## LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

August 2022 / #54 / Lacey United Methodist Church / Forked River, New Jersey

203 West Lacey Rd., PO Box 151, Forked River, NJ 08731

Church Office: (609) 693-5222

Pastor Cell: (845) 893-9157

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

Ministers: All of Us

Pastor: Jonathan Campbell

Lay Leader: Dominic Gregoria

Lay Rep. to the Annual Conference: 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: Judy Mihalkovitz

Head Counter: Rich Rosfjord

Thrift Shoppe: Elaine Brandt

Witness Coordinator: Donna Jones

Outreach: Pastor Jonathan Campbell

Worship: Dawn Marie Kuch

Hot Lunch Mission: Roseann DePasquale / Ed Weisbrot

Hope Chest Food Pantry: Robert Furbeck

Submissions to this newsletter can be sent to:

donnieg777@hotmail.com

#### **LEADERS WANTED**

The members of the Lay Leadership and Nominations Team are looking for individuals who would like to serve in leadership positions at Lacey UMC. Leaders are called to model and live out the Baptismal covenant all United Methodists have made. We promise to pray for the ministries of the church, be present in worship and at church ministries whenever possible, give our financial gifts to support the church, offer our talents and abilities to serve the work of the church, and to witness to our faith in our community. We are looking for people willing to live out their faith by shaping, supporting, and strengthening the mission and ministries of Lacey UMC. If you feel the call to serve in leadership or would like more information, please contact the office at (609) 693-5222 or Pastor Jonathan at (845) 893-9157.

# THE GREATEST GIFT

1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13: Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind, love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which which is in part will be done away.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

#### **RESOLUTION STATEMENT**

Dear members and friends of Lacey UMC,

May the love and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you. God is on the move at Lacey Uniteed Methodist Church. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed three new members by profession of faith. We also celebrate the increased in-person worship attendance we have been experiencing over the last few months as our region emerges out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Your faithfulness and resilience during these challenging times witness to your love of God and the ministry of LUMC.

Today, I want to update you about an important matter. Recently, the Trustees team completed the installation of video cameras without audio capability in the areas of the Fellowship Hall that are used for food storage by the Summer Lunch Program (SLP). Monitoring these areas allows us to be better stewards of the resources entrusted to our congregation to serve the community and ensure the well-being of our volunteers and participants, especially children and other vulnerable persons. The Trustees will also be installing two additional cameras to monitor the outside of the church building. Numerous signs have been posted around the building notifying individuals of cameras. We want to express our gratitude to Robert Furbek and the other Trustees for completing the installment of video cameras.

This project has been in the works for some time now, unfortunately, there has been confusion and tensions around it. In 2017, the Church Council and Trustees approved the purchase and installation of cameras in these areas after reports of security and safety concerns. As of 2020, the cameras had not been installed, while concerns around supplies being taken without authorization continued. In the summers of 2020 and 2021, six members of LUMC discussed the installation of cameras, and one member installed (without the Trustees' knowledge and approval) personal motion-activated cameras with audio capability to monitor the stage and the other areas used to store or prepare food for the SLP and the Fulfill Food Bank Packed Meals program. No signage was posted concerning the cameras in Fellowship Hall. Although there is no evidence that conversations were not recorded, the installer stated that the cameras were turned off during regular church events and meetings, private conversations were not monitored or recorded and cameras were taken down after the completion of the programs each year. In July 2021, the individual that monitored the cameras informed the President of Trustees about the cameras after unauthorized individuals were captured by the cameras entering the Fellowship Hall when the church building was closed. Shortly after the Trustees were made aware of the cameras, they were removed. Since the week of July 4th, 2021, no cameras have been in Fellowship Hall until the Trustees completed their camera installation in June 2022.

The SPPRC (Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations team), in consultation with our District Superintendent and with the assistance of a conflict resolution facilitator, have reviewed this incident and offered graceful accountability. Several individuals involved with the unauthorized installation of the cameras voluntarily stepped down from their primary leadership positions in the church last year, expressed deep regret, and apologized for their actions. I also want to apologize for the missteps I made concerning this issue. Through this situation, I have been reminded of the importance of effective communication and transparency.

In the coming months, I intend to work with the Church Council to review our policies and procedures to ensure all leaders abide by a commonly agreed upon decision-making process. We will redouble our efforts to educate and ensure that all members and leadership are aware of the policies and procedures outlined in the Discipline and that were developed for LUMC. Also, I will work with the leadership team to strengthen the communication among leaders and the congregation and rebuilding trust as we continue growing into the perfection of Christ's love.

Our community needs to experience the healing love of Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God for the LUMC family and the many ways we're being agents of hope in the lives of the people in Forked River and beyond. Join me in praying for the ministry of LUMC as we begin a new appointment year and serve our community through the SLP, the Food Pantry, the Lunch Program and Vacation Bible School this summer.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jonathan Campbell

Pastor

#### **MONTHLY PASTOR'S BREAKFAST**



This month's Pastor's Breakfast will be held on Monday, August 8th, at 9:00am at the Lacey Perkins, located at 113 South Main Street in Forked River. Everyone is welcome to be part of the food, fellowship and fun!

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#### FLEA / VENDOR MARKET

A Flea / Vendor Market will be held on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am until 2:00pm. It is \$20.00 per space. Tables will not be available to rent, so you must bring your own. Setup begins at 7:30am. Food will be available for purchase. Volunteers will be present to direct you as to where to unload and park your vehicle. Spaces will be assigned by the volunteers. Vendors are also welcome. Please reserve your vendor space in advance. There is a rain date for the following Saturday.

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We will be worshiping with the residents of Spring Oak Assisted Living on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm. We will meet in the LUMC parking lot at 1:15pm. Masks are required. All are welcome.

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While we are good on mac & cheese, we could still use kid-friendly soup to be distributed to participants. Drop off to Judy Mihalkovitz on Sundays or to the LUMC Office during the week. Reusable shopping bags are also needed!

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The Bounty Of The Bay will be returning on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. This year, it will be taking place at the Charles A. Smith Community Center, located at 15 East Lacey Road in Forked River. It will take place from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Tickets should be purchased in advance from the LUMC Office. They will be \$25 per person, with a special children's price also available. The restaurants for this event are being secured as you read this. Come and vote for your favorite.

If you didn't attend the last one, this is an event where you get to try specific dishes from those restaurants in attendance. There will be surprises and should be a fun night for everyone.

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Just as everyone has felt the financial strain from the Covid days, so has our church. Many of us have fond memories from this church. Many youth have grown up here and have moved on, but the memories remain. I know many of us are worried about the future of the United Methodist religion on a whole. However, the fact is this is our church and we should do whatever we can to support it and keep it thriving. If you have attended a Finance Meeting, you understand that steps need to be taken to keep the church alive. An extra \$11 each week towards your tithe can do wonders towards the survival of our church. We all have heard the excuses as to why we need help. We just need to pull together and keep the place where so many fond memories were made going.

God Bless Us All,

Dominic Gregoria

"Oh, I don't got a halo
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
No, I'm not a perfect man
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
I'm just glad to be a child
of God
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
'Cause when I think of
where I could've been
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Should've been, would've
been
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
If He hadn't stepped in"
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

Christopher Joel Brown, Michael Brandon Lake, And Steven Furtick (Elevation Worship)



## **The Lacey Farmers Market**

Church Parking Lot Fridays from 11:00am until 5:00pm

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Join us for Sunday Service at 9:00am.
You can also view Sunday Service on our youtube channel.

LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PO Box 151 Forked River, NJ 08731