

CORONA VIRUS AFFECTS CLERGY

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that Rev. Sherrie Johnson and Glenn Shivers, the son of Rev. Russ Shivers, died from illness associated with the CoronaVirus.

Rev. Johnson was a former district superintendent of GNJ and the wife of Bishop Alfred Johnson, who was bishop of GNJ from 1996 – 2004.

I ask that you keep both families in your prayers.

These are difficult days for all of us. We are in a season like most of us have never experienced before. The Psalmist said, mourning comes in the evening but joy comes in the morning. A faithful witness today is to weep with those who mourn, to care for those who are in pain and to remember that God is walking with us toward a new day. You are not alone. God goes with you and we have each other.



In Christ,
John Schol, Bishop
United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

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ELECTRONIC GIVING IS HERE!

- 1) Visit our website at laceyumc.org.
- 2) Click on “Electronic Giving,” then follow the instructions.

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BOUNTY OF THE BAY POSTPONED

As with all church functions, the Bounty Of The Bay has been postponed indefinitely. Joann has been contacting those that purchased tickets to see if they want a refund or have the money held until the event is rescheduled. This was especially necessary for the health and well-being of all involved. Besides, President Trump recently stated that April 30th is his next target date to see if some of the current restrictions can be lifted. However, people may be asked to stay indoors for a lot longer than the target date. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and BOTB Team Members (Joann Michalkowski, Lori Osborn and Elaine Brandt) that were willing to help make this event a success. In addition, I want to thank all of the restaurants that were willing to participate, as well as those that were still considering participating. Our local restaurants and businesses need our support during this very difficult time. While things keep changing day to day, some restaurants are offering curbside pickup, as well as delivery. Even purchasing a gift certificate, if you can afford it, will help them with their comeback. I know that it is going to be a struggle for many being that many jobs have laid off people, but together as a church family we can help each other deal with the future.

God Bless,
Dominic Gregoria

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NOTES OF APPRECIATION

This came in a recent email from PL and I thought it was a great idea:

It was suggested to me that we show our appreciation to the “essential working force” by writing notes of appreciation or by making cut-out hearts and other written messages that can be taped in our car windows to the person filling our tank...or to the retail persons filling our grocery order.

To tape thank you notes (facing inward) on windows at ShopRite...Lidl’s...Aldi’s...and the Pharmacies...doctor’s offices...and other businesses that are still open and offering their services to us. This would certainly help them know that what they are doing is so GREATLY appreciated by all of us!!! It would help to give them hope in knowing the gift they share of themselves is truly making a difference. It would be the grace and love of Jesus Christ in action to uplift spirits. I invite you to put a heart in your vehicle window or home windows to let others know they are our heroes...

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LINDA APPLGATE

I opened a new bar of soap this morning and it brought me to tears. Silly right. But it reminded me of how privileged I am to have soap and clean water when there are so many in our country and the world where this luxury is not easily accessible. Where many are falling victim to the COVID-19 virus just because of not being able to wash their hands. With our President and Governor instructing how important it is for us to maintain personal hygiene and to wash each time we touch something – how precious is a bar of soap and running water? We are a people most fortunate. Leslie shared with me how sad it is in New York – and how the shelter where she volunteers had to shut down. The homeless are so vulnerable and certainly lack opportunities to have good hygiene. I invite you to say an extra prayer for those wandering the streets as you tuck your loved ones in tonight.

Rosalie (mid-90's) shared with me remembrances of The War and the quiet, sad times she went through as a child. Quiet streets without children playing or cars driving by. She recognizes that everyone knows someone affected ... or infected. There were no times of family gatherings, playing sports, celebrating school and family milestones. People were in survival mode. She prays we can all have patience with each other and be more caring - and share what we have with a family who has less. Rosalie also said not to get in a panic – but encourage one another – that she is sure that God will bring us through this.

Polly (also in her 90's) remembers spending her childhood Saturday mornings walking to the store with two big satchel bags – waiting on line at the market and being given the responsibility to find all the items on a list given by parents, friends and neighbors – and once filled – having to carry those two heavy satchels back to her parents, friends and neighbors where everyone would divide the items up and share them, all the while each making sure that the other had enough. She remembers everyone being so grateful for what they had. Patience, caring, sharing, gratitude. These are unprecedented times we are in. Rosalie and Polly both admitted that today is much worse than the times either experienced of The War or Depression.

Our younger generation will tell stories to their grandchildren of these days. I pray they can tell of how people were patient and kind and shared what they had in gratitude. As they see the love and grace of Jesus Christ modeled for them, so may they be filled with compassion, empathy and grace to pass Christ's love on. One of my colleagues wrote about how the people of Israel – having left Egypt and crossing through the Red Sea – wandered forty years in the wilderness – totally relying on God to feed them, lead them and give them clean water and hope. We have a good, faithful, compassionate, forgiving and merciful God. A God who still loves us and who is there to bring us through this time of trial and tribulation. God did not bring this upon us. God is not punishing us or has it in to destroy us. That is not who God is – certainly not the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ – the God who the people of Israel followed and who we worship and proclaim and look to for refuge and strength. As we prepare to enter this season of Passover – the season of remembering God's bringing God's people out of bondage and slavery, let us center ourselves on this same God that brought the Israelites through their wilderness journey to the Promised Land – the same God who brought Rosalie and Polly and all those who came before us through their wilderness journey to Freedom and Prosperity – the same God who loves each one of you and who truly cares about all that you are going through. Who weeps with us and mourns with us. Who promises to be with us through it all to comfort, strengthen and give hope. Keep fighting the good fight and trusting in Jesus Christ! Remember you are blessed, chosen, adopted, redeemed, sealed, assured, accepted, forgiven, enlightened, and given an inheritance in Christ Jesus. Be filled with His Spirit and have hope. Praying for you all. In His Love and Service, PL.

EPHESIANS 3: 14 – 21: *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

FAITH

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COMPASSION

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**HEALTH
&
SAFETY**

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MISSION



**Our
Church
Mission**

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.

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO:
donnieg777@hotmail.com

LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO Box 151
Forked River, NJ 08731