



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

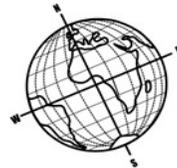
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November 2025

A Word from the Pastor

"To everything there is a season. . ."

We are now in Fall, the third season of the year, which began September 22. On the occasion of the autumnal equinox, the sun crosses the celestial equator, an event which happens twice a year, when the Earth's axis is not tilted toward or away from the sun causing day and night to be approximately the same length. What happens for us in the Northern Hemisphere is reversed in the Southern Hemisphere. Therefore, it's Fall for us; Spring for them and vice versa.



Autumn is the time leaves change to brilliant color and begin to fall, when the gathering of crops and fruits comes to a celebratory conclusion called Thanksgiving.

While there are early acknowledgements of thanksgiving, including the famous 1621 harvest feast between Native Americans and the Pilgrims, it was not widely celebrated as an annual or national observance until much later.

Thanksgiving was established as a National holiday starting with George Washington's 1789 proclamation, but the tradition became an annual event with Abraham Lincoln's 1863 proclamation which sets it as the last Thursday of November.

On the heels of that is the season of Advent which begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving—this year, November 30th. It's an old new season which began to develop in the 4th century in places such as Spain, Gaul (*modern day France*), and northern Italy. By the 6th century the custom had become more established and was widely practiced in Christian churches. Its practices included fasting, prayer, reflection and abstinence similar to Lent, all to anticipate and prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent was once called St. Martin's Lent because it began on St. Martin's Day, November 11th. My great grandfather was named Martin and my brother John carries Martin as a middle name.



In “Extraordinary Things,” Frederick Buechner writes about the beginning of days and seasons. According to “the book of beginnings”—Genesis—this world experienced a good season. That is, it was good until it turned bad.



That in the beginning everything God created was good—good each step along the way. Good was the day and night, good was the light and darkness, good was the heavenly realm and good the earthly realm and all the creatures and inhabitants placed upon it. Good was man and woman. . .UNTIL. Well, you know the rest of the story.

When the opportunity came to test that goodness, badness came into being. Limits were pushed and as a consequence self-reliance rather than God-reliance, vulnerability rather than stability, pain and suffering instead of health and well-being came into being. In other words, disobedience instead of obedience led to what is called sin and brokenness.

The current news events surrounding Ukraine, Gaza, and previously the Gulf War, the Yugoslav Wars, Afghanistan, and the all too recent killing of synagogue and church folks, of Charlie Kirk, including controversy over Turning Point USA and the many “No Kings” rallies across the United States all highlight our ongoing human dilemma.

THE GOSPEL IS BAD news before it is good news. It is the news that we humans are sinners, to use the old word, that we are evil in the imagination of our hearts, that when we look in the mirror all in a lather what we see is at least eight parts chicken, phony, and a slob. In other words, we see ourselves, and society, and what is going on in the world as it truly and too often is.

That is the tragedy. But it is also the news that we are loved anyway, cherished, forgiven, bleeding to be sure, but also bled for. That is the comedy. Both the divine comedy and the human comedy.

On December 4, 1965 the American folk rock group the Byrds hit number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart singing “Turn! Turn! Turn!”, also known as “To Everything There Is a Season.” It’s a song written by Pete Seeger in 1959 and later adapted by others until it became an international hit. The final two lines of the song consist of the first eight verses of Ecclesiastes, Ch. 3.

**To everything, turn, turn, turn
There is a season, turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep
To everything, turn, turn, turn
There is a season, turn, turn, turn**

It's a song that celebrates the passage of time and the seasons that come and go. Taken right out of the bible (*remember, the book of Ecclesiastes*), the lyrics invite us to be present to the stuff of existence: living, dying, planting, reaping, laughing, crying... you get the point.

Originally published in “Telling the Truth,” Buechner continues: “So what if even we and the messy slob of society we’ve been and continue to be (*despite the many ways we are good*) are loved and forgiven even

when the very mark and substance of our sin and slobery is that we keep turning down the love and forgiveness God offers. Because we either don't believe them or don't want them or just don't give a hang.

In answer, the news of the Gospel is that extraordinary things happen within the human community (*both to groups and individuals*) just as in fairy tales when extraordinary things happen.

Examples of brokenness from the past pointed out by Frederick Buechner are the following:

Henry Ward Beecher cheats on his wife, his God, and himself, but manages to keep on bringing the Gospel to life for people anyway, maybe even for himself.

King Lear goes berserk on a heath but comes out of it for a few brief hours every inch a king.

Zacchæus climbs a sycamore tree a deceiving crook and climbs down a generous saint.

Paul sets out a hatchet man for the Pharisees and comes back a fool for Christ.

In modern times, the now famous singer Jelly Roll (*Jason Bradley DeFord*) having endured 40 arrests, his first at age 13, and in recovery from numerous addictions, wrote out of the depths of his brokenness "Save Me." He sings it along with Lainey Wilson on the following link:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7_eXiEbx1e0&list=RD7_eXiEbx1e0&start_radio=1&pp=ygUgamVsbHkgcm9sbCBzYXZlIG1lIGxhaW5leSB3aWxz26gBwE%3D

It is impossible for any of us to leave behind the darkness of the world completely that we carry on our back like a snail, but for God all things are possible. That is the fairy tale. All together they are the truth.

Whether in your personal life you experience darkness, or view the current status of the church "as a light that is growing dim," take heart, trust and believe, there's a new season coming. Remain faithful to Leacock Church and bring your light often to worship and our shared ministries. Then the lights will shine brightly once again and a new season of hope will be upon us.



In peace,
Jim

P.S. A proposal for new lighting in the sanctuary is in progress and will surely be welcomed by one an all.

Announcing The Factory Holiday Events

The Factory is providing Thanksgiving Meals and Christmas Gifts to families needing support. This is an opportunity for local churches to partner with them. Upcoming Sunday bulletins will announce ways we may contribute.

November Lectionary

<p>November 1 All Saints' Day Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31</p>	<p>November 2 Twentyfirst Sunday after Pentecost Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10</p>	<p>November 9 Twenty second Sunday after Pentecost Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38</p>
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<p>November 16 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19</p>	<p>November 23 Christ the King Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43</p>	<p>November 30 First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44</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.”



Prayers of the Church



November Prayer Families

**November 2
Louis & Esta Fisher**

**November 9
Susan Funk**

**November 16
Stephen, Jayme, Mason
James
& Austin Miles Funk**

**November 23
Elaine & Joe Gouba**

**November 30
Ehren & Lauren Graybill**



**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 26** at 7:00 p.m. at Old Leacock. "Now thank we all our God."

**Appreciation to the
Leacock Family**

"How grateful I am to be remembered by my church family during my recovery from surgery. My heart is full."

Betty Clark

* * *

"The last week of September marked three months of recovery from my open heart surgery with the summer of 2025 an adventure I hope never to repeat. Despite setbacks, I am finally doing well and beginning to feel like my old self. I can't thank all of you enough for your prayers, cards, letters, and check-ins. They meant the world to me and I am sure they helped my healing.

I am so blessed to be loved and alive! Christ's peace to all." *Love, Emily Birch*



**Altar
Flowers**

If you would like to order Sanctuary flowers in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion, Sunday **November 23** is available. Please call the church office: 7171-687-6619

Peanut Butter Bonbons

We will be making peanut butter bonbons again this year on **Monday, November 3** and on **Monday, December 1** 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 \$9.00 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!

Mission Committee

The Community meal has been moved from the 4th Thursday to the 2nd Thursday for the months of November and December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. November's meal will be Thursday, Nov.13th and December's meal will be Dec.11th. The time of the meal will remain the same, 5:30-6:30. The menu for the November meal will be: Amish Filling, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Corn, Fruit Salad, and Desserts from Weis Markets.

During the month of December (from Dec.7th through Sunday, Dec.28th) we will be collecting our annual Christmas Joy Offering. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The envelopes for this Mission will be in the pews by Sunday, Dec.7th, or feel free to simply use a plain white envelope and simply mark it Christmas Joy Offering and place it in the offering plate. If we all give a little it can add up to a lot. Thank you for giving!

Your Mission Committee



Deacons

Betty Denlinger will celebrate her 99th birthday on November 22.
The invitation to her party is on the following page!

Please consider sending holiday cards to our At-home members. Contact sheets are available at the back of the sanctuary. Although Betty Sowers is not officially in this category, she is no longer able to live independently at Garden Spot and would also appreciate hearing from friends in the congregation. Her address is unchanged as yet.

IT IS ALREADY TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!! Please see the order sheet below. Additional forms will be in the narthex and reminders in future bulletins.

The Deacons will meet on November 16th immediately following worship.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



You may purchase a Christmas Poinsettia for \$8.00 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 7**

The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the December 21 Sunday Bulletin.

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

in memory of _____

or in honor of _____

A special Invitation

**99th Birthday
Afternoon Tea**

♥♥♥♥♥♥

**Honoring
Betty Denlinger**

♥♥♥♥♥♥

Saturday 11.22.2025

1-4pm Drop In anytime

Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike

Fellowship Room
Enter at Village Center, steps to lower level
elevator in hallway on the left.

"Your presence is your present" - Betty

RSVP to Beth
727-871-1001 Mobile



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**The Session calls for a meeting of the congregation
 Sunday November 9 immediately following worship. The purpose of the
 meeting is to elect officers and approve the pastor's
 Terms of Call for 2026.**

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following Slate of Officers, Class of 2026 to be voted on at the November 9 Congregational Meeting. They will serve with the class of 2025

<p>SESSION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Angela Killian Brit Kilbourne Dianne Yuninger</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark Andrews Lois Eshleman Elaine Gouba Bonnie Rice Alba Ruhl</p>
<p>DEACONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Karen Homsher Mary Alice High Debbie Sindall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol Berkhimer Barbara Andrews Sue Funk Charlene Boas</p>
<p>TRUSTEES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Darwin Eshleman Mike Ruhl Jim Brackbill</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class of 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chuck Ankney David Homsher Carol Shearer</p>
<p>Nominating Committee 2025 Elaine Gouba, Sue Funk Joe Gouba, Carol Berkhimer, Kathy Ankney</p>	

Fifty year Members

Ruth Anne Appel	April 17, 1949	Esta Fisher	April 15, 1962
Betty Denlinger	January 7, 1951	Ed Margerum	April 13, 1966
Harold Yuninger	November 1, 1953	Tom Burkins	October 1967
Betty Sowers	April 3, 1955	Robert Brackbill	October 6, 1968
Mary Ellen Rice	March 25, 1956	Bonnie Rice	October 6, 1968
Janet Cosby	April 14, 1957	Marie Brackbill	April 1971
Donald Clark	August 5, 1957	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
Lois Eshelman	April 15, 1962		



Advent Breakfast December 7, at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast begins in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m.
followed by worship at 9:30.
Please bring a covered dish to share!

Leacock Presbyterian Church
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Phone 717 687-6619

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Articles for the December/January Newsletter
Will be due Monday, November 24

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor