure to include your input during the meeting.

We next meet on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. where we will discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict

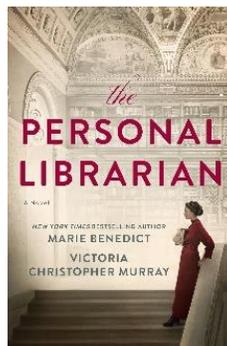
and Victoria Christopher Murray. This book tells the story of Belle da Costa Green, the personal librarian for J.P. Morgan. She becomes well known throughout New York society as she gathers artwork, books and other artifacts to be included in the Pierpont Morgan Library.

While navigating the racist culture of the day, Belle has to hide her true identity for the safety of her family. Belle da Costa Green is actually Belle Marion Greener, daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard.

Beth will once again see that our monthly selections are included on the book club table at Schulers' Book Store. Purchase a copy of *The Personal Librarian* from this table and receive a 20 percent discount.

We would love for you to join us. Please reach out to Beth Rahe at [bwojan1@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan1@gmail.com) or Mary Kotnik at [mkotnik@comcast.net](mailto:mkotnik@comcast.net) so we can add you to our email list and keep you up to date on the books we choose and any changes in meeting time or location.

*Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik*





## **Nineteen Years, 2,500 Recipients!**

This coming November will mark the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prayers & Squares Chapter 163 at ULC. It is amazing that more than 2,500 recipients have been wrapped in prayer quilts, Quilts of Valor, high school graduation quilts and more. Many Lutheran World Relief quilts and sewing kits have been sent on their way to various countries in addition to the Afghan refugees who now make their home here in the Lansing area. Thanks to Loran Bieber and others, many sewing machines have been reconditioned and given to them as well.

Last Fall the Prayers & Squares ladies packed 100 school kits made by Ellie Korrach for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). She has been busy this summer sewing wonderfully creative backpacks that will need to be filled with school supplies. We are requesting monetary gifts to allow us to purchase the items LWR stipulates be included in each backpack. Please indicate “Prayers &



Sam, the intern for St. Vincent's Catholic Charities, picking up the sewing machines, quilts, fabric and notions we had collected for the Afghan refugees.

Squares School Kits” on your check or donation through the ULC website. Thank you for helping us continue the ULC tradition of strong support for this project.

We resumed our regular sewing on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 2. If you are unable to join us, we have kits ready to be taken home for completion, and often, fabric that needs to be washed and ironed. Many quilts are in progress thanks to those who worked from home this summer. We have

quilts ready to be given to folks who need our prayers and comfort. Please contact either Ann Booren ([boorena@msu.edu](mailto:boorena@msu.edu)) or Bobbie Davis ([bobbieanddave80@gmail.com](mailto:bobbieanddave80@gmail.com)) if you know of someone who should be included, and come choose a special quilt for them. Ann & I are ready to answer any questions about this wonderful ministry.

*Bobbie Davis*

### **September Outreach of the Month Kids Hope USA**

Would you like to make a difference for a child? If so, Kids Hope USA has three opportunities to do that.

Kids Hope USA is a national ministry that began in western Michigan over 25 years ago and has spread to more than 35 states. It assists church members in mentoring elementary school students and establishing a relationship with the children, so they feel special and loved. Kids Hope USA started at ULC in 2019 with mentors at Forest View Elementary in Lansing. Last year we had 12 mentors working with 12 students.



A second opportunity to make a difference is to serve as a prayer partner for a mentor/student relationship. Prayer partners communicate weekly with a mentor to get an update on the relationship and pray for it.

The third opportunity is for donors to provide funds to maintain the ministry.

Volunteers receive extensive training at ULC in person and online through special programs offered by Kids Hope USA staff and experts on topics such as reading, child safety, closure and much more. Mentors need books, games, puzzles, art supplies, etc. to use with their students. At Forest View School we have assisted teachers and the school

with special activities and projects that included “our” students.

If you would like to make a difference for a child by participating in Kids Hope USA or learn more about it, contact me at [barbkissling@gmail.com](mailto:barbkissling@gmail.com) or talk with Pastor Gary.

Contribute financially using the “donate” button on our website ([www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)), by sending a check to the church office or placing one in the offering plate, or by direct deposit in our MSUFUCU account. Please designate “Kids Hope” in the memo section.

*Barbara Kissling  
ULC Director of Kids Hope USA*

# Everyone is Welcome to Study of "Women of the Bible"

What is the attitude of the Bible, written by men, toward women? Genesis 2:21-23 has Adam created first, then Eve from his rib. Are women always secondary in the Bible? Amnos Circle invites BOTH women and men to join their study of "Women of the Bible." We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room and take turns leading the discussion.

Before computers, the five editions (1898 to 1944) of the Westminster Dictionary of the Bible (WDB) seemingly summarized all Biblical knowledge. I discovered the Princeton Theological Seminary professor who wrote/edited the fifth and last edition in 1944 introduced or retained some bias concerning women not present in my Bible. He wrote about Jezebel, who worshipped Baal and slew Jehovah's prophets, that Jezebel was a (p. 312) "woman of masculine temperament and swayed her husband at will." Conclusions were also given, by statement or omission, about other women that are not found in my Bible.

Does this reveal attitudes toward women in the U.S. during the 1940s among men in religious professions, people in general, or even among some individuals today? I used the New Oxford Annotated Bible of 1991, and you can compare Westminster with your translation. Several other examples from Westminster that contrasted with the same story in my Bible follow.

The WDB tells about Sheba, who led a revolt of the 10 tribes against King David. "Sheba was besieged in Abel of Beth-maacah and lost his life there, for the inhabitants cut off his head and threw it over the wall to Joab." My Bible says that "a wise woman" called from the city to Joab, who was on the siege-ramp battering

down the city's walls. She asked why he would destroy a city that was a mother in Israel. He told what Sheba had done, saying, "give him up alone, and I will withdraw from the city." She responded, "His head will be thrown over the wall to you."

The Bible tells she went to all the people with her wise plan, they cut off Sheba's head, and threw it out to Joab, who with his army withdrew (II Samuel 20:16-22). Her critical role was totally ignored in the WDB.

Deborah was a prophetess and the only female judge. She commanded Barak to call out 10,000 men to confront Sisera, commander of a Canaanite army which the Bible tells had "900 chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years" (Judges 4:3). Under the heading "Barak," the WDB claims he routed Sisera.

The Bible reveals that while Sisera's army was being exterminated, Sisera left his iron chariot on foot for the tents of friends of his king where he was invited in. When he asked for water, he was given milk, a delicacy, and was covered to hide him. Once asleep, the host's wife, Jael, took a tent peg and with a hammer pounded it through Sisera's skull. The WDB author wrote (p. 279) under the heading "Jael," that "It reveals a rudeness of manners and hardness of character which found frequent exemplification in those early times." The Bible verses describing the execution (Judges 5:24-27) were sung by Deborah and Barak as praise of Jael's act in their victory song.

Joy A. Schroeder and Marion Ann Taylor in their 2022 book *Voices Long Silenced* wrote, "Heroic women who defeated wicked men were especially popular. Esther,

Judith, Jael, and Deborah exemplified women's triumph over misogynistic enemies, inspiring female authors to wield their pens-- symbolic weapons --to defeat literary opponents who slandered the female sex." This book is in the ULC



library thanks to Pastor Haley Vay. Theological, musical, written, and preached contributions of women long unrecognized through the centuries are told, and their lives described.

According to WDB, Tamar, Absalom's beautiful sister, was "abused" by her half-brother Amnon (page 590). The Bible goes into great detail (II Samuel 13) about Amnon's well-planned rape of his half-sister, whom he then cast out of his house. Tamar felt she could not return to her home among the virgins living with their father, King David, but lived with her brother Absalom, "a desolate woman." King David heard about the affair and got very angry, but could not bring himself to punish Amnon, his first-born son. Two years later Absalom had a party for the king's sons. Absalom commanded his servants to kill Amnon, which they did. Then Absalom fled to another country. Using the word "abused" in WDB gives a different connotation from the Bible's explicit "rape," leaving Tamar "a desolate woman."

A Bible dictionary can't match the detail of the Bible itself, but the Bible's acceptance of people, including women, is worth noting. The richness of Biblical writing should encourage more people to read the Bible. A study of "Women of the Bible" fills a great need and can lead to discussion of contemporary issues. Men and women are invited to join the discussions!

*Phyllis Andersland*

# The Orange Banner Removed

The following is a synopsis of a Temple Talk given by Vicki Anderson at ULC on June 22, 2022. To read the complete talk, visit the Racial Justice page at [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org).

**Today we remember the children who were taken from their families, especially those who died in Native Boarding Schools far away from home, in the United States and Canada.**

Last October, as part of our observance of Indigenous Peoples Day, our congregation hung this orange banner in our sanctuary. This was in response to the request of our Indigenous siblings who asked congregations of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) to hang orange banners in our worship spaces for

225 days in recognition of the approximately 225 children (that we knew of at the time) who died at these schools.

The orange was inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad, a survivor of the residential schools. When she arrived at school as a six-year-old, she had all of her clothes taken from her, including a brand-new orange t-shirt her grand-mother had given her. It was never returned. Orange symbolizes how the church and the schools they administered tried to take away the Indigenous identity of the children in their care.

Now that 255 days have passed, the orange banner will come down after today's service. Hanging the orange banner was a beginning. We understand that what has developed

over hundreds of years will take enduring commitment to address.

Our words of confession come to mind, and as you listen to these, think of how we relate to those in marginalized communities, especially Indigenous People – Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Vicki Anderson

## Singing with Racial Justice *Go Down Moses*

The lyrics of the song, *Go Down Moses*, represent liberation of the ancient Jewish people from Egyptian slavery, a story recounted in Exodus 8:1. For enslaved African Americans, the story was very powerful because they could relate to the experiences of Moses and the Israelites who were enslaved by the pharaoh, who to the slaves represented the slave holders. It holds the hopeful message that God will help those who are persecuted.

However, the song had multiple messages, discussing not only the freedom of Moses and his people but also the physical freedom of runaway slaves. Many slave holders outlawed this song because of those very messages. In a biography about Harriet Tubman by Sarah Bradford, Bradford states that Tubman used *Go Down Moses* as one of two code songs used with fugitive slaves to communicate when fleeing Maryland.

**Interesting Note:** *Go Down Moses* is believed to be the first spiritual recorded in sheet music. Reverend Lewis Lockwood, while visiting Fortress Monroe in 1861, heard runaway slaves singing this song, transcribed what he heard, and eventually published it in the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*

## Listening to Racial Justice



### Public Safety/Gun Violence

**Podcast Title:** 347. Rethinking 'safety' in the wake of Uvalde - June 1, 2022, 33 minutes

**Podcast Link:** [Code Switch \(NPR\)](#)

**Summary:** In the wake of mass shootings increasing in frequency in the US, people are often left in search of solutions to the violence, and ways to feel safe again. Almost inevitably, conversations about the role of police are front and center in these solutions. The podcast host interviews Alex Vitale, an author and sociologist, who argues that many spaces in US society over-rely on the police to prevent problems that are better addressed through other means. Doing so can prevent us from properly investing in resources and programs that could make the country safer in the long run. He presents data that show the presence of guns and resource officers in schools does nothing to increase school safety, and is detrimental to students of color, enhancing the school-to-prison pipeline. This podcast touches on many subject areas related to racial injustice and is a must listen!

(Adapted from show notes)

June 15 Council highlights:

- Budget and giving levels remains on track, giving for Outreach of the Month has been strong
- Continuing with COVID protocols (including masking) as they stand, will revisit conversation monthly.
- Approved an \$150 honorarium rate for choir director for any funerals and weddings
- ULC Office will be closed on Wednesdays through August to allow staff to work from home.
- Appointed Emily Uebel, Debbie Gift, Brad Marks, and Nancy Lindman to the lead and associate pastor review team

Emily Uebel  
Council Secretary

July Council highlights:

- Pastor Gary completed staff reviews and is very thankful for the staff we have
- We received a thank you phone call from Living Water Ministries expressing their sincere thanks for our more than \$10,000 gift to support their ministry
- Expenses are a bit higher this month due to three payrolls in the month, as well as the unbudgeted expense for the stairwell
- Discussed a mortgage burning ceremony after church on October 16th. More details to follow
- Approved funding to re-landscape the memorial garden
- Approved the disbursement of benevolence funds as follows: \$1000 to the Redeemer Lutheran Solar Project;



**Council Notes**

\$1000 to Citizens for Prison Reform; \$1675 to Homeless Angels; \$325 to the Lansing NAACP for a ULC ad for their October event

- Approved a job description for a Technical Director for Worship position

Louise Montag  
Council Treasurer

Aug. 17 Council highlights:

- Alpha Sunday (Sept. 18th) will have an outdoor worship service and a potluck. We will also celebrate our mortgage burning on this date.
- The church office will be open Tuesday through Thursdays beginning on September 6th.
- Moved to proceed with the hiring process for Technical Director position
- Congregational Meeting set for Dec. 11.
- Due to Jim Lorenz's resignation, council moved to appoint Mike Sweat to the vacant Council seat for the remainder of 2022.

Emily Uebel  
Council Secretary

**Attendance**

May 1: 693	June 5: 834	July 3: 747
May 8: 586	June 12: 677	July 10: 706
May 15: 692	June 19: 504	July 17: 650
May 22: 707	June 26: 780	July 24: 603
May 29: 529		July 31: 610

**ULC's Memorial Garden**

The ULC congregation decided in 1999 to establish a Memorial Garden for the memory of loved ones and for the placement of cremains of church members and their immediate families. The garden was conceived and designed by Barbara Hoopingarner. Although she led early planting Barbara did not see the finished garden. The garden was dedicated on May 20, 2001, two years after her death.

Barbara Hoopingarner was an artist and avid gardener and in the May 2001 Lux, Barbara's daughter Lynn, said that the "garden was designed in the style that Barbara was so famous for – wild, unstructured, constantly blooming and always beautiful." She said, "This will be a place for quiet reflection for families and a place for all to be able to take the ashes of their loved ones to rejoin the earth."



Roger Hoopingarner in the newly planted Memorial Garden in 2001.

The original garden was funded by memorial gifts for Barbara and the Hoopingarner family. Additional funding came from the sale of some of Barbara's paintings. Ongoing maintenance of the garden depends largely on volunteer help and financial contributions.

The Memorial Garden has changed a lot over the last 20 years of growth, and the time has come for a major overhaul. The redesigned area will look a lot like the garden in 2001 with

new, smaller plantings and colorful bushes and trees. Rather than mulch, the garden will feature ground cover. The ground cover will provide a year-round appealing green color as well as lower maintenance of the garden. The overall goal of the Memorial Garden is to offer a retreat for meditation and prayer for all who wish to use it. Norm Jolin, Dale Romsos and a volunteer crew have spent countless hours preparing the garden for the new plantings this fall.

The Memorial Garden was designed for those who love this Church and have a sense of closeness to it, which they would like to preserve. It is hallowed ground, sacred to the memory of those whom we have loved. It is to be maintained in quiet dignified beauty – a place of eternal peace and serenity.

Connie Lenkowski

## Greater Church

# Zoom Gathering with Synod Honduran Partners

To many of us Zoom meetings are boring and routine, but some zoom gatherings are truly a blessing. The N/W Lower Michigan Synod Honduras Team met with 15 volunteers of the Health for Life project in Honduras on June 18 for a two-hour “Getting to Know You” meeting. We met face to face and talked about why they were volunteers for ICLH.



The N/WLM Synod Honduras Team held a Zoom meeting with Honduran volunteers on June 18.

Nidia, the coordinator of the project in Honduras, said, “I personally appreciate the time dedicated to the event as well as its preparation and anticipation. Contact via zoom with the project representatives is very helpful and exciting for us. There was a lot of participation from all the volunteers, which makes me understand that they are committed to the project.”

Nidia and the volunteers opened the meeting with a devotion about Jesus being our example for helping others. We introduced our Michigan Team and then each volunteer took the microphone and told us about their interest in Health for Life. They shared that they liked to take care of others; they valued teaching and learning. They see need in their communities but have no health centers or doctors to help; they want to help. Most of the volunteers were new to the program including one girl who was the daughter of a long-time volunteer.



Nidia had shared a lesson with the volunteers earlier on diabetes and hypertension. She requested that we follow-up with a review of the information. Along with the review, our nurse, Jamie Royalty, included information on diet and foot care. We were told that the feedback from the volunteers was very positive. Nidia said, “The volunteers were very excited about the meeting and communicated that they would like to continue having virtual meetings with us.”

During a final discussion we talked about how we can help now – from a distance. Usually, when a team goes to Honduras, they take along supplies to help the volunteers with their care of their neighbors. We often take things like blood pressure cuffs, blood sugar testing strips, bandages and first aid kits. After no visits for three years, it is not surprising that they need all of these items.

Pastor Megan Crouch closed our time together with a devotion about serving our neighbor. She said that we should love and help our neighbor but that does not mean that we can always heal them or fix their problems. Sometimes it is being there for them and caring about them that means the most. A beautiful message for the Michigan Team and the Honduran volunteers.



We were blessed to have a volunteer with the Michigan Team who helped with translating the conversation. Flor Garcia graciously and capably kept the conversation going in both English and Spanish.

We are thankful for zoom and the ability to visit with our partners in the Lutheran Church of Honduras. It is truly a blessing to know that the work we began together in Health for Life has continued over the last three years and that the program is always growing and changing. We thank God for our Honduran partners and the work that they do.



*Pastor Megan Crouch, Linda Stark, Jamie Royalty, Dr. Erika Dianis, Julie Hyatt, and Connie Lenkowski*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## A Key Time for ULC

This is a special or “key” time for ULC. We are debt free for only the second time in the history of the congregation. The first time was in October 1995. Following is the article written by then president, Larry Wagenknecht.

### Key Times for ULC

*We're debt free!! Following the 10:45 AM service on September 10<sup>th</sup>, (1995) ULC conducted a special mortgage burning ceremony. A generous contribution of approximately \$3000 retired the debt on the current facility. In December of 1992, the congregation paid off its \$95,000 mortgage to Michigan National Bank by “borrowing” monies from ULC’s designated funds. The decision made in 1992 was the result of a*



Sept. 10, 1995 “Burning the mortgage” - Evelyn Frost, John Hoffman, Larry Wagenknecht, Pastor George Madsen, & Pastor Reed Schroer. *significant fall in interest rates. ULC has been “paying itself back” since that time. The mortgage would have been due in October of this year.*

*At the time this issue of LUX is going to print, the Building Committee had just received the preliminary costs*

*associated with the proposed renovation and building project. A special Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Reformation Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> for the purposes of determining the next phase of the project...*

*In these exciting times for ULC, your continued prayers, involvement, and support will enable our mission to become a reality!*

The mention in the Council minutes was very simple for such a profound achievement. The September 1995 minutes stated, “ULC’s in-house loan is paid-off. Kay (Meints, the treasurer) reported that an anonymous donor paid-off the existing in-house loan in July.”

Connie Lenkowski

## A Day in the Life for the Director at the Friendship House

Each day, when I come into the office, I sit down to make my “To Do” list of things I need to do that day.



From my life in corporate America, I was trained to use the Franklin Planning System (now Franklin Covey) where I go about setting my priorities from A1 (top priority that needs to be done today) down to C10 (the lowest priority that needs only to be done by the second coming).

Here is an example of a recent day:

- A1: Planning and Solitude. Terminology held over from the Franklin system that I actually do first thing at home when I awake that could be described as Prayer and Meditation.
- A4: Classes. Varies by day but generally:
  - Technology setup: Prepare classroom with computers and cameras for the Zoom portion of our curriculum.
  - Tom and Kathy’s Conversational English Class
  - Jan’s Book of Romans Bible Study
- A3: Conversation Partner Follow up which included:
  - Recruit (New English speakers and students)
  - Pair (English speakers with international students)
  - Individual (Multiple names) English Speaker and student follow up (meet new applicants)
- A5: General Follow up on specific issues which included

- House Inspection prep for City Inspector
- Credit Union visit to deposit financial gifts
- Fundraising letter draft
- Bicycles: follow up with our “Bike Guy” and/or students who need a bike, sometimes meaning I deliver the bikes to the students at their apartment.
- Churches: Follow up with churches who could become partners with us in ministry
- Fall: Begin recruiting teachers, schedule open house
- B1: Summer: two items: Cooking class/social gatherings
- Fields Trips
- A2: Personal tasks which includes:
  - Doctor’s appointment
  - Grocery store
  - Church Council Meeting

You will note I don’t list these each day in order but first list everything that I need/want to get done and then prioritize once the list is complete. A completed task gets a check mark and a task still in process gets a dash (--) in front of it.

This doesn’t account for unplanned events, e.g., when two middle eastern sisters come to the house to inquire about English as Second Language (ESL) classes and you give them a tour of the house.

Continued on page 14.

## August Birthdays

16 Loretta Geisen  
Grace Sype  
17 Thomas Wanagat  
18 Carl Ericksen  
19 Thomas Kissling  
21 Michael Kruger  
23 Sherry Corwin  
25 Mailee Greiter  
27 Lynn Kotnik  
28 Samantha Ernst  
Laura Kruger  
Sue Martin  
29 Stephanie Hall

## August Wedding Anniversaries

16 Laura Appel & Gary Garbarino  
17 Jeff Williams & Joy Whitten



18 Norm & Kirstan Jolin  
21 Gary Dawson & Julie Baglien  
21 Diane & John Goddeeris  
Richard & Jennifer Tracy  
Robert & Anne Smith  
24 Gary & Loretta Geisen  
26 Steve & Kristi Sneed  
27 Dave & Kristie Wiggert  
30 Jerry & Nancy Lindman  
31 Bryn & Pr. Haley Vay  
Craig & Cathy Lazar

## September Birthdays

6 Paul Kindel

7 Brandon Baswell  
10 Dale Harpstead  
12 Karen Holden  
14 Max Helser  
Louise Montag  
15 Cathy Clugston  
16 Matthew Uebel  
18 Jay Johnson  
Paul Kotnik  
Lindsay Sadler  
Craig Satterlee  
19 Cindy Baswell  
Sandy Davis  
Lisa Swem  
20 Marilyn Johnson  
21 Russel Erickson  
Robert Smith  
22 Gabrielle Gallagher  
24 James Cox  
25 Kathy Bracken  
26 Jeffrey Guilfoyle

Mark Johnson  
Adelyn Karcher  
27 Donna Carl  
27 Henry McPhall  
29 Vera Shaw  
30 Phyllis Kost

## September Wedding Anniversaries

7 David & Debbie Gift  
12 Dale & Mary Harpstead (74)  
Jay & Myra Kim  
16 Andrew Hagman & Erin Frisch  
Bryan & Brie McPhall  
Craig & Wanda Ophaug  
17 Mark & Marilyn Johnson  
18 David & Cindy Ramsey  
24 Travis and Tali Hylen  
30 Jordan & Britny Pollard

## Kristie Wiggert's Celebration



Kristie plays, *What Joyous Song Unfolding* written by Zeb Highben, specially commissioned to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



A festive meal following the June 5<sup>th</sup> worship, featuring Middle Eastern food, a jazz ensemble and special speakers, Kelly Mahoney Schafka, Bob Ward, and Fred Fritz.



Kristie receives congratulations from ULC Choir members.

## A Day in the Life continued from page 13.

I give thanks for this full regiment of tasks I am blessed to work on each day and for the many interruptions that occur during the course of the day in service to our international students and the ministry the Lord has laid out before me.

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless our international student ministry here at the Friendship House with such a wonderful burden!

*Dan Winter, Executive Director  
Friendship House MSU*



The deadline for the October Lux is **Friday, Sept. 16.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at [amylarryw@comcast.net](mailto:amylarryw@comcast.net) and Britny Pollard at [ulcsec@ulcel.org](mailto:ulcsec@ulcel.org) or place them in the Lux mailbox in the ULC office. Articles may be edited for size or readability, but you will be contacted if significant changes are made. Keep those wonderful photos and articles coming! Thanks!



- 21 10:00a Sunday Worship-ULC/Facebook
- 22 3:30p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 23 9-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
- 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 7:00p Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
- 24 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
- Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 25 9-4p ULC Office open
- 3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 28 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 29 3:30 Tight Knit-Fireside
- 30 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
- 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 7:00p Pub Theology-Zoom\*
- 31 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
- Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom



- 1 9-4p ULC Office open
- 2 4:30p Football Parking (MSU v. WMU)
- 4 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 5 Labor Day
- 6 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
- 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 6:30p Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary
- 7 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
- 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 9:30a Communications Team-Zoom
- Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom
- 4:30p Lead Management-Zoom\*
- 8 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 9:30a Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP
- 10 1:30p Football Parking (MSU v. Akron)
- 11 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 12 3:30p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 4:30p RJT-Admin-Zoom
- 13 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 9-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall

- 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 6:30p Racial Justice Team-Fireside/Zoom
- 14 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
- 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 4:15p Worship Wednesday-Zoom\*
- 15 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a ULC Book Club-Fireside/Zoom
- 7:30p Senior Choir-Choir/Sanctuary
- 18 **Alpha Sunday – Worship Expressions Bluegrass**
- 10:00a Sunday Worship-N. Lawn/Facebook
- 11:30a Picnic Potluck
- 19 3:30p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 20 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 9-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
- 12:30p Lychnion Circle-Fireside
- 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 21 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
- 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 9:30a Amnos Circle-Fireside (Women of Bible)
- Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study -Zoom
- 1:00p Rhodon Circle-Fireside
- 4:15p Worship Wednesday-Zoom\*
- 6:30p ULC Council-Zoom\*
- 22 9a-4p ULC Office Open
- 3:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru
- 7:30p Senior Choir-Choir/Sanctuary
- 24 TBD Football Parking (MSU v. Minn.)
- 25 10:00a Sunday Worship-Sanctuary/Facebook
- 26 3:30p Tight Knit-Fireside
- 27 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 9-4p ULC Office Open
- 10:00a Prayers & Squares-Fellowship Hall
- 1:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom
- 7:00p Pub Theology-Zoom\*
- 7:00p Families Against Narcotics (FAN)-Fellowship
- 28 8:00a Mushers-IHOP, EL
- 9-4p ULC Office Open
- Noon Lectio Divina Bible Study-Zoom\*
- 4:15p Worship Wednesday-Zoom\*
- 29 9-4p ULC Office Open
- 7:30p Senior Choir-Choir/Sanctuary
- 30 9:00a CORE Workshop (Day 1)-Zoom

\* Zoom link contacts: Choir - Janine Smith; Tuesday Study - Jim Kiefer; Pub Theology – Pastor Gary; Lectio Divina - Britny; Worship Wednesday for Kids – Pastor Haley Vay; Council Meeting – Joy Oslund

## New Office Hours

Beginning Sept. 6, the ULC office will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Coffee Hour Returns

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 25, coffee and refreshments will return to the narthex. Masks will still be required during worship.



**University Lutheran Church**  
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Director of Worship & the Arts

**Britny Pollard**  
Office Administrator

**Gary Carl**  
Financial Administrator

**Mary Letvenow**  
Event Coordinator

**Kristie Wiggert**  
Organist

**John Dale Smith**  
Pianist

**Louise Paquette**  
Director of Handbells

**FOOTBALL PARKING  
IS BACK!**

Football Parking is available on a first come first serve basis 2.5 hours before an MSU Home Football Game!

The cost is \$25 per vehicle. Your donation will support Youth Ministry and Music Scholarship Programs at ULC!

September Parking  
Friday, Sept. 2 at 4:30pm  
Saturday, Sept. 17 at 5:00pm  
Saturday, Sept. 24 time TBD