

<>< *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; Sally & Don McErlean; Pat Grant; our whole Church Family.

**For God's Comfort & Strength during Time of Mourning and Loss** ~ 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.

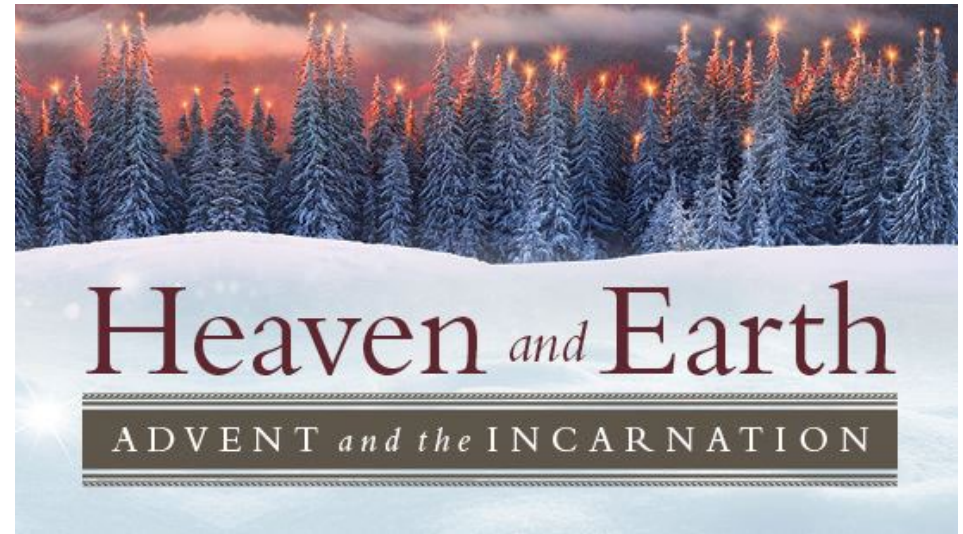
**For Greater NJ Annual Conference** ~ Bishop John & Beverly Schol; DS Rev. Ronell Howard; all Clergy and Laity of the Greater UMC Annual Conference & United Methodist Denomination

**World Council of Churches & USA Prayer Atlas** ~ People of Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China; Arizona, Arkansas; 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 17, 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](mailto:laceyumcnj@gmail.com) Website: [www.laceyumc.org](http://www.laceyumc.org)**

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

Ministers: All of Us Liturgist: Rose Coram

Pastor: Jonathan Campbell Lay Leader: Dominic Gregoria

Music Director: Dawn Slate Special Music: Betty Carhart

Guest Musician: Brian Gilmore

Advent Family: Emmett and Gloria Bivins

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 **Savior of the Nations, Come** UMH 214

## \*Call to Worship

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

**We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

**We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

Beloved, listen. God is calling *you*. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

**We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

**We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

## Advent Candle Lighting

Hymn **Advent Song** v. 3 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: John 1:1-8

## Message: Heaven and Earth: "Light"

\*Hymn **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light** UMH 206

\*Affirmation of Faith UMH 884

## Pastoral Prayer

## Offering

**Anthem: Special Music Offered by Brian Gilmore**

\*Doxology UMH 95

## \*Prayer of Dedication

God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that light he heralds is the savior of hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through

what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn **Blessed Be the God of Israel** UMH 209

## The Invitation

## Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

The stories of your faithfulness abound, yet we confess that we do not trust in your provision and care for us. We go our own way, longing for joy and peace, but not recognizing our need for communion with you and our neighbors. **God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.**

## A Time of Silent Confession and Reflection

## The Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, hear this good news: God's love never fails, and is always at work to bring us back to God and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **May God restore us to the joy of our common life now and always. 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 **The Summons** TFWS 2130

## 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 10, 2023:**

**Attendance ~ 43 in-person; 24 via YouTube**

**Offerings: \$1,175.00 Offerings via Vanco: \$1,348.68**

**Plate: \$40.00 Discretionary: \$64.00**

**American Rescue Plan Grant ~ \$1,972.53**

**Donation from VetWork: \$2,150.00 Book Study: \$20.00**

**Joy of Angels Deposit: \$1,632.75**

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](http://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*

**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.**

*Scripture to read & pray over in preparation for  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Luke 1:26-55*

**Holy Grounds Coffee Hour - Today after Worship**  
We Invite You to Join Us Downstairs for Fellowship

### **Christmas at Lacey UMC**

**Thurs., Dec. 21 7:00 PM** – Blue Christmas Worship Service  
held at FR Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve Worship Services:

9 AM: Morning Worship

7 PM: Family Candlelight Service

10 PM: Traditional Candlelight Service

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

The OC Board of Health will be holding a **vaccine clinic** on  
**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** from **11AM – 1PM** at LUMC.  
Appointments are not necessary – stop by to learn more!

↵↵ **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

