



Leacock Communicator

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April 2016

Notes from the Manse

By the time you read this, most likely Holy Week will be over. But I write this just as it begins. Some seek to move from Palm Sunday to Easter, without really stopping, contemplating what came between. And I get that. Our lives can be hard enough, and it's easy to want a little unqualified joy. Still, if we don't consider what Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are all about, we actually miss some of the joy, for we don't understand the ground in which it grew. Besides, Jesus never stopped teaching; that's just who he was; it's one of his gifts. We are supposed to be followers of Christ. In a very real way, we are to try as best we can to imitate our Lord. If we spend some time looking at what Jesus did in his final hours, perhaps we will find what we too are to do.

We should accept kindnesses, gifts, help that is offered us. Oh, we may not always want to do so. Sometimes, we will worry that someone can't afford the gift or we may find it asks something of us, interferes with our well-planned schedule. But it is a kindness to receive a kindness. We should care more about serving others, taking care of their needs, than being served. And that's especially true of those who depend on us, in ways large and small; it's true even when times are tough for us, and we so want others to take care of us. We should take time for a meal with our friends or maybe just time to sit with them and listen and laugh or cry. We should set aside such a time even when we are oh, so busy. We should do this even with those who hurt us, who give us friendships and kisses that prove false.

Now, that last bit is tough. But it gets tougher. For we should remain friends even with those who let us down, who aren't there when we need them most. We should allow those who hurt or disappoint us to change, to come back to us after a time of weakness, of fear, of being lost. And we should forgive. We should strive to understand why people would disappoint or, worse, hurt us, for then we may learn things that they don't even know about themselves, hurts that drive and even twist them. Even when times are the hardest, we should try to find a still point, a place of peace. When confronted with angry, cutting words, we should either be silent or say few words. We should do everything we can not to rise to the bait of others who are caught in a wounding cycle. We should try to be kind to others who suffer, even in the midst of our own pain. And crazy as it may sound, we should sing at such a time.

You may be thinking about now that all this is too much to ask, that we are not our Lord. We aren't. But as *Hebrews* insists, Jesus experienced all we experience; he was fully human, as well as fully divine. He knew well that there is darkness as well as light, and that we would face both. And he asked us to follow him. Yes, it's hard. That's why we should do a few more things. We should pray. We should be honest with God, speaking our doubts and angers and hurts. We should pray for good for others, even those who hurt us. In the end, we should give ourselves to God; we should pray that God's will, not ours be done. All that I have written is what Jesus did in his last hours. I believe he would want us to do the same, as best we can. And really, it all boils down to one thing—we should love each other, all others, as we have been loved.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays in April and May

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	John 13:31-35	May 15	Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17 [25-27]	
Apr 10	3rd Sunday of Easter Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	May 1	6th Sunday of Easter Acts 18:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9	May 22	Trinity Sunday Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
Apr 17	4th Sunday of Easter Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	May 5	Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	May 29	Second Sunday after Pentecost 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 18:20-21 [22-29] 30-39 Psalm 96 Galatians 1:1-12 Luke 7:1-10
Apr 24	5th Sunday of Easter Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6	May 8	7th Sunday of Easter Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26		



PRAYER FAMILIES/PERSONS

- April 3 Robert, Christen & Mackenzie Sharpe
 April 10 Rick & Carol Shearer
 April 17 Scott, Cathy, Brendon, Kelsi & Taryn Shenk
 April 24 John, Kristine & Allison Shirk

Worship Committee News

A big note of appreciation is due all who contributed to our celebration of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter: all those who provided soup and set-up for the Lenten Study; Lois Snader and Karen Shue, our Decorating Task Force; Dianne Yuninger, the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir for special music; Pastor Birch for the Study Series and special services; Steve Boas, the Youth and their leaders for the Easter breakfast.

Be sure to join us on April 17 as we celebrate and thank our church musicians with a special reception in the Narthex.

Lest you doubt that “Lo, the winter is past” our annual Hymn Sing series is ready and waiting to start on Sunday, May 1, at 7:00pm at Old Leacock.

Remember that the Worship Committee always welcomes your input about worship schedules and services. You are welcome to use the Thoughts and Ideas Box in the Narthex, leave a message with the secretary, or email the committee through Karen Homsher at dkhomsher@dejazzd.com.

Hymn Sing
Series
Begins
Sunday, May 1
7:00pm
Old Leacock



FLOWERS

You may purchase the flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday, April 17 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Call the church office at 687-6619.

Trustee News

Trustees asked you this past month to help with more funds to replace the manse furnace.

Well you really came through. With the money collected in February and last September, we have more than enough for the replacement. The little extra money will be used to get the church a used riding mower for the lawn.

Using George Shue's mower last summer showed me this is a real time saver and, of course,

that adds up to a money saver.

If you see anything that needs the Trustee's attention please tell one of us. Thank you.

David Berkhimer
Trustee President



Save The Date

Join us for a time of fellowship in the outdoors on Sunday, May 15. The CCL Committee is organizing an after church hike and picnic lunch. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to May!

Mission Committee-

The month of April is the time for spring cleaning! Clean out those drawers and closets! The dilemma is : what do I do with all these partially used clothes; who could wear these still good things that I can't wear anymore?

Well, the Mission Committee has the answer! Bring all your gently used but still good clothes to church during the month of April. Just place bags or boxes of clothing in the Narthex and the Mission Committee will take care of them. We will deliver them to the Lancaster County Council of Churches clothing bank where they will distribute them as needed.

By doing this you will help yourself (by decluttering your home) and also help those who are less

fortunate and could use a helping hand.

Clothing Bank



The community meal for the month of April will be held on April 28th from 5:30-6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. You can help by either donating food, coming to help serve, helping to clean up, or coming and joining in breaking bread with other community members. Everyone is welcome.

As Rev. Birch reported in March, we have received a wonderful letter from Stanley Siri, Sr. thanking the congregation of Leacock for donating money, love, and prayers for the life saving surgery his son, Stanley Jr. needed. With the surgery completed four months ago, little Stanley is now an active normal little six-year-old enjoying his new life of running and playing. Thank you Leacock for working so hard to save a little boy's life.

Camp Donegal

When you want to learn more about nature and God's creation, where do you go? Outside!

The outdoor ministries program at Camp Donegal gives children, youth and adults the opportunity to live and learn surrounded by beautiful evidence of God's love and care.

For more information about all of Camp Donegal's exciting programs, see the 2016 summer brochure at the back of the church sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please call the Camp Donegal office at 862-3722 or visit Camp Donegal online at www.CampDonegal.org.



Women of Leacock

Bible Study

Come to the Waters
 The Hospitality of Living Water
 Compassion

Our April study focuses on
 John 4:1-30, 39-42; Acts 2:44-47

All women are welcome to
 these small study groups.

Second Monday - April 11

7:30am in Fellowship Hall

Second Thursday - April 14,

9:30am at the home of Arlene

Brackbill

Third Tuesday - April 19

7:00pm in the church library



Women's Bible Study

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 APRIL 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wed, April 6	White Horse Fire Company	2:00 - 7:00pm
Thurs, April 7	Intercourse Fire Company	2:00 - 7:00pm
Tues, April 12	Yoder's Country Market	2:00 - 7:00pm
Tues, April 26	Lampeter-Strasburg High School	8:00 - 2:00pm
Wed, April 27	Kinzer Fire Company	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.



Youth Group in Action

As I write this, the youth group is gearing up to prepare the Easter morning breakfast this Sunday.



There we will enjoy swimming, hiking, cookouts, campfire fun, and maybe even a little meditation (but more on that at the youth service). We're looking forward to getting away and enjoying nature.

Emily Birch and
Charlene Boas
Youth Group Leaders

Please join us for a hearty meal, served by our young people, before we gather together to worship our risen Lord. We have also been working hard to prepare for the youth Sunday services on April 3.

We hope you will join us and hear what we have to say about making choices and embracing the life God wants us to live.



Finally, we would like to thank the Ruhl family who have made it possible for us to go on a weekend retreat this summer. We will be heading up to Jim Thorpe the weekend of August 13-14.

Youth Group Calendar

The youth group schedule for spring 2016 is as follows:

Youth Sunday - Sunday, April 3, 8:00 and 10:30 services

Youth group 7:00 - 8:30pm

April 3

April 17

May 1

May 15

May 29

Communicants Class 5:30 - 7:30pm

April 10

May 8

May 22

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

Youth Retreat - Fri Aug 12 - Sun Aug 14 - Jim Thorpe, PA

YOUTH

CALENDAR

Session Snippets

The Session and Board of Deacons held their annual meeting on St. Patrick's Day enjoying green decorated pastries and punch after their combined business. After discussing the at-home member list, the revised Flock Lists were distributed with newly elected board members being paired with those remaining in service. The goal is for everyone to have a contact within the Leacock church family.

The All Church Retreat scheduled for Sunday May 22 during one worship service was also

discussed. Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes will lead this event as together we praise God and seek the direction God is "dreaming" for Leacock. Members of all three boards who attended the February All Officer Retreat are excited about the possibilities of this morning gathering of the Leacock family.

Session actions included the following:

- ◇ The Child Protection Policy and the Policy Regarding Allegations of Sexual Abuse, both found in the Manual of

Operations, were adopted.

- ◇ The pastor's continuing education at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, April 18-25 was approved.
- ◇ Music Appreciation Sunday was rescheduled for April 17.
- ◇ A church hike and picnic was scheduled for Sunday May 15 following the 9:30am service.
- ◇ The florist will bill individuals for Memorial Flowers and bill the Deacons for all other flowers.

Stewardship Report - Financial Update February 2016

	<i>Offering February</i>		<i>Expenses February</i>	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Monthly Total	\$12,882	\$12,785	\$13,881	\$15,038
Year-to-Date	\$28,015	\$28,479	\$27,160	\$31,646

Budget Tracking Through February

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$224,807	\$225,312
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$27,160	\$31,646
% of Budget Spent	12%	14%

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 February, we didn't quite reach this. We received \$12,883 versus the hopeful \$17,252 needed to keep on track with our budget. Even so, when we compare our year to date expenses of \$27,160 to the YTD offering income of \$28,015, we see that we at least have not spent more than we have received.

February's special offering went to our Buildings and Facilities Fund, administered by our Trustees to use for maintenance and upkeep of the church facilities including the Paradise church building, the manse and Old Leacock. The offerings made to the Buildings and Facilities Fund in February totaled \$6,362!! Thank you to all who support the upkeep of our church and buildings.

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 February, we have received \$2,536.67 in per capita payments. The per capita payments are made from our general fund, and come from the general offering. If we don't receive the \$6,800 that we owe, it then comes from the general fund which may affect our ability to pay other important bills. 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!





Thank You Notes Received

Dear Leacock Congregation,

I would like to thank you for the many prayers and cards of encouragement I received during my surgeries and recovery this past Fall. The flowers from the deacons were lovely. When I was recently at church for my grandfather's funeral, it was so kind of everyone to ask how my recovery was going.

I would also like to thank everyone for prayers and support during my grandfather's illness and at the time of his death. The luncheon provided was greatly appreciated as well as the lovely flowers on the tables.

Grateful for your love
and support,
Kathryn Homsher Marks and
family

Dear Leacock Church family,

The whole Koshuta family would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers and visits during John's hospitalization and death. Thank you to the Deacons who prepared the luncheon following the funeral service. We appreciate the comforting prayer shawls we received, as well as the numerous cards and kind words over the past few months.

Love,
Joy, Carol, Mike, Nelson,
Tanya and Kristan





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

Anyone who has a job in which he or she is in the public eye, whether it be a politician, or a celebrity, or the CEO of a Fortune 500 company, knows that people are watching, paying attention to his or her every move. Ministers, of course, are not typically as well-known as celebrities, but they are certainly in the public eye, and that public eye likes to share its opinions. Ask any minister, and he or she can give you a long list of his or her many faults, according to church members.

But there are also those members who aren't looking for faults, who just seem to provide unconditional love and support, always have a kind word, seem to go out of their way to make the minister (and in this case, his wife) feel appreciated. Bob and I have been blessed that Leacock seems to have so many of these kind, loving members, people who seem to have been placed in our paths to teach us how to love the way Christ loved.

This month, I would like to say thank you to two such members who have recently gone out of their way to make us feel loved and appreciated. Whether it's been a shout-out on Facebook, or an enthusiastic greeting in Paradise Park, voicing your understanding of how busy we are, or a very meaningful gift given to Bob out of the blue, **Maureen and Sean Carney**, we just want to know how much we feel and appreciate your love. Thank you!

Emily Birch

Leacock 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 Intercourse. 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!



USHERS - APRIL & MAY

Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service

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

April

Nick Lopez
Evie Lopez

Ed Johann
Chuck Ankney

May

Bonnie Rice
Ellen Barnes

Lori Smith
Shirley Smith

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 - APRIL & MAY

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.

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
May 1	10:30	Chuck & Kathy Ankney
May 8	10:30	Steve & Charlene Boas
May 15	10:30	Mike & Alba Ruhl
May 22	10:30	Sean & Maureen Carney
May 29	10:30	Craig Keenen & Bob Brackbill

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - APRIL & MAY

Apr 3	10:30	Karen Homsher & Mary Alice High
Apr 10	10:30	Emily Birch & Lea Lichty
Apr 17	10:30	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
Apr 24	10:30	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
May 1	10:30	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
May 8	10:30	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
May 15	10:30	Carol Shearer & Tom Burkins
May 22	10:30	Carol Shearer & Mary Alice High
May 29	10:30	Emily Birch & Vicki Burkins



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

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**Articles for the next
newsletter will be due
Sunday, April 24**

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