



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

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March 2019

Notes from the Manse

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

It's easy to complain. It seems to be part of our nature. Maybe it goes back to our primeval roots, when our ancestors had to be ever on the alert, for there was danger all around. Maybe we sort of got programmed to see what was wrong in our environment. Maybe we have inherited that. The trouble comes when what we see that's wrong, in our surroundings, in others, keeps us from seeing—and naming—what is right. And our faith seems to urge us to put aside that negativity bias we may have inherited. In fact, one could argue that finding fault and complaining is a kind of judging and condemning, and just this last Sunday we saw Jesus, in his Sermon on the Plain, telling us to stop doing that. Paul seems to have got the memo. *1 Thessalonians* is considered to be his first letter and it was written to a frightened, troubled church. People had thought that the good news of Easter had meant that Christ would return soon, the world would be transformed, saved. But time went on and some of the folks in that church had died. Those who remained were worried—what would happen to those who had died before Christ came back? How could they be saved? Paul responds to their fears in his letter. But he does a curious thing towards the end, in the passage above. He tells the Thessalonians yes, to pray, to lay their hurts and needs before the Lord, but still always to rejoice and to give thanks, not just when things are great, but in all circumstances. And if you think, oh, that was easy for Paul to say, remember what came to him in his ministry, imprisonment, beatings, rejection by people to whom he had brought the good news, and, it is believed, ultimately a Roman execution. Yet still he wrote these words.

For many, Lent is a season to give something up to remind us of all Christ gave up for us. More recently, some people have taken to taking up something new for the same purpose. Well, why can't one do both? What I'm going to try to do, therefore, is give up complaining as best I can and intentionally take up speaking thanks, every day, and especially if I catch myself complaining. Let me give a few examples. Many of you know I love snow, and I have found myself complaining when the day after a snowfall, it warms up and soon the snow is gone. But it did snow, and I should be grateful. I can moan about all the division and anger in the United States. Or I can be thankful that we live in a country where we are still able to be different and speak differences. I could be bitter that a dear friend, Ginny Boland, recently died. Or I can give thanks for how many lives she graced over the years, including my own. I can bemoan busy days. Or I can be grateful for busy days, for work to do and being needed. Leacock, like so many churches, faces challenges, and I can be weighed down by them. Oh, but what grace is here in this fellowship! I see people who, more than forgiving, comfort somebody who feels bad about making a mistake. I see people standing shoulder to shoulder, helping each other, with a task or a grief. I remember all the kind notes and gifts so many gave to Emily and me at Christmas time. Yes, things go wrong. Things go wrong in life, always. But let me give thanks, rather than complain. This will be my Lenten practice. Will you join me?

Rev. Robert W. Birch

March Lectionary

<p>March 3 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i></p> <p>Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]</p>	<p>March 6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–172 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21</p>	<p>March 10 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13</p>
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<p>March 17 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36</p>	<p>March 24 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–81 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9</p>	<p>March 31 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 322 Corinthians 5:16–21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32</p>
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BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE MARCH 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>
Tuesday, March 5	Yoders Market - 2:00pm
Tuesday, March 12	Bareville Fire Co.- 2:00pm
Tuesday, March 26	LGH - 3rd Fl. Balcony James St. 7:00am

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:
March 23

Helen Krieder
Masonic Village, Rm. #1862
600 Freemason Dr.
Elizabethtown, PA 17922



Flowers for the Church



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays March 17 & 31 in honor or memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.



February Prayer Families

March 3

Joseph & Sharon Williams

March 10

Jane Witmer

March 17

Mildred Young

March 24

David, Bethany, Deanna & William Yuninger

March 31

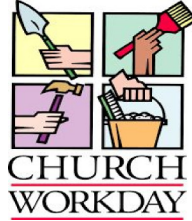
Harold & Diane Yuninger

Trustee Notes

SPRING TRUSTEE WORKDAY

Saturday April 6

8:30 a.m. to about noon



Everyone is asked to come and of course there will be breakfast items and coffee.

Bring garden tools, lawn tools, cleaning rags and bucket. There will be something for everyone.

It is a great time for fellowship and fun too! 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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We were happy to be able to donate several shawls to Lancaster Hospice last month where they were received with much appreciation.

If you know of a church or community member suffering from major illness or bereavement, we encourage you to contact Betty Sowers (or Karen Homsher). We would like to reach those who need them with this witness to our caring Leacock community.

Thoughts and Ideas Box

Have an innovative idea for Leacock?

Want to sing a favorite hymn but are afraid to say so aloud?

Wonder about a church policy but don't want to stand up at a meeting and ask a question?

We have the answer to your dilemma — the Thoughts and Ideas Box. This little brown wooden box is located in the Narthex near the Welcome Center with paper and pens beside it. Jot down your thought and/or idea and place them in the locked box. Only the Clerk of Session has the key, and she is the one who opens it and reads the contents to the Session for appropriate response/action.

The box is not about complaints. It is about finding new and exciting directions for the church.

Celtic Spirituality *A Lenten Study*

The people of Wales, Scotland, and Ireland long possessed a rich form of our faith, different from much of the rest of Europe. Because of their isolation, many believe they were closer to the spirituality of the first followers of Christ. Our Lenten Study this year will explore the faith of the Celts. We will pray with them, sing with them, share with them spiritual practices. A light Lenten meal will precede our studies at 5:30 on Sunday evenings. Come join us!

February Session Snippets

Rev. Jane Busey, Leacock's liaison to Donegal Presbytery, attended the February stated meeting, bringing greetings from the Presbytery and speaking briefly about the connectional nature of the church and the resources offered by the Presbytery.

Elders conducted the following business:

- Approved the Statistical Report to General Assembly
- Elected Margy Hershey and Lori Smith as Session representatives to the 2019 Nominating Committee.
- Recommended forming a temporary committee composed of a member from Stewardship, Mission, CCL, and the Trustees to explore kitchen needs and practices.
- Approved taking \$2350 from the Ministry Enhancement Fund of the Endowment to pay the accruing pastor's continuing education which was not paid from the General Fund.
- Approved the following fundraising dates: March 30 - Chili Cook-off; May 25 - Yard Sale; December 7 - Christmas Bazaar.
- Approved the following Fundraising Committee guidelines: The net funds generated by the fundraising team will be deposited into the Church General Fund. The standard percentage will be removed for Benevolence just as if it would have been deposited in an offering plate. However, the team may decide a particular event be conducted for a specific purpose where all funds generated would go only to that specific purpose.

Worship Committee News

We begin March with the celebration of the Lord's Supper March 3. The month not only ushers in spring but also Lent, the Season of Preparation and Penitence. **Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent, and we will worship together and experience distribution of ashes **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. The March Evening Worship will occur in conjunction with the Lenten Study on March 10.

Personnel Committee Updates

Personnel Committee members for 2019 are Steven Boas, chairperson; David Berkhimer, Trustee President; Linda Erikson, Worship Committee Co-chair; Dianne Yuninger, Clerk of Session; Esta Fisher, Deacon Moderator; Tom Burkins, Christian Ed Co-chair; Bonnie Rice, Mission Chair; Mary Alice High, CCL Chair; and Rev. Robert Birch.

At their January meeting, the committee assigned the following Performance Management Teams for church employees:

- Indoor Sexton - Pastor and Trustee President (Bob Birch and Dave Berkhimer)
- Outdoor Sexton - Pastor and Trustee President (Bob Birch and Dave Berkhimer)
- Secretary - Pastor and Clerk of Session (Bob Birch and Dianne Yuninger)
- Treasurer - Stewardship Chairperson and Trustee President (Steven Boas and David Berkhimer)
- Organist and Choir Director - Pastor and Worship Co-chairperson (Bob Birch and Linda Erikson)
- Pastor - Karen Homsher and Marie Brackbill

Stewardship

Greetings friends and congregants of Leacock Presbyterian Church!

This year, and hopefully for many to follow, the Stewardship committee and Session are placing an emphasis on events, activities and fellowship, fellowship with each other, fellowship with our local communities. This emphasis doesn't mean we have not had this relationship as a congregation and community before, but we want to make it grow and prosper. What could be better than being together, in fellowship, having fun, learning, being active and all the while helping others? We have beautiful facilities, and want to use them to a fuller potential for the benefit and health of our Church and its mission. That is why we made a Fundraising Team. I don't call it a committee. I don't have anything against committees, but I want the attitude and feel of this group to be that of a high-performance team. And guess what? Anyone reading this can be a part of the team. We are counting on it! There are and will be many ways to participate. When you see the ideas start flowing for events, join in the fun, and participate in the events. Help us publicize the activities, tell friends, neighbors, family, anyone who will listen!

Please, take a look through the newsletter and see that we are having a Chili cookoff in March and a yard sale in May. Think about how you can participate in them, and have fun. Get to know people, meet new people. Know that you are furthering the health of your Church and its ability to help those in need.

Thank you, brothers and sisters. Thank you for what you have done, what you are considering to do and what you will do. It is appreciated.

Fundraising Team

We are running wild!

Chili cook-off

Spring yard sale

You won't BELIEVE what we are planning for the summer

Questions? Ask us

Steven Boas – 610-927-7807 Sr.boas@hotmail.com

Text me? Sure, email me? You bet Call me? Why not?

Fundraising Team. The Fun People. Join in the fun too!



Announcing

The Leacock Presbyterian Church first (annual???) Chili Cook-off

Saturday March 30, 2019 (save this date!)

So... you think you make some good chili?? Bring it here and prove it!! We want mild chili, hot chili, white chili, with beans, without beans, we just want your favorite chili!

We will make the gritty details known shortly, along with taking registrations for chili makers.

Don't worry if you don't want to make chili and garner fame from the community. We NEED people to purchase tickets, taste the chili and vote on the best!!

Spread the word to all your friends and family, it will be an event you *can't* miss!

Brought to you by the Fundraising Team.

The Fun people. Join in the fun too!



Saturday May 25, 2019

Start thinking about a community yard sale! Memorial Day weekend, traditional yard sale time...Leacock Presbyterian Church is hosting a community yard sale.

We will be offering table space for sale to any and all,

AND we will take any donations of items to the Church, for the Church to sell.

Clean out that closet, garage, attic and help your Church at the same time!

Oh, and there will be good food of some kind, still working out the details, but trust me..... there will be food too!

More details will be released soon, but in the mean time, tell everyone about this and get ready to sell, sell, sell.

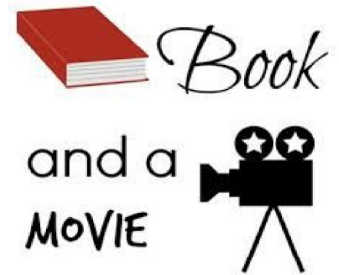
Brought to you by the Fundraising Team.

The Fun people. Join in the fun too!

Leacock Book and Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group gathered together on February 23 to watch the powerful (and disturbing but hopeful) movie *Rabbit Proof Fence*, a true story about aborigine children who escaped from being kidnapped and taken to a settlement set up by white colonists to civilize them, hoping to walk back home. We also had a little mini-birthday celebration for me, which was a surprise and for which I am very grateful. We will have another pot luck on Friday March 15 at 5:30 p.m. to gather to discuss a book this time, another powerful tale, *The Hate U Give*. Please join us and bring a dish to share.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



Church and Community Life

Are you ready for another game afternoon?

On **Saturday, March 9 at 2 o'clock** in the fellowship hall we will meet for a Game Afternoon. Bring your favorite game and teach others like Shirley Smith did last year. Shirley taught everyone who wanted to learn how to play the game of Golf, not the Golf where you need a club and ball. We all had great fun learning the ins and outs of Golf. Please bring a snack to share as well as your favorite game. Looking forward to an enjoyable afternoon. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. See you March 9!



Gratitude Corner

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

I'm not a big one for clothes shopping. I never seem to be able to find what I'm looking for in a size that fits me, and I tend to become more and more appalled every year by fashion trends. I've always thought it might be kind of nice to have a personal shopper. Well, there is someone in our congregation who has a very good eye and probably ought to make a living as a personal shopper. She has recently given me two pieces of clothing: a great, long wrinkle-free skirt, and a lovely little cotton sweater for summer that she just thought would be perfect for me. Guess what. They are! I love them both.

So, thank you, thank you to **Robin Katz** for your good eye, and for thinking of me and giving me these gifts.

Emily Birch

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

March April	Bob & Margy Hershey George & Karen Shue
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March Nursery On Call



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.	Sara & Lea Lichty

April

4/7	9:30 a.m.	Vicki & Tom Burkins
4/14	9:30 a..m.	Vicki & Tom Burkins
4/21	9:30 a..m.	Easter <i>No Class</i>
4/28	9:30 a.m.	Alba Buck & Derek Colton

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

THE LEACOCKCOMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor