



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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A Word from the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

My recent birthday on May 31st allowed me to turn 71. This has prompted me to think about the different generations represented in the Leacock congregation. These are social groupings with special names based on years of birth.

Here's the gist:

The Lost Generation is the demographic group of people born from 1883 to 1900 and coming of age in either the 1900s or the 1910s with early adulthood during World War I. That's none of you, of course, but I thought I would mention it. While my Shuler grandparents were born in 1868 and 1872 respectively, they preceded even this generation. I only got to know them through family photos and shared stories.

We still retain the family homestead that lies within Jefferson National Forest near the Appalachian Trail, a once thriving 117 acre self-sufficient farm. The log portion of the home remains standing. It's a part of the Virginia Highlands located in Grayson County, Virginia near Mount Rogers and Whitetop. These are Virginia's two highest mountains, offering scenic views of alpine-like peaks nearly 6,000 feet above sea level.

Those born from 1901 to 1927 make up **The Greatest Generation**, which includes my mother and father. They were shaped by the Great Depression and were the primary generation composing the enlisted forces in World War II which took place Sept. 1939 to Sept. 1945. My father was a sergeant in the Army Airforce, Pacific Theatre, while my mother worked as a telegraph operator for the Norfolk and Western Railroad. There are yet survivors of the Greatest Generation, including my mother as you know at age 100, with perhaps around 75,000 remaining, but the numbers are increasingly few.

Those of you born generally from 1928 to 1945 are **The Silent Generation**, labeled "Silent" for conformist and civic instincts, and also known as the Traditionalist Generation. You were also shaped by the Great Depression and World War II. *Now we're talking about some of you.*

This period includes the heyday of passenger rail travel and the emerging of air transportation. While commercial air travel began to emerge in the 1920's, from carrying only 6,000 passengers in 1929 to

more than 450,000 by 1934, to 1.2 million by 1938, you can see the enormous change taking place. If you are between the ages of 78 and 98, the Census Bureau counts 19 million of you still living.

Now we're getting to more of us.

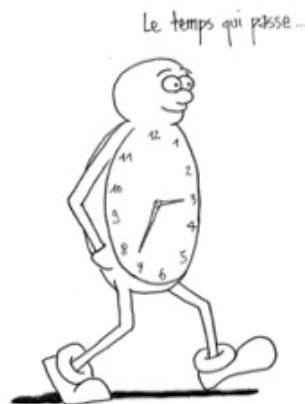
Baby Boomers, often shortened to boomers, are those of us born from 1946 to 1964. That's me and also a number of you, meaning those of us between ages 60 and 78. This means as young people we likely wore bell bottoms and square-toed shoes. Don't forget polyester knit, long pointed collars, wide lapels and wild colors. We might have been hippies, war protesters, marchers, Jesus people or a combination of these. We number about 70 million.

Characteristics of our group for the most part are: 1) we've got cash to splash, 2) we're still very much a part of the workforce and active engagement—leading, volunteering, grand-parenting, traveling, 3) we're more tech savvy than some of our young people think (*aka not to be outdone by Betty Denlinger, about age 96, of the previous generation*), 4) we're not won over by current advertising because we know what we want and need, 5) we're typically well-read and traveled, 6) we're advocates for the environment and, 7) are basically a happy-go-lucky confident bunch. Does that describe any of you?

Generation X (*often shortened to Gen X*) is the group following us Baby Boomers and preceding Millennials. Researchers and popular media often use the mid-1960s as their starting birth years, generally defining those born from 1965 to 1980. By this definition and U.S. Census data, there were 65.2 million Gen Xers in the United States as of six years ago. Not sure how many now. Most of Generation X are the children of the Silent Generation and early Baby Boomers.

As children in the 1970s and 1980s, a time of shifting societal values, Gen Xers were sometimes called the "latchkey generation," which stems from their returning as children from school to an empty home and needing to use a key to let themselves in. This was a result of what is now called free-range parenting, plus increasing divorce rates, and increased maternal participation in the workforce prior to widespread availability of childcare options outside the home.

Millennials (Gen Y) were born between 1981 and 1996 while members of the Gen Z were born between 1997 and 2012.



“ Time marches on”

With the school year coming to an end, many Gen Z's find themselves in transitional seasons—some at home for the summer, some on break from school, others beginning a new career.

The Barna Group which conducts ongoing church research, reports that this “in-between season” offers opportunities for church leaders and parents to intentionally connect with the young people in their lives. This next generation is extremely spiritually open, and their views of Jesus are largely positive. In fact, nearly half of U.S. teens say Jesus offers hope to the world, cares about people and is trustworthy (47% each). Another 77 percent are motivated to continue learning about Jesus throughout their life.

This generation, the future of the Church, is open and curious to learn more about Christ. Now is a good time to evaluate how our church and Christian community might connect with and disciple Gen Z.

Today's generations now each span 15 years. In review, Generation Y (Millennials) were born from 1980 to 1994; Generation Z from 1995 to 2009 and Generation Alpha from 2010 to 2024. So it follows that Generation Beta will be born from 2025 to 2039.

On Thursday, May 30th, I participated in a regional Synod meeting in Allentown with members of our Presbytery Leader Team. This year's theme was “Emerging Structures for an Emerging Future.” We had conversations around what our structures look like now, and how to engage the current generations. We discussed what is and isn't working, and how we position ourselves for all the changes happening in and around us. We examined the research of Otto Scharmer, an author and co-creator of innovations in learning and leadership. He advocates that institutions and churches work through intervention and transformation.

Otto describes the future like this – something is “crumbling, decaying and exhausting itself – while something else, still indistinct, is rising from the rubble.” What an image! We are often aware of what isn't working – the things that are crumbling and the exhaustion that we often feel.

In my continuing time with you, I will do my best to look at what is “rising from the rubble” whatever generation we are looking at. We will support one another in the swirl of today.

**I plan to work on some options to present to the Session and you
the congregation later this summer.**

We'll explore what resources are available and support one another as we “look into a mirror dimly.” And, of course, we will trust that God's good and gracious Spirit is guiding us —the one who knows and understands us and our future fully until we see face to face. 1 Corinthians 13:12

This gives us a lot to think about on how to be the church for these times, with all generations, both in the present and for the future. There needs to be the church! There will be the church!

Blessings and peace,

Jim

June Lectionary

<p>June 2 Second Sunday after Pentecost 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20) Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 2 Corinthians 4:5–12 Mark 2:23–3:6</p>	<p>June 9 Third Sunday after Pentecost 1 Samuel 8:4–11(12–15) 16–20 (11:14–15) Psalm 138 Corinthians 4:13–5:1 Mark 3:20–35</p>	<p>June 16 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 (11–13) 14–17 Mark 4:26–3</p>
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<p>June 23 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4–11, 19–23) 32–49 Psalm 9:9–20 or 1 Samuel 17:57–18:5, 10–16 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6:1–13 Mark 4:35–41</p>	<p>June 30 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7–15 Mark 5:21–43</p>
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July Lectionary

<p>July 7 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10 Psalm 48 Corinthians 12:2–10 Mark 6:1–13</p>	<p>July 14 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3–14 Mark 6:14–29</p>	<p>July 21 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 2 Samuel 7:1–14a Psalm 89:20–37 Ephesians 2:11–22 Mark 6:30–34, 53–56</p>
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<p>July 28 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 2 Samuel 11:1–15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14–21 John 6:1–21</p>

June & July Prayer Families

<p>June 2 Angela Killian</p> <p>June 9 Brit Kilbourne</p> <p>June 16 Delores Kilbourne</p> <p>June 23 Nelson Koshuta</p> <p>June 30 Gregory, Suzanne, Ian & Emily Lang</p>	<p>July 7 Matthew, Michele & Sarah Lichty</p> <p>July 14 Ian & Katherine Boas Lichty</p> <p>July 21 Sarah Lichty</p> <p>July 28 Valerie Ruhl Loch</p>
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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.”**

THANK YOU

Our worship revolves around praise to our God as we meet together for listening to the Word, praying for joys and concerns, and fellowshiping with each other. This worship has been enhanced by our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir from September thru May.

A huge thank you goes out to these musicians for their ministry as they faithfully practice each week to learn their parts and ring or sing together to the glory of God.

Looking Ahead

Old Leacock Day is scheduled for Sunday September 8 with worship and Communion at 9:30 am.

Then we gather in the courtyard for a covered dish lunch. Hot dogs, tableware and drinks will be provided by the Church and Community Life Committee. Bring a chair and a dish to share.

Mission Committee

The next community meal will be **Thursday, June 27th** from 5:30 to 6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. This will be our indoor summer picnic. The menu will be Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, Pickles, Fruit Salad and Desserts from Weis Markets in Gap.

In July our community meal will be held on **Thursday, July 25th** from 5:30 to 6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. The menu will be Sub Rolls filled with Chicken Salad or Ham Salad, Chips, Pickles, Olives, Vegetable Tray/Dip, Applesauce and Desserts from Weis Markets in Gap.

Deacons

The Deacons met with the Session and updated them on the status of our At-home Members. We also enjoyed fellowship with them during a lovely lunch provided by Bonnie and Jim. We will communicate by e-mail over the summer and hold our next in-person meeting on September 29th.

Flower delivery

June – Esta Fisher and Mary Alice High

July – Ed Margerum

Summer birthday

Janet Birch – August 26

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will not meet over the summer, but will resume in the fall. See the August/September newsletter for meeting dates. Please contact Karen Homsher if you know of someone who could be cared for with a shawl.

Joke of the Month

Church member Harry saw an ad online for a Christian Horse, so he went to go check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. To make him go forward, you just say 'Praise Jesus!' To make him stop, you just say 'Amen!'"

So Harry got on the horse and said "Praise Jesus!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. Harry again said "Praise Jesus!" and the horse began to trot. "Praise Jesus!" he said again, and the horse began to gallop. Harry was enjoying his ride so much, that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were fast approaching.

At the last second he saw the cliff and shouted "AMEN!" And the horse stopped, right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Harry exclaimed "Whew!! Praise Jesus!"

Worship Committee

Summer Hymn Sings

It's summer and time to think HYMN SINGS at Old Leacock. The first Sunday of June, July, August, and September we gather at 7:00 pm at Old Leacock with community members for our annual Hymn Sing tradition.

Don Brackbill will be with us again this year as our song leader.

Participants set the evening's agenda, selecting their favorite hymns. Whether from *Glory to God* or *Crowning Glory*, hymns range from the old traditional to more modern ones, from "Blessed Assurance" to "Our God Is an Awesome God."

Set aside the dates now: June 2, July 7, August 4, and September 1.

Summer Communion Dates: June 23, and August 4.

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SUMMER SCHEDULE

OLD LEACOCK

JULY 7

AUGUST 4

9:30 AM

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT PARADISE ON THOSE SUNDAYS.

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

We want you to know that we have been working hard in our search for our next installed pastor, but the way has been difficult. There are many more vacant churches than there are pastors to call. Nevertheless we continue combing through Pastor Information Forms as they become available.

We thought a capsule summary of our work might be helpful as you continue to keep us in your prayers.

November 2022 — congregation election of the PNC

March 2023 — PNC met with Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes, Executive Presbyter

March 27, 2023 — PNC began to meet weekly

By May 1 all writing for our Church Information Form (CIF) was completed and sent to Session and the Presbytery Commission on Ministry for approval

In June our CIF was posted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC)

July 6, 2023 — began examining Pastor Information Forms (PIF) We originally were matched with 44 possibilities which we read and discussed.

As time has passed, several other applicants have come to our attention either through Presbytery connections or CLC self-referral.

Interviews, both in-person and via Zoom, began September 11, 2023

To date, we have interviewed six candidates, three of whom had a second interview. Either the candidates were “not a good fit” for Leacock or have taken other calls.

This journey has been a roller coaster ride for all of us as we seek our way forward trusting that our God has a plan for Leacock and the future. We ask for your continued prayers for patience, faith, and discernment.

Dianne Yuninger, Chairperson
Mark Andrews
Chuck Ankney
Carol Berkhimer
Mary Alice High
Karen Homsher
Jenny Keenan

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Articles for the August/September Newsletter
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THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor