

<>< *Lacey United Methodist Church Prayer Page* ><>

<>< YOUR WILL, LORD GOD, BE DONE ~ NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, NOTHING ELSE ><>

For God's Healing & Discernment ~ Covid sufferers & Care Givers; Keith Gibbons; Christine Morgan; Joseph Ensinger; Michelle Reyes; Hudson Hendrixson; Jeff Merceron; Mrs. Nunez; Lois Pozsar; Patrick Jemas; Paul H.; Helen Wooley; Gary; Sally Potter; Gary; Levi Kern; Greg R.; Frank Huscha; Rich Rosfjord; Kenny & Kathie Pitman; Sara Carpini; Ronnie Sadowski; Nancy & Rev. George Reid; Dorothy Cochran; Andrea Almeida; Betty Carty; Cindy Kuch; Linda & John Ansbach; Bill Wehner; Rich C.; Chris Mignone; Denise Applegate; Randy M.; Lois; Sue & Rich Newman; Dawn Slate; Gail Matuska; Monika & Fred Sisbarro; Marilyn Slate; Shirley; Aubrey; Betty Carhart; Rosalie Mulvaney; Dottie & Bill Connolly; Frank & Mary Timmerman; Cynthia Pedemonti; Andrea Schenker; Helen DeLa Cruz; Peg Bea; Shannon Callaghan; Will Cotton; Carole Exel; Patricia Potter; Susan Schlotter; Joan McGavin; Phyllis Smith; Bill & Becky Buglione; Lorraine; Katrina & Peter Borchester; Don McErlean; Pat Grant; our whole Church Family.

For God's Comfort & Strength during Time of Mourning and Loss ~ Sally McErlean Family; Jayson Cugliari Family; Don Reppert Family; Daniel Watkins Family; Kevin McGrath Family; Dashaun Witter Family; Phil DePasquale Family; Mandie Buron Family.

Praise and Thanksgiving for Answered Prayer ~ Thanks be to God for answered prayer!

For Those Serving in the Military ~ Peter Borchester; Jordyn Breur; Kevin Carhart; Luke Derflinger; Ellen Hammer; Gavin Hammer D'Adamo; Raymond Kitson; T. Ryan McDonald; Ryan Palmieri; Daniel Schenker; Jason Schenker; for all Soldiers; Sailors; Marines; Airmen; and Guards-Men/Women of our Armed Forces.

For the Ministries of our Church ~ Bible Studies; Christian Education; Community Outreach; DOC Connection Ministries; Extension Ministries; Finance Team; Healing Ministries; Hope Chest Food Pantry; Hospitality & Welcoming Team; Joy of Angels Thrift Shoppe; Music Programs; How It Works and Why; AA Group; Senior Ministries; SHALOM for the Homeless; Stewardship Team; Summer Lunch for Lacey's Kids; The Tuesday & Thursday Hot Lunch Mission; Youth Ministries.

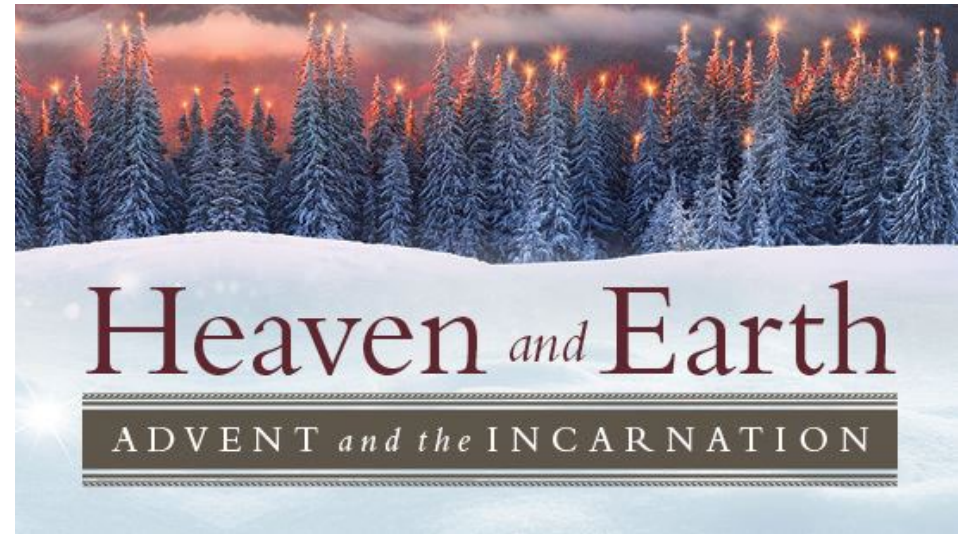
For Greater NJ Annual Conference ~ Bishop John & Beverly Schol; DS Rev. Ronell Howard; all Clergy and Laity of the Greater UMC Annual Conference & United Methodist Denomination

World Council of Churches & USA Prayer Atlas ~ People of Japan, North Korea, South Korea; California, Colorado; Lacey Township Committee, Leaders & First Responders; Senators; Congressmen and leaders of our United States of America; Uniting of all American political parties; President Joe Biden & Vice President Kamala Harris; Gov. Murphy, NJ Officials working to end CoVid19; Praying an outpouring of God's spiritual renewal and healing of all the people of America.



Lacey United Methodist Church

December 24, 2023



203 West Lacey Road - PO Box 151 Forked River, NJ 08731
Church Office: (609) 693-5222 Pastor Cell: (845) 893-9157
Email: laceyumcnj@gmail.com Website: www.laceyumc.org

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

Ministers: All of Us Liturgist: Sheryl Lutgen

Pastor: Jonathan Campbell Lay Leader: Dominic Gregoria

Music Director: Dawn Slate

Guest Musician: Brian Gilmore

Advent Family: The Michalkowski Family

Welcoming Team: Lori Osborn & Deb Waddell

Head Ushers: Sherry Exel & Rick Waddell

Thank You to All Who Share Their Prayers, Presence, Gifts,
Service, Witness & Time!

All Music Used with Permission – CCLI#2274807

Welcome in the Name of Jesus Christ to All Visitors, Members, Family and Friends!

** Please feel free to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn** *People, Look East* **UMH 202**

***Call to Worship**

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Hymn *Advent Song* **v. 4 TFWS 2090**

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Message: Heaven and Earth: "Rejoice"

***Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **UMH 211**

***Affirmation of Faith** **UMH 887**

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Anthem: Hail to the Lord's Anointed **UMH 203**

***Doxology** **UMH 95**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious and Generous God: We offer our gifts to you, knowing that the energy exerted in our giving is tiny compared to what we've expended finding the gifts for our families and friends. You have given us a glimpse of the gift you truly seek in the angel's conversation with Mary: when told that she would give birth to our savior, she simply said, "Yes, let it be according to your word." May that affirmation of faith and obedience be the gift we offer this day. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* **UMH 196**

The Invitation

Prayer of Confession

We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God.

The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.

Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us.

We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray.

A Time of Silent Confession and Reflection

The Assurance of Pardon

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread and The Sharing of the Cup

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us, amen.

The Reception

Prayer of Gratitude

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* **UMH 220**

Benediction

***Postlude**

The vision and mission of Lacey United Methodist Church is to welcome, nurture and serve all. Sharing God's grace with open arms.
Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Glory of God.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Statistics December 17, 2023:

Attendance ~ 45 in-person; 19 via YouTube

Offerings: \$1,205.00 Offerings via Vanco: \$1,180.98

Plate: \$82.00 Discretionary: \$480.00 Book Study ~ \$15.00

Joy of Angels Deposit: \$1,972.68

Thank you for your continued support of LUMC! If you are able, please explore giving on-line by using Vanco for electronic giving (details below) or mail your tithes and offerings to LUMC PO Box 151 Forked River, NJ 08731. Thank you and God bless you!!

Reminder: The basket on the side table as you walk up the center aisle is for giving to the Pastor's discretionary fund which enables us to directly help members of our community who are in need.

Electronic Giving is Here! Follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit our website at laceyumc.org
 - 2) Click **Electronic Giving**, then follow the instructions
- Or scan the image you see here to locate the giving page:
Contact the LUMC office for more information 609.693.5222



Hope Chest Food Pantry Needs...shelf-stable milk and juice!
Drop off at the LUMC office during the week or after worship.

Please help us complete the Sanctuary Altar Flooring

All you have to do is buy ShopRite cards through LUMC!
ShopRite makes a \$50 donation to LUMC for every \$1,000 we sell in ShopRite gift cards! Cards are available through the LUMC Office.

Joy of the Angels Thrift Shoppe

will be closed this week, and will reopen January 2nd!

Normal Hours of Operation:

Tuesday ~ 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Wednesday ~ 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Thursday ~ 8:00AM – 4:00PM

Friday ~ 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Saturday ~ 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Extended Hours!!!

↪ The Joy of Angels Thrift Shoppe is a vital mission of Lacey UMC.
Volunteers are needed to help extend the hours of operation.

Christmas at Lacey UMC

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Services:

7 PM: Family Candlelight Service

10 PM: Traditional Candlelight Service

Sunday, Dec. 31 9AM – “Love Feast” in Fellowship Hall

Please sign up today and indicate what dish you will bring to share!

Sunday, Jan. 7 3PM-6PM – Epiphany Party at the Parsonage,
744 Devon Street, Forked River

Pastoral care for this week:

Dec. 25-27: Rev. Dawn Corlew 609-338-9711

Dec. 28-Jan. 2: Rev. Paul Quevedo 516-458-9699

Offering Envelopes for 2024 are available!

The envelopes are on the table as you walk into the Sanctuary.

Don't have an envelope number yet? No problem!

Available numbers are highlighted in yellow on the sign-up sheet – simply write your name on the corresponding line and take a box to start using this week!

Please remember to write you envelope number on the front each week to ensure we record your giving correctly!

↪↪ Membership Class – January 2024!!! ↪↪

Please contact Pastor Jonathan at 845-893-9157 if you would like to join the LUMC family!

Monthly Pastor's Breakfast: January 8th at 9:30 AM

at Lacey Perkins. Everyone is welcome!

Upcoming Meetings

SPRC: Thursday, Jan. 4 at 6:00 PM at Laura McDonald's home.

Fundraising: Date/Time TBD

Trustees/Church Council: January 8th beginning at 5:30PM

Join our media team!!! The media team coordinates the live stream, sound, and video screen presentation during worship.

Contact Steven at 732-300-1956 to learn more!!



We're social! Like & follow us on...

LUMC: Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube

Joy of Angels Thrift Shoppe: Facebook

