



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 65, Number 8

November 2024

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

"Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"



November is regarded as the month for offering thanks. We do this at Thanksgiving, one of the biggest holidays of the year when families and friends come together. Thanksgiving celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the year.

November is also typically the month when Giving Tuesday occurs. In the United States Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving yet it has grown into a year-round global movement. This movement has inspired hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

In just one year, the holiday that occurs on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving helped nonprofits like churches raise \$1.97 billion.

We also incorporate giving thanks and the offering of gratitude as a routine part of worship.

As we get caught up in the routines of daily living, it can be easy to take things for granted. When we face difficulties or challenges, we may instead complain or bemoan our circumstances. However, gratitude is a powerful tool that can help us navigate life's challenges and appreciate the good moments we experience.

The Bible mentions the word "gratitude" (*χάρη* and other variations in Greek) 157 times.

The Hebrew words for "thanks" and "thanksgiving" occur 72 times.

The Bible is full of examples of people who lived with gratitude. Their stories can inspire us to be more grateful than we might otherwise tend to be. Let's explore some of those examples to learn why living with gratitude is an essential expression of our faith.

Who Showed Gratitude in the Bible?

From the unnamed leper to Job who lost everything, several believers were grateful to God in all circumstances – even challenging ones. Here are a few examples of gratitude that we can learn from:

* Daniel: King Darius threatened Daniel because he didn't want to worship the pagan gods. Still, Daniel gave thanks and worshipped God endlessly. When thrown into the lion's den, God heard his prayer and protected him. Daniel came out of the den glorifying and thanking Him. (Daniel 6:1-10)

* Hannah: Hannah was one of the two wives of Ephraim, and the other wife constantly taunted her as she was barren. She cried out to God in prayer, and, because of her faith, God gave her Samuel. Hannah responded with great thanksgiving, acknowledging that her son was from God. (1 Samuel 1:1-28)

* Job: Job lost everything, including his children, possessions, and health. Despite complete loss, Job decided that God was bigger than his struggles and responded with humility and gratitude. Because of this, God blessed Job with more than he had before. (Job 1:1-22)

* The leper: Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He met ten people with leprosy. In love and power, He miraculously healed all ten lepers. However, only one returned praising God, throwing himself at Jesus' feet and offering thanks. (Luke 17:11-19)

* The sinful woman: Jesus was eating with Pharisees when a "sinful" woman showed up, brought a precious alabaster jar of expensive perfume, kissed Jesus' feet, and washed them with her hair and perfume. She showed an act of worship and gratitude to Jesus, and He forgave her sins in response. (Luke 7:36-50)

* Paul: Paul used to persecute Christians. After a dramatic encounter on the road to Damascus, he became humble and changed to promote the Christian faith. He was beaten, shipwrecked, and thrown in prison. Yet, he remained grateful to God who redeemed his life. (Philippians 4:11-12)



Gratitude in the Bible means "extending favor towards," the offering of grace and kindness as a response to something received. It involves more than saying thanks. In the Greek "χάρη" refers to showing appreciation and returning kindness. This is in contrast to Merriam-Webster's definition of "gratitude," which is more of thankfulness for a personal benefit, such as being "thankful" for something that happens to us.

Biblical gratitude is the willingness to act upon our feelings of gratitude. It is realizing that God is working in our lives come what may, and showing gratitude in how we live. Gratitude sustains us and offers strength.

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"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:16-17)

Gratefully,

Jim



November Lectionary

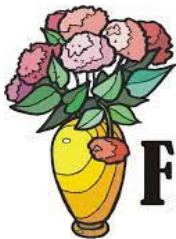
<p><i>November 1</i> <i>All Saints Day</i></p> <p>Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24:1-10 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44</p>	<p><i>Sunday November 3</i> <i>24th Sunday of Pentecost</i></p> <p>Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34</p>	<p><i>Sunday, November 10</i> <i>25th Sunday of Pentecost</i></p> <p>Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44</p>
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<p><i>Sunday, November 17</i> <i>26th Sunday of Pentecost</i></p> <p>1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25 Mark 13:1-8</p>	<p><i>Sunday, November 24</i> <i>Christ the King</i></p> <p>2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18) Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-3</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.”**

Flowers for the Church



Altar Flowers

If you would like to order Sanctuary flowers in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion, Sundays **November 10 and November 17** and Sundays **December 1 and December 29** are available.

Please call the church office: 7171-687-6619

November Prayer Families

November 3
Carroll R. Jr. & Carol A. Shearer

November 10
R. Scott & Cathy A. Shenk

November 17
Kelsey Shenk

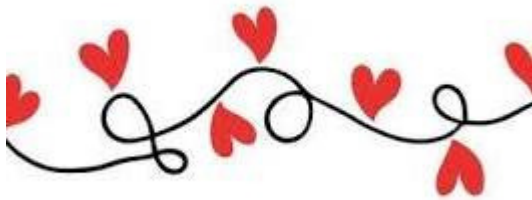
November 24
Brendon Shenk

Session Snippets

The Session and Board of Trustees held a combined meeting in October to discuss the proposed 2025 budget. A **HUGE** thank you goes to **Mark Andrews, Mike Ruhl, and Steven Boas** for their hard work and for the clarity of their presentation.

On behalf of the congregation, the Session thanks the Trustees for their faithful stewardship of our buildings and our grounds.

Session business included a report from the Clerk stating that Leacock's 2023 minutes were read at the Presbytery level and approved without exception, approval of building use December 29 for the Brackbill Christmas Party, and scheduling Thanksgiving Eve service for 7:00 p.m. at Old Leacock.



Thank you!

Dear Church Family,

I couldn't have made it through all these last several months without you, my family and my friends. Your prayers, hugs, cards, calls, and emails were a blessing.

The flowers from the Deacons delivered by Jim were lovely and we enjoyed them. The Deacons outdid themselves with serving the luncheon. Their efforts were sincerely appreciated.

Jim - What a comforting, caring presence. His visits with Ron were uplifting and enjoyable. His help during the last weeks and with the service was loving and assuring. The service was truly wonderful. Dianne, the music was comforting and soothing.

All of Jim's efforts on many levels were greatly appreciated. My heart goes out to all of you. I pray God will bless you as you have blessed me.

With love,
Sue Funk & Family

Worship Notes

The end of the Liturgical Year occurs **November 24** with what is known as the **Reign of Christ Sunday**. We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** that morning.



*Deck the Halls
Sunday November 24
Beginning at 1:00 p.m.
Help us make the Sanctuary and Narthex
Look Like Christmas

All Are Welcome!*

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Before all the feasting and family gatherings of Thanksgiving Day, give yourself the gift of a time of praise, prayer, and meditation.

Leacock's annual **Thanksgiving Eve Service** will occur the evening of **Wednesday November 27** at 7:00 p.m. at Old Leacock. "Now thank we all our God."

* * * *

Chancel Choir Opportunity

Do you sing in the shower? Do you sing along with the radio or your playlist? Do you sing as you empty the dishwasher or mop the floor?

Then we have the perfect spot for you.

Come join the Chancel Choir each Sunday following worship in the Choir Room for a 20 - 30 minute rehearsal.

No previous experience needed: just a willing heart and desire to sing.

Rehearsals begin November 3 (always after you spend a bit of fellowship time in the Narthex. Coffee and cookies welcome!)

Peanut Butter Bonbons

We will be making peanut butter bonbons again this year on **Monday, November 11** and on **Monday, December 2** at 9:00 am. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex if you would like to help make them or donate supplies.

There will also be a signup sheet to order bonbons for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. You will be able to pick them up here at the church, or you can buy them at Loretta McClarigan's shop. We will have milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or mixed at a cost of \$8.00 per container.



The **TOYS FOR TOTS** box is in Narthex. Pickup will be around the second week in December. The need is the same as last year. Gifts for boys and girls in the ages

of 9 to 12 years old can be jewelry, games, watches, personal care items.

The Marines of Lancaster County thank you.



Saturday, December 7 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Our **Christmas Bazaar** is fast approaching!

We're counting down the days to the Christmas Bazaar and hoping you will mark your calendar to attend. There will be Christmas ornaments, decorations, baked goods, peanut butter bonbons, barbeque, homemade soups, hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee, and more.

Please consider being a vendor with your own table! The church will have a couple of tables to sell items from previous years. If you would like to donate a new or gently-used Christmas item for the church table(s), we will have boxes in the narthex through November.

Food items and baked goods will be needed for the Holiday Café and cookie trays – sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Café food items should be brought to the kitchen by Friday, December 6. Mark your food containers so we can return them to you.

For questions, or to reserve a table, contact Angela at 301-452-2215.

**The Session calls for a meeting of the congregation
 Sunday November 17 immediately following worship. The purpose of the
 meeting is to elect officers and approve the pastor's
 Terms of Call for 2025.**

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following Slate of Officers, Class of 2026 to be voted on at the November 17 Congregational Meeting. They will serve with the class of 2025

<p>SESSION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark Andrews Lois Eshleman Elaine Gouba Margie Hershey Bonnie Rice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Angela Killian Brit Kilbourne Dianne Yuninger</p>
<p>DEACONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marsha Ault Barbara Andrews Sue Funk Esta Fisher Charlene Boas (to be elected for a one year term)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Karen Homsher Mary Alice High Debbie Sindall</p>
<p>TRUSTEES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joe Gouba David Homsher Carol Shearer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Darwin Eshleman Mike Ruhl Jim Brackbill</p>
<p>Nominating Committee 2024 Margie Hershey, Elaine Gouba, Sue Funk Joe Gouba, Carol Berkhimer, Kathy Ankney</p>	

Fifty year Members

Ruth Anne Appel	April 17, 1949	Lois Eshelman	April 15, 1962
Mildred Young	April 17, 1949	Esta Fisher	April 15, 1962
Betty Denlinger	January 7, 1951	Kirk Beane	May 2, 1965
Harold Yuninger	November 1, 1953	Ed Margerum	April 13, 1966
Betty Sowers	April 3, 1955	Tom Burkins	October 1967
Mary Ellen Rice	March 25, 1956	Robert Brackbill	October 6, 1968
Janet Cosby	April 14, 1957	Bonnie Rice	October 6, 1968
Donald Clark	August 5, 1957	Marie Brackbill	April 1971
Beatrice Andrews	December 21, 1958	Karen Homsher	April 1971
Vicki Burkins	April 10, 1960	Nelson Koshuta	September 1971
Dianne Yuninger	April 10, 1960	Muriel Meier	March 26, 1972
Carol Shearer	April 15, 1962	Darwin Eshleman	December 16, 1973
James L. Brackbill	April 15, 1962	Bob Hershey	June 2, 1974
David Homsher	April 15, 1962	Margy Hershey	June 2, 1974

Mission Committee

Our next **Community Meal** will be held on **Thursday, November 14** and will be our Thanksgiving meal. Please note that this meal is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month of November due to Thanksgiving being on our regular 4th Thursday. Our meal will be Amish Filling, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Broccoli/Cauliflower, Cranberry Sauce, Fruit Salad, and Desserts from Weis Markets

The sign-up sheets for Cooks, Servers, and Clean Up volunteers and also the sheet for food donations will be in the narthex starting Sunday, October 27th. Thank you for all your willingness to help.

Just a heads up:

The **December Community Meal** will also be held on the 2nd Thursday because of Christmas. That date is **December 12**.

Your Mission Committee



Deacons

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will meet in the Library at 9:30 on November 4 and 18.

The Deacons will meet following worship on **November 17**.



Upcoming birthdays: November 22 – **Betty Denlinger**
4 Conestoga Dr. Apt. 320
Lititz, PA 17543
December 7 – **Earl Miller**
11 Pequea Drive
Paradise, PA 17562

Flower deliveries

November – Marsha Ault/Charlene Boas
December – Charlene Boas

Additional Poinsettia Order Forms will be in the Narthex



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA Order Form

You may purchase a Christmas Poinsettia for \$8.75 to be placed in the sanctuary in memory/honor of someone.

Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by Sunday, December 8

The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the December 22 Sunday Bulletin. Remember to advise the church if you plan to leave your poinsettia to be taken to an at-home member.

I/We _____ wish to order _____ Christmas Poinsettia(s)

in memory of _____

or in honor of _____

Please place a \checkmark in the box if your plant(s) is to be taken to an at-home member by our deacons.

Leacock Presbyterian Church
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Paradise, PA 17562
Phone 717 687-6619

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Articles for the December/January Newsletter
Are due by Monday, November 25, 2024

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor