



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

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February 2019

Notes from the Manse

I don't think God is a micro-manager; never have. I know there are some who think God's hand is moving in pretty much everything, and for all I know they may be right. Maybe God was involved that day when they were in a frantic hurry and the weather was horrible and a parking space suddenly appeared near the entrance to the mall. But personally, I don't think so. Or consider more meaningful moments. The psalmist declares in *Ps 34:19, 20*, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all./ He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken." Those certainly are comforting words. But what do they say to people lying in a hospital bed with a shattered leg? That they aren't righteous enough? Again, I don't think so. Sometimes, it sure seems that God isn't fixing all the details of our lives. After all, didn't Jesus, whom I think was a pretty righteous person, quote another psalm on the cross that indicated he felt forsaken by God? I read recently someone argue that God neither causes calamities nor solves every problem. Instead, we are given freedom, without which our love of God would be coerced, not freely, joyfully given. That makes sense.

Still, there are times I wonder. Some of you have heard my tale of Emily's and my recent adventure in Maine. Here is a short version: when the forecast indicated a huge snowstorm was coming, we decided to leave a day early. But the forecast changed and when it suggested there would only be an inch of snow, followed by rain, we felt it was safe to leave as we had originally planned. Before we headed out, we topped off our left front tire. For a while, it had had a slow leak that a few pounds of air would fix for a few months. Our other tires were wearing, and we wanted to replace them all. So, the morning we left, we gave the tire a bit of air, just to be sure. About an hour later, as we prepared to make a quick stop in Bangor, the warning light went on indicating the tire was low. Well, that had never happened so quickly before. There was a branch of a tire store chain nearby that fixed flats or leaks for former customers, which we were. So, we drove over. An hour later, they told us the leak was in such a place that the tire couldn't be fixed. I knew which tires we had planned to buy soon, but they did not have them in stock. Ultimately, we had to choose between buying one tire, which we would not use for long, or buy a set of snow tires. Given the milder winters in Pennsylvania, we didn't really need snow tires, but they were higher rated and so we went with them. At last, some four hours later, we got back on the road. Then it happened. The snow changed to rain all right, a freezing rain that steadily froze over our windshield and headlights, forcing me to stop twice to chip away ice so we could see. Eventually, as we went south, it got warmer and the roads were okay. But it did seem odd. If that light hadn't gone on when it did, we wouldn't have gone to the tire store; we wouldn't have gotten snow tires. We would have headed into an ice storm with a leaking tire and poor tread on the others.

Would we have made it? Maybe. Maybe not. But it sure seemed to Emily and me someone was looking after us. Was it God? I believe in a Spirit and active grace moving through our lives. But what kept us safe that day? Ultimately, I don't know. But sometimes it sure feels like God gives nudges, maybe even nudges to buy snow tires.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

February 3

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Psalms 71:1–6

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Luke 4:21–30

February 10

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Luke 5:1–11

February 17

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Luke 6:17–26

February 24

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Psalms 37:1–11, 39–40

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

Luke 6:27–38

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 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!

Date

Tuesday, February 5

Thursday, February 14

Wednesday, February 20

Thursday, February 21

Place and Time

LGH Burle Building - 9:00am

Intercourse Fire Company - 2:00pm

Kinzer Fire Hall - 2:00pm

LGH - 3rd Fl. Balcony James St. 1:00pm

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 call 717-544-0170 or visit lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services.

At Home Member Birthday:

February 28

Miriam Latshaw

1520 Harrisburg Pike

421B Eshelman Run

Lancaster, PA 17601



Flowers for the Church



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday February 3 and Sunday, February 17 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.



February Prayer Families

February 3
Diep Ngoc & Anh Tran

February 10
Ruth Usner

February 17
Mary Weaver

February 24
Tracy Wettig

Trustee Notes

The Building and Facilities collection for February (Special Offering) for the Trustees will go towards the repair and painting of Old Leacock sanctuary and vestibule. According to our records it was last done in 1986. An excellent paint job had a lot to do with it staying in such good condition for so long. Also, some monies might be used for other minor fixes..

The Trustees want to thank everyone for their support and as always, if you see something that needs our attention, let one of us know. Thank you.

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President



The Session calls for the Annual Meeting of the congregation **Sunday, February 24**, following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports, elect the 2019 Nominating Committee, and deal with any other business brought before the congregation.

A covered dish luncheon will follow the meeting.

January Session Snippets

The Session held their annual retreat on a cloudy Saturday of uncertain weather prognostication. Thanks to Tom Burkins, we were blessed to be able to meet in the Community Room of Landis Homes and enjoy the floor to ceiling windows overlooking the campus and countryside. (Some of us also watched for those first snowflakes which never fell!) The day was filled with spiritual formation, committee meetings, and business. (And a delicious lunch!)

- Dianne Yuninger was reelected as Clerk of Session.
- The following elders were appointed to the Personnel Committee: Linda Erikson, Alba Ruhl, Steven Boas, Tom Burkins, Mary Alice High, Dianne Yuninger.
- The Lenten Study was scheduled for March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7 at 5:30 p.m.
- A game afternoon was scheduled for March 9 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Christmas Bazaar was made a function of the congregation as a whole.
- The Bazaar Committee will report to the Session through the Fundraising Team of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank
you

Dear Leacock Family,

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards and notes I received. Thanks also to the carolers and other visitors who have come to see me. You're in my thought and prayers.

Arlene Brackbill



Dear Leacock Presbyterian Folks,

Love you so! Pastor's visits, the Deacons who came to see me bearing flowers from the service, the many, many cards you've sent, the phone calls, the transportatin given on many occasions for appointments, being on the Prayer chain; I could go and on and on. My family and I thank you.

Richard Leaman Smith

To All Our Leacock Friends:

We want to thank you for the beautiful altar flowers with which you honored both of us for all the hard work on December's Bazaar.

With the help of EVERYONE - the cafe "staff" - the cookie/bread bakeers - the delicious soup makers - the knitters- the movers- the "unpackers" - the candy makers - to all that organized and set up tables- friends that decorated from top to bottom - and the shoppers. Each one, so valued! The conversatons and friendships shared are treasuered memories. Truly it was our church family working together that raised a grand total of \$8,544.25. There was so much work behind the scenes to bring that day's total to our biggest success ever.

After many years, we have decided this was our last Bazaar to be in charge. "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

As the door closes for us, we are trusting that someone will continue raising funds for Leacock Church. There are many ideas, talents and opportunities that are our there and will help Leacock Presbyterian continue its mission.

Thank you all!
Loretta McClarigan
Lois Snader

Congratulations to the highest bidder (\$350) of the beautiful Leacock quilt. The winner was Cheryl Homsher (daughter of the late Ralph & Janice Homsher) from Texas. Yes! The highest bid came via text all the way from Texas! Thanks, Cheryl!

Worship Committee News

Looking forward to February, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion Sunday, February 3.

With the coming of March, we begin the month with Communion March 3 and then our Ash Wednesday Service March 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Lenten Study will begin March 10 at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal of soup and bread. Rev. Birch will lead us in an exploration of Celtic Spirituality. Participants will have the opportunity to practice some of its elements, including prayer and song. The study will continue March 17, 24, 31, and April 7.



Evening Worship continues to be held the second Sunday of each month with the next gathering February 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the church. The March service will occur in conjunction with the Lenten Study on March 10.

Bazaar Fund Update

The women of Leacock met January 20 to determine allocation of funds from the Christmas Bazaar. After prayerful discussion, the following was decided:

- \$4,000 - set aside for future kitchen improvements
- \$3,000 - seed money for the 2019 Bazaar
- \$5,000 - Leacock's Benevolence Treasury
- \$1,500 - Leacock's General Fund
- \$1,500 - seed money for the Fundraising Team

Many, many thanks to all who have worked so hard the past several years to gather items (including baking cookies and breads, making candy, knitting scarves and sweaters, working in the Cafe), stage Fellowship Hall, work the day of the Bazaar, and clean up the remains. It was and will continue to be **GOOD WORK!**

Christmas Bazaar -10 Months and Counting

Yes, it is only February, and the cold winds are blowing. We long for the green of spring and the warmth of June and July (or at least some of us do). But planning ahead is important, especially for something as involved as our annual Christmas Bazaar.

The Bazaar is scheduled for the first Saturday in December — the 7th — with Linda Erikson and Charlene Boas serving as co-chairpersons. We are looking for people with innovative ideas and a willingness to help, and for craft ideas, extra craft supplies, and gently used Christmas items.

Craft items and supplies should go to Charlene Boas and Christmas items to Dianne Yuningger.

Stay tuned for workshop information.

Again this year, we would like to support **Pequea Valley High School** and **Intermediate School** by providing necessary supplies to the nurse's office. The nurse has requested cough drops and new or gently used sweatpants or shorts with elastic waistbands. There is also a need for new or gently used small size t-shirts "that a teen would want to wear". There will be a donation bin in the Narthex from January 27th until February 17th. Monetary donations may also be given to the church secretary, Mary Alice High or Michele Lichty.

At this point, we are the only church supporting the nurse at PVHS and PVIS. The elementary schools receive other community support but in the upper levels, the nurse purchases supplies not covered by her budget. Thank you for your support of our local students.

Michele Lichty

Stewardship

Fundraising Team of Leacock

Here to put the **"FUN"** back in Fundraising!

The Stewardship committee here at Leacock is creating a Fundraising Team that will work to brainstorm, organize and lead fundraising events of all types to benefit the health and mission of Leacock Presbyterian Church. One of the main goals is to augment our offerings in order to increase funding of our planned operating and mission budgets.

This is a great opportunity to help our Church and community in a way that will make you feel terrific about being a member of Leacock Presbyterian. The **fellowship** of serving together for others is a feeling you won't soon forget and that is how we put the FUN back into fundraising! We will be a Band of Brothers and Sisters together.

The inaugural meeting of the team is on

Tuesday January 29th at 7:00 PM

in our Church board room. Please feel free to come and help us get started! If you can't make it but still want to help, don't worry, just contact me. If meetings aren't your thing, BUT you want to help with the various exciting events we will be coming up with...please contact me too.

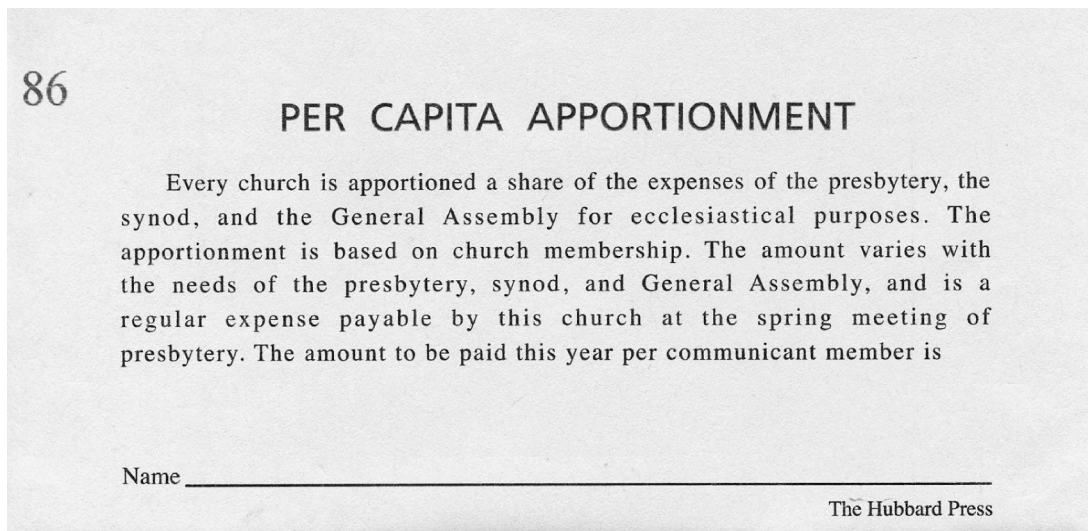
Steven Boas (Stewardship...and Team coordinator...Ohhh Yeah!)

Call Me: 717-768-3599 (m) 610-927-7807

Text Me: 610-927-7807

Email Me: werboas@frontiernet.net

A New Year! A new beginning for helping others. A reminder to use that pretty blue envelope in your offering envelope box. Can't miss it! It will be the first envelope in the box and it looks like this: (but it is blue)



Your Church is dedicated to supporting the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Your per capita payment is split up between our local Presbytery, our Synod and the General Assembly. Some of these funds are used for administrative purposes, but a **LARGE** part of it is used for mission projects. The GA, Synod and Presbytery have different perspectives than we have on mission work given they operate at levels other than a single Church. They can identify and act upon purposes that we do not have visibility of. PLEASE place this year's amount (**\$34.78**) for each member in your household into the envelope and mail it to the Church or drop it into the offering plate this Sunday. If you lose the envelope, don't panic or worry, it is not magic. Any envelope will do! Just write your name(s) on it and the words "Per Capita"

Thank you all for all you do, and thanks to those who already offered their per capita 😊

Stewardship Elders:

Skip Brackbill

Steven Boas



CCL Committee

Our Christmas Season is behind us but the generosity of our Leacock Congregation is amazing. We collected 23 gift cards for the Bridge of Hope and many toys and gifts for Toys for Tots. Dave Berkhimer was pleased with our collection and is hopeful that we will continue it next year. Dave reports that there is always a need especially for the older age children ages nine to twelve. Maybe we can keep that in mind throughout the year and pick up items that would be appropriate. Thank you all very much!

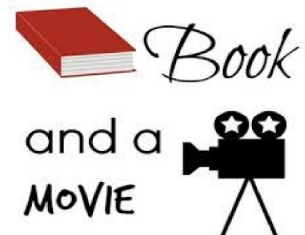
On **February 24**, following the **Annual Meeting** we will have a **covered dish luncheon**. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join together for lunch. As you all know from past experiences, if you don't feel like bringing something there is always enough to eat at Leacock. Join your friends for lunch.

Are you ready for another **Game Afternoon**? On **Saturday, March 9** at 2 o'clock in the fellowship hall we will meet again to play games. Bring your favorite game and teach others like Shirley Smith did last year or just come and play games. If you could bring a snack to share it would keep with the Presbyterian motto "Everything is better with food!"

Leacock Book and Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group gathered together on January 18 to discuss the book *Killers of the Flower Moon*. We had a good discussion about this book which highlights the tragedy of the Osage Indian tribe and the early days of the FBI. We all agreed that the book was a very good read, and that the best way to describe this little-known part of American history is "sickening". We will meet again on Friday February 15 at 5:30 p.m. for a pot luck meal and to watch the movie *Rabbit Proof Fence*, which is another story, this one in Australia, about indigenous people and the way they were treated. Please bring a dish and join us.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator





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

It's that time of year again, in which Bob and I are overwhelmed by how thoughtful our congregation is to us during the holiday months. We receive so many cards and so many gifts — everything from a generous Christmas bonus, to cookies, to breads, to hot sauce, to gift certificates, to home made crafts, to kind words and offers of help— to make our Christmas season fun and memorable. We are humbled to have a season filled to the brim not only with Christ's love, but also with all the love we receive from you. So thank you, thank you to all of you for ensuring we had a very Merry Christmas.

Emily Birch

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would like to thank all members of Leacock for their support of our mission work locally and around the world. If you would like to help us, we would love it!



You can either join us at our meetings, help out at the Community Meal, or get involved in one of our various events like the Crop Walk. Speaking of the Community Meal, our next one, on Thursday, February 28, will consist of subs (american or ham & cheese) vegetable soup, fruit cup and dessert. As always, all are welcome and it is free.

Looking ahead, our One great Hour of Sharing Offering will be from March 10 to April 21.

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

February	Nick & Evie Lopez
March	Bob & Margy Hershey



February Nursery On Call

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

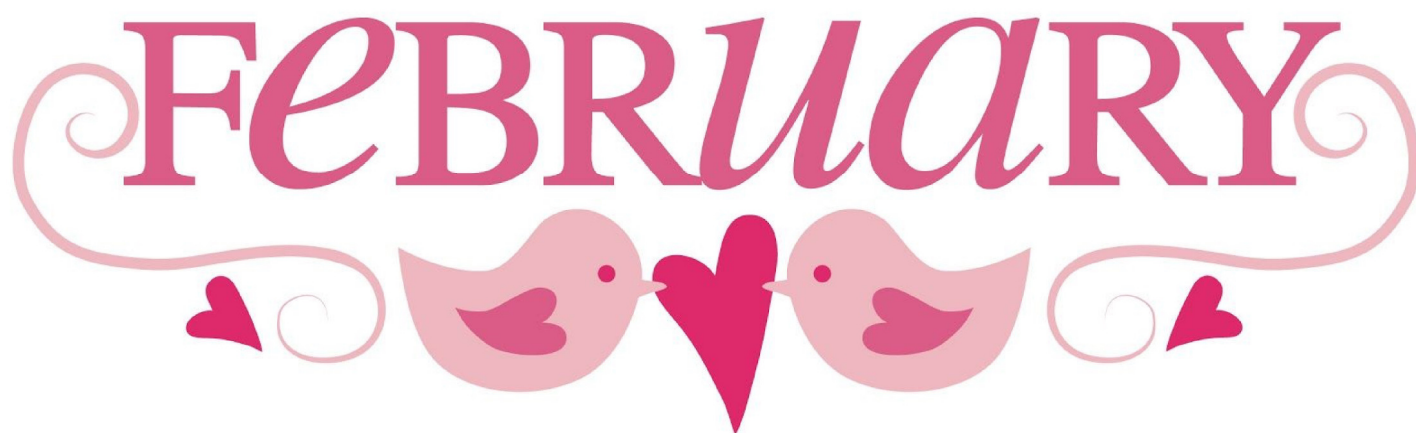
March

3/3	9:30 a.m.	Carol & David Berkhimer
3/10	9:30 a..m.	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
3/17	9:30 a..m.	Jennifer McElhany & Shirley Smith
3/24	9:30 a.m.	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter
3/31	9:30 a.m.	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty

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FEBRUARY



Articles for the March Newsletter
will be due Friday, February 22, 2019

THE LEACOCKCOMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor