

LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

November 2019 / Volume 2, Number 10

Lacey United Methodist Church

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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

PSALM 100

A Song of Praise for the Lord's Faithfulness to His People

A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

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Conference Charts 'Way Forward' With

LGBTQ People

By an overwhelming majority, the Greater New Jersey Conference in a special session voted to allow United Methodist churches to decide how to include and affirm LGBTQ people in every aspect of ministry while still allowing congregations the right to agree to disagree. Churches can also create covenants about other mission priorities, or choose not to have a covenant at all. The vote on the 10-point proposal, by a show of voice and hands, came just eight months after a special General Conference passed legislation affirming the church's current bans on ordaining LGBTQ clergy and officiating at or hosting same-sex marriage and strengthening penalties for violations. Conference officials estimated 80 percent of those present at the special annual conference voted for the proposal, which came from the report submitted by the conference's Way Forward Team. Bishop John Schol, episcopal leader of the conference, told the October 26th special session that he chooses to be a pastor of all United Methodist congregations. He vowed he would not forward complaints for trial concerning LGBTQ peoples right to marry, seek ordination or for pastors who perform same-sex unions. "I will not participate in the ongoing harm and division of our church. I will not participate in excluding faithful United Methodists, faithful and fruitful LGBTQ United Methodists from serving God. I will not prevent caring, loving LGBTQ people who in the United Methodist tradition want to enter into a covenant with God and one another," he said in an emotional episcopal address. The Board of Ordained Ministry has also declared it will not screen people from

answering a call to ministry based on their sexuality or gender.

The conference actions reject the Traditional Plan, passed 438 – 384 by the denomination's top lawmaking assembly. In the months since, some United Methodists have expressed relief at the outcome while others have announced plans to resist. Also, multiple proposals for dividing the church along theological lines have been developed in the U.S.{continued on next page}

{continued from previous page}.....There were five challenges to the legality of the Way Forward Team's report, questioning the conference's authority to act and whether the proposals violate church law. Schol is considering those challenges. The Rev. Leo Park, Korean Methodist Church of South Jersey, said he objected to the covenant proposal because it violates the Book of Discipline and the Bible. "It is not about culture...or even sexuality, it is about honoring the Bible and keeping the vows we made at ordination." The Way Forward Team said the covenants allow the conference to move past the current struggles over how The United Methodist Church accepts or rejects ministry with LGBTQ people. However, congregations are not required to enter into a covenant, said Rev. Sang Won Doh, convener of the Way Forward Team. The plan provides a path for congregations that want to leave the conference or affiliate with other Wesleyan denominations. Churches can also develop covenants about other missional commitments that empower contextual ministries of justice, mercy and peace.

Doh said in focus groups, listening sessions and surveys, more than 800 United Methodists in Greater New Jersey clearly communicated they wanted to continue in ministry together and did not want to separate into groups. "When asked, 'What challenges are your congregations facing?' most answered that their biggest concerns included mission, worship attendance and finances," he said. "Those who responded with concerns over ministry with LGBTQ persons were concerned about divides within their own congregation and with their connection to the denomination." Doh said many congregations had not had conversations about the decision made by the 2019 General Conference. Others reported their congregations were split 60 – 40 or 50 – 50 on the issue of the LGBTQ inclusion. There is no action to be taken if a congregation does not develop a covenant. "The covenanting process is fully voluntary," he added.

Facilitators will be available to help congregations form covenants. The conference will be prepared to facilitate 60 congregations at a time. The report asks congregations to use the following questions to guide the process:

1. Who is God?
2. Who is Jesus?
3. Why do people need Jesus?
4. Why do people need our congregation?

Schol was asked why the conference didn't wait until the 2020 General Conference meets. "General Conference can't fix the challenges that face our denomination," he said. "No vote or piece of legislation will change people's hearts and minds. The United Methodist Church is global and diverse. A dominant centralized government does not work. We need a policy that is focused on the mission globally and organization and practices identified locally. We remain committed to being loyal to our foundational mission of being disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," Schol said. Asked about the covenant proposal's similarities to the One Church Plan that failed at the special General Conference, Schol said that plan was a General Conference solution. "These matters are better identified and worked through by annual conferences," he said.

Meanwhile, the United Methodist Judicial Council had an oral hearing scheduled Oct. 30 on the implementation of the Traditional Plan. The Council of Bishops requested a declaratory decision on "the constitutionality, meaning, application and effect of certain petitions adopted as the Traditional Plan," specifically asking five questions about the effects of the plan "that need to be addressed for the benefit of The United Methodist Church." The Rev. Myrna Bethke, district superintendent and dean of the cabinet, said the Greater New Jersey Conference recognizes that all churches are bound by the Book of Discipline. The district superintendents have their own covenant for working with congregations. "The team also recognizes that congregations act on their convictions to be in ministry with God, one another and the community, including being fully inclusive with LGBTQ people," she said. "Our goal is to work with our congregations to support their efforts to thrive, to bless one another and to serve the mission and ministries that united us."

Doh said the team's report is based on the philosophy of agreeing to disagree. "People do not agree with everything in the report, but they agree to move forward in this way for the good mission of The United Methodist Church."

The Rev. Virginia Cetuk, Princeton United Methodist Church, moved to add an amendment to the report that affirmed Schol's vow to not bring complaints to trial and the Board of Ordained Ministry's vow to not screen candidates for ministry based on their sexuality or gender. Cetuk said those actions remove "the stone cold fear" from pastors who have to choose between offering love and justice to all or their livelihood.

The gathering passed the report by an overwhelming majority.

Kathy L. Gilbert
UM News

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Thursday, November 14: 6:15PM at America's Keswick, 601 County Road 530, Whiting, NJ

Guest speaker: Pastor Randy Smith of Grace Bible Church

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

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Volunteers needed for Saturday, November 30, from 8AM – 12PM to help dress the sanctuary for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Any help would be appreciated!

11TH ANNUAL JURIED ART SHOW

Tuesday, November 12 – Friday, November 15.....6:00PM – 8:00PM

Saturday, November 16.....10:00AM – 3:00PM

HARVESTFEST: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (10:00AM – 3:00PM)

Car Show / Art Show / Baked Goods / Homemade Soups & Chili / Pics With Santa / Kid's Korner / Animal Care Products, Services & Demos / Blessing Of The Pets / Crafts / Vendors / Rummage Sale.....contact LUMC Office at (609) 693 – 5222 for more information.

RUMMAGE SALE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT HARVESTFEST

Donations can be dropped off on Thursday, November 14 & Friday, November 15 from 4PM – 8PM in Fellowship Hall. Donations of electronics can not be accepted. Contact Jackie Van Arsdale at (732) 858 – 4551 for info.

ANNUAL GINGERBREAD COMPETITION: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT HARVESTFEST

Entry drop off is Friday, November 15, between 6PM and 7PM. Open to children (age 12 & under), youth (age 13 through 18) and adults. There is no fee to enter. Applications are available at www.laceyumc.org.



BEHIND THE SCENES PEOPLE NEEDED FOR DRAMA CLUB

Anyone who is interested in helping out the Drama Club with costume making and set design for the upcoming performance of "Straight Outta Bethlehem" can come see Dominic on Tuesday, November 5 at 5PM. If that time is not good for you, call (732) 904 – 9945 and leave a message as to how you can help and a good contact number. Thank you to all that have supported this venture!

INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE AT ST. PIUS

Wednesday, November 27.....7PM

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Thursday, November 28 at 1PM in Fellowship Hall.....No Reservations Required.

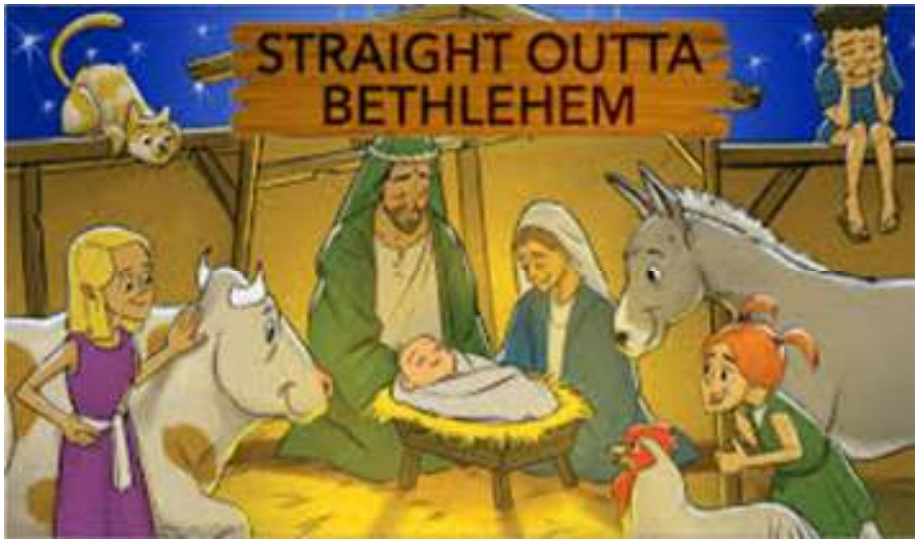
Contact LUMC Office at (609) 693 – 5222 to register as a volunteer.

WE ARE COLLECTING NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN SIZES NEWBORN TO TEEN.

CHILDREN'S SOCKS, GLOVES, HATS, SCARVES & PAJAMAS

DROP-OFF BEFORE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

*“With a grateful
heart,
with a song of
praise,
With an
outstretched arm
I’ll bless your
name
And Thank You,
Lord,
I just want to
thank You, Lord.”
Paul Baloche*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
5PM Dinner / 6PM Show
Lacey United Methodist Church
203 Lacey Road, Forked River, NJ 08731
Presented by the LUMC Drama Club & Kúrios Kids

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