



# Leacock Communicator

## Leacock Presbyterian Church

687-6619

Volume 57, Number 4

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

May 2017

### *Notes from the Manse*

It is the season of Easter. Let me say that again—it is the season of Easter. Yes, Easter day was over a week ago, and for many it is gone, already receding in memory, no matter how wonderful that day of worship and fellowship and joy may have been. I know life happens and it can be so easy to slip again into the old, tired routines or to be so weighed down by new worries, fears, that we begin to forget Easter and the good word it brings. But that need not happen. Easter is in fact a season. Traditionally, there are thought to be 50 days of Easter. So, let us not leave Easter behind. Let it live in our hearts. Let it change our lives, not just in these 50 days, but forever.

Easter and Passover always occur about the same time each year, and that is no coincidence, for Scripture makes it clear Jesus' passion came one Passover. And so we are invited to reflect on what those holy days mean. For Jesus and his disciples and all the Jewish people before and since, Passover was a reminder that God wills that the people of God be free, so much so that the Lord led the people out of slavery against all odds. But that will for freedom was not a one-off thing. No, God has always willed that. It is why he has sent prophets to speak truths that people don't want to hear about all that imprisons them, all that ties us up in sad knots. And in our faith, it is why God sent God's Son, so that at last we will be free from all our brokenness. Easter after all was about a rising from a tomb. Well, because we are human, because we do screw up, no matter how good our intentions may be, we all, at some time, in some way, end up in some kind of tomb. Yet, just as God raised Jesus, so does God will to raise us. Life, life in full, new life is possible, no matter what has gone before. This is the message of these holy days.

In this Easter season, let us all honestly search ourselves—what enslaves us? In what kind of prison might we be? There are so many possibilities, from addictions to substances or self-denying lifestyles, from the entanglements of depression or the tyranny of fear or old resentments. Once we answer, we need to ask a second question—do we want to be free? It's not always a given that people seek to be free, for what enslaves us is often what we know best. But if the answer is yes, then let us do all we can to step into the freedom that the Lord offers. This may involve some hard decisions, changes, help from friends or professionals. Yet it will all be worth it, for if we dare life, we will find life, a life perhaps beyond anything we have ever imagined.

Yesterday, we had a wonderful Lay Sunday in which many members of the congregation participated. Five spoke about what Easter means to them, what Easter living looks like for them. They spoke of the hard times that come, of dreams deferred or even lost. We were told this is why we need to remember that Maundy Thursday and Good Friday come before Easter, that Jesus has risen, but he still bears scars. Yet, all five spoke of rising, rising to new life, of honoring and learning from the scars, but keeping alive hope. The message was clear: Easter is more than a day. It is a way of being, if we but let it be. So, let us all keep the spirit of Easter alive, not just in this Easter season, but always. Let us dare to be new creations, again and again.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## MAY LECTIONARIES TEXTS

<p><b>May 7</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10</p> <p><b>May 14</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14</p>	<p><b>May 21</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21</p> <p><b>May 25</b> Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53</p>	<p><b>May 28</b> Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11</p>
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### Worship Committee Notes

Part of our May 21 Stewardship Sunday will be an appreciation of all the volunteerism that makes Leacock a functional family. As I worked at the mundane task of updating our Usher and Nursery Help lists and coordinating them with the Sunday School teachers and helpers, I was inspired by both the number of members involved and the number of people on more than one list. All this without even taking into account the many committed to the worship music, the three boards, and various committees! If you are already one who is involved we thank and bless you. If not, and you have the time and energy to help in some area, please speak to any Elder, Deacon, or Trustee, and we will point you in the right direction

The 2017 Hymn Sing season has arrived! May 7 at 7:00 pm begins another year of this popular tradition, which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month through September (see next page).. If you are a regular you need no urging; if you have never attended come and see why members, friends, and neighbors return again and again.

Looking ahead: on June 4 we will celebrate communion in traditional style as part of our Pentecost Sunday observance. On June 11 we will begin our summer schedule of 8:00 worship services at Old Leacock. The Paradise service will remain at 9:30.



## Prayers of the Church

*May Prayer Families*

May 7  
Robert Clark

May 14  
Ruth Doutrich Conway

May 21  
Harold & Janet Cosby

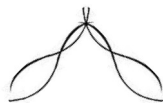
May 28  
Ethel Danner

## HYMN SINGS BEGIN

The 15th Annual Community Hymn Sings Series, "Singspiration" will begin on Sunday evening, May 7, at Old Leacock.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the hymn sings will be led by Tom Perella, with accompaniment provided by Dianne Yuninger. Lemonade will be served in the church's courtyard after the hymn sings.

The Old Leacock Community Hymn Sings "Singspiration" will continue on Sunday evenings, June 4, July 2, August 5, and will conclude on Sunday, September 3. Everyone is welcome!



## TRUSTEES NOTES

TRUSTEE SPECIAL FUND OFFERING for May will be going towards the replacement of the carpeting in the hall of the Sunday School, the hall at the office and by the elevator.

Thanks to the money donated by the ladies, we are most of the way there. If the Trustees collect about \$1000.00 in May we should reach our goal for the flooring. It will be the same material as the Narthex.

I thank you in advance for your support. Workday last month was a real success. We had around a dozen bodies showing up to help. We got done what we needed to do, and the grounds look great. I thank everyone who showed up that day. We haven't heard when the Manse is scheduled for painting yet, but I will keep you informed.

David Berkhimer



## SESSION SNIPPETS

At their stated meetings the past two months the Session met with the deacons (March) and the Trustees (April) to exchange ideas about the work of the boards. At both meetings a delicious time of refreshment and fellowship followed.

Session actions included the following:

- Receiving treasurer's reports.
- Approving the baptism of Valentina Elaine Dyer for Easter Sunday
- Approving Laura Lowery's use of Fellowship Hall April 29
- Granting Rev. Birch two vacation days March 21 and 22 following his Ghost Ranch continuing education experience.
- Granting a letter of transfer to Wayside Presbyterian Church to Richard and Marie Glass.
- Setting stewardship as the theme of worship May 21.

The Stewardship Committee also reported that August 12, 2017, Ellie Johns-Kelley from the Presbyterian Foundation will be at Leacock to present two workshops: Creating a Culture of Generosity and Composing a Legacy: Live Forward, Give Forward. The day will begin at 9:30 and go no later than 2:30.

# STEWARDSHIP

*A Way of Life*



Looking at the the March financial reports we take note that 25%,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the year, has flown by and our offerings to support the 2017 budget equal only 19% of needed funds. The expenses total almost 21%. In the most simple terms, we are operating at our most local missional level in the RED.

The people of Leacock Church have always been strong on missions, helping to support various non-profit faith based organizations. These organizations range from within Lancaster county, to Pennsylvania and as far away as India, China and Papua New Guinea. We excel in our generosity beyond the bounds of the church doors and Paradise.

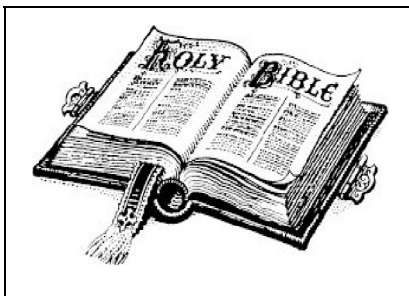
Have you ever considered that Leacock itself is a mission, serving needs in Paradise and needs within the family of the Leacock? We provide services in both our sanctuaries that affect many more people than our own membership. Our first responsibility involves supporting the mission of Leacock right here in Paradise. One way to do that is to be more consistent in our giving. Repetitive monthly or weekly giving, no matter how much you are able to offer, is most helpful. Expenses happen and must be tended to on a weekly basis, not yearly.

If you have the desire to give, but it slips your mind or you cannot consistently come to worship, consider setting up an automatic pay out with your bank. Some of our fellow members are doing that and can help answer questions about how that works. Please ask. We welcome questions and conversations.

Prayerfully commit to being a consistent giver in support of our mission in Paradise.

Thank you,  
Marie Brackbill, for the Stewardship Committee.

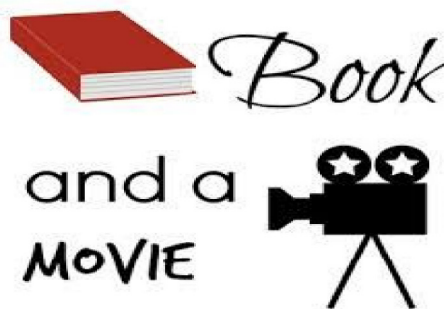
## Bible Study



*Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Group*  
will meet at Arlene Brackbill's home  
Thursday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m.  
*Lesson 9*  
According to Contemporary Cultural Interpretatons  
Matthew 15:21-28 Luke 10:38-42  
Please join us.

## Leacock Book and Movie Group

As I write this, as mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are just a few days away from our potluck supper and viewing of the movie *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. In May, we will meet to discuss the book *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, a classic coming-of-age novel it's time you read, if you never have, or reread if you haven't picked it up since you were a teenager. Unless otherwise noted, we meet the third Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m., so we will be discussing *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* on Friday May 19.



Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

## Leacock Youth Group

The Leacock youth group meets every other Sunday from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. All youth in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to join us for spiritual discussions and games. We are hoping to continue meeting throughout the summer and to plan trips to the shore, as well as hiking and other fun activities.

April/May Schedule is as follows:

April 30

May 14 (this is Mother's Day. Please let us know now if that is a problem, so we can reschedule)

May 28

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, Youth Group Leaders

## BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE MAY 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>
Tuesday, May 9	Conestoga Valley High School - 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 17	Lancaster General Hospital - 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, May 18	Yoders - 2:00 p.m.

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.





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

When one decides to go into church ministry, one thinks an awful lot about caring for others and bringing light into others' lives. One doesn't think much about what one might receive in return, especially when it comes to handmade gifts. Over the years, Bob and I have been touched so many times by the handmade gifts people have chosen to give us, often out of the blue, no special occasion, just a sharing of talents and love. This winter, we received just such a gift, one that showed a great deal of care and work had gone into it. Also, one that introduced to us a special talent we never knew this member of our congregation had — word carving and crafting.

Below, you can see a picture of the beautiful reminder of Christ that **George Hall** gave to us. Thank you, so much, George, for this gift from the heart.

Emily Birch



## Ushers

Ed Margerum Head Usher

May 7 David Homsher and Chuck Ankney  
May 14 David Homsher and Chuck Ankney  
May 21 David Homsher and Bob Brackbill  
May 28 David Homsher and Bob Brackbill

June 4 George and Karen Shue

June 11

8:00 Nick and Evie Lopez  
9:30 George and Karen Shue

June 18

8:00 Nick and Evie Lopez  
9:30 Forrest and Katherine Boas

June 25

8:00 Nick and Evie Lopez  
9:30 Forrest and Katherine Boas

## Nursery

May 7	Dick and Debbie Sindall	June 4	Sue Funk and Mary Alice High
May 14	Linda Erikson and Emily Birch	June 11	Bob and Margy Hershey
May 21	Steve and Charlene Boas	June 18	Karen Homsher and Jennifer McElhany
May 28	Mike and Alba Ruhl	June 25	Darwin and Lois Eshleman

## Sunday School Teacher & Helper

May 7 Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter  
May 14 Vicki & Tom Burkins  
May 21 Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill  
May 28 Emily Birch & Vicki Burkins

The next **community meal** is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th from 5:30-6:30 in the Smith Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

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Lancaster, PA



Articles for the May  
Newsletter will be due  
Monday, May22

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor