

LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

February 2021 / Volume 4, Number 1

Lacey United Methodist Church

203 West Lacey Rd., PO Box 151,

Forked River, NJ 08731

Church Office: (609) 693-5222

Pastor Cell: (845) 893-9157

laceyumcnj@gmail.com // www.laceyumc.org

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God

Ministers: All of Us

Pastor: Jonathan Campbell

Lay Leader: Ed Wojciechowski

Admin. Assistant: Joann Michalkowski

Pianist / Choir Director/ Chimes Director: Dawn Slate

Facility Maintenance / Grounds: Mike Orlick

Trustee Chair: Bill Jones

Church Council Chair: Rich Rosfjord

Staff Parish Team Chair: Kenneth King

Children – Youth Education: Sue Newman

Finance Chair: Steve Michalkowski

Head Counter: Rich Rosfjord

Thrift Shoppe: Elaine Brandt

Mission: Donna Jones

Outreach: Pastor Jonathan Campbell

Worship: Dawn Marie Kuch

Hot Lunch Mission: Roseann DePasquale / Ed Weisbrot

Summer Lunch Mission: Sherry Exel / Gail Matuska

Submissions to this newsletter can be sent to:

donnieg777@hotmail.com

LOVE LETTER IN THE BIBLE

“A love poem that chronicles the passion between starstruck Solomon and his spellbound bride.” – as described by Max Lucado in The Inspirational Bible, New King James Version.

Song of Solomon 4: 9 – 11

*You have ravished my heart,
My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart
With one look of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace,
How fair is your love,
My sister, my spouse!*



*How much better than wine is your love,
And the scent of your perfumes
Than all spices!
Your lips, O my spouse,
Drip as the honeycomb;
Honey and milk are under your tongue;
And the fragrance of your garments
Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.*



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JESUS AT THE MOVIES SERIES

We, as people of faith, believe Christ meets people where they are and often speaks to us through elements of pop culture. Therefore, we will be hosting a virtual discussion about the following movies chosen on the Friday night before Pastor Jonathan focuses on them during the Sunday worship sermon.

Friday, February 5th at 6pm: “The Princess Bride”

Friday, February 12th at 6pm: “Moneyball”

Facebook events will be set up for each Friday night discussion. Anyone with questions or interested in participating should contact the LUMC Office at (609) 693-5222 for a Bluejeans invite!

Join us on Sundays at 9AM for virtual worship!

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LaceyUMCNJ/>

Or Web: laceyumc.org

STORY ACRONYM TOOL

What's Your Story? Have you ever wanted to get to know someone's story, but didn't know where to start? The STORY Acronym Tool helps you think of questions to learn the stories of others.

Ask a good question: Each letter stands for a category. Think of questions you might ask in that category. Use open ended questions that invite someone to share a story about themselves: *What – Who – Where – When – How – Why?* When the conversation becomes stalled in one category, move onto another letter to help you think of a question. You don't need to go in order (in fact, it's often best to start with the random "Yada Yada Yada" type questions!), and you don't need to do all letters.

Listen: Set aside your mental to do list and conversations you had earlier in the day, don't worry about what to say next – just listen. Come to a complete stop and know that you are on holy ground as you listen to the stories of others.

Follow-up: As you listen, think of follow up questions to dig deeper into the story you are hearing. *What did that mean to you? Why was that event important? How did that help you in your faith?*

Remember – the STORY acronym and questions you use are just tools. There is no right or wrong way to get to learn the stories of others. The point is to get to know someone's life and faith stories..to get to know the person!

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Why get to know someone else's story? Stories connect us – and we were created to be connected, to God and to each other. You may have heard it said that "You can't hate the person whose story you know." Stories bring understanding, healing, wholeness and hope. When we know each other's stories we work better together, we worship better together, we serve better together, we share God's love better together.

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What do sharing and listening to stories have to do with following Jesus? We are living in the middle of God's story – for us, and for our neighbor. When we share our stories, we are sharing God's story for us. When we listen to the stories of others, we are listening to God's story at work in the world. Stories help us grow deeper in faith, and help us live out the faith practices.

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Each letter stands for a category. Think of questions you might ask in each category to get to know someone.

S = Status Update: Just like Facebook prompts members to share what's on their mind, ask questions relating to what is happening in someone's life.

T = Traditions and Rituals: Get to know someone's history, what is important to them, what they like to do.

O = Optimism: Despite what the news might show us on a daily basis, there is hope in this world because of our faith in Jesus. And God has given us gifts to share for the good of others. Ask questions that get at stories of calling, purpose and hope!

R = Relationships: Ask questions to learn about the people who have shaped our life stories.

Y = Yada Yada Yada: While this phrase has a cultural definition of someone going on and on about the obvious things people should know, the Hebrew definition is "to know" and translates into several deeper meanings of knowing. So often we think we know each other (yada, yada, yada) – but do we really, deeply know the people we encounter each week in church, in our communities, in our lives? Ask playful, random, obscure, trivial, deep, silly, wondering questions to get to know someone.

{After reading an article by Pastor Brian Roberts at gnjumc.org and hearing Pastor Jonathan refer to communicating with those whom you are sharing your household with during a recent sermon, I thought it would be a good idea to include the STORY Acronym Tool in this issue of the newsletter. It's a great way to understand and empathize with others. This tool was taken from the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Discipleship Challenge.....DG}

COFFEE HOUSE WORSHIP NIGHT

On Saturday, February 20th, join us for a night of worship with our Colony Grad Band at 7pm at America's Keswick (601 County Road 530 in Whiting)! This will be a night of great fellowship as we praise the Lord together. The pool and gym will be open afterwards for you to use. You must reserve your spot ahead of time by registering at www.eventbrite . America's Keswick is a ministry that teaches and models the Victorious Christian Life message through Addiction Recovery for men and women, through Christian Conferences, Concerts, and Events, through Training and Resources, and by providing rental facilities and service to other like-minded organizations. Please feel free to contact America's Keswick at info@americaskeswick.org or (800) 453-7942 for questions.



Free
Boxed Meal Distribution

Call to register!
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
12:00PM - 1:00PM

If you wish to participate, please contact the LUMC Office to tell us how many meals your family needs. Meals will be distributed behind the church building. A church member will place the meals in your car. Home delivery is not available.

LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
203 W. Lacey Road, Forked River NJ 08731
609.693.5222 laceyumcnj@gmail.com
laceyumc.org



LACEY UMC'S HOPE CHEST

FOOD PANTRY

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays
12PM - 2PM

You do not need to register in advance to visit the food pantry!

LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | 203 W. LACEY ROAD | FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731
609-693-5222 laceyumcnj@gmail.com

**Volunteers are needed to help with the Food Pantry!*

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:

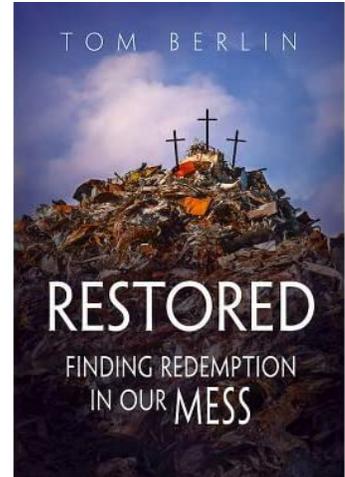
Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00pm.

**Details will be forthcoming as to when in-person services will resume. There will be a meeting in February to discuss this matter. In the meantime, check your emails and the Sunday bulletin for info. As for now, they will be strictly done virtually.*

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

*“Living, He loved me
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Dying, He saved me
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Buried, He carried my
sins far away
++++
Rising, He justified
freely forever
++++
One day He’s coming
++++
Oh glorious day,
Oh glorious day”
++++
Michael Bleecker
&
Mark Hall*

Beginning the week of February 14th, Pastor Jonathan will be leading a 6-week Lenten Book Study. We will be studying the book “Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess” by Rev. Tom Berlin. If you would like to grow spiritually this Easter Season, this study is a wonderful opportunity. If you want to be a part of this study, please contact the LUMC Office at 609-693-5222. There are also limited copies of the book available for \$10 (just to cover the cost of the book) at the LUMC Office.



Often, we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this book, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

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