



## Leacock Communicator Leacock Presbyterian Church

687-6619

[www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)

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### ***Notes from the Manse***

*“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”—Colossians 2:6,7*

Reading through the epistles can sometimes be a bit confusing. The language and flow of the sentences can be difficult—just ask Skip Brackbill, who always seems to be saddled with a particularly convoluted passage of Paul when he is a lay reader. Some of the teachings in the epistles have been argued over for centuries, with some agreeing that they are true to the gospel and others arguing that they seem contradictory. But there are some themes that run through all the letters. One of them is the call to be grateful. This makes sense. Jesus thanked the one he called his Father. And later in *Colossians* we are urged to clothe ourselves with love, which is true to Christ who taught that all the law and prophets are summed up in the commands to love God and neighbor. To live a life of love involves many things. That later passage in *Colossians* speaks of the need to be kind, compassionate, humble, gentle, patient with each other, and forgiving, to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. All of this flows from love. But there is one more thing mentioned in this passage, the need to be thankful.

It isn't always easy to be thankful. Sad to say, the hurts of life, the times others let us down and even betray us, can tend to crowd out reasons to be grateful. That's why the passage I began with urged us to live and grow in the Lord, for it is through him that we can find the strength to remember the light in the darkness and to offer thanks for it. It is a good thing, a healing thing, to be grateful. More and more studies have shown that when we are grateful the very character of our lives changes. Jesus taught us not to judge. When we do, we see through a lens of judgment and resentment, which often prompts others to see us the same way. But if we look for the good in our sisters and brothers and then are grateful for it, not only will our perception of them change, but so will our relationships. We will all grow in grace, lifting each other up, never tearing down.

So let me now be thankful. Emily and I thank the church for both their individual gifts as well as the gift of the congregation in the Christmas season; they humbled and warmed us. I am so grateful for my time studying Spiritual Direction; not only will it help me to help individuals, but it also opens up new and alive ways of ministry in general. I am thankful for my week as a chaplain at Camp Donegal, for the ways campers and counselors and staff touched my life. I thank our new officers here at Leacock and those stepping down—Steven Boas, Milt Hostetter, Jenny Keenan, Kathy Ankney, Charlene Boas, Christy Fieldsa, June Stannard, Donald Fieldsa, and Bob Hershey. I am grateful too for the new year's promise, for new initiatives such as the Stewardship retreat year, in which the Stewardship committee is going to lead a comprehensive examination of how we do budgets and fundraising, how we can best be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, here at Leacock and in the world at large. All this just scratches the surface of the reasons I do indeed abound in thanksgiving. Bea Andrews recently spoke of her joy over the new spirit at Leacock. Let us be grateful for it. Let us be grateful for each other.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

# LECTIONARIES TEXTS

<p><u>February</u></p> <p><b>February 5</b>  <b>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b>          Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]          Psalm 112:1–9 [10]          1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]          Matthew 5:13–20</p>	<p><b>February 12</b>  <b>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b>          Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20          Psalm 119:1–8          1 Corinthians 3:1–9          Matthew 5:21–37</p>
<p><b>February 19</b>  <b>Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</b>          Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18          Psalm 119:33–40          1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23          Matthew 5:38–48</p>	<p><b>February 26</b>  <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b>          Exodus 24:12–18          Psalm 2 or Psalm 99          2 Peter 1:16–21          Matthew 17:1–9</p>

## Stewardship

\*The 2016 year end giving is good news, bad news. December offerings were exceedingly great, but giving fell short of the amount that the congregation approved for the 2016 general fund budget.

\*Over \$20,200 was given throughout the year to the Trustee Special Fund, giving that is not accounted for in the budget that the congregation approves each year..

\*More than \$7,000 was given to benevolence projects beyond the approved annual budget.

\*Leacock *is* a generous giving community.

\*Benevolence (Giving to Others) receives a percentage of each Sunday offering that is equal to the percentage that benevolence represents in the approved budget. This year benevolence received only 81% of what was budgeted because as a community we only supported 81% of our budget in direct giving to the general fund, as opposed to other giving.

\*The 2017 budget is smaller than 2016, but if giving remains stagnant or personally earmarked for special funds and offerings our benevolent giving to others will be the loser.

\*Stewardship and budget planning at Leacock is following the same model we followed 30 years ago. Life at Leacock, and for all of us individually, has changed. We are not who we were thirty years ago. Nor should we be. Two of the challenges are our fixed incomes, and our desires (similar to those of many other congregations) to effect specific close-to-home missional needs.

\*Good stewardship involves conversation and commitment. The stewardship committee is hoping that 2017 will be a year of conversation; a year in which to rethink the way the budget is created and to equitably maintain ministry and fellowship to our own members and to those beyond our doors who are truly financially less fortunate.

If you are willing to commit time to this very essential and faith based conversation please talk to Marie Brackbill or Ed Johann. Thank you.



### February's Prayer Families

February 5  
Steve, Charlene, Forrest  
& Katherine Boas

February 12  
Arlene Brackbill

February 19  
Skip & Marie Brackbill

February 26  
Jim & Delores Brackbill

### Leacock Youth Group

The Leacock youth group kicked off 2017 with its first meeting since the fall. It was fun to be back together again, and we're hoping to come up with some fun and meaningful activities for the coming year. We'll keep you posted as our ideas take shape.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas,  
Youth Group Leaders

### Session Snippets

Your Session held their annual retreat at the Presbytery Office Saturday, January 21, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We began the day with Dwelling in the Word and a time of community building and spiritual reflection. The Clerk went through the Manual of Operations to review procedures for conducting Leacock's business as both a refresher for elders remaining in service and an introduction for newly elected elders. Business conducted included the following:

- election of Dianne Yuninger as Clerk for 2017.
- election of Mary Alice High as chairperson of the 2017 Nominating Committee.
- receiving the Benevolence Treasurer and Church Treasurer's reports for December.
- approving the purchase of fair trade coffee for all church functions with the adult Sunday School class paying the difference in cost between this coffee and the cost of the current coffee.
- approving March 13 - 20 for Continuing Education for the pastor for his final week at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, in his Spiritual Direction studies.
- approving changing the Easter Sunrise Breakfast from a Youth Group coordinated event to a covered dish breakfast.



### ALTAR FLOWERS

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on February 19 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Please call the church office at 687-6619



### Church Office Hours Reminder & Email Request

The secretary is in the office from 8:30 a.m. - noon, Tuesday thru Friday.

The pastor's normal hours are 3 - 6:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday.

Should you miss us, please let us know you came by. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have recently updated or newly acquired an email address, please keep the office informed. It's easy! Just send an email to:  
leacock.secretary@gmail.com



## TRUSTEES NOTES

2017 is here and we start all over again. February is Special Fund offering for the Trustees. We are a little short on monies for the painting of the Manse so February will go towards that project. This also includes the garage. There is a little wood damage on the Manse too, so it will have to be looked at. Kitchen cabinets are still getting new close latches. The Trustees thank you for your consideration and help with all the maintenance and upkeep of the Church properties.

THANK YOU!

David Berkhimer

## From Muriel Meier

The family of Gary Meier wishes to thank you for your ongoing love and support, your prayers and your kind expressions of sympathy.

*Duff, Karyn, Kristen and I all feel the warmth of the loving arms of our Leacock family through the warmth of our prayer shawls.*

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22,23



## “Who is Jesus?”

Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study group will meet  
at Arlene Brackbill’s home  
Thursday, February 9  
at 9:30 a.m.

Lesson - The Book of Hebrews

Please join us.

## BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2017

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 &amp; Time</u>
Thursday, February 9	Intercourse Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, February 16	Lancaster General Hospital - 11:00am
Wednesday, February 22	Kinzer Fire Company - 2:00pm

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavillion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours on Monday are 10am - 7:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8 am to 4 pm, Wednesday and Friday 800 am to 6 pm. For more information call 544-0170.



## **Worship Committee**

### **Notes**

A blessed and happy New Year to all of you! As you worship in the coming year, please share your thoughts with us regarding the style and content of our worship experience. What does or does not inspire you? What encourages joy? What would you like us to try? Would you like to join us? Karen Homsher and Skip Brackbill are the elders leading this committee.

The Prelude is a wonderful time to prepare us for worship. It is almost always chosen to reflect the theme of the morning, as are the Offertory and Postlude. If it is based on a hymn, consider meditating on the text or just let the beauty of the music lift your soul and quiet your mind.

February 5<sup>th</sup> is the next opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper. We will be served by intinction. There is always an alternate station for those who wish not to share the communal cup, and the elders will be glad to bring the elements to any persons who wish to remain at their seats.

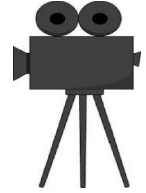
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## **Church and Community Life**

Sunday, February 26, is our annual meeting following our worship service. Please plan to attend. The meeting will be followed by a covered dish luncheon. Please bring a dish of your choice to pass. Drink, silverware, napkins, cups and plates will be provided! Come enjoy the fellowship of your church family.



CCL will be collecting new and gently used sweatpants and sweatshirts for Pequea Valley Intermediate and High School from 02/05- 02/19/17. Sweatpants and sweatshirts can be in adult sizes XS, S, M, L, XL. These items would be given to the students by the school nurse as needed. Sweatpants are easier than blue jeans for being able to accommodate all body types. Please consider helping a student stay warm this winter! There is also a need for donation of cough drops and/or monetary donations to purchase personal hygiene items for the students. Donations can be dropped in the box provided at the welcome center. Monetary donations may be given to Jenny Keenan, Mary Alice High, Michele Lichty or the church secretary.



## Leacock Book and Movie Group

In January, the Leacock book and movie group met to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, and not only did we have a lively discussion about this book that taught us all a little bit of history we didn't know, while introducing us to some characters we could all like, but we also, thanks to Vicki Burkins, enjoyed eating pieces of our very own potato peel pie. We'll be changing things up a bit for our next meeting, given that the movie version of *Guernsey* is in the making, and we can't get it yet, and have decided to read another book about an island that was occupied during World War II. This book is *Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis deBernieres. We'll meet for a pot luck supper and to discuss that book on Friday March 10 at 5:30 p.m., and then, in April, we will watch the movie based on that book, which is called *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. We are always happy to have new members join us, whether you've read the book or not, so please do.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



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

As always, thank you to everyone who sent cards and gave us gifts this Christmas. You sure know how to make us feel loved. We got an extra gift in December, though, that had nothing to do with Christmas. Many of you may know that in early December, Bob came down with a nasty virus and lost his voice. We were a bit worried that he wouldn't get it back in time for Christmas, but then, we got a great surprise. Someone had the foresight to drop off some chicken corn soup, along with a very sweet "Get Well" card telling him he needed to get his voice back to be able to keep sharing his great messages with the congregation. "Sweet" doesn't begin to do justice when it comes to describing this very kind act.

So, thank you, thank you to Bea and Don Andrews for the soup that most definitely helped cure Bob. He did get his voice back in time for Christmas.

Emily Birch

**2016 Nominating Committee  
Presents Slate of Officers Serving in 2017**

<p><b>Trustees Class of 2019</b></p> <p>Charles Ankney (Chuck) Keo Phongxaysanith Michael Ruhl</p>	<p>Currently serving: <b>Class of 2017</b></p> <p>David Berkhimer Craig Keenan Danielle Short</p>	<p><b>Class of 2018</b></p> <p>David Homsher Eric Hughes Michael Ruhl</p>
<p><b>Deacons Class of 2019</b></p> <p>Carol Berkhimer Katherine Boas Gwen Hess Dorothy Hall</p>	<p>Currently serving: <b>Class of 2017</b></p> <p>Maureen Carney Tracy Dippner Johanna Gingher Barbara Hostetter</p>	<p><b>Class of 2018</b></p> <p>Esta Fisher Jennifer McElhany Edwin Margerum Sharon Williams</p>
<p><b>Elders Class of 2018</b></p> <p>Charlene Boas Marie Brackbill Linda Erikson Lois Eshleman Margaret Hershey Alba Ruhl</p>	<p>Currently Serving: <b>Class of 2017</b></p> <p>Christian Brackbill Mary Alice High Edward Johann Tom Burkins Karen Homsher Bonnie Rice</p>	

Committee: Mary Alice High, Kathy Ankney, Carol Berkhimer, Emily Birch, Danielle Short

**USHERS**

Ed Margerum Head Usher

February 5     Lori & Shirley Smith  
February 12    Lori & Shirley Smith  
February 19    Lori & Shirley Smith  
February 26    Alba & Mike Ruhl

**NURSERY**

February 5     Loretta McClarigan & Danielle Short  
February 12    Emily Birch & Linda Erikson  
February 19    Alba & Mike Ruhl  
February 26    Tom & Vicki Burkins

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER & HELPER**

February 5     Jennifer McElhany & Shirley Smith  
February 12    Carol & Dave Berkhimer  
February 19    Carol & Dave Berkhimer  
February 26    Maureen & Sean Carney

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Articles for the March  
Newsletter will be due  
Tuesday, February 21

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor