

LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

December 2018

Lacey United Methodist Church

203 West Lacey Rd., PO Box 151,

Forked River, NJ 08731

Church office: (609) 693-5222

Pastor cell: (609) 661-1819

laceyumcnj@gmail.com

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

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BUS TOUR



On December 19th, 21st, 22nd and 28th, Lacey Recreation will be hosting their Christmas Light Bus Tour, leaving from 818 West Lacey Rd. at 6PM. All riders on the tour will also be offered an opportunity to vote for their favorite lighted displays as part of the Lacey & Lights Contest.

Our Church will act as a “rest stop” for those on the tour. Cookies, hot chocolate and rest rooms will be available for those on the buses. People will be needed to volunteer their services and bake cookies for this event. Contact Pastor Linda or the Church office if you would like to participate.

Many events have occurred last month and the beginning of December, but our work is far from done. There are many people who need our assistance with getting through the holidays and one simple act of kindness from each person can help shine a light within our community.

God Bless & Merry Christmas,

Dominic Gregoria

BIBLE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

Luke 2: 8 – 12: Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

Worship Service: 9:00 am – 10:15am

& 11:00am (First Sunday every month)

J.A.M. (Jesus & Me): Children gather in the Sanctuary at 9:00am.

After the Children's Message, the children leave to go to J.A.M. (9:15am – 10:15am).

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour – every Sunday after Worship / All are welcome!



CHRISTMAS STORY FROM TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

It was Christmas Eve and the Lord looked down from above at all His children. It had been nearly 2000 years since the birth of His son and turning to His youngest angel the Lord said: “Go down to the earth and bring back to me the one thing that best represents everything good that has been done in the name of this day.”

The angel bowed to the Lord and spreading his wings, descended from heaven to the world of man, all the while contemplating his mission. So much had been done in the name of honoring the birth of the Christ Child. For this day, wars had temporarily ceased, cathedrals had been built and great novels had been written. With so little time, what could he possibly find to represent all this?

As he soared above the earth, he suddenly heard the sound of church bells below. Their tone was so beautiful that it reminded him of the voice of God.

Looking down, he saw a small church whose bells were ringing out the carol, “Silent Night.” As the final note died away, it was replaced by one lone voice singing inside the church. It was shortly joined by a second voice that embraced the first in perfect harmony, and then another and another until a choir of voices rose through the night.

Enchanted by the magic of what he was hearing, the angel found himself listening until the song was finished. As he resumed his flight through the night, he was delighted to hear these sounds everywhere, from the largest cities to the smallest villages. He heard melodies from massive orchestras and in the voices of single soldiers alone at their post. And any place where he heard these songs, he found hope in the hearts of men.

Grasping a song out of the air, he held it in his hand (angels are able to do this) and thought that maybe, these songs could be the one thing that best represented Christmas. They seemed to give voice to man’s greatest joys as well as hope to those deepest in despair.

But, though at first glance it appeared to be the answer he sought, his heart told him that this music alone was not enough. There had to be something more. So, he continued his flight through the night until he suddenly felt the touch of a father’s prayer on its way to heaven. Once again looking downward, he saw a man who was praying for his child whom he had not heard from in a long time and who would not be home that Christmas. Seizing upon the prayer, the angel followed it until it reached the lost child.

She was standing on a corner, in a quiet snowfall, looking very small in a very large city. Across from her was an old city bar, the kind that only the lost seemed to know how to find. The patrons of this establishment rarely looked up from their drinks and so seemed not to notice the young woman.

Now, the bartender in this bar had been working in there longer than anyone could remember. He believed in nothing except his bar and his cash register. He had never married, never took a vacation and as a matter of fact, had never been seen out from behind his counter by most of his patrons. He was there when they arrived and he was still there when they left. He gave no credit and for 75 cents, served shots of un-watered whiskey to people who used their drinks like a moat around their lives. For them, he provided a safe, unchanging world.

Suddenly, the door opened wide and into this world walked a small child. The bartender could not remember the last time that a child had been in this place, but before he could ask the child what he was doing there, the child asked him if he knew that there was a girl ...{continued on the next page}

{Christmas story cont.}...outside their door who could not get home. Glancing out the window, he saw the girl standing across the street. Turning back to the child, the bartender asked him how he knew this. The child replied: "That on this night of all nights, if one could be home, they'd be already there."

The bartender looked back toward the young woman as he reflected on what the child had said. After several seconds of thought, he slowly went over to the cash register and removing most of the money, came out from behind the bar and followed the child across the street.

Everyone in the bar watched as he spoke with the girl. After a few moments, he called over a cab, put the girl inside and told the driver: "J.F.K. Airport." As the cab pulled away, he looked around for the child, but the child was gone. And what was stranger still, even though his own tracks leading from the bar were still clearly marked in the snow, the child's were nowhere to be found.

Returning back inside, he asked if anyone had seen where the child had gone, but like himself, no one had, for they also had been watching the departing cab. And then, some would say that the most miraculous thing of all happened, when for the rest of the night, no one paid for a drink.

Later that night, the angel returned back to heaven and placed in the Lord's hand, the wish of a soul for the happiness of another. And as the heavenly host looked on, the Lord smiled.

R.I.P. Paul O'Neill (your stories and music will live on forever)

In addition, check out TSO's song "Old City Bar."

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 28 (6PM): Movie Fellowship Night; free event including dessert and movie.

Sunday, January 27 thru Saturday, February 2: Florida Volunteer in Mission; see Morris or Leigha Maze.

Tuesday, February 5 (6PM): Bounty Of The Bay; Choose your culinary favorite; \$20 (adults), \$5 (age 10 & under).

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Sunday, December 9 (5PM): Baking Christmas cookies.

Sunday, December 16: Caroling at the Nursing Home (1:30PM); Christmas party (5PM).

Sunday, December 23 & December 30: No Youth Group.

Contact Bonnie Marshall at (609) 276-5750 with any Youth Group questions.

MID-WINTER ADVANCE YOUTH WEEKEND

Friday, January 25 – Sunday, January 27

America's Keswick, Whiting, NJ

\$35 deposit required in advance.....total cost is \$130.

Scholarships are available..... see Miss Bonnie.

SOCKS, SCARVES, HATS & GLOVES OH MY!

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship Service

With Candle Lighting

4:00PM: Remembrance Service

7:00PM: Family Service

9:00PM: Traditional Service

11:00PM: Communion Service



This Christmas, we will be gathering socks, scarves, hats and gloves (both adult and child sizes) to share with the local homeless and those families going through hard times. Please remember how blessed we are to have a closet or dresser drawer to pull your socks, scarves, hats and gloves from and be thankful.

Please pray about purchasing or even just passing on your cleaned, gently used socks, scarves, hats and gloves. Mittens are also needed! Thank you for helping us make a difference this Christmas! Please bring items to the Church before December 20th so that there is time to distribute them.

If you happen to need these items yourself because you are unable to buy them, please let us know. If it is easier for you to donate these purchased items in January or February, we will make sure that someone who needs them will get them! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

****ANY SUBMISSIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE MADE BY EMAILING DOMINIC GREGORIA AT donnieg777@hotmail.com.****



LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PO Box 151

Forked River, NJ 08731