

Lacey United Methodist Church

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

Pastor: Jonathan Campbell Lay Leader: Ed Wojciechowski

Admin. Assistant: Joann Michalkowski Music Director: Dawn Slate

Welcoming Team: Virginia Schoeneberg

Head Ushers: Cindy Dreher & Rick Waddell

Junior Head Ushers: Kenshin Frangos & Abby Michalkowski

Counters: Rose Coram, Judy Mihalkovitz, Cynthia Pedemonti, Rich Rosfjord

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

<>< 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; Larry Radomski; Carol Horling; Peg & Will Cotton; Barkley Family; Mihalkovitz/Przybylski Families; Richard Dickon; Marjorie Moore; Bev Krott; Charles Cometa Jr.; Peggy LaPorta; Sandi Smith; George K.; Terry S.; James & Becki; Millie L.; Jim M.; Pat O'Brien; Gesine Klein; Tony Kosciuk, Dee & Jessica Maffucci; Bob & Peg Bea; Joan McGavin; Cindy Dreher; Nancy Dean; Shannon Kelly Callahan; Macon & Allyson Cotton; Lisa Burger; Patricia Potter; Sally & Trevor Potter; Kenny & Kathie Pitman; BettyAnn Britton; Tommy Britton; Dawn Marie Kuch; Gail Matuska; Phyllis Smith; Bill Jones; Rosalie Mulvaney; Dottie & Bill Connolly; Sue & Rich Newman; Bill Hults; Bill & Becky Buglione; Melody Pryor-Tasco; Lorraine, Katrina & Peter Borchester; Sally & Don McErlean; Ray MacPherson; Hunter; Pat Grant; Ellie Keyworth; Deb Burnette; Shannon, Noel, & Brandon Weaver; our whole Church Family.

For God's Comfort & Strength during Time of Mourning and Loss ~ Covid19 Victims; Louis D'Autorio Family; Bob Kmiechick Family; Bill Krott Family; Denise Springer Family; Larry McGavin Family.

Praise and Thanksgiving for Answered Prayer ~ Celebrating the birth of Heather Rose to parents Becki & James! Thanks be to God for answered prayer!

For Those Serving in the Military ~ Peter Borchester; Jordyn Breur; Luke Derflinger; Randall D. Donithan; Ellen Hammer; Gavin Hammer D'Adamo; Raymond Kitson; James Lubbers; T. Ryan McDonald; Ryan Palmieri; Daniel Schenker; Jason Schenker; for all Soldiers; Sailors; Marines; Airmen; & 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; Kúrios' Kids; 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 Dr. Gina Hendrickson; all Clergy and Laity of the Greater UMC Annual Conference & United Methodist Denomination

World Council of Churches & USA Prayer Atlas ~ People of China, Hong Kong, Macau; Connecticut, Delaware; Lacey Township Committee, Leaders & First Responders; Senators; Congressmen and leaders of our United States of America; Uniting of all American political parties; President Donald Trump & Vice-President Mike Pence, Gov. Murphy, NJ Officials working to end CoVid19; Praying an

December 13, 2020

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

Today, we continue the Sermon Series "The Redemption of Scrooge".

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Hymn ~

Love Came Down at Christmas #242

The Baptismal Covenant

Welcoming Lucy Mary Margaret into the household of God

*Hymn ~

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth, #2050 Vs. 1&3

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy ~ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Ministry of Giving & Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn ~

O Little Town of Bethlehem Vs. 1,3,4

Scripture ~ Luke 2:8-20

Message: The Redemption of Scrooge:

"The Life of Christmas Present"

*Hymn ~

He Is Born #228

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Assurance

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Cup and Bread

*Hymn ~

Hark the Herald Angels Sing #240 Vs. 1&3

*Benediction

*Postlude

All Music Used with Permission – CCLI#2274807

Opening Prayer

God of birth, God of light,
in this time of song and prayer and silence,
reawaken in us the awe of Christmas.
As we hear again the story of a young woman and surprising
visitors, remind us that we are called to respond to you in
unexpected ways.
And when we leave this place,
may we be willing to sing praises
for a young woman who said yes
and the birth that we prepare to celebrate.
We pray in the name of this child. Amen.

Love Came Down at Christmas #242

Love came down at Christmas,
Love, all Lovely, Love divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we our Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine
Worship we our Jesus,
But, wherewith for sacred sign.

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

The Baptismal Covenant II

Congregational Responses:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your
rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,
that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New
Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples

to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare Christ's works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,
to wash away their sin

and clothe them in righteousness
throughout their lives,
that, dying and being raised with Christ,
they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns forever.**

Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome
our new sister in Christ.

Through baptism

**you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation**

and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as a member of the family of Christ.**

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth #2050 Vs. 1&3

Mothering God, you gave me birth

In the bright morning of this world.

Creator source of every breath,

You are my rain, my wind my sun.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one

In arms of patience hold me close.

So that in faith, I root and grow

Until I flower, until I know.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy ~ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Lord God's spirit is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me
to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and a day of vindication for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
3 to provide for Zion's mourners,
to give them a crown in place of ashes,
oil of joy in place of mourning,
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.
They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,
planted by the Lord to glorify himself.
4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins;
they will restore formerly deserted places;
they will renew ruined cities,
places deserted in generations past.
8 I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and dishonesty.
I will faithfully give them their wage,
and make with them an enduring covenant.
9 Their offspring will be known among the nations,
and their descendants among the peoples.
All who see them will recognize
that they are a people blessed by the Lord.
10 I surely rejoice in the Lord;
my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.
11 As the earth puts out its growth,
and as a garden grows its seeds,
so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before
all the nations.

Prayer of Dedication

God of love and light: just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that the offering you seek is that what we have and how we live should also witness to the light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, then we realize that we are ignoring the call to witness to the light. May we witness through our giving and our compassion, through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

O Little Town of Bethlehem Vs. 1,3 &4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet, in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in Thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts, the blessing of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell,
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Scripture Reading ~ Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

He is Born #228

He is born, the holy Child,
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily.
He is born, the holy Child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

Through long ages of the past,
Prophets have foretold his coming.
Through long ages of the past,
Now the time has come at last.

He is born, the holy child,
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily,
He is born, the holy Child
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

Jesus, Lord, of all the world,
Coming as a child among us.
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

He is born, the holy child
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily,
He is born the holy Child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

Prayer of Confession

Every notion we have about power, success,
wealth, and achievement,
God takes and tosses out the window.
More importantly, God comes to us,
to upset our notion that we have to save ourselves.
In Jesus, God comes to us,
removing our sin, our failures, our expectations,
so we might have new life.
Please join me as we pray, saying,

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.

Prayer of Assurance

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.**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing #240 Vs. 1&3

Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King”
Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all Ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies
With Angels host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem”
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace,
Hail the Son of righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

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.

The flowers that grace our altar today are given in glory to God; And In Loving Memory of John Carhart... husband, father, and crazy dad! Happy Birthday in Heaven!

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

December 6, 2020

Attendance ~ 57 via Facebook Views
Envelope Offerings ~ \$1,860.00
Offerings via Vanco ~ \$1,397.44

Thank you for your continued support of LUMC! We GREATLY appreciate your generosity! 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. GNJAC has set up separate accounts for every local Church if you would like to use your credit or debit card to share your tithe and offerings you may do so by visiting gnjumc.org/onlinegiving.
Thank you and God bless you!!

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



Shop Online? Here are two ways you could earn donations for LUMC!

- ✓ umcmarket.org - You earn for LUMC every time you click through the umcmarket.org site to shop. Sign up for free at umcmarket.org!
- ✓ [amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2279634) - Support LUMC by starting your Amazon shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2279634>

Scriptures to read & pray over in preparation for Dec. 20th
Romans 15:13

Christmas Worship Services

Blue Christmas – Thursday, Dec. 17th 7:00PM
Christmas Eve Worship Services – 7:00PM & 10:00PM
All services will include Communion and candle lighting.

NEW DAY! Virtual Bible Study Opportunities

Thursdays 9:00 AM & 6:45 PM
Please contact the LUMC Office if you would like to receive the virtual link!

Memorial Brick Orders for The Bell Enclosure Walk Way

4" x 8" Brick / 3 lines / 18 characters each line including spaces = \$50
8" x 8" Brick / 6 lines / 18 characters each line including spaces = \$100
See Elaine Brandt for more information.

Joy of the Angels Thrift Shoppe

New Hours of Operation:

Thursdays ~ 8:00AM – 11:00AM
Fridays & Saturdays ~ 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Donation Drop-Off:

Thursdays from 8:00AM-11:00AM

♪ ♪ Do you have a favorite hymn that you hope to hear during Worship? Our Worship Team would like to hear from you! Please email your 5 favorite hymns/praise songs to laceyumcnj@gmail.com.

The next hymn we share may be one of your favorites! ♪ ♪

If you would like to have a Hymnal from the Sanctuary to assist in worshipping with us via LUMC FaceBook and Website please contact Joann in Church Office – 609-693-5222