



Leacock Communicator
Leacock Presbyterian Church

687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 53, Number 7

August - September 2013

Notes from the Manse

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.”

Philippians 4:4,5

Do you remember snow days? When I was a kid, I considered them to be among the most wonderful, magical things on earth. It didn't matter if I had all my homework done or was well prepared for a test. There was just something about suddenly being given a pass, a reprieve from responsibility and pressure and expectations. I loved snow days when I was a student, and if truth be told, I loved them when I was a teacher. I worked at a boarding school, so really there was no reason to cancel classes; neither teachers or students had very far to walk from dorm or apartment. But the headmaster understood something about the human spirit, and every so often he would just announce, doggone it, we were going to have a snow day. Those days seemed just to be filled with light, a kind of wild, free happiness. And that light lingered in the weeks to come.

Paul told the people of the church in Philippi to let their gentleness be known, not to a special few. No, they were to show their gentleness to everyone. Well, this is the only newsletter for a couple of months, and I would like to suggest that everyone at Leacock resolve to make those months ones of gentleness. At that school where I taught, there was a new, young math teacher, who after only a month or so was pretty sure she had gotten into something way over her head. She would labor late into the night, mulling over, revising, lesson plans for the next day. Grading papers was an agony as she tried so hard to figure out how to give credit not just for right answers but for effort as well. And she'd practically break out into sweats before entering her classroom to face kids who were not that much younger than she. She had pretty much driven herself to a breakdown. Then one day, an older, or really, more experienced teacher took her aside and told her it was OK, that she'd be fine, that it would all make sense with time. And then he told her to take the next day, a Friday, off so she could have a long weekend. He offered her gentleness. In a way, he gave her a snow day.

That all worked because he was her department head; he had the authority to do so. That's what makes snow days work—it's almost like God says, "It's OK. Relax. Take a break." If we tried to give ourselves a snow day, it wouldn't work. It's like we need to be given permission. Well, it seems that Paul in *Philippians* is saying that all the members of the body of Christ have that authority, and that we should use it, to be gentle, to grant each other snow days. So, if you see somebody who gives so much to the church and is beating themselves up because they left something undone, tell them it's OK, offer to help them, or maybe remind them that the fate of the western world probably isn't dependent on that task. Or if you know of someone who is carrying the weight of a problem with a friend or a family member, take them out one night or whisk them away somewhere for a fun day. And perhaps most important, try to be gentle with yourself. If you don't feel you can give yourself a snow day, remember it's already been granted to you. Jesus said he was gentle and humble of heart. Let us too be gentle, to everyone.

Rev. Robert W. Birch



WOMEN OF LEACOCK 2013-2014 BIBLE STUDY

All women are welcome to attend any of the three times that Bible Studies are scheduled. These are once a month gatherings at the following times and places:

First Mondays, 7am walk (optional), 7:30am study and light breakfast at church fellowship hall NOTE: September begins on Monday the 9th (second Monday)

Second Thursday, 9:30am with light refreshments at homes to be announced

Third Tuesday, 7:30pm at church library

Questions about the study, time and place may be directed to Marie Brackbill, Emily Birch, or Arlene Brackbill

We will be using *Horizons: The Magazine for Presbyterian Women* annual Bible Study publication. The theme for the current year is:

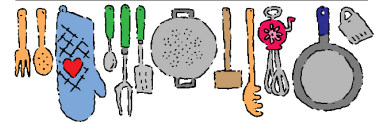
An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy

by Janice Catron

The books of Exodus and Deuteronomy invite us to remember that the central actor in human experience - in our own lives and in the experiences described in Exodus and Deuteronomy - is God. Our God is one who redeems, who brings liberty and fulfillment even when we do not deserve it, when we cannot redeem ourselves. We have the assurance of God's abiding presence as individuals and as a community of faith. This presence helps us see that God's redemption is more than a "saving from" harsh circumstances; it also is a "saving to" the fullness of life God intends for humanity.

Janice Catron invites us to explore Exodus and Deuteronomy with her and see together the promise of what our relationship with God can be and the realities of what that relationship often becomes. It is God our Redeemer who, by grace, gives us the power to help ourselves and others live into the fullness God intends for us, and to move forward as people who have been set free.

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



KITCHEN CLEARANCE "SALE"

There are now three tables of items which the Kitchen Committee has culled from the recesses of our church cupboards. They are located in the northeast corner of Fellowship Hall.

If you discover any items still needed for the work of your committee, please place them on the serving counter (NOT the island), and we will reshelve them.

If there are items you would like to have, please help yourself and leave a donation in the container provided. At the end of August, we will find places to donate what is left (suggestions appreciated).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, August 18
Youth Sunday

Sunday, September 8
Old Leacock Day
9:30 Worship
Picnic

Sunday, October 20
CROP Walk

December 1
Advent Family Night
5:30pm

THE LEACOCK UPC PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to assist the Session as they enable the pastor and staff of the church to meet their full potential as they serve the church and further our mission. It consists of the six session committee chairpersons, the Trustee President, the Deacon Moderator, and the Pastor. It is responsible for the completion of annual performance reviews and all personnel-related issues.

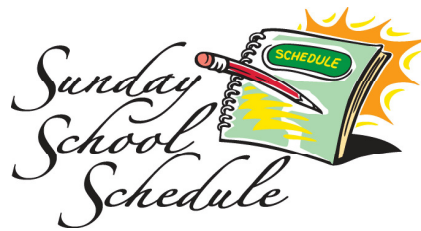
The members of the 2013 Committee are:

- Robert Birch, Pastor
- Steve Boas, Stewardship
- Skip Brackbill, Worship
- Karen Homsher (chair) and Sharon Williams, Community Outreach/Congregational Life
- Nick Lopez, Mission
- Dianne Yuninger, Christian Ed
- Karen Boyer, Trustees
- Charlene Boas, Deacons

Your comments, questions, or suggestions may be addressed to any of the members or placed in the "Thoughts and Ideas" Box for referral.

If you're in a bad situation, don't worry it'll change. If you're in a good situation, don't worry it'll change.

- John A. Simone Sr.



SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS FALL

After our summer hiatus, Sunday School is geared up to begin this fall for all ages.

Once again our children through grade five are studying the *We Believe* curriculum published by the PCUSA. The fall quarter emphasis focuses on "Messengers of God" with lessons about Paul's teachings and then several Old Testament prophets.

Children ages three through kindergarten will meet in the Pre-school Room and those in grades one through five will meet across the hallway in the Elementary Room.

Middle schoolers will meet in the Youth Lounge at the rear of Fellowship Hall with Lois Eshleman and Ehren Graybill as their teachers while high school meets in the lounge on our third floor.

Adults will be discussing faith and current events, led by Rev. Birch and Tom Burkins and meeting in Timlow Library.

Come join us for a time of spiritual refreshment, renewal and growth

THE CO/CL COMMITTEE

Although we did not meet in July, we began the distribution and collection of our "interest surveys." If you did not complete one as yet, there will be another opportunity in August, or you may get one from the church office. We thank all those who've responded so far—even those who forgot to sign their names!

Celebrate the end of summer at our Old Leacock Day picnic – September 8th following a 9:30 worship service. Hopefully you will be back from vacation and will join us, as it is a great time to relax and enjoy the fellowship. Please bring a chair and your favorite dish.

September will also bring new opportunities to help with our monthly meals at The Factory. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

THANK YOU

What would any of us do without our faith and the love and support of our brothers and sisters in Christ when life throws the unexpected at us? Thank you all so much for the prayers, cards, and chancel flowers during Harold's recent surgery and recovery. The calming and healing effect of your prayers was a gift for both of us.

Through Christ,
Dianne & Harold Yuninger

THE MAGIC CURE-ALL

Have you felt “down in the dumps” lately? Too much stress in your life? Or perhaps you don’t feel quite as sharp mentally as you used to.

Do I have the answer for YOU!!!

Research shows singing in a group raises both spirits and mental acuity. What better way to improve your life than by joining our Cancel Choir as we begin the fall season.

Practices are held Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in the Choir Room (located behind the sanctuary) and last only an hour. There are no tryouts, no forced solos and no pressure. We meet to learn accessible music and to praise our Lord. (And often we have lots of fun in the bargain).

We are going to try to sing some old-fashioned four part hymns gathered around the piano at some services this season, so if you feel sitting up in the choir loft is not for you, think again. You can sit with your family and simply come forward when it is time to sing.

Practices begin September 4. If you have questions, stop by the organ after any of our services and talk to me.

Dianne Yuninger

AUGUST MISSION NEWSLETTER

The summer is definitely here, and as we all get wrapped up in our own lives, we must not forget those in need. Our church has been a kind church to those who seek our help.

The Mission Committee is still looking for ways to show support for those families in Moore, Oklahoma who suffered from the tornadoes that ravished that area, and killed twenty-four. One church from the Presbytery USA, made teddy bears for the children. What a unique idea, and a great way to reach out to those children who suffered.

If you have any ideas please, let the Mission Committee know.

The meal for August is: Amish Wedding, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, fruit salad.

Weis Market in Gap donates the breads and desserts for our meals. We will be asking for your help with some of these items. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex. We really appreciate your support for our Community Meal.

The Carla Tennant project is almost completed, and volunteers can contribute their time on weekends or whenever you can, to help work on this project. Please contact

kendra@thefactoryministries.com if you can help in anyway. Help is needed with labor, clean up, painting, carpenter work, plumbing, electrical work, etc. If you would like to help, **please contact Kendra at the above link.** She is the coordinator for the project.

Blessings,
Mission Committee.



PRAYER FAMILIES

- Aug 4 John & Patricia Settle
- Aug 11 Ralph Shenk, Jr.
- Aug 18 Helen A. Sharpe
- Aug 25 Robert & Cristen Sharpe, Mackenzie
- Sept 1 Carroll, Jr. & Carol Shearer
- Sept 8 R. Scott & Cathy Shenk, Brendon, Kelsi & Taryn
- Sept 15 John, Jr. & Kristine Shirk, Katelyn & Allison
- Sept 22 Danielle Short, Kyle & Jayde
- Sept 29 George & Karen Shue

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

- Aug 4 (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21
- Aug 11 (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40
- Aug 18 (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56
- Aug 25 (21st Sunday In Ordinary Time)
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sept 1 (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14
- Sept 8 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

- Sept 15 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

- Sept 22 (25th Sunday In Ordinary Time)
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

- Sept 29 (26th Sunday In Ordinary Time)
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31



THE YOUTH

The Leacock youth group has had quite a busy summer, choosing to meet throughout the summer instead of taking it off as they traditionally have done. We've continued to discuss spiritual issues and to play games.

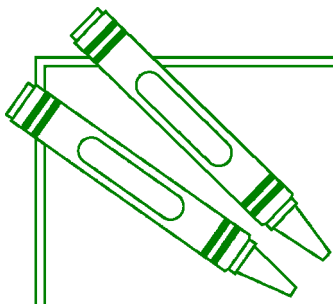
In June, we were lucky enough to spend a weekend together on a retreat in Jim Thorpe. Thank you so much to the Ruhl family for arranging to let us use their family cabin for a fun weekend full of good food, games, hiking, swimming, movie watching, and a campfire. We also had a wonderful, informal Sunday morning service with Rev. Birch, all of us sitting around the living room.

The youth also began planning for Youth Sunday, which will be August 18th. Please join us for that, as it is shaping up to be something quite special.

While at the retreat, the youth also came up with some other fundraising ideas like hosting a tea, and we are thinking about using any money raised to participate in Make the Homeless Smile Worldwide, a wonderful Facebook trend focused on passing out food and clothing to people in the streets. Those of you who are computer savvy and don't know what it is, look it up on YouTube.

We're also planning another lock-in at the church the weekend of Kick Off Sunday.

Take life as it comes - if you want to give God a good laugh, tell Him your plans.
- Yiddish Proverb



Just for KIDS

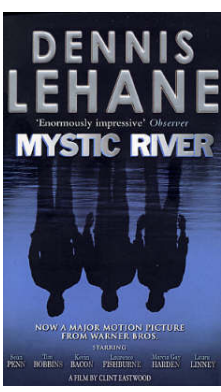
Ephesians 5:19b-20

Fill in the blanks using the code below.

“

 _____”

CODE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



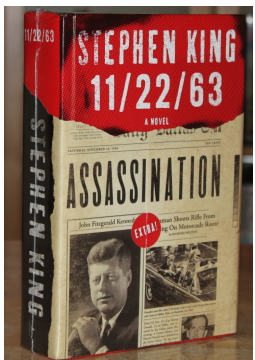
LEACOCK BOOK AND MOVIE GROUP

The book and movie discussion club is taking the summer off.

The group will reconvene in the fall to meet for a potluck and the showing of *Mystic River*.

The next book we'll be reading is Stephen King's *11/22/63*, a very long book, yes, but it goes quickly, and you have PLENTY of time to read it. If you've shied away from Stephen King all your life, no need to fear (pun intended!). This one is very unlike most of the books he's written.

Everyone is welcome.



ANSWER: "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

STEWARDSHIP REPORT – FINANCIAL UPDATE JUNE 2013

	<i>Offering June</i>		<i>Expenses June</i>	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Monthly Total	\$17,372	\$13,792	\$14,329	\$15,023
Year-to-Date	\$96,621	\$97,888	\$98,682	\$99,576

Budget Tracking Through June

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$251,276	\$247,355
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$98,682	\$99,576
% of Budget Spent	39.0%	40.0%

Expenses through June are higher than our income from offering, continuing the trend from the first five months of the year. However, looking at June specifically, our offering was higher than the expenses, and we made up some ground on our YTD deficit. The June offering was roughly \$3,000 higher than expenses, resulting in a YTD deficit of \$2,061 after June. This is a definite improvement, but still doesn't quite reach the level we need to completely cover our operating costs and fund our ministry to others.

Please pray about and consider anything you could possibly do to help improve our current situation in getting closer to meeting our budget. We still have half a year to go in 2013!

The Stewardship Committee

TRUSTEE TALK

Well some of you might have noticed that the housecleaning has started. There is a table set up downstairs with items on that we don't know if they should be kept, if we should donate them or if they belong to someone. So please take a look and let us know if you can answer any of these questions. There will be a paper, pen and tape available for you to note your answer and tape it to the item/items.

You might have also noticed that eleven of the outside windows in the Sunday school wing have been vinyl

coated. The fascia above the stained glass window facing Route 30 and the fascia on the east bell tower have also been vinyl coated. The wood was deteriorating and this should help maintain God's Church in Paradise for many years to come.

If you get a chance, please thank Dick Miller for maintaining our Memorial Garden for us! **Thank You Dick!**

We would also like to thank Carol Shearer and Harold Yuninger for all of the help they give to the trustees! **Thank You Carol and Harold: we**

appreciate it!

We had to have a new air conditioning unit installed in the office as I am writing this. The one that was removed had been installed in 1993 and we had to have Freon added three times this summer and it still did not work longer than a week.

Well there is a lot more work to be done, so gotta go.

Leacock Trustees



JULY SESSION SNIPPETS

Although it was the hottest day of the summer thus far, the Session met July 15 for two and a half hours in Fellowship Hall where the temperatures were at least bearable.

The following actions were taken:

- Rev. Birch was granted Continuing Education time August 6 through 12 to plan the fall adult Sunday School class and to work on worship planning for the next three months
- Pulpit supply approval:
 - ✦ August 4 - Rev. Steve Getty
 - ✦ August 11 - Rev. Richard Sindall
 - ✦ Youth Sunday scheduled for August
- Approval for pursuing placing Old Leacock on the state and national historic registry
- Items in the Thoughts and Ideas Box were read and referred to the appropriate committee

- Discussion centered around the following items with action to be proposed at the September meeting
 - ✦ Stewardship concerns regarding giving to date versus the budget
 - ✦ Establishing a place in the church for secure, labeled storage of committee materials
 - ✦ Establishing a policy on animals being permitted in the church
 - ✦ Moving all church accounts from Wells Fargo to another bank

- ✦ Adopting a policy regarding “open” Session meetings

Your Session is working on your behalf to continue making Leacock a warm, inviting place for all and keeping our focus on God’s will for us through Jesus Christ.

Many times doing that involves seemingly trivial yet quite necessary discussions so that our witness and worship can continue unimpeded. We ask your prayers as we journey together.

Any congregational feedback is

(Continued on page 9)

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!

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thurs, Aug 1	Yoder’s Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed, Aug 7	White Horse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tues, Aug 13	Bareville Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed, Aug 14	Kinzer Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tues, Aug 27	Yoder’s Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed, Aug 28	Gordonville Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thur, Aug 29	Intercourse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed, Sept 24	Lampeter-Strasburg HS	8:00am to 2:00pm
Thur, Sept 26	Yoder’s Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavilion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00am to 7:30pm. For more information call 544-0170.

(Continued from page 8)

also welcome through contacting any elder or the Clerk of Session or placing a note in the Thoughts and Ideas Box in the Narthex



OUR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

As we welcome our children to worship, we also know their attention spans are limited. Thus Primary Church was born many years ago. As this ministry continued, the format changed to one where a story based on the Lectionary texts for the day and a craft became the modus operandi. And the name was changed to God's Place for Boys and Girls. For the past several years, Lois Eshleman has coordinated and supervised this ministry, but now needs to step aside as she teaches our middle school Sunday School youth.

We need someone, or a team of two or three, to coordinate God's Place. The stories are all in the room in books marked for each year of the Lectionary Cycle.

Crafts can easily be found on the Internet.

If you feel a nudge in the direction of this ministry, please contact Dianne Yuninger, CE Chairperson, to talk about the possibilities.

The program serves as an excellent bridge from Nursery, for infants through age four, to full church attendance as children reach grade five.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, for of such is the Kingdom of God."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AT HOME MEMBERS

- Aug 4 Malcolm Stannard
61 Slaymaker Hill Road
Kinzer, PA 17535
- Sept 20 Betty Taylor
Fall Crest 117
433 S. Kinzer Avenue
New Holland, PA 17557



WONDERFUL VBS

A huge thank you to all who helped in any way with our 2013 Vacation Bible School. As our children sang "Walk With Me for the Journey is Long" and shouted out with gusto that "Yes" they were God's Amazing Kids, God's presence and grace abounded. With over half of attendees unchurched, the week marked a ministry to the community. All of our volunteers worked together, despite rain and storms, to make the week the success it was.

However, we could not have carried out the week without those of you who donated money and food and prayed for the endeavor. Thank you to all!

FLOWERS

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays September 1, 8, or 22 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.

CARING FAMILIES: MOVING FORWARD

*Again, Jesus said,
“Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?”
He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”
John 21:16*

As I said earlier this year, but it bears repeating, Jesus clearly told us that if we love him, we must take care of his sheep. All of us at Leacock are Jesus’s sheep, and we most certainly are meant to care for each other. The Community Outreach and Congregational Life Committees feel strongly about this, and we have decided to make August and September caring family months at Leacock. Just a reminder: everyone in the Leacock community has been assigned to a caring family, the purpose of which is to do just that, care for each other. This isn’t a huge responsibility and is one of the major tenets of being a Christian. The Leacock Caring Families give us the perfect opportunity to reach out to everyone and to take advantage of being a member of a smaller family within a larger church family. We will be posting the family assignments in the Narthex, in case you don’t know who your family is, and we encourage you to reach out in any way you feel like doing so. There are no “right” or “wrong” ways to be a member of a caring family. You just want to focus on sharing the joy of Christ’s love by caring for each other. Some of you have asked for suggestions, so here are some ways you might put love into action:

- Be aware when members of your caring family are sick, or in need of some comfort for other reasons, and reach out to them in any way you feel might be appropriate (a phone call, a note, a card, a hospital visit, food, flowers, etc.).
- If it’s a member of your family’s birthday or anniversary, again, you could call or send a card or a note or whatever you feel like doing.
- If there are members of your family who have a hard time getting to church, either for Sunday services or other church events, offer them rides when you’re attending.
- Visit each other when the mood strikes.
- If you happen to see something for one of your family members (for instance, an offering box) sitting on the table in the Narthex, take it to him or her.

We would also encourage you to be imaginative and to have fun. The idea is to embrace all the best of what blood relatives are to each other and what they do for each other. Some ideas you might want to consider:

“Family reunions” that might be a summer picnic at a park or a potluck at the church

“Family day trips” to nearby locations (historic site, museums, zoo, etc.)

“Family movie night” either at the church or in someone’s home

A “progressive dinner” night, where families go from home to home for a different dinner course

**USHERS
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2013**

Donald Andrews, Head Usher
8:00 Service, (687-7878)

Ed Margerum, Head Usher
10:30 Service, (442-4027)

AUGUST

Harold Yuninger
Eugene Bare
Richard Miller

Darwin Eshleman
Shelly Summers
Sharon Williams
Emily Birch

SEPTEMBER

David Homsher
Deb Burkholder
Michael McLaughlin
Michele McLaughlin

David Berkhimer
Carol Berkhimer
Karen Shue
George Shue

PLEASE NOTE -- If you are unable to serve the month or part of the month you are scheduled for, please try to trade with someone else then contact the head usher. They will contact the church office. THANK YOU!

**NURSERY
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2013**

If you are unable to serve as a volunteer, PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE SCHEDULED ON AN-OTHER SUNDAY. Call the office secretary, 687-6619, so she can make the bulletin change. THANK YOU!

August 4	10:30	Ruth Anne & Lauren Appel
August 11	10:30	Skip & Marie Brackbill
August 18	10:30	Carol Shearer & Fran Sattazahn
August 25	10:30	Marie & Rich Glass
September 1	10:30	Mike Hartmann
September 8	No Nursery - Picnic	
September 15	8:00	Cathy Shenk
	10:30	Johanna Gingher & Sharon Williams
September 22	8:00	Karen Boyer
	10:30	Robert Brackbill & David Erikson
September 29	8:00	Deb Sindall
	10:30	Bob & Margy Hershey

Please see separate icon
on the front page
for the August Church
Calendar



Please see separate icon
on the front page
for the September Church
Calendar



**Leacock Presbyterian Church
3181 Lincoln Hwy East
Paradise, PA 17562**

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