



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 66, Number 1 February/March 2025

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

“Remembering Our Roots”



Recently, we had the opportunity to serve as a neutral pulpit for a sister congregation in our presbytery. The search team of Honey Brook Church was present in worship Sunday, January 5th, to meet their pastoral candidate, Rev. Sameh Shaker, for the first time. Along with them, we witnessed his leading of worship and preaching. All were uplifted by the message he brought as he wove together theological insights with practical guidance for the new year. He used the parables of the mustard seed and yeast as small but hugely potential symbols for impact and growth. It was his way of describing the way God works in the world and in our lives.

He shared experiences of bread-making with his grandmother and his role when young to go to the market and get the yeast necessary for her baking. It was his way to describe a process that produces a useful and delightful outcome. It was a way to emphasize that that which is small, though once considered a fungus, is a powerful agent for growth and change, for nourishment and transforming the landscape around us. It was a way to emphasize that something Jewish purity laws considered unclean is useful to God.

Originally from Egypt, Sameh now resides in the Philadelphia area and works as a counselor of grief and renewal and serves a congregation as Minister of Visitation. While a native of Cairo, he served as a pastor in the northern region of the country bordering the Mediterranean Sea where Antioch is located. Antioch was a chief center of early Christianity during Roman times where converts were the first people to be called Christians. Having a large population of Jewish origin in a quarter called the Kerateion, the city attracted the earliest missionaries of the Christian faith. Keep in mind it was into Egypt that the Holy Family escaped as refugees seeking safety from the wrath of King Herod.

As believers and followers of the Christ, we had more in common with Sameh than we might have imagined. We must remember our roots, our roots in the Holy Land, our roots in northern Egypt as Christianity became vibrant and spread. We can realize we are on a search just as Honey Brook's pastor nominating committee is seeking and searching.

We can revisit our past, exploring what was significant, learn from misguided decisions or mistakes, heal from wounds, and rediscover ways to flourish. We must learn ways to move forward with new insights and follow guidance that can come our way. We must remind ourselves that "unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain."

How ironic that in 1728, residents of Chester County complained that "thieves, vagabonds, and ill people" had infested the westernmost areas, and petitioned that a new county be created. And so Lancaster County was created from Chester County in 1730.

It was William Penn, English writer, religious thinker, and influential Quaker, who founded the Province of Pennsylvania during the British colonial era. Working closely with William Penn, our Scotch-Irish and German forebears—deemed 'vagabonds and thieves'—figured prominently in the development of Pennsylvania, in particular our area. Penn encouraged many families from Ulster to settle here, believing them to be well-suited to frontier conditions.

Between 1683 and 1783, more than 100,000 German-speaking immigrants came from various regions in Germany and Switzerland. As they streamed into Pennsylvania and other parts of British North America, many of these were also of Mennonite persuasion, who as religious dissenters, believed in adult baptism and absolute pacifism. The Amish church split off from a group of Mennonite Anabaptists in 1692 over irreconcilable differences, in particular the treatment of members found guilty of breaches of doctrine. Interestingly, William Penn proselytized among Rhine Valley dissenters, both Swiss and German, and invited them to settle in his colony. By 1710, German immigration to Pennsylvania increased significantly.

Once here, the Scotch-Irish along with Germans radiated westward from Philadelphia across Pennsylvania and filtered into the Alleghenies of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

As Pastor Sameh remembered his roots, so we do well to do the same. In late November it fascinated me that at the funeral of Millie Young, long-time dedicated member of Leacock, I learned that several generations of her family had roots like those mentioned above yet had migrated into the South then northward again to southern Lancaster County. One of Millie's close relatives traveled over Thanksgiving the following week to Camp, Virginia only a few miles away from my German forebears in Flat Ridge, Virginia. The ties that bind us together are a fascinating tapestry of origins, heritage, and faith.

Whatever we hope to maintain or re-invent as the church, Solomon's words of wisdom can provide a compass for us today.

In the words of Psalm 127:1-2, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

There is also practical advice: "It is in vain that we rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for God gives to his beloved sleep.

These are personal words of guidance for your pastor. Whatever our family ties and heritage, these words can direct each of us toward humble and wise living. Whether we have "resolutions" to abide by in the New Year or "good intentions," may the words of Solomon guide us going forward.

Blessings and Peace in the New Year and the Seasons ahead.

Sincerely, Jim



Our Mission Statement

**"Building on our heritage, led by the Spirit, committed to Christ,
we welcome our neighbors to share in this family of God."**

February Lectionary

<p>February 2 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 Luke 4:21–30</p>	<p>February 9 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11</p>
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<p>February 16 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Jeremiah 17:5–10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Luke 6:17–26</p>	<p>February 23 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Genesis 45:3–11, 15 Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 Luke 6:27–38</p>
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March Lectionary

<p>March 2 Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]</p>	<p>March 5 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21</p>	<p>March 9 First Sunday in Lent</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 16 Second Sunday in Lent</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 23 Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–8 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9</p>	<p>March 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32</p>
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February Prayer Families

February 2
Joanne Stoltzfus

February 9
Diep Ngoc & Anh Tran

February 16
Tracy Wettig

February 23
Joseph & Sharon Lee Williams

March Prayer Families

March 2
David, Bethany, Deanna, & William Swanson-Yuninger

March 9
Harold & Dianne Yuninger

March 16
Mark & Barbara Andrews

March 23
Chad, Nina, C.J., & Stetson Ankney

March 30
Charles, Kathy & Kristen Ankney

A Note from the Trustees

The cold weather is here. Our heating systems are up to the task. To maintain and keep them at peak efficiency, the **February Special Offering** will be earmarked for upkeep.

We have two furnaces, 2 HVAC units, and 2 AC units, not counting the units in four classrooms. Please consider giving to this special offering!

We are looking to repair or to replace the carpet at Old Leacock. Also, we are considering the condition of the driveway stones there.

If you see something that needs attention, say something to one of the Trustees.

Thank you from the Trustees.



Altar Flowers

Flowers for the Church

If you wish to order Sanctuary /flowers in Memory of or in Honor of someone or a special occasion,
Sunday **March 30** is open.

Ushers

February - Mary Alice High and John Shenk
March - Chuck and Kathy Ankney

ASH WEDNESDAY



Within a few short weeks, we move from the season of Epiphany, also known as Ordinary Time, into Lent. As Easter comes late this year on April 20, March and half of April will see us bathed in the color purple.

Opportunities for worship begin March 5th with Ash Wednesday, a time for penance and reflection on our mortality — “from dust we are and to dust we shall return.”

A Drive-In Ashes Station will be set up in Leacock’s parking lot beginning at noon and continuing toward evening for community and church members to stop by. Materials will be on hand to observe the ritual of ashes including scripture and meditation readings.

Then at 7:00 p.m. we will hold our annual in-person Ash Wednesday Worship including the administering of ashes.

Come out to share in these opportunities and invite your friends and neighbors to do the same.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES for Conversation, Reflection, and Study

With the choir on hiatus, immediately following Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings, we are inviting those willing to stay to join a time of Bible Study, reflection on the scripture and message of the day, or conversation about our witness as individuals and as a church in our current times.

Together we will shape our agenda and the time participants are willing to commit to this venture, whether a 30 or 45-minute session. This opportunity has been planned by Session to enrich our common life together.

DURING THE UPCOMING LENTEN SEASON we will gather Sunday morning following the Fellowship Time for a Lenten Study on three occasions: Sunday, March 9, March 23, and April 6.

The theme is in process and will be announced. There will be NO evening Soup and Bread Study this year. Ash Wednesday is March 5th, Palm Sunday, April 13th, and Easter, April 20th. These special worship opportunities will be announced weekly and in advance as soon as possible.

Notes from the Deacons



Spring Birthdays:

March 4

Ruth Anne Appel
69 Hickory Lane
Leola, PA 17540-1112

May 23

Geri Hess
600 E. Roseville Rd. Apt. 1209
Lancaster, PA 17601

Flower deliveries:
February – Barb Andrews
March – Sue Funk
April – Barb Andrews/Sue Funk



The **Prayer Shawl Knitters** will meet at 9:30 on March 3rd and 17th.

The **Deacons will meet** in the Library following worship on **March 16th**. Our other meeting dates this term are **May 18th, (July 20th), September 21st, November 19th, (January 18th)**.



Thank you for the Birthday, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. Thank you also, for the beautiful poinsettia and the Deacon visits.

Betty Denlinger

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“In all things I give thanks for all of you.”

This is a loose paraphrase from the apostle Paul, but perfectly expresses my deep, deep gratitude for all of your thoughts, cards, prayers, and flowers with which you showered me during my recent hospitalization, surgery, and recovery. Truly Leacock is a family which surrounds us all with love and care. I watched the Jan. 26 service on-line and almost cried because I miss you all and our sacred space so much. I have truly felt the power of your prayers. Again, thanks be to God.

With heartfelt love,
Dianne

Mission Committee



The **Community Meal** for February will be held on **February 27th** in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30 to 6:30. The meal will be Hamburger Bar-B-Que, Macaroni/Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Salad, and Desserts from Weis Markets. As usual we need cooks, servers, and clean up people to help. Feel free to sign up to help with the meal or help to provide food that is needed for the meal. Everyone is welcome!

February 2nd was the last day for the Blanket Offering for this year. Because of the inclement weather on January 19th we had extended this special offering for an extra Sunday so that all have a chance to give.

February 9th was our "Souper Bowl" Sunday. We requested you bring either canned soups or vegetables or felt free to deposit any loose change (or anything larger!) in our Campbells Soup Bowl in the Narthex. Food and Money will be given to the Factory for their Food Bank.

The March **Community Meal** will take place on **March 27th** in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30 to 6:30. The menu will be Chicken and Waffles, Broccoli/Cauliflower, Cranberry Sauce, Applesauce, and Desserts from, Weis Markets in Gap. And also for this month we will need cooks, servers, clean-up people, and people to help provide some of the food.

March is also the month that we have our **Spring clothing drive**. Any clean slightly used clothing, except underwear, is acceptable. Just bring the clothing to church any time in March and place it in the narthex. We will deliver the clothing to the clothing bank that is run by the Lancaster County Council of Churches. The last day for this collection is Sunday, March 30th. Please do not leave clothes after that. If you miss the deadline, just keep them till our next clothing drive in the fall.

Sunday, March 9th is our first Sunday in Lent. It is also the beginning of our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering will last all 6 Sundays in Lent and conclude on April 20th, Easter Sunday. You will find special envelopes in the pews that you may use for this offering. Or you may use your own envelope but just make sure to mark it O.G.H.S.

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Articles for the April Newsletter
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The Leacock Communicator

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Sandy Schoettle, Editor