

# LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

October 2019 / Volume 2, Number 9

## Lacey United Methodist Church

203 West Lacey Rd., PO Box 151,

Forked River, NJ 08731

Church office: (609) 693-5222

Pastor cell: (609) 661-1819

[laceyumcnj@gmail.com](mailto:laceyumcnj@gmail.com)

[www.laceyumc.org](http://www.laceyumc.org)

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

Ministers: All of Us

Pastor: Linda Applegate

Lay Leader: Ed Wojciechowski

Admin. Assistant: Joann Michalkowski

Pianist-Choir Director: Dawn Slate

Chimes Director: Bill Applegate

Facility Maintenance – Grounds: Mike Orlick

Trustee Chair: Bill Jones

Church Council Chair: Chip Marshall

Staff Parish Team Chair: Rose Coram

Children-Youth Education: Bonnie Marshall

Finance Chair: Steven Michalkowski

Head Counter: Becky Buglione

Thrift Shoppe: Elaine Brandt

Mission: Morris Maze

Outreach: Kenny Pitman

Worship: Dawn Marie Kuch

Hospitality Kitchen: Bill Buglione

Hot Lunch Mission: Roseann DePasquale & Ed Weisbrot

Summer Lunch Mission: Ellen Larney & Gail Matuska

## BIBLE VERSE ON EVIL

1 Peter 5: 8 – 11: *Be on the alert! Wake up! Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, prowls around looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, firm in your faith, and remember that your fellow-Christians in this world are going through the same kind of suffering. After your brief suffering, the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you on a firm foundation. All power belongs to him for ever and ever! Amen.*

## HALLOWEEN'S CHRISTIAN ROOTS

by Sarah Hamaker (Crosswalk.com)



Today's over-emphasis on the occult and death hide the fact that Halloween has a rich history in the church. While the holiday began as a pagan celebration to drive out evil spirits, the early church actually started what we call Halloween.

The name refers to All Hallows Eve, which is the evening before the All Saints Day of remembering early Christian martyrs. During the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Gregory III moved All Saints Day from the spring to November 1 to coincide with the pagan festival of Samhain in an effort to sanitize the revelry, which often degenerated into drunkenness and mischievousness.

We should remember that "All Hollows Eve, the feast commemorating the martyrdom of the saints, had already been celebrated by Christians for many centuries prior to this time," says Mary Fairchild (host of the Christianity site About.com). "A later pope, Pope Gregory IV broadened the feast to include the entire church. Inevitably, some of the pagan practices associated with the season persisted and have been mixed into modern celebrations of Halloween."

Halloween came to America from immigrants of the British Isles during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While originally, the immigrants may have believed in the superstitions associated with the holiday, American youth found the playful qualities of Halloween very attractive.

"Hollywood has added to the 'fun' with a wide assortment of fictional characters – demons, monsters, vampires, werewolves, mummies and psychopaths," says Travis Allen, director of Internet ministry at Grace To You and author of "Christianity and Halloween" posted on [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org). "That certainly isn't improving the American mind, but it sure is making someone a lot of money."

(The above piece is an excerpt from "A Tricky Holiday: Should Christians Ignore or Embrace & Celebrate Halloween?")

## UPDATE FROM THE GNJ WAY FORWARD TEAM SEPT. 10 – 11

Dear Friends in Christ,

The GNJ Way Forward Team and Connectional Table just completed two days of work on our way forward.

The team was created to identify how GNJ clergy and congregations could be in ministry with the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly in light of recent changes to The Book of Discipline that adopted key pieces of the Traditional Plan which addresses ministry with gay and lesbian persons.

Our time together was productive and you were instrumental in helping us move forward. We thank everyone who took time to participate in the listening sessions, focus groups and online survey. We learned that most people in GNJ:

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- (a) Want to remain united
  - (b) Want people to be able to live their convictions
  - (c) Want to continue our mission, ministry and services together
  - (d) Have questions about why we would move into pilots or a different expression
  - (e) Want support and an outside facilitator to assist with conversations about human sexuality within their congregation
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Our work together was difficult, even painful at times. As we reassessed, we dove deeper into specifics and experienced firsthand how language that personalizes does real harm. We are thankful for our spiritual director, Rev. Shawn Callender Hogan who centered us with the story of Hannah and Eli from 1 Samuel and the change that happens when we truly listen to each other.

We honor the trust that you have placed in us and so based on your input we have changed some of our original direction.

Fundamentally, our mission and principles have not changed:

### GNJ Way Forward Principles

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- (1) Bless and love one another in the things that unite us.
  - (2) Grow spiritually as we connect with one another and the people in our communities.
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### GNJ Way Forward Team Goals

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- (1) To work with our congregations to identify objectives, opportunities, challenges and structures that support their efforts to thrive.
  - (2) To create new and renewed connections with one another through ministry and mission.
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Our action steps forward, however, are being refined based on your input. We have significantly more work to do in the coming weeks before we are ready to share our next steps.

We understand that waiting for information may create mistrust, but we also understand that our work is so important that providing information that is inaccurate or not fully complete will create confusion and widen the gulf of mistrust. Our objective is to be thorough, thoughtful, responsive, inclusive and clear.

We also recognize that people in GNJ have deep concerns and questions about proposals to divide the denomination and statements made by other conferences and groups (Links about different proposals and stances can be found at [www.qnjumc.org](http://www.qnjumc.org)).

We will be preparing a pre-conference journal which will outline our work together, the framework for moving forward and our affirmation as a team.

Thank you for your prayers, support and participation. We feel God's presence in all we do.

The GNJ Way Forward Team

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**ALL SUBMISSIONS TO LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS SHOULD BE SENT  
TO DONNIEG777@HOTMAIL.COM!!!**

## HARVEST FEST COMING TO LUMC



What started out as a Pet Fair has now blossomed into a full-blown Harvest Festival on Saturday, November 16. Taking place from 10AM until 3PM, this event will feature baked goods, homemade soups and chili, crafts and vendors, a rummage sale, animal care demos and products and services. There will still be a pet theme throughout, so you are encouraged to bring your pets. A Blessing of the Pets will also take place, as well as Holiday Photos with your four-legged friends..

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show will be in its last day for this event upstairs in the church. The Art Show will begin on Tuesday, November 12, from 6PM until 8PM and run at those hours until Friday. On Saturday, the Art Show continues from 10AM until 3PM. Registration forms for artists are available at [www.laceyumc.org](http://www.laceyumc.org) or by calling (609) 693-5222. LUMC welcomes all ages and all media for entries. The fee is \$25. You can bring your artwork on Sunday, November 10 between 11AM and 1PM. You must pick up your artwork on Saturday right after the event ends until 4PM. Artwork utilizing canvas and paper should be framed and ready for hanging. Each artist is limited to 5 entries.

In addition, there will be a car show right in the LUMC parking lot. Due to the recent change in theme, other surprises are still being organized for this event. There are still tables available for \$35, as well as room for even more volunteers. I have a good feeling that this event will be very special, so invite your family and friends and let's show some love and support for a church that really cares about our community. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Dawn Kuch at (732) 232 – 7270.

Dominic Gregoria

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## TRUSTEE SPONSORED CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, October 26: 8:00AM – 12:00 PM.....Volunteers Appreciated!!!

Help for 1 hour or all 4 hours!!!!..... Please see Bill Jones for more info!!!

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## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Thursday, October 10: 6:15PM at America's Keswick, 601 County Road 530, Whiting, NJ

Guest speaker: Rev. Tim Shorey of Risen Hope Church

See Bill Jones if interested and meet-up time at LUMC

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## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Volunteers needed for Saturday, November 30, to help dress the sanctuary for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Any help would be appreciated!

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## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN SPRING 2020

We are currently forming a team to plan, communicate, and emphasize biblical generosity. Please contact Steven Michalkowski at (732) 300 – 1956 to learn more about the campaign and how you can help!

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## DRAMA CLUB UNDERWAY

The Drama Club was started in September and I am already impressed with the children that are participating. Plus, I never know what Dean Abramo is going to add to make the sessions fun. If you have a child who is of reading age until and including 18 years of age, and who expresses an interest in acting, you can still sign them up by emailing me at [donnieg777@hotmail.com](mailto:donnieg777@hotmail.com). These sessions are not only free, but they are very informative!

Dominic Gregoria

## A TAPESTRY OF UNITY

***“There’s  
nothing left  
I’m done  
with all this  
pain!  
I’m yours to  
save so help  
me find my  
way”  
Wolves At The Gate***



World Communion Day is a day of unity, a day when congregations throughout GNJ and abroad will embrace a diverse togetherness throughout the world. This year on October 6, the first Sunday of every October, followers of Jesus Christ will gather in churches

of all sizes, on lanes, streets and major highways, in modern buildings and makeshift sanctuaries, in rural and urban environments, all to receive the bread and cup of Holy Communion. Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior on this Special Sunday.

From a practical perspective, World Communion Sunday is one of the six Sundays of the year that the United Methodist Church has designated as denomination-wide Special Sundays, where special offerings are collected to serve specific ministry purposes in the church.

Heather Mistretta ([hmistretta@gnjumc.org](mailto:hmistretta@gnjumc.org))

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### LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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