LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

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Lacey United Methodist Church

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Head of the Church: Jesus Christ, Son of

the Living God

Ministers: All of Us

Pastor: John Campbell

Lay Leader: Ed Wojciechowski

Admin. Assistant: Joann Michalkowski

Pianist-Choir Director: Dawn Slate

Chimes Director: Dawn Slate Facility Maintenance - Grounds: Mike Orlick

Trustee Chair: Bill Jones

Church Council Chair: Rich Rosfjord Staff Parish Team Chair: Rose Coram

Children-Youth Education: Sue Newman

Finance Chair: Steven Michalkowski

Head Counter: Becky Buglione

Thrift Shoppe: Elaine Brandt

Mission: Donna Jones

Outreach: Kenny Pitman

Worship: Dawn Marie Kuch Hospitality Kitchen: Bill Buglione

Hot Lunch Mission: Roseann DePasquale

& Ed Weisbrot

Summer Lunch Mission: Sherry Exel & Gail Matuska

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JONATHAN CAMPBELL



The believers devoted themselves to apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would pieces property possessions and distribute proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in

the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 42 – 47)

As I transition into becoming Lacey UMC's new pastor, I want to express both excitement and gratitude. I am very excited to be called to journey alongside you in ministry and to see where the Holy Spirit will lead us. I also want to express my deep gratitude for the amazing work the Holy Spirit has done through Pastor Linda. God has grown an amazing ministry through Linda's leadership and your hard work and passion. I'm very grateful for the foundation that has been laid at Lacey UMC.

Here are some facts about me. I have been a full-elder in GNJAC since 2013. I have served many churches during my time in the Conference. I also worked as Operations Director at CUMAC - ECHO, a large feeding and ministry center in Paterson, New Jersey. I am also privileged to serve the GNJAC as the Peace with Justice Coordinator and the UMC denomination as the co-chair of the United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities. Most importantly, I am blessed to be the father of three amazing young men: Jeremiah (17), Nathan (14), and Christopher (soon to be 12).

After Linda's eighteen years of amazing leadership, it will take some time for you and others to become accustom to my style of servant leadership. I am sure many of you have questions and concerns about the changes my leadership will bring. That is the reason I began this piece with a passage from Acts 2. I believe we, as followers of Jesus, are called to reclaim the model of ministry found in Acts 2: devoting ourselves to God, prayer, Scripture, Holy Communion, each other, and to serving those in

need. We together must find ways to truly devote ourselves to these Grace-filled pillars of the Acts community. We also must find ways to help others outside Lacey UMC to experience these essential means of Grace. This will require us to both recapture ancient Christian practices, as well as, create new practices for this specific time and place. This is the exciting path God has called us to travel together! Acts 2 teaches us the Holy Spirit used these pillars of the faith to bring an extremely diverse group of individuals together to form a devoted community that changed the world. I believe the Holy Spirit can and will do this again in our community of faith.

In Christ's Love.



Dear Lord.

Bless Pastor Jonathan and his family as he begins his appointment during these most difficult of times. Give him strength, as he navigates the congregation through a pandemic and historic unrest. Guide Pastor Jonathan with his decision-making process, as we approach a date for the reopening of the church doors. Fill Pastor Jonathan with the guidance and the wisdom to faithfully preach Your word around all of the distractions that today's world brings. Thank you, Lord, for bringing Pastor Jonathan to our church as Pastor Linda writes a new chapter in her life. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to experience Pastor Linda's leadership and to now be blessed with the opportunity to continue the practicing of our faith with Pastor Jonathan. In Jesus' name, Amen!

>>>>>>> LACEY FARMER'S MARKET

Every Friday 11:00AM until 5:00PM until October 2 Rain or Shine in Lacey United Methodist Church parking lot.

REOPENING LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Lacey United Methodist Church is making plans to begin reopening for Worship services and other activities, as COVID-19 occurrences and restrictions continue to abate in New Jersey. The Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church (GNJ) office has issued guidelines for LUMC, and other Methodist churches, to do this, drawing upon information and guidance from the State of New Jersey and from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Our insurance carrier has also provided reopening guidance.

The overall GNJ goal is that Methodist churches may reopen in ways that allow them to "Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as together we flatten COVID-19 and ensure zero infections are spread by United Methodist activity." GNJ has also stated that reopening may only occur (1) after the governor indicates churches may begin to gather, (2) as each church has a plan, and (3) the plan is approved by church council.

An LUMC Transition Team is developing a plan. Reopening will call upon each of us to adjust how we come together for everything we do that is "church." Here are some of the issues that each of us will have to consider and put into practice as we do this:

The Worship space, or the activity space, to be used will need to be cleaned / disinfected before each use. For this reason, restrooms may not be generally available. Each of us will need to assess whether or not we come to the Worship space, giving consideration to our age and any health issues that may leave us at risk for infection or for serious effects, if infected (CDC indicates individuals 65 or older and those with serious lung, heart, kidney and liver disease, diabetes, severe obesity, or who are immunocompromised to be at high risk). For those choosing to remain at home, our Facebook live-stream of Sunday Worship will continue.

Those choosing to come to church will need to accept that former parking practices may change and entering the church will likely be conditioned upon using a mask, for the protection of our friends as well as ourselves; using hand sanitizer or gloves, and touching door knobs and surfaces as little as possible, if at all; and being escorted to seating where we are to observe social distancing for the service. Initially, there may not be singing, and hymnals, bibles and other items which could be handled will be absent from the pews; however, the Transition Team is considering options for hymnal and bible use. Also, to avoid handling materials, we expect to not distribute bulletins. And at the close of service, we may be escorted as we leave, and time for conversation, contact and fellowship will be discouraged on church property.

When New Jersey announces that worship services may resume, we expect that we will have to limit the number of people who may attend. And to the extent possible, we may consider using a portion of Fellowship Hall to add to our capacity limit. If more persons choose to come to Worship than our limit allows, we may have to ask them to please come to the service on the Facebook live-stream.

We realize that all these conditions may take away from the Worship experience to which we have grown accustomed. Nevertheless, these are the conditions we must now work with. And conditions may change. We ask for your patience, your prayers and your comments / suggestions as we move forward through this time together. For the Transition Team, Peace, Rich Rosfjord (Chair, LUMC Church Council).

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JOHN SCHOL

While growing up we ate a lot of potatoes. Generally, they were either mashed or boiled. My mom tended to a lot of things while boiling the potatoes, homework with four children and preparing other parts of the meal. It wouldn't be long before foaming water would lift the lid and spill out onto the stove. Unattended matters will boil over

Boiling over is what we are experiencing across the United States. Unattended issues simmer underneath until one incident brings things to a boiling point. The death of George Floyd is not an isolated incident but part of a pattern of deaths of African Americans that have not been fully addressed. The boiling over is part of a system of racism that has not been resolved.

We will not see change until we all work together to understand, change and live differently. It is not enough for you or me to live our lives differently. Each of us, as followers of Jesus Christ, are called to be a catalyst for a larger change.

I am grateful for those who are gathering peacefully to rally for a call to action. Action and change are what is needed. I applaud the group of African Americans who surrounded a white police officer to keep him safe from others' rage. I applaud the white police officers who laid down batons and marched at the front of the lines with the protesters. I applaud the police officers who knelt in prayer and prayed for forgiveness and change. In all of these acts I have seen the risen Christ. I call all of us to find ways to be the risen Christ in the midst of hatred, violence and racism.

I call each of us to find ways to demonstrate our conviction that God has created us as one people and that racism requires us to work toward long-term change. Each of us needs to speak up and out when people, especially those in leadership, even elected leadership, use their privilege to further divide and even in some cases further incite violence. Hatred and separation of the races is not of God.

The people of GNJ have been working on the issues of racism for a long time. We need to do more. I am calling together a group of leaders from across GNJ to identify what we as disciples of Jesus Christ will do in and through our congregations to help change who we are as a church and how we will engage in our communities for justice and righteousness in a church and a nation divided by race. This type of change will not be easy and will require a long-term commitment. I will report to you in two weeks on our progress and then continue to report our our work.

I ask for your prayers for the families who have lost loved ones, for our police who are called on to protect and preserve life, for our elected officials to lead to bring justice for all and for our church so that we will lead toward change and healing.

{The above letter was written on June 1, 2020. Progress on this issue can be followed at www.gnjumc.org.}

A PRAYER FOR EMPATHY

(as shared by Ed Wojciechowski to the Lacey UMC Communications Page)

God, our world is bent and broken. But this didn't stop You from showing Your great love for us by sending Your Son to empathize with us in our weakness. Help me to do likewise. Help me to view everyone I interact with the way You see them. Allow me to be a part of Your solution to the brokenness in this world. Show me how to partner with You in creating sustainable change. I recognize that in order to do that, I need to be willing to share in the pain of others. Give me the courage to do that, and then, help me to take action. Let empathy and restoration start with me. Amen.

>>>>>>> PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PASTOR LINDA FROM BETTY-ANN BRITTON

God put you in my life to help me get through the many trials that I have had in my later years. You're my angel here on earth. When I see you, I see God's light shining through your eyes. You'll always be a special part of me. I love you, Linda





1 John 4: 18 - 21:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us

this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Join us on Sundays at 9AM for virtual worship! Facebook: https://facebook.com/LaceyUMCNJ/

or Web: laceyumc.org

LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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