



Leacock Communicator
Leacock Presbyterian Church
687-6619 www.leacockpres.org

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September 2016

Notes from the Manse

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:22)

I know this is a tough time of year for kids. In a few days, school will begin again. Gone is the summer break, with either stretches of unscheduled freedom or things not possible during the rest of the year. Still, I would invite not only the kids, but also the rest of us, to look at this time in a different way. The season of growing is coming to an end. The time of harvest is near. So, let us all in these days look at what we will be harvesting. Oh, sure, as in Jesus’ parable, there have been some weeds that have grown up with the wheat. For some of us who have had a tough year, it may seem that there are so many weeds. But let us put aside the weeds. Yes, we need to own them, name them, try to understand where they may have come from and what they might mean. There is a time for this, to be sure. But in this season of harvest, let us reflect on what are the good things we have planted this year and what has begun to bear fruit. Let us look at the wheat.

I have begun to do this, and it has left me grateful for so much. I think back to the two retreats we had this year, in which first the officers and then the congregation as a whole spent time looking at what is good and affirming in our lives together. I have cherished my time with the Communicants Class, as our youth have been willing to consider to wrestle with, what faith is all about, what challenges it presents, what, in the end, faith is becoming for each of them. It was a lot of work for all, but I find I miss our time together. And in a few weeks, the kids will be joining the church, along with a wonderful mix of adults. I have continued my work this year in spiritual direction, studying, praying, discerning by myself and with others. I have begun the practice myself, while continuing to see my own director, and in the study and the living out of spiritual direction, I have found myself becoming, I hope, more still, better able not only to listen, but truly to hear. In a more pastoral sense, there have been times of sitting with people in pain, helping them find the way to healing. Just last week, I lived and worked and worshipped with some campers and counselors at Camp Donegal, finding in only a few days the common wounds and hopes we humans share. Some of what has been planted this year is still growing. And that’s OK. The future of Camp Donegal will soon be decided, but I hope now in a way that honors all voices. There have been new dialogues open throughout the Presbytery. And here at Leacock, we are exploring new ways to do old things, in everything from Christian Ed to Session. As long as the Spirit leads us, they will be new things with grace and life.

All this doesn’t mean I have forgotten those weeds. The words of the Lord quoted above admit that there will be night as well as day, winter as well as summer. It is the way of broken mortal life. But always there will be seedtime; always there will be harvest. Let us, then, celebrate what we have planted and what is growing in grace in our lives. Then, we will be grateful. Then, we will find joy amidst the sorrows.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

LECTIONARIES FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September 4

16th Sunday after Pentecost
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 11

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

September 18

18th Sunday after Pentecost
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25

19th Sunday after Pentecost
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

October 2

20th Sunday after Pentecost
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lamentations 1:1-6
Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 9

21st Sunday after Pentecost
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 16

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 23

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

October 30

24th Sunday after Pentecost
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119: 137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10



Coming Soon At Leacock!

We look forward with joy to our reunited worship schedule to begin at Paradise on September 18th. Fellowship time begins in the Narthex at 9:00 with Worship at 9:30.

Meanwhile, we have three more Sundays to enjoy at Old Leacock - the 8:00 services on August 28 and September 4, and, of course, Old Leacock Day on September 11. We will begin Worship at 9:30 and will have the privilege of receiving new members and celebrating communion by intinction. Our traditional picnic will follow.

We have many opportunities for folks to expand their participation in our worship services. Our faithful volunteers would be cheered by more support as ushers, lay readers and nursery attendants. If you would be willing to serve in any of these positions, or would like more information about serving, please contact Skip Brackbill or Karen Homsher.

Mission Committee News

Although the number of people we are serving with the community meal has decreased from last year, we are still serving an average of 75-80 people from our community, plus our usual 20-25 helpers from our congregation. We are trying to come up with some new meals so any suggestions would be very welcome and very much appreciated. This congregation has been wonderful in offering to help with the setting up for the dinners, the cleaning up afterwards, and the serving of these meals. You have also been very responsive as far as your donations of the items needed for these meals. As I've said before, without your help and support the mission committee would not be able to continue this mission to our community. We truly appreciate all you do. The next community meal will take place on Thursday, September 29th from 5:30-6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall.

Please keep in mind that you all have a BIG date with October 16th. That is our annual CROP Walk! I realize that this is only September, however please mark your calendars NOW. Calendars have a way of filling up, especially once school starts! Our attendance over the years has been sadly decreasing. Fewer and fewer churches in our community are walking with us no matter how much information and how many calls we make to them. So get a group together, gather some pledges, and go out and have a beautiful Sunday afternoon fellowshiping and just being together for a wonderful cause. Remember that 25% of all the money raised stays in the Paradise area. Registration starts at 1:00 in the church narthex. Hope to see you ALL there!



FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays September 4, or September 18 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.



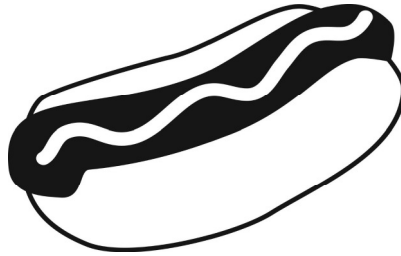
PRAYER FAMILIES

September 4
Joseph & Sharon Lee Williams

September 11
Jane Witmer

September 18
Mildred Young

September 25
David, Bethany, Deanna & William Swanson-Yuninger



OLD LEACOCK DAYS PICNIC

September 11, 2016

After our 9:30 church service, plan to attend the annual picnic on the lawn at Old Leacock. Bring your favorite dish to share, a lawn chair and enjoy visiting with your church family. Hot dogs and rolls, drinks and condiments, napkins, plates and place settings will be provided!

Come and enjoy!



Grandparents Day

September 11, 2016

TRUSTEES NOTES

The Trustees are looking at painting the outside of the Manse this year. We have not got an estimate yet but it should be considerable. September's Special Fund will be to offset the cost of this undertaking. We will let you know in the future what the estimate is in a Sunday Bulletin. Thank you to the Presbyterian Women again for their donation of monies to the Trustees Building and Funds. We recently had to fix the sewer pump system and the money was put toward that. Thanks to everyone for their support of the Trustees.

David Berkhimer
Trustee President



We want to thank everyone for their cards and best wishes on our 50th Anniversary. Leacock has the best Church Family. God bless and love to all!

Nick and Evie

Women of Leacock

Beginning in September there will be two small group opportunities for women of all ages at Leacock.

1. On the 2nd Thursday of the month our traditional Bible Studies continue in the home of Arlene Brackbill at 9:30am. The 2016-17 study is entitled "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" written by Judy Yates Siker, a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

"Halfway through the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, "So, what's the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?" It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you and who have the opportunity to hear what folks in their towns and villages are saying about their teacher. "Well," they answer, "some say you are John the Baptist (back from the dead); others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one." Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, "Yes, but who do you say that I am?" Now that's a good question!."

First meeting for this study will be September 8

2. On the 4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm in the church library a women's group will be meeting that initially will use a model called Word-Share-Prayer, sharing a selection from Scripture, reflecting on what it says to us in our life today, and sharing our reflections with one another as desired. This is a newly forming group welcoming all women of the church.

Any questions may be directed to Marie Brackbill.

First meeting for this group will be September 26



STEWARDSHIP REPORT - FINANCIAL UPDATE JUNE & JULY 2016

	Offering		Expenses	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Monthly Total:			\$16,392	\$12,343
June	\$13,516	\$14,490	\$12,920	\$16,661
July	\$13,297	\$12,111	\$13,061	\$19,265
Year To Date 7/31:	\$95,242	\$105,010	\$97,268	\$115,583

Budget Tracking Through July 31

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Annual Budget:	\$224,806.74	\$225,312
Year to Date Expenses:	\$97,268.37	\$115,583.78
% of Budget Spent:	%43	%51

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul shares with the Corinthians the news of the grace of God abounding in the Macedonian churches. God's grace in them was reflected in their voluntary and abundant giving despite their life circumstances of poverty. "For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging...for the privilege of sharing in...ministry."

What stands out as an amazing testimony of faith and abundant grace at Leacock is that, in "dog days of summer," giving to support the ministries of Leacock continues as a voluntary decision, no pledges required or expected. The giving of treasure beyond means, time beyond means and talent (certainly not beyond means because you are all so filled with talent) sharing without measure. We are richly blessed by our giving.

Leacock Book and Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group will kick off the 2016-2017 season with a discussion of the book *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard on Friday September 9 at 5:30 p.m. This book was the 2016 One Book, One Community choice, so if you read it, you will be joining people not only in Lancaster County, but also in surrounding counties who've gathered to read and discuss this amusing and informative take on one young man's idea for saving his family's farm. We always have fun at our discussions and enjoy hearing different opinions. You neither have to have read nor liked the book in order to join us, so we hope to see you there.

From now on, the group will meet the second Friday of every month (one month to discuss a book and the next to discuss a movie that is based on the book or that has a similar theme). Please join us when you can!

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Leacock Youth Group

The youth group is getting ready to kick off its 2016-2017 year with the first meeting on Sunday, September 18 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. We welcome anyone in grades 7-12, and you don't have to attend Leacock in order to join the youth group. Friends of youth group members as well as any interested youth any member may know are all welcome.

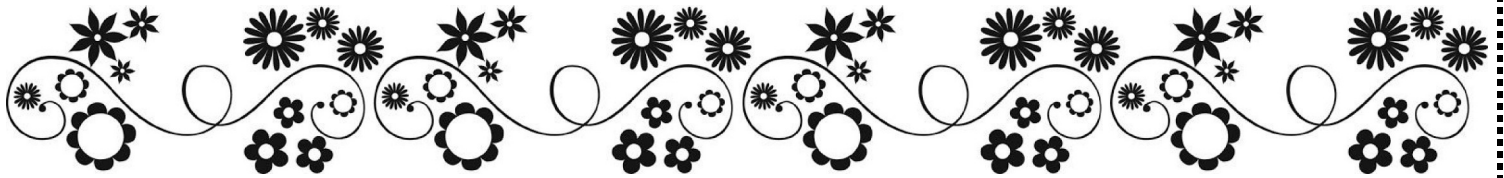
By now, we've all recovered from our fun, if a little sleep-deprived, weekend in Jim Thorpe at Mike and Alba Ruhl's cabin. We enjoyed visiting a coal mining museum — a wonderful antidote to the grueling heat — as well as swimming, the tried and true way to beat the heat. Rev. Birch led us in some meaningful spiritual explorations, and we learned the process for pulling Bible passages together to prepare a sermon. Rumor has it, there is a bear who thought we all had so much fun, he just might like to join the Leacock youth. A HUGE thank you!! to the Ruhls. We could never have done this without you two and your generosity.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, Youth Group Leaders

Youth Group Calendar

The youth group schedule for September - October 2016 is as follows:

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on the following Sundays: September 18, October 2, October 16, October 30



Gratitude Corner

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

This summer, we seem to have had so many people taking care of us, giving us tomatoes and blueberry muffins (Sandy), and basil (Karen), and strada and kombucha (Marie), and lunch and cookies (Ed and Barb), and a beautifully colored and mounted mandala (Ginny), it's almost too difficult to single out one person, but I'm going to single one out anyway. You see, summer is a time when people tend to visit Bob and me from other places, and one of the things I love about having visitors from New York or Connecticut or Virginia or North Carolina is how amazed they all are by the friendliness and generosity of Leacock folks. My sister Lindsay is one of these people. She happened to visit us during strawberry season, and we were over at the church doing something when we ran into Evie Lopez who told us she was going home to make shortbread, because her neighbors had just given her a bunch of strawberries. I said, jokingly,

"Now a neighbor who gives you strawberries is the sort of neighbor to have! I wish I had one of those."

Then, we all left. Next thing I know, we're sitting around in the house, and the doorbell rings. Lo and behold! It's Evie, carrying a quart of strawberries, which she handed to me. As if that wasn't enough, she then asked me if I knew how to make shortbread, and almost before I could answer, she told me she was coming back with some shortbread for me. Talk about blowing my sister away with friendliness and generosity! So, thank you, thank you, Evie! We all enjoyed our strawberry short cake so much.

Emily Birch

:BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2016

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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place and Time</u>
Thursday, September 8	Yoder's Country Market - 2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tuesday, September 20	Bareville Fire Company - 2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, September 21	Lampeter Strasburg High School - 8:00am to 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 28	Lampeter Strasburg High School - 8:00am to 4:00pm

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavilion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours on Monday are 10 am -7:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 4pm, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 am to 6 pm,. For more information call 544-0170

Looking ahead to a New Year in Christian Education

Our 2016-17 Christian Education Program starts the same Sunday as our new worship service schedule, September 18th.

Children's Sunday School

The children's Sunday School will occur during the 9:30 Service of Worship. We are looking forward to a great new year and welcome all children, kindergarten through grade 5. The children begin the service in church with their families. Following the children's sermon, the children will be led to their Sunday School room for singing, a Bible story, games and crafts.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School will start the same Sunday, September 18th. The class will meet immediately following the 9:30 Service of Worship in the church library. The first session is entitled "**What do you seek in Adult Education.**" We encourage you to come to this gathering to share your ideas. Some possibilities might be: ***Spiritual Formation*** which is centered more around practice than theory, ***Tradition Study*** which could be a Bible related topic, ***A Study of Creeds***, or a ***Movie Study*** that could include viewing a thought provoking movie one week followed by a discussion the following week. These are just a few of the possibilities so come and bring your thoughts and ideas.



Remember that October 2nd is World Wide Communion Sunday. It is also the Sunday that we take up the Peacemaking Offering. The appropriate envelopes will be in the pews on that Sunday for your use. Or if you prefer you may just use a plain white envelope and simply mark it "Peacemaking Offering" and put it in the offering plate. This is only for one Sunday so please plan ahead for this extra giving.

USHERS

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

September 4	8:00 AM - Old Leacock	Tracey Dippner & Sue Funk
September 4	10:30 AM - Paradise	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
September 11	9:30 AM - Old Leacock Day	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
September 18	9:30 AM - Paradise	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
September 25	9:30 AM - Paradise	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
October 2	9:30 AM - Paradise	Vicki & Tom Burkins
October 9	9:30 AM - Paradise	Vicki & Tom Burkins
October 16	9:30 AM - Paradise	Vicki & Tom Burkins
October 23	9:30 AM - Paradise	Vicki & Tom Burkins
October 30	9:30 AM - Paradise	Vicki & Tom Burkins

NURSERY

September 4	10:30 AM - Paradise	George & Karen Shue
September 11	9:30 AM Old Leacock Day	
September 18	9:30 AM - Paradise	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
September 25	9:30 AM - Paradise	Steve & Charlene Boas
October 2	9:30 AM - Paradise	Mike & Alba Ruhl
October 9	9:30 AM - Paradise	Bob & Margy Hershey
October 16	9:30 AM - Paradise	Chuck & Kathy Ankney
October 23	9:30 AM - Paradise	Lauren & Ruth Ann Appel
October 30	9:30 AM - Paradise	Emily Birch & Linda Erickson

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER
& HELPER SCHEDULE

September 11	9:30 AM Old Leacock Day
September 18	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson
September 25	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
October 2	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
October 9	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
October 16	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
October 23	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter
October 30	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter

Remember, to make these programs run smoothly, the enthusiastic support of everyone is needed. Thank you all for serving as an Usher, a Nursery Volunteer, or a Sunday School Teacher or Helper!

Last Hymn Sing of the Summer

Sunday September 4th at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to join us at Old Leacock for the last time this season!



Leacock Presbyterian Church
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Articles for the October
Newsletter will be due
Sunday, September 18

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor