

# LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

July 2022 / #53 / Lacey United Methodist Church / Forked River, New Jersey

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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

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*human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.*

These statements, and others, place the United Methodist position on abortion firmly on the spectrum of life-based ethics rather than choice-based ethics..... (CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

## MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SCHOL:

Dear Friends in Christ,

United Methodists have been inquiring, *What is the United Methodist stance on abortion in light of the recent supreme court ruling?*

Beverly and I have good and faithful United Methodist friends whom we have known for 43 years. They have two adopted children. They tried to conceive a child, but medically could not, and so after several years of testing without being able to conceive, they adopted a boy and a girl. Their two children brought them joy. They were vehemently against abortion, recognizing that abortions may have meant that they would not be able to adopt these two wonderful children.

When their children were in their teenage years, much to their surprise, our friends conceived a child. They weren't prepared to have another child at this stage in their lives, but their beliefs and convictions would not allow them to have an abortion. They now have 3 wonderful children.

Four years later, they conceived again. They had been using birth control, but they still conceived. They shared with Beverly and me that their minds had changed and that in rare instances an abortion may be appropriate. Our friends prayerfully and painfully chose to have an abortion.

Good and faithful United Methodists have a range of beliefs and convictions about abortion. After all, we are a denomination in which former President George Bush and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are both good and faithful members.

United Methodist belief about abortion is found in our Book of Discipline, under our Social Principles teaching, paragraph 161k. Our Board of Church and Society summarizes the disciplinary passage in part, stating the following: *The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve of abortion.*

*But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.*

*We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers.*

Further, our denomination's official web page offers the following:

*The United Methodist Church affirms the sanctity of life in these two statements in the Social Principles: Our belief in the sanctity of unborn*

**BISHOP SCHOL** (continued from cover page)

Life-based ethics place life at the center of guidance regarding situations where there may be conflicts. Life-based ethics call for as much life as possible to be honored and preserved in such situations. Choice-based ethics place the sovereignty of a person's right to choose at the center of such arguments.

United Methodists affirm the sanctity of unborn human life. We similarly understand that the pregnant woman is also a life of sacred worth, and that there are circumstances in which there may be "tragic conflicts of life versus life." This may happen to any pregnant woman, anywhere, at any time during her pregnancy.

In our society, there are a wide range of beliefs and convictions about abortion, from abortion on demand to abortion never, even in cases of rape, incest and the safety and health of the mother. For some, it is a justice issue and a right for a woman to choose. For others, life begins at conception. Some even go as far to say that birth control is wrong because it violates natural law. These beliefs are not the official view of the United Methodist Church. We affirm the use of contraception and recognize that there are times when abortion is appropriate.

In 1963, Roe v. Wade was decided under the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Constitution, which provides for equal protection under the law. It has often been used to protect the rights of "minorities." Other decisions using the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment include:

Brown v. Board of Education, (1954), providing for integrated schools.

Griswold v. Connecticut, (1965), protecting the liberty of married couples to buy and use contraceptives without government restriction.

Loving v. Virginia, (1967), providing for interracial marriage.

Obergefell v. Hodges, (2015), providing for same-gender marriage.

In each of these decisions and in Roe v. Wade, good and faithful United Methodists have used scripture to make cases for and against these rulings. The body of teaching and tradition of United Methodists have affirmed many Supreme Court rulings, including the need and right for abortion in certain circumstances. In terms of abortion, United Methodists have said, each person through prayer, discernment and counsel will need to make their own decision. As United Methodists, many are concerned that in instances when an abortion is appropriate, that people will not have equal access under the law to quality health care and treatment. In our teaching, the recent Supreme Court decision does not provide equal access under the law.

Should we as United Methodists be concerned about the most recent Supreme Court decision? Absolutely! One Supreme Court Justice has already indicated at least two more of the above rulings should be reexamined implying overturning them. Many of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment rulings ensure equal protection under the law and address rights of "minorities." It will be they who are impacted most by these changes. Through our conference commitments, we have sought to end all harmful discrimination, especially the sin of racism. We should be concerned about how these changes disproportionately affect those who have been often most disadvantaged by our laws and rulings.

It is not easy to live in the midst of differences. United Methodism stretches us because as individual United Methodists we hold a wide spectrum of beliefs, but I believe that is what makes us special. We have shied away from group think and would rather live in a community where assumptions and beliefs are continually reflected upon and tested by the faith community in the search for meaning and truth. I call all of us in the midst of our difference to love and serve together for a better church and a better world.

For now, we see in a mirror dimly; but with God's grace and love-and making love for God and our neighbor our aim-we will more often bend toward righteousness and justice.....Keep the faith! Bishop John Schol

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**MONTHLY PASTOR'S BREAKFAST**



This month's Pastor's Breakfast will be held on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 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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Join us for Worship Service every Sunday at 9am. You can also view Sunday Service on our youtube channel!

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*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.*



***“His word shall not fail you he promised***  
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***Believe Him and all will be well***  
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***Then go to a world that is dying***  
+++++

***His perfect salvation to tell”***  
+++++

***Helen H. Lemmel***

## **SERVE GOD WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS**



**Romans 12: 3-8:** *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

#### **Confirmands:**

**Chris Campbell, Olivia Dacus & Kenshin Frangos**

#### **Graduates:**

**Master’s Degree: Jordyn Dean (Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.)**

**Ryan McDonald (American Military Univ. )**

**High School: Jeremiah Campbell & Kailyn Dean**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kenshin Frangos, Kylie Rucki, Isabella  
Wioland & Caroline Zonkowski**

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**LACEY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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