



# *Leacock Communicator*

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

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July/August 2019

## Notes from the Manse

Jesus could have spoken in the language of the great Jewish scholars of his time. He could have taught with all the sophistication of a Greek philosopher. He could have, but he didn't. We don't know what happened in the years prior to his three-year ministry. But the evidence is pretty strong that he spent a lot of time listening, seeing, being with people in the simple truths of everyday life. For when he began to teach, he met people where they were. He spoke to them in their language. It is not surprising, therefore, that Jesus so often used illustrations involving the land and the work of farmers, shepherds. So it was that he used more than once the image of seeds.

Jesus would have felt right at home, I suspect, in Lancaster County, with its rich soil and farmland stretching to the horizon. At this time of year, with the earth well turned and so much green growing, a question came to me. In our lives now, is there a seed or seeds waiting, calling, to be planted? Long ago, I learned that rotating crops can be necessary for the health of the soil. Well, is it any different in our lives? It can be so easy to get stuck, to keep planting the same old seeds, doing things we know and seem safe in their familiarity. Do we contain in ourselves new seeds that would bring new life? Do our lives need a crop rotation of sorts?

"A sower went out to sow his seed...." So, Jesus began one of his parables. In his explanation of its meaning to his disciples, he says that the seed is the word of God. But the parable speaks to us too, if we choose to sow new seeds in our lives. Will we cast our seed on the hard, well-traveled path, not really committed to whatever new growth would be involved? Then, the birds will eat the seeds before anything can be begun. Or will we scatter our seed carelessly among rocks, times and places in our lives that are dry, without nourishment? Then, the seeds will only wither after at best a brief start. Or will we naively cast the seeds among thorns, not preparing for all those cares of the world, all the barbs and hurts that can distract us from doing the work of cultivation? Then, our seeds will be slowly or quickly choked to death; dreams will die.

There is another way. We can plan; we can seek to find a good time, not necessarily a perfect time, when there's enough rain and sun for growth. We can till the soil; we can carefully put our seeds in that good soil. Then, they will flourish; then they will bear fruit. Note what Jesus adds at the end of his explanation of his parable—that for seeds to grow, patient endurance is needed. And those seeds must be held in an honest, good heart. The growth of new seeds, new beginnings, do not come easily. Weeds will need to be pulled; when clouds are scarce, we will need to water the soil. We cannot rush new life. With what work we do, we must also have faith. Above all, we must hold what we are attempting in our hearts. I'm being reminded of this. Many of you know that I recently planted a little tree. And oh, I worry over it; I want so badly for it to become big and strong quickly. I hope in time it does. But for now, I must wait and trust, while doing what I can. Whatever happens, it will have been good to plant the tree, to believe in new growth. So, consider—what new seeds do you hold in you? Will you plant them?

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## JULY LECTIONARY

<p><b>July 7</b> Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 2 Kings 5:1–14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16 Luke 10:1–11, 16–20</p>	<p><b>July 14</b> Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Amos 7:7–17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1:1–14 Luke 10:25–37</p>	<p><b>July 21</b> Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Amos 8:1–12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15–28 Luke 10:38–42</p>	<p><b>July 28</b> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Hosea 1:2–10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19] Luke 11:1–13</p>
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## AUGUST LECTIONARY

<p><b>August 4</b> Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Hosea 11:1–11 Psalm 107:1–9, 43 Colossians 3:1–11 Luke 12:13–21</p>	<p><b>August 11</b> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 1:1, 10–20 Psalm 50:1–8, 22–23 Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 Luke 12:32–40</p>	<p><b>August 18</b> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 5:1–7 Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19 Hebrews 11:29–12:2 Luke 12:49–56</p>	<p><b>August 25</b> Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 Hebrews 12:18–29 Luke 13:10–17</p>
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### July Prayer Families

July 7  
David & Carol Berkhimer

July 14  
William Berkhimer

July 21  
Shirley Bernard

July 28  
David & Janet Birch



### August Prayer Families

August 4  
Robert & Emily Birch

August 11  
Steven, Charlene, Forrest  
& Katherine Boas

August 18  
Arlene Brackbill

August 25  
Skip & Marie Brackbill



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on **July 14** or **July 21** in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Please call the church office at 717-687-6619.

## Church Picnic



On Sunday, September 8th, we will celebrate **Old Leacock Day** with a picnic after the 9:30 service. Hot dogs, rolls, drink, silverware, cups, plates, napkins and condiments will be provided. Just bring a covered dish to share and chair to sit on while you eat and visit with your friends while celebrating our heritage of worshipping at Old Leacock Church.

## Trustee Notes

The Trustees will be putting a new roof on Old Leacock Church. The cost will be around \$16,000. We will start collecting for the Building and Maintenance Fund in July for this project. Most of the money will go for the roof but we also will be using the money for the upkeep of some other things. The roof, however, will be on before the year is over. It will be an asphalt replacement to look like it does now.

The Trustees appreciate everyone's help in keeping our buildings in good maintenance. Thanks to all!

Dave Berkhimer  
Trustee President

## From the Deacons

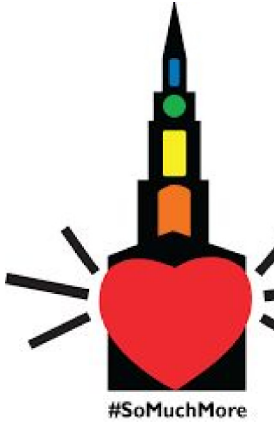
Sometimes its easy to lose track of our church friends over the summer, with two or three services and people on vacation. One way to feel in communion even when not present could be to remember the prayer family (list is in this newsletter) with our prayers of course, but also with a note or phone call. Also, reach out to our at home members one time over the summer as well as on holidays and birthdays. If there is someone you think you have not seen for a few weeks call or drop a note. I am sure you have your own ideas on how to stay in touch. Why not share your ideas with the Deacons?

	<p><b>July 22</b></p> <p>Virginia Stauffer 113 Summers Drive Lancaster, PA 17601-5860</p>	<p><b>August 12</b></p> <p>Lucy Ames Lancashire Hall Rm.#.311A 2829 Lititz Pike Lancaster, PA 17601</p>
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## Share the Bounty Table

We have been blessed, each of us in many ways. And Jesus made it it clear that we should share our blessings. He took the little the disciples had and found a way to feed a multitude. That's the way of grace.

We have a "Share the Bounty" table following Sunday morning worship at both Old Leacock and at Paradise. Anyone with surplus produce or flowers may place them on the table. Anyone who could use any of these items may take them home. There is no fixed cost. Instead, there will be a freewill donation, with all proceeds going to the general fund of our church. In this way, in giving and receiving, we can multiply grace.



## Mission Committee

The next free community meal will be held on **Thursday, July 25** in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex at Leacock (Paradise) and in the window well in the vestibule at Old Leacock two weeks prior to the meal. You can sign up for food donations or times to help. The August community meal will be held on **Thursday, August 29**. Please feel free to join us at any of our community meals either to help or just join in with the community fellowship.

Also, keep in mind that the next **clothing collection** will be during the month of **September**. All gently used, clean clothing will be accepted with the exception of used underwear.

Please mark your calendars for our annual community **Crop Walk** on **Sunday, October 20**. It will be held again in Paradise Park - rain or shine. September's newsletter will have more details!

## Summer Hymn Sings

There are still three summer hymn sings this season — July 7, August 4, and September 1 — for you to enjoy at Old Leacock at 7:00 p.m.

So many of our guests have expressed their appreciation for the chance to sing their favorite hymns under the capable direction of Tom Perella.

The evening is casual but uplifting as the harmonies of our faith ring into the surrounding country side.



A Note from Mary Weaver:

Thank you for the flowers, calls and visits during my illness.

## Session Snippets

The June Session meeting centered on our quarterly retreat format where elders learned more about Spiritual formation as they contemplated God's creation and their part in it.

Prior to this portion of the meeting, several items of business were addressed:

- The urgent matter of the Old Leacock roof deterioration and its replacement. When the Trustees have a firm proposal, the Session will schedule a Special Meeting to discuss and approve the measure.
- The absence of a monthly Benevolence report was noted. The Chair of Stewardship, the Chairs of Mission, the Trustee President, and the Church Treasurer will meet to resolve this issue.
- Vacation for Rev. Birch was approved for August 5 - 19.

## Summer Worship

We have two Sunday morning worship opportunities until September 1: Old Leacock at 8:00 a.m. and Paradise at 9:30 a.m.

If you are an early riser, why not check out Old Leacock in the summer with the fresh air gently flowing through the sanctuary and the green fields providing God's good creation as a backdrop. The tones of the old pump organ call all to praise our Lord. And if you are not an early riser, why not become one for a Sunday or two just to experience worshipping in our historic church?

Paradise with its comfortable air conditioning and majestic pipe organ offers our other worship opportunity. Gathering at 9:30, the people of God pray and praise together.

Don't let summer invite you to vacation from worshipping with us. Strength for the journey and fellowship with our church family awaits you each Lord's Day.

## BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE JULY

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

Wednesday, July 3  
Thursday, July 18  
Tuesday, July 30  
Wednesday, July 31

### Place and Time

Bird-in-Hand Fire Co - 2:00pm  
Yoders Country Market - 2:00pm  
LG Hospital-3rd fl James St. Balcony -7:00am  
Women & Babies Hospital - 9:00am

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](http://lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services).



**On Wednesday, July 24, our Leacock church family will have their annual Barnstormers Night.**

The Barnstormers will be playing the Somerset Patriots. It is dollar hot dog night as well as bring your dog to the ball park night. Tickets are \$10.00 and of that, \$4.00 comes back to our church Mission fund. Ask your friends and neighbors. Lets get a big crowd this year!

The pregame activities begin at 6:00 and will include Reverend Birch throwing out the first pitch. In addition, there will be pregame activities for the children. To get your tickets, send in your check for the amount of seats you want and say in a note that you are from Leacock Presbyterian Church and *Shirley Smith will be picking up your tickets. This will save you a \$5.00 shipping fee!* Thank you Shirley! The mailing address is Lancaster Barnstormers, 650 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. Order your tickets today for a very enjoyable evening.





*Merry Christmas*



No, it's not Christmas in July—just planning time for our annual Christmas Bazaar which will be held Saturday December 7 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. As ideas float around in our heads, we have realized one crucial thing: a huge part of this bazaar is fun and fellowship as we all work together to bring it to the staging and selling point.

The committee is planning several craft nights where folks can gather to make items to sell and welcomes your ideas for this venture. What do you think would be fun to make and be a sales hit? (Remember those spiders from several years ago?)

Do you have a craft that is one of your passions, and would you be willing to donate some of your creations to us to sell? Let us know!

Or as these lazy, hazy days of summer are upon us, why not get a head start on autumn cleaning and start sorting through your closet and boxes of Christmas decorations. We are looking for gently used ornaments, wreaths, swags, trees, and other seasonal items that could find a home with our shoppers.

We will again have our Christmas Cafe featuring yummy soups and sandwiches as well as our peanut butter bonbons and homemade cookies. And, of course, no bazaar would be complete without the Gift Baskets.

That is a lot to think about and plan for, but if we begin now we will be more than ready to open Leacock's doors on the 7th of December.

The committee is looking for interested people to help with ideas, time, donations, and man and woman power. Contact Linda Erikson, Marie Brackbill, or Dianne Yuninger for further information. Be sure to watch the Sunday bulletin for updates.

### **Leacock Book and Movie Group**

The Leacock book and movie group is on summer break. We will pick back up in the fall when we will discuss the book *The Bookshop* by Penelope Fitzgerald. It's not a long book, and you've got plenty of time to read it, so pick up a copy and join us in September.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



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

This month, I would like to thank the trustees for all they do to take care of the manse, both inside and out. We recently had a problem with the light in the bathroom and Dave Berkheimer came by immediately to fix it for us. As an added bonus, he also fixed the lock on the basement door, which worked, but had to be jimmyed. Every time I go down into the basement now, I'm so happy not to have to jimmy it. More recently, the trustees agreed to let Bob plant a little tree

in the manse yard, a gift to the church from us to replace the two trees that had to be taken down a while back. Appropriately, it's a River Birch. Thanks to the trustees, things always look beautiful around the manse, and we are very grateful for that.

Emily Birch

## Stewardship

Greetings all, welcome to summertime! Warm days, vacations, outdoor cooking, sweat, bugs, high humidity 😊 We are half way through the year, summer will slip by rather quickly I'm afraid and when next I do a newsletter article it will almost be fall. Let's talk financial first...we are a few thousand dollars behind in offering to what we have had to spend. Over the summer, worship attendance goes down and commensurately, so does the offerings. If you have vacations planned and won't be able to make it to service, I ask that you please make plans to continue to get your offering to the Church. We do have a growing body of people who use online giving, which makes this very easy to manage and budget for. If anyone is not using this and thinks they would like to, please contact Steven Boas or Skip Brackbill, and we will help you get started.

The FUNdraising team (a sub team of Stewardship) has been busy this year as promised! By now most of you know we have had two events, the Chili cook-off and the Yard Sale. Both events were successful from the perspective that there was fellowship, fun, community involvement and they both helped Leacock Presbyterian get further toward our goals. Events still planned for this year yet will be a fall Corn Roast, and of course a Christmas time Bazaar. Events are also being looked at and preliminarily planned for 2020. We are on a roll! Let the fun continue. All kidding aside, yes there was fun in fellowship, but there was hard work by many persons to make these last two events what they were. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all those who participated in the events, helped and those to attended and supported. Thank you, you are AWESOME.

Together, these two events raised \$2,900 of profit, which goes into the Leacock fund just as if it were given on a Sunday worship service. This helps our deficit mentioned above, which helps our mission objectives as the normal percentage of this money goes to Benevolence. Maybe it doesn't sound like a huge return for the hard work, but to me it is *incredible* to have worked together and raised this. It really doesn't matter how much we raise; we do hope we raise something to help the Church! But the most important aspect is the people, building relationships and working to help others by keeping our Church healthy.

Steven R. Boas  
Stewardship



## Softball Schedule:

### July

July 1	7:30 p.m.	Field 2	Leacock v. Weaverland #2
July 8	8:00 p.m.	Field 2	St. John's v. Leacock
July 15	6:30 p.m.	Field 2	Weavertown v. Leacock
July 22	6:30 p.m.	Field 1	Leacock v. Calvary Monument

## Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

<b>July</b> <b>August</b> <b>September</b>	Chuck & Kathy Ankney Harold Yuninger and Carol Shearer Mary Alice High and Shirley Smith
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<b>July &amp; August Nursery On Call</b>


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*JULY AUGUST*

Articles for the September Newsletter  
will be due Tuesday, August 20 , 2019

THE LEACOCKCOMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor