



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 59, Number 10 December 2018/January 2019

Notes from the Manse

As I mentioned at our Thanksgiving Eve service, Paul urges in Philippians a curious thing—not to worry about anything. He does concede that we have troubles in our lives and that we should bring to God what we wish in prayer and humble requests. But right there in the midst of that sentence is an important qualification—when we come to God with our requests, with what we feel we lack or need, we should always do so with thanksgiving. So, yes, we have troubles. But in their midst, there is always good.

My guess is that you were well aware of things for which you are grateful as you sat at your Thanksgiving meal. But think of a less happy time. Was it easy—was it possible—to find something to be thankful for then? I read recently about a woman who, when she was a teenager, was told by her stepmother to say “Thank you” if she had nothing nice to say. Well, shortly after, the two had a bit of a blowup and the stepmother, red in the face, glared, said “Thank you,” and stormed out of the room. Her idea may be a good one; it may help put the brakes on a quarrel. But true gratitude comes not for its effect on others, not to please or get something, but rather because we feel it. It is good to be grateful in this way. Studies have shown that there are health benefits that accompany thankfulness, such as a stronger, healthier immune system. Grateful people have more joy, greater optimism. They find wholeness, peace, shalom. When we come upon tough times or tough people, we really have two choices. We can fight back, resist what we don’t like. Or we can in a way say, “Thank you,” to this unwanted thing. Doing so might confuse, give pause, to a bully; it might open us to a “now” with unexpected possibilities. One theorist argues that there are two things necessary for gratitude: first, that we believe there is good in the world, despite all evidence to the contrary, and that good comes to us, which we often haven’t earned; second, that we name the sources outside of us of the good that comes our way. Then, we can, we will want to, say, “Thank you.”

Last month, I asked you to send me things for which you were grateful to God. I got some wonderful responses, with people speaking of creation and church, smooth transitions and family. There is one I would like to share with you. This person wrote, “I am thankful for ‘enough.’ I have enough food, clothing, enough of everything I need. I don’t live in a mansion, but my small, cozy home is truly enough. Most of my clothes are second-hand or years old, but I have enough to get me comfortably through all the seasons. My car is economy sized, short on horsepower, and sports a cracked fender, but it is enough to get me to work, to the store and wherever I need to go. When my children were young, I stretched meals with an extra handful or two of rice or pasta, and used lesser cuts of meat (if any at all), yet somehow it was enough to satisfy and nourish everyone.—I can’t say I never dream of more, but I am thankful for enough.”

Enough. What God has given us is enough and more. The theme of Advent this year will be gratitude. As we begin this season of gifts, this season of grace, let us stop every now and then to remember all that we are grateful for and to whom we are grateful. Let us say, “Thank you.” Let us be a grateful people.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

December Lectionary

<p>December 2 1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Jeremiah 33:14–16 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 Luke 21:25–36</p>	<p>December 9 2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Malachi 3:1–4 Luke 1:68–79 Philippians 1:3–11 Luke 3:1–6</p>	<p>December 16 3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Zephaniah 3:14–20 Isaiah 12:2–6 Philippians 4:4–7 Luke 3:7–18</p>	<p>December 23 4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Micah 5:2–5a Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm 80:1–7 Hebrews 10:5–10 Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)</p>
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<p>December 24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm 96:1–13 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)</p>	<p>December 25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas</p> <p>Christmas Dawn Isaiah 62:6–12 Psalm 97:1–12 Titus 3:4–7 Luke 2:(1–7) 8–20</p> <p>Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98:1–9 Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12) John 1:1–14</p>	<p>December 30 1st Sunday after Christmas Day</p> <p>1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12–17 Luke 2:41–52</p>
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January Lectionary

<p>January 6 Epiphany Sunday</p> <p>Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 Ephesians 3:1–12 Matthew 2:1–12</p>	<p>January 13 Baptism of the Lord 1st Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Isaiah 43:1–7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14–17 Luke 3: 15–17, 21–22</p>	<p>January 20 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Isaiah 62:1–5 Psalm 36:5–10 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 John 2:1–11</p>
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<p>January 27 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a Luke 4:14–21</p>
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December Prayer Families

December 2

Lori Smith

December 9

Richard Smith

December 16

Shirley Smith

December 23

Douglas & Lois Snader

December 30

Betty Sowers

January Prayer Families

January 6

Matthew Sowers

January 13

June Stannard

January 20

Virginia Stauffer

January 27

Joanne Stoltzfus



Flowers for the Church

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on **December 23** or

December 30

in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Call the church office
717-687-6619



Leacock Book and Movie Group

Just a reminder that the Leacock Book and Movie Group will be taking a break and will pick back up after the new year. We are reading *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. This is a fascinating look at a little known part of American history and, although it is nonfiction, it reads like a thriller. We will gather for a pot luck supper and discussion on Friday, **January 18** at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and join us for what is sure to be a good discussion.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Session Snippets

And then there was the November surprise snowstorm! The Session and Rev. Birch had planned to hold their quarterly retreat Nov 15, but snow and ice forced cancellation of the meeting. We met after worship November 18 to conduct necessary business and have a mini retreat centered on the "Six Great Ends of the Church." The plan is to focus more fully on these concepts at the January all-day retreat and planning meeting.

Business items included granting building use to the Brackbill Family for their Christmas Party December 30 from noon to 4:00 p.m., granting Rev. Birch four vacation days from December 5 - 8, and scheduling the December stated meeting as a dinner gathering at the Olde Mill Restaurant December 20 at 6:00 p.m.





Advent/Christmas Worship

December 2 - Family Advent Celebration

9:00 a.m. Covered Dish brunch in the Narthex and Sunday School rooms

Worship in the Sanctuary

Singing YOUR favorite carols

Reading of a new "Christmas Tale (Tail)"

Communion by Intinction

December 9 - 9:30 a.m. Worship featuring the Bell Choir

December 16 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

Caroling to At-Home members following worship and a light lunch

December 23 - 9:30 a.m. Worship featuring the Chancel Choir

December 24

7:00 p.m. - Family Worship at Paradise

The ABC's of Christmas Bell Choir Candle Lighting

11:00 p.m. - Old Leacock Christmas Eve Worship

Lessons and Carols Candle Lighting

December 30 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

January 6 - Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship

Come and Worship

Come and Worship

Worship Christ the New Born King

Family Advent Sunday Celebration

On **Sunday, December 2, 2018** Leacock Presbyterian Church will celebrate Advent with an exciting morning celebration. Our morning will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a Covered Dish Breakfast served in the Narthex. The Sunday school rooms will be set up like a small restaurant with tables and chairs to eat and share each other's company. Following breakfast, we will move to the sanctuary for Christmas carols and a modified worship service. This special Advent service will be celebrated so all can enjoy. Please come and worship!



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Following church service, we will meet in the fellowship hall for a light lunch. Following the lunch, we will car pool to visit our at-home members, spreading Christmas cheer by singing carols and delivering a small gift. Please plan to join us. Christmas carols sound so much better with more voices.

Thanks you from the CCL Committee and Deacons
Merry Christmas!



Bazaar Offering

The beautiful handmade king-sized, blue and white quilt in the Narthex could be yours with the highest bid. It was sewn by our own Leacock Presbyterian Women and completed in 2005; one side has church member signatures; the other is a beautiful solid white with blue trim. It was never used and was kept in a storage bag. To bid, just write your name, phone number and bid on paper and place it in the locked box in the Narthex. On December 19, the bids will be checked, and the highest bidder will be contacted. That way, if you want to give the quilt for a Christmas gift, you will have it in time. The final amount will be kept in confidence unless the winner wants it revealed.

Additional bids can be made if you decide you want to donate a higher amount. Each Sunday in December updates will be announced for those of you that want to bid again.

The proceeds go towards Presbyterian Women to be used within our church where needed.

Good Luck & Happy bidding!

Questions???? Ask/call Loretta 717-808-7689



Mission Committee

Our free Christmas community dinner will be held on Thursday, December 13th from 5:30-6:30 in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to donate food, come to help, or just come to socialize with other community and church members.



The month of December is our Christmas Joy Offering month. Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world--past, present, and future. For some, these gifts have taken the form of Emergency Assistance Grants after the devastation of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico-active and retired pastors, as well as other church workers were offered assistance. For others, it was in the form of scholarships to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, allowing students to not only receive an excellent education, but to explore their faith intimately to become better leaders with values, ethics, and moral character. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at historically Presbyterian Schools and Colleges equipping communities of color. The other 50% will provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Leading up to Christmas many of us go in search of the perfect gift-the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. For those of us gathered in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ-a perfect gift from a gracious God. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously, knowing as the New Testament in the book of James says, "every generous act of giving...is from above." Please join us in the Christmas Joy Offering. When we share these gifts, we can make a big difference

Three Sunday's in January, the 13th, 20th, and 27th, are set aside for our annual Blanket drive sponsored by Church World Service. Special envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Many people do not have the privilege of owning a blanket, something we all take for granted. A single blanket can be used for many things; a pack in which to carry their belongings: shelter, warmth, and much more. Through Church World Service we are able to help many people obtain their own blanket. Please give as you feel lead by the Spirit.

The January free community meal will be held on Thursday, January 31st from 5:30-6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. Come in out of the cold and join us in the warmth and fellowship around the dinner table. Everyone is welcome



Worship Enhancement

Who does the Bible say Christ is? By using everyday terms and descriptive phrases, many biblical references to Jesus explain his life, his lordship and what he came to do in language that is relatable and easily understood by believers then and now. The sanctuary Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments bearing some of those names, titles, and verses from God's Word.

<p>THE VINE John 15:5</p> <p>LAMB OF GOD John 1:29,</p> <p>LION OF JUDAH Revelation 5:5</p> <p>MESSIAH John 4:25</p> <p>THE WORD John 1:1</p> <p>LORD OF LORD AND KING OF KINGS Revelation 17:14</p> <p>GREAT HIGH PRIEST Hebrews 4:14</p> <p>SAVIOR Luke 2:11</p> <p>ALPHA AND OMEGA Revelation 1:8</p> <p>LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 8:12</p> <p>REDEEMER Job 19:25</p> <p>BRIGHT MORNING STAR Revelation 22:16</p> <p>I AM Exodus 3:14</p> <p>THE GOOD SHEPHERD John 10:11</p> <p>ANCIENT OF DAYS Daniel 7:9</p>	<p>BREAD OF LIFE John 6:35</p> <p>GIFT OF GOD John 4:10</p> <p>LIVING WATER Jeremiah 17:13</p> <p>EMMANUEL Matthew 1:23</p> <p>WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE Isaiah 9:6</p> <p>MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS Psalm 31:3</p> <p>CROWN OF GLORY AND BEAUTY Isaiah 28:5</p> <p>ROCK OF AGES Isaiah 26:4</p> <p>WAY, TRUTH, AND THE LIFE John 14:6</p> <p>EVERLASTING GOD Isaiah 40:28</p> <p>THE CARPENTER Mark 6:3</p> <p>GIVER OF REST Matthew 11:28-30</p>	<p>THE SHIELD Psalm 119:114</p> <p>THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE 2 Timothy 4:8</p> <p>THE BRIDEGROOM Matthew 9:15</p> <p>CREATOR OF ALL THINGS Colossians 1:16</p> <p>THE ONE AND ONLY John 1:18</p> <p>FOUNTAIN OF LIFE Psalm 36:9</p> <p>THE TRUE VINE John 15:1</p> <p>THE GATE John 10:7-9</p> <p>THE BREAD OF LIFE John 6:48</p> <p>THE CORNERSTONE 1 Peter 2:6</p> <p>KING OF GLORY Psalm 24:10</p> <p>THE GREAT PHYSICIAN Matthew 9:12,13</p> <p>JEHOVAH Psalm 83:18 KJV</p> <p>THE POTTER Isaiah 64:8</p> <p>THE HORN OF SALVATION Psalm 18</p> <p>HEIR OF ALL THINGS Hebrews 1:2</p>
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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

You may purchase a Christmas Poinsettia for \$8.00 to be placed in the sanctuary in memory/honor of someone. Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by Sunday, December 16.

The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the Sunday bulletin on December 23, Christmas Eve day. Remember to advise the church if you plan to leave your poinsettia to be taken to an at-home member.

I/We _____ wish to order ____ Christmas Poinsettia(s)

In memory of _____

or in honor of _____

Please place a \checkmark in the box if your plant(s) is to be taken to an at-home member by our deacons.

Order Forms will also be available in the Narthex

Remember Our At-Home Members this Christmas

<p>Joy Koshuta Country Meadows Apt. 173B 451 Sandhill Rd. Hershey, PA 17033 717- 533-6996 Birthday: December 9</p>	<p>Ruth Bair 15 North Kinzer Road Kinzers, PA 17535 717-442-8166 Birthday:September 29</p>
<p>Dalin Appel (no visitors) P O Box 514 Leola, Pa. 17540 717-449-5991 Birthday:December 30</p>	<p>Arlene Brackbill Room 513A 544 North Penryn Road Manheim, PA 17545 717-390-9827 Birthday: April 5</p>
<p>William Berkhimer 1614 Bentley Ridge Blvd. Lancaster, PA 17602 717-517-7893 Birthday: January 9</p>	<p>Lucy Ames Lancashire Hall 311A Baker 2829 Lititz Pike Lancaster,, PA 17601 717-569-3211 September</p>
<p>Helen Kreider Masonic Village 600 Freeman Drive Room 2604 Elizabethtown PA 17077 717-367-1121 Birthday: March 23</p>	<p>Richard Smith c/o Conestoga View Room 308 NE 4 900 E. King St. Lancaster, Pa. 17602 Birthday: October 19</p>
<p>Miriam Latshaw 1520 Harrisburg Pike 421B Eshelman Run Lancaster, PA 17601 717-490-8610 Birthday: February 28</p>	<p>Kitty Shumate 433 S. Kinzer Ave. Apt. 443 GE New Holland, PA 17557 717-355-6900 Birthday :May 20</p>
<p>Mildred Young Luther Acres Manor 400 St. Luke Dr., Room 309 Lititz, PA 17543. 717-626-1171 ext. 1300. Birthday: April 15</p>	<p>Jeanne Menges 2760 Maytown Rd. Maytown, PA 17550 Birthday:</p>



Gratitude Corner

(Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care for their Minister and His Wife)

Some of you know that during the past year or so, I've taken up drawing designs called tangles as a hobby. This has been a lot of fun, and I thought I might like to do something I've never done before and design a Christmas card for Bob and me using one of my own drawings. The drawing part I can do, but the rest of it, which involves all kinds of computer work and printing--well, I'm lost there. Let's just say computer technology and I are not the best of friends.

But I *do* have a friend who has volunteered to step in and help. All I have to do is draw the picture, and he will magically turn it into something that can be sent all over the world to wish my friends a season of light. So, thank you, **Steven Boas** for stepping in to do this for Bob and me (and check the church bulletin board for our greeting to all of you).

Emily Birch

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2018 & January 2019

Lancaster General Hospital has scheduled community blood drives throughout the year at the following locations. Won't you consider giving blood - every pint is very important!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place and Time</u>
Wednesday, December 12	Bird In Hand Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, December 18	LGH 3rd Fl. St. James Balcony - 2:00pm
Wednesday, December 19	Kinzer Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, December 20	Intercourse Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, January 10	Yoders Country Market - 2:00pm
Tuesday, January 22	LGH 3rd Fl. St. James Balcony - 2:00pm
Wednesday, January 30	Grace United Methodist Church Millersville - 2:00pm

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavilion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours on Monday are 10 am -7:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 4pm, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 am to 6 pm.

For more information about additional dates, places and times, please call 717-544-0170 or visit lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services.

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

December	Alba & Mike Ruhl
January	Mary Alice High and Shirley/Lori Smith
February	Nick and Evie Lopez



December & January Nursery On Call

SUNDAY SCHOOL

December

12/2	Family Advent Day	No Class
12/9	9:30 a..m.	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
12/16	9:30 a..m.	Kathy & Chuck Ankney
12/23	Review/Party	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson
12/30	Christmas Break	No Class

January

1/6	9:30 a.m.	Kathy & Chuck Ankney
1/13	9:30 a..m.	Jennifer McElhany & Shirley Smith
1/20	9:30 a..m.	Jennifer McElhany & Shirley Smith
1/27	9:30 a.m.	Carol & Dave Berkhimer

February

2/3	9:30 a.m.	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
2/10	9:30 a..m.	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty
2/17	9:30 a..m.	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty
2/24	9:30 a.m.	Lois & Darwin Eshleman

Leacock Presbyterian Church
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Paradise, PA 17562
Phone 717 687-6619

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DECEMBER - JANUARY

Articles for the February Newsletter
will be due Monday, January 21, 2019

THE LEACOCKCOMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor