

LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

November 2021 / Volume 4, Number 10

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: Lori Osborn / Dennis Pontani

Staff Parish Team Chair: Laura McDonald

Children – Youth Education: Eric DeLa Cruz

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

Service exclusively on our YouTube channel: Lacey United Methodist Church.

GRACES OF THE HEIRS OF GRACE

Titus 3: 1 – 11: Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

MONTHLY PASTOR'S BREAKFAST



Please join Pastor Jonathan for breakfast on Monday, November 8th, at Perkins (113 S. Main Street in Forked River) at 9am. Everyone is welcome to be part of the Food, Fellowship and Fun! For more information, contact

Pastor Jonathan at (845) 893-9157.

SERVICES MOVED TO YOUTUBE

You can now watch Sunday Service by clicking on <https://youtube.com/channel/UC9ShWURuTPdbtQbihxNelvA>. As of Sunday, August 15th, we have been broadcasting Worship

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will be meeting at Perkins (113 S. Main Street in Forked River) on Thursday, November 18th, at 6pm. All women are invited to attend! Please contact Monique Wojciechowski at (732) 492-1494 for more information.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

On Thursday, November 11th, America's Keswick (601 County Road 530 in Whiting) will be hosting a Men's Fellowship Night at 6:15pm. The guest speaker will be Pastor Matt Stokes of Coastal Christian Church in Ocean City, NJ. A \$12 ticket includes a dinner, message and use of the Activity Center. You must preregister and prepay by calling (800) 453-7942.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The annual "Hanging Of The Greens" will be taking place on Saturday, November 27th, from 8am until 12pm. This is our yearly tradition of decorating the LUMC Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. You can show up at any time within the previously mentioned timeframe. Contact the LUMC Office at (609) 693-5222 for more information about this project!

DRAMA CLUB ADDITIONS

The LUMC Drama Club is happy to announce the addition of Alyssa Pentland to our cast of young actors and Leslie Weishaar as Dominic's Assistant. Alyssa has already appeared in a few of our Announcement Videos which are shown before Sunday Service. In addition, a group of these young actors recently had a great time shooting one of these videos from the Joy Of Angels Thrift Shoppe. We are still looking for more youth to participate! Contact Dominic at donnieg777@hotmail.com for more info.

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYING



Pastor Jonathan is currently in the middle of his program of praying together for 40 days. These prayer services are held in the LUMC Sanctuary from Monday thru Friday at 6:30am. There also are prayer services on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm. In addition, there is a special Taizé prayer service on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. Contact Pastor Jonathan at (845) 893-9157 for more information about this opportunity to introduce more prayer into our world.

GIRL TALK AT AMERICA'S KESWICK

On Wednesday, November 10th, America's Keswick (601 County Road 530 in Whiting) will be hosting "Girl Talk" with speaker Angela Sackett. The topic is "Fruitful: Becoming Effective & Productive Women." Tickets are only \$12 and include lunch. For more information, call (800) 453-7942.

CONGREGATIONAL LISTENING SESSION

There will be a Congregational "Listening Session" on Wednesday, November 3rd, at the home of Laura and Tim McDonald. Space is limited. Contact the LUMC Office for more info or to rsvp.

ED WOJCIECHOWSKI REFLECTS ON TIME AS LAY LEADER ON LAITY SUNDAY

Grace and peace to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Today is Laity Sunday and I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on my service as Lay Leader here at Lacey UMC. As you may or may not know, I will no longer be serving as your Lay Leader come January. However, I'm blessed to continue to serve as your Lay Representative to Annual Conference. And to be a member of Church Council, the Finance Committee and the Staff Parish Relations Committee. I stand before you today with a troubled heart. But in John 14: 1, Jesus says "Do not let your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me." It saddens me to witness the division and brokenness in our church. And I wonder if unity and trust can ever be restored? I don't know. But in Matthew 19:26, Jesus says "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." I put my faith and trust in our Lord and Savior. As a Christian and member of the United Methodist Church, I believe and follow the Bible as traditionally interpreted. This belief is upheld by the current United Methodist Book of Discipline. The Greater New Jersey Leadership does not have the same belief and no longer adheres to the current Book of Discipline. And division exists throughout our Annual Conference. When God led me here to Lacey UMC, I was broken and needed Jesus in my life. I acknowledge I am a sinner and admit I am far from perfect. I find comfort and healing in scripture. 2 Cor 5: 17 says "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. I was honored to have the opportunity and privilege to serve as Lay Leader here at Lacey UMC and I believe it was a blessing from God. I give my thanks and praise to God and give all honor and glory to Him. I have always attempted to serve as Lay Leader with honesty and integrity. But, I recognize I have made mistakes along the way. I faithfully served on the various committees I was a member of including SPRC, Nominations, Finance, Church Council and Charge Conference. I attended almost every single meeting. I also attended most of the Trustees meetings and attended all of the Annual and Church Conferences. At times, often sacrificing time with my family and missing some of my grandchildren's sporting events. I am proud of the way I served and make no apologies and have no regrets.

We are in a time of great uncertainty in the United Methodist Church. As a result of the pending separation, our congregation will be faced with some tough choices and difficult decisions. As a Lay Leader, I felt it was extremely important to keep our congregation informed to help us navigate the difficult road ahead and enable us to make educated decisions. All of the information I provided was public information and much of the information supported the current official stance of the United Methodist Church. However, my ability to communicate with the entire congregation was somewhat limited. The New Birth Committee was formed and I became a member. This was definitely a step in the right direction. However, there were still limitations on what I was able to share with the congregation. My only intent was to inform and educate our congregation. I understand we all have different beliefs and opinions. And, I never attempted to influence anybody's decisions or choices.

Personally, I felt it extremely important to share critical information in order to dispel uncertainty and empower people to make good decisions for the future of our church. And since my ability to communicate was restricted as Lay Leader, I chose to share information through my personal email, not as Lay Leader, but as a Christian. As a person, I felt it was my right to do so. Everyone has the same right and everyone who received the information had the choice to read, delete or ignore it. Many people appreciated the information I shared and thanked me. Some people requested to be removed from my email distribution. My only hope was for people to read it with an open mind and perhaps share it.

As a Lay Leader, I became very concerned when informed about personal cameras with both audio and video capabilities installed in our Fellowship Hall without following proper procedures and protocol, and I felt I had an obligation to pursue the issue. I brought the issue to our SPRC committee in order to gather information and determine the appropriate course of action. As a result of my personal emails and my pursuit of this issue, a vote to remove me as Lay Leader was brought before the Charge Conference and I am being replaced. I can't say I was completely surprised. But scripture tells me to speak the truth no matter what the cost. In Galatians 4: 16, the apostle Paul says "Have I now become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" And in Ephesians 4: 15 Paul says "instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him, who is the head, that is, Christ." And I will continue to speak and share the truth. I'll close with scripture from 1 John 3: 18: "Friends, let us love, not in words or speech, but in truth and action." God Bless you all.

***“Give thanks with
a grateful heart***

+++++

***Give thanks to the
Holy One***

+++++

***Give thanks
because He’s
given***

+++++

***Jesus Christ, His
Son”***

+++++

Don Moen

NEW BIRTH COMMITTEE ANNOUNCE 2 MEETINGS

The New Birth Committee would like to announce two upcoming church-wide meetings. Both meetings will take place in the Lacey UMC Sanctuary and will be livestreamed. Please join us for both events. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jonathan at (845) 893-9157 or pastorjcampbell@hotmail.com .

Wednesday, November 17th at 7:30pm: Rev. Dr. Drew Dyson will be discussing the work of the Greater New Jersey Methodists for Full Inclusion and their hope for the post-separation UMC. Drew is CEO of the Princeton Senior Resource Center and the former District Superintendent of the Raritan Valley District of GNJAC.

Monday, November 22nd at 6:30pm: Beth Caulfield will be discussing the work of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and the coming Global Methodist Church. Beth Caulfield is the President of the Greater New Jersey Chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and a member of the WCA’s Global Council. She was part of the group of 16 who drafted the initial Book of Doctrines and Disciplines for the new traditional Methodist denomination. She served 8 years as clergy in GNJ in local church roles and on the Bishop’s staff before leaving earlier this year to work full-time on bringing the Global Methodist Church into fruition.

+++++

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22: FALL LACEY FARMERS’ MARKET

NOVEMBER 25: THANKSGIVING DINNER –

1PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

**LACEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

PO Box 151
Forked River, NJ 08731