



## Leacock Communicator

[www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)  
687-6619

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March 2016

### Notes From the Manse

It has been almost two weeks since Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Like so many traditions of our faith, Lent, for many, has lost its true significance. It's good to remember where it all began, with Jesus in the wilderness tempted by the devil. Jesus was led there by the Holy Spirit and it appears he saw it as a time for contemplation and prayer. When he left the wilderness, he began his ministry, the journey of grace that led him in time to Jerusalem and the cross that there awaited him. So his wilderness days were a time of preparation. Lent is supposed to be a time of preparation for us as well. It's a sad thing, but too often we miss the meaning of Easter; we take for granted what God did for us in Jesus Christ. People seek consolation, reassurance in faith, and that is good. But you cannot get to Easter from Palm Sunday without passing through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. If you try, Easter is cheapened. That's why I am always a little sad when I see how few people attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

In Lent, we need to turn to ourselves, each of us individually, for a little honest soul searching. We need to remind ourselves why we need Easter, why we need grace. Now, *Matthew* says that Jesus fasted in his 40 days in the wilderness. That's where we get the idea of giving something up for Lent. But I think it's worth asking what kind of fast we should do. In *Isaiah 58*, the Lord speaks of the fast that he chooses and the fast he does not want. There and in *Matthew* it appears that the Lord doesn't want dramatic displays of false humility. And I rather doubt that what he's after is merely giving up chocolate or midday snacks, though they can serve as reminders of something bigger.

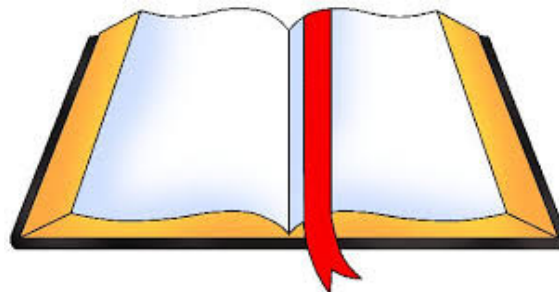
So what is the fast the Lord chooses? Well, from *Isaiah*, it does appear we are to give up some things. We are to give up our selfishness; the way we beat others down; our endless talent for quarreling; the way we're so quick to point the finger, to blame others; the casual urge to speak ill of our sisters and brothers. I usually give up meat for Lent, and that is fine as far as it goes. It's a discipline. But really, I think God kind of wants me to give up some more important things, all the big and little ways I contribute to human division and brokenness. The Lord doesn't stop there in *Isaiah*; he makes it clear the fast he chooses involves taking things on, not only giving things up. Look at what the Lord asks us to take on in *Isaiah*: the courage to work for justice, to free the imprisoned; not only to write a check to a charity, but rather share our bread with the hungry, bring the homeless poor into our houses, to cover the naked. We are to be present, fully present, for all of our kin, who, Jesus taught us, includes everybody.

That's the fast the Lord chooses. It's not easy. To give up all our hurting, broken ways is so much against our human grain. To stop in our busy lives to care for, to offer ourselves fully to our neighbor, the neighbors we find wounded on the side of the road, to let our guard down to let others into our lives, even those who are different from us, whom we don't like—all that costs. Yet, that is what the Lord wants. Let us this Lent look at ourselves. Can we, will we give up what we should? Will we take on what the world needs. The answers may be sobering. They will be our preparation for grace.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## Lectionary for Sundays in March

Mar 8	Fourth Sunday in Lent Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	I Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 Psalm 46 Genesis 22:1-18 Psalm 16 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 Isaiah 55:1-11 Isaiah 12:2-6 Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 Psalm 19 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Psalm 42 and 43 Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 143 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 98 Romans 6:3-11 Psalm 114 Luke 24:1-12
Mar 13	Fifth Sunday in Lent Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Mar 23 Wednesday of Holy Week Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32	
Mar 20	Passion/Palm Sunday Sixth Sunday in Lent <i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49	Mar 24 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 I Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	
Mar 21	Monday of Holy Week Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11	Mar 25 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42	
Mar 22	Tuesday of Holy Week Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14	Mar 26 Easter Vigil A minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen. The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used. Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Mar 27 Resurrection of the Lord Easter Sunday Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 I Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



## Lectionary for Sundays in April

- Apr 3 2nd Sunday of Easter  
Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29 or  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31
  
- Apr 10 3rd Sunday of Easter  
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19
  
- Apr 17 4th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30
  
- Apr 24 5th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35



### PRAYER FAMILIES/ PERSONS

- Mar 6 Fran Sattazahn
- Mar 13 Michael & Gloria  
Schatzmann
- Mar 20 John & Patricia  
Settle
- Mar 27 Helen Sharpe



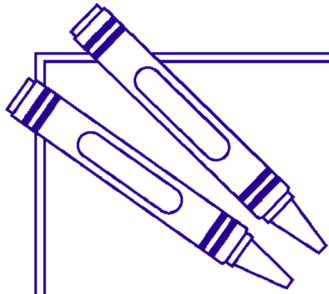
### Worship at Leacock

We are already a few weeks into our celebration of Lent and Easter. Please save the half-page colored insert in your newsletter so you can fully participate in this important part of the church year.

If you have never attended our Lenten Study series, please consider devoting an hour or so a week to this worthwhile gathering. You do not need to attend each one to benefit from the discussion. Come when you can, as you are, and whenever you are able to arrive. Enjoy good soup, good discussion, and good fellowship.

As we move into the following months, we are looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about what you find most meaningful in worship. Your comments and questions can be given to any of our members: written ones are the most helpful. Our members at present are: Karen Homsher and Skip Brackbill, elders; Lois Snader, Sue Funk, David Erikson, Debbie Sindall, and Emily Birch, members-at-large.

**PLEASE NOTE  
ON PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AND  
EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27  
THE 8:00 AND THE 10:30 SERVICES  
WILL COMBINE FOR  
ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM**



# Just for KIDS

## A Special Song of Thanks

Use the music code to find the words for this familiar song of thanks.

**CODE:**

A ≡	E ♪	I ♪	O ♪	U ♪
B ♪	F ♪	L <	P ♪	V ♪
C ♪	G ♪	M ^	R ♪	W #
D ♪	H ♪	N ♪	S ♪	X ♪
			T ♪	Y ♪

Musical notation for the song "The Twelve Apostles". The notation consists of ten lines of music, alternating between treble and bass clefs. The notes are stylized and correspond to the letters in the code provided.

**Challenge:** What do we commonly call this song?

The

Answer on Page 6



### Trustee News

Trustees will be on the look out for repairs needed due to the harsh winter. This is what everyone does in the spring, right?

All the properties will be looked at with sharp eyes. Hopefully there will not be anything major to be repaired due to the weather.

Of course work day will be coming up in the near future so when we mark a date for that you will all know.

We are always on the look-out for minor repairs due to normal wear. That usually avoids most major repairs. If something catches your eye, always tell a Trustee. Church properties belong to all of us.

Dave Berkhimer  
Trustee President

## Church and Community Life Committee News

The Church and Community Life (CCL) Committee is working diligently on planning some activities for our church family and friends this year. We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for these activities and invite you to attend one of our meetings and share your ideas with us. We also enjoy the fellowship we have with each other planning congregational meals and other special events - usually involving food :) - throughout the year. Please consider joining us at one of our meetings which are held at 7pm on the first Monday of each month in the church library.

Another way you can participate in our church family is by helping out with Fellowship Time in

the Narthex. This time after each church service on Sunday mornings is a great opportunity to connect with others in our church family, and many people enjoy snacking and socializing together. Our committee would like to see this special time continue but we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to provide refreshments, set up the beverage station, and clean up. There are sign up sheets in the narthex and we ask you to prayerfully consider helping out in whatever way you can.

For more information on any aspect of the CCL committee, please contact Jenny Keenan at [471-1448](tel:471-1448) or email at [alysarah@hotmail.com](mailto:alysarah@hotmail.com). Thank you!

Remember to  
signup to help with  
Fellowship Time  
after church  
services - setup the  
beverages - bring  
snacks - cleanup.



## Child Care Clearance Update

The Christian Ed Committee would like to thank all those who have responded to the requirement to have all our child care volunteers obtain clearances.

Child care volunteers are those who come in contact with children as Sunday School teachers, nursery care volunteers, as well

as youth group leaders and helpers.

These clearances are now free and the completed clearances need to be on file in our church office.

Please consider obtaining your clearances and helping in these vital areas of our church life.

In the near future calls will be made to help those needing clearances apply for them.

Application forms are available in the church office. Please call Tom Burkins if you have questions (392-7253) or email him at [tom.burkins@gmail.com](mailto:tom.burkins@gmail.com).



**Women of Leacock  
Bible Study - Come to the Waters**

Streams of Mercy - Forgiveness

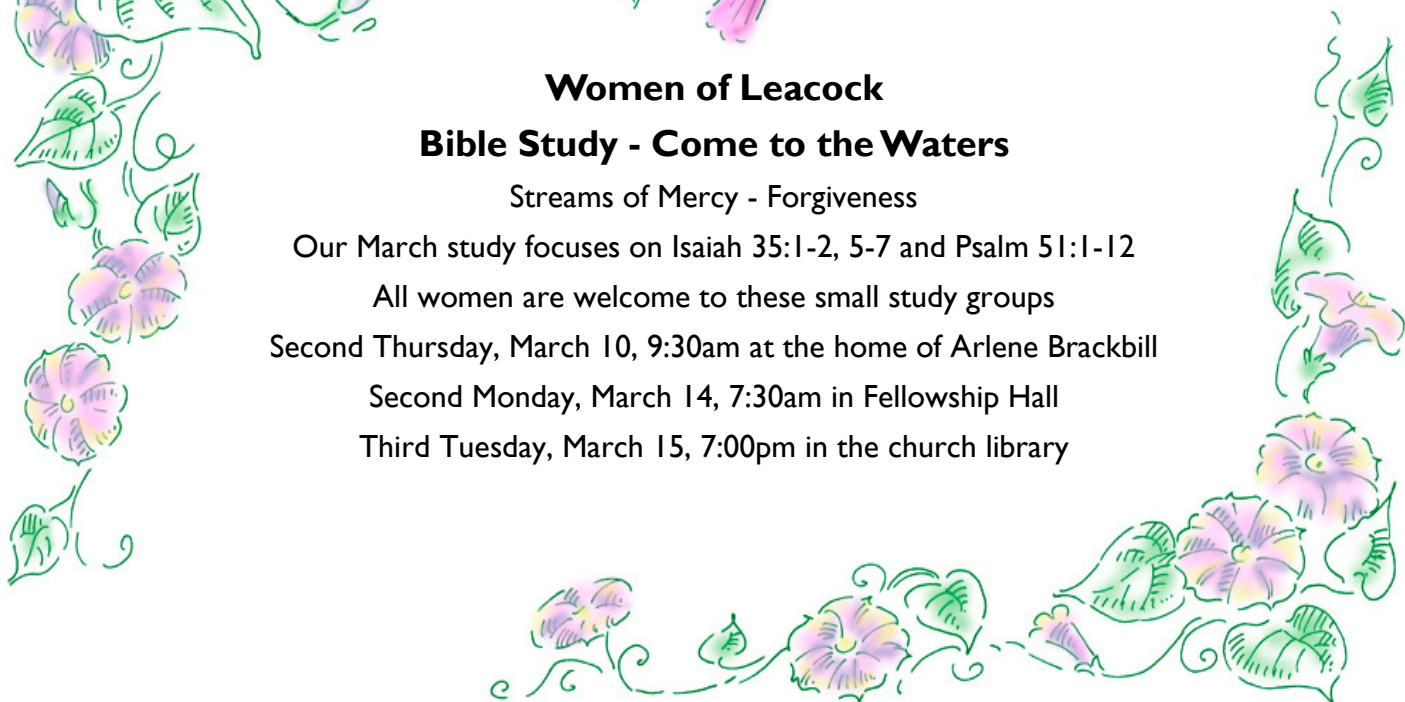
Our March study focuses on Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-7 and Psalm 51:1-12

All women are welcome to these small study groups

Second Thursday, March 10, 9:30am at the home of Arlene Brackbill

Second Monday, March 14, 7:30am in Fellowship Hall

Third Tuesday, March 15, 7:00pm in the church library



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 MARCH 2016**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wed, Mar 2	Kinzer Fire Company	2:00 - 7:00pm
Tues, Mar 8	Bareville Fire Company	2:00 - 7:00pm
Wed, Mar 9	Bird-in-Hand Fire Company	2:00 - 7:00pm
Thurs, Mar 24	Yoder's Country Market	2:00 - 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.

Answer: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. - Doxology



### Make a Necklace

Want to make a necklace but don't know how? This introductory Bead Stringing Class is the perfect class for you. In just two hours you will learn the basics of how to make a beaded necklace from start to finish. Gretchen (Hershey) Shea will teach you how to use tools and explain the differences in bead string options and findings. By the end you will have created your own beaded necklace!

Gretchen will provide all the tools and supplies, but if you have been stashing away some beads and want to use your own bring them to class!

The class will be on Saturday, April 2 at 2:00pm and the cost is only \$15 per person.

Please register by contacting Margy Hershey (442-4078) or Jenny Keenen (768-0557) by March 25.

### Being Mortal and Growing Food

I hope that headline got your attention. The Leacock book and movie group had a very good discussion about *Being Mortal*, a work that looks at end-of-life issues and ways of planning for this important phase of our lives.

We all came away from the discussion feeling this is an important topic for churches to address, so if you didn't get a chance to read the book and would like to explore the subject with us, you are welcome to join us for a viewing of the movie. Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements of the date.

We also chose our next book. If you've been through the doors

of any public library recently, you may have noticed that the One Book, One Community Book for 2016 is a book called *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

It's an appropriate read for all of us here in farm country, because it's all about a young man who saved his family's dying farm by turning to organic gardening.

Again, stay tuned for more news about when we will meet to discuss this book.

Emily Birch  
Book and Movie Group  
Coordinator

### Checkout the Adult Sunday School Class

Come join in the current lively discussion on what it means to have integrity led by David Homsher.

The class meets in the library on Sunday mornings at 9:30am.

All are welcome.

## Leacock Youth Group

The big news for the Leacock youth group this month is that Youth Sunday is coming up right after Easter.

Please mark your calendars and be sure to attend church on Sunday April 3, when the Leacock youth group will lead us in worship. Please join us for what is sure to be a meaningful service.

Emily Birch and  
Charlene Boas  
Youth Group Leaders

## Youth Group Calendar

The youth group schedule for spring 2016 is as follows:

*Youth group 7:00 - 8:30pm*

March 6  
March 20  
April 3  
April 17  
May 1  
May 15  
May 29

*Communicants Class 5:30 - 7:30pm*

March 13  
April 10  
May 8  
May 22

No class March 27 (Easter) and April 24 (Rev. Birch continuing ed. week)

## Session Snippets

Members of all three church boards met Saturday morning February 20 for a two and a half hour retreat led by our Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes.

Elders, deacons and trustees explored what in their personal lives and what in the life of Leacock causes them to give thanks. As the morning progressed, Erin listed things gleaned from the discussion that "make Leacock sparkle" and encouraged all officers to build on them as we

plan to move forward. After lunch the Session met for their monthly stated meeting and took the following actions:

- Tentatively scheduling an all congregation retreat during worship May 22
- Electing Dianne Yuninger as clerk for 2016
- Appointing Mary Alice High as Nominating Committee co-chair
- Approving the Statistical Report submitted to General Assembly
- Examining the newly revised

Manual of Operations

- Approving these appointed positions: Webmaster: Tom Burkins; Newsletter Editor: Vicki Burkins; Softball Coach: Ehren Graybill; Emergency Fund Administrators: Bob Birch, Carol Shearer, Dianne Yuninger; Publicity Liaison: Richard Smith
- Scheduling a Jewelry Making Day April 2





## Stewardship Report - Financial Update January 2016

	<b>Offering January</b>		<b>Expenses January</b>	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Monthly Total	\$15,132.39	\$15,694.00	\$13,279.80	\$16,607.90
Year-to-Date	\$15,132.39	\$15,694.00	\$13,279.80	\$16,607.90

### **Budget Tracking Through January**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$224,806.74	\$225,312.00
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$13,278.80	\$16,607.90
% of Budget Spent	6%	7%

For 2016, we have set a budget of \$224,267. To meet our budget, we need to receive an average of \$4,313 each week. For January, we didn't quite reach this. We received \$15,132 versus the hopeful \$21,565 needed to keep on track with our budget. January was a five Sunday month, but there was that little matter of a blizzard on the weekend of Jan 24<sup>th</sup>! So not completely surprising that we are not closer. When we compare our expenses of \$13,280 to the offering income of \$15,132, we see however, we still received \$1,852 more than we spent for the month.

As you may have seen in the bulletins of late, we are asking for the per capita payments to be made. This year's per capita amount is **\$32.27 per member**. The total amount we will pay to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly in per capita is \$6,841.24. This is paid in quarterly installments of \$1,710.31. We have already made our first payment in January. Through the end of January, we have received \$2,135.32 in per capita payments. PLEASE check your giving envelope boxes for the per capita envelopes, put your payment in it and drop it in the offering plate this Sunday. If you won't be at church, feel free to mail it in as well!



## **Gratitude Corner** **(Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care for their** **Minister and His Wife)**

So, let me ask you a question. How often does someone who isn't a family member bake you a birthday cake? In fact, how often does someone who *is* a family member bake you a birthday cake?

Do you get one every year? I can assure you, I've had years in my life when no one baked me a cake. But not **THIS** year, thanks to the generosity of people at Leacock.

Not only did I get one, but I actually got *two* birthday cakes this year. The first one was pure chocolate-lover's delight, baked for me by **Linda Erikson** in all its fudgy, delicious, moist glory.

The second one was baked for me by **Sara Lichty**, who often provides the youth group with her baked goodies. She made me a confetti cake with chocolate icing, decorated with one of my favorite candies, Skittles. Yummy doesn't begin to describe it.

So, yes, this year, I got to have my cakes and eat them, too. Thank you, Linda and Sara!





### Leacock Lunch Fellowship

Every Sunday, after the 10:30 service, a group of Leacock folks gathers for fellowship and lunch at the Olde Mill Restaurant at the Best Western in Inter-course.

This isn't some special club. You don't need to pay a fee to get in. All you need to do is to come along and join us and be willing to laugh and to get to know people with whom you worship on Sundays whom you might not know.

Everyone is invited (even if you attend 8:00 service, you're welcome to come have lunch with us).

We do need to know how many to expect, so the restaurant staff can pull tables together for us. So after church, if you'd like to come along, please let either Margy Hershey or Mary Alice High know. Hope to see you there!



### EASTER PLANTS

Easter plants may be placed in memory of someone deceased or in honor of someone living. Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by Sunday, March 13. The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the Easter bulletin. Remember to advise the church if you plan to leave your plant(s) to be taken to an at-home member.

I/We \_\_\_\_\_

wish to order

Mini Daffodils \$5.00

Hyacinths \$5.00

in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ or

in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please place a (✓) if your plant(s) is to be taken to an at-home member by our deacons \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT BY SUNDAY, MARCH 13**

**USHERS - MARCH & APRIL**

**Skip Brackbill, Head Usher**  
8:00 Service

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

March

Art Myers  
David Homsher

Mary Alice High  
Darwin Eshleman

April

Nick Lopez  
Ed Johann

Evie Lopez  
Chuck Ankney

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 and contact the head usher. THANK YOU!

**NURSERY - MARCH & APRIL**

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

**NOTE: The 8:00 nursery will be staffed from an on-call list of those from the 8:00 congregation who are available to care for our kids. Please contact an usher if you desire care for your preschool age child/children. Thanks.**

Mar 6	10:30	Kelly & Mike Hartmann
Mar 13	10:30	Sean Carney & Craig Keenan
Mar 20	10:30	Shirley & Lori Smith
Mar 27	10:30	Tom & Vicki Burkins
Apr 3	10:30	Dick & Debbie Sindall
Apr 10	10:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
Apr 17	10:30	Michele & Sara Lichty
Apr 24	10:30	Lauren & Ruth Anne Appel

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - MARCH & APRIL**

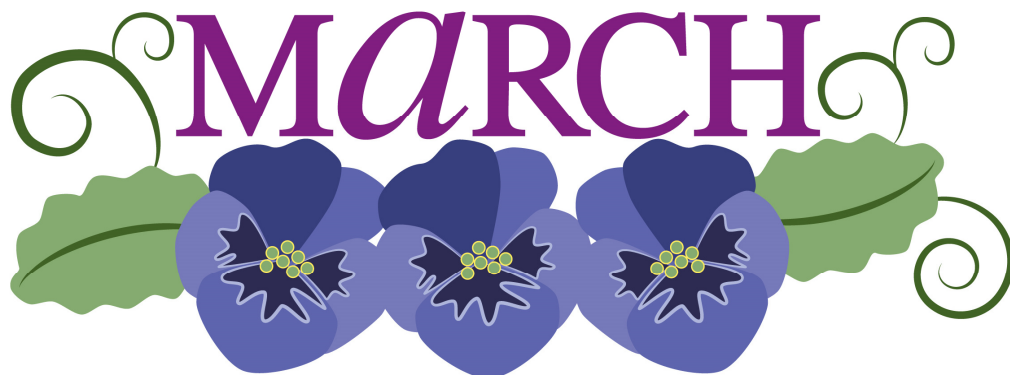
Mar 6	10:30	Loretta McClarigan & Sara Lichty
Mar 13	10:30	Linda & Kelly Erikson
Mar 20	10:30	Emily Birch & Tom Burkins
Mar 27		Easter Sunday - No Sunday School
Apr 3	10:30	Karen Homsher & Mary Alice High
Apr 10	10:30	Emily Birch & Sara Lichty
Apr 17	10:30	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
Apr 24	10:30	Lois & Darwin Eshleman



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

**Leacock Presbyterian Church  
3181 Lincoln Hwy East  
Paradise, PA 17562  
Phone 717 687-6619**

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**Articles for the next  
newsletter will be due  
Sunday, March 20**

*THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR*  
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