



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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Notes from the Manse

“God is not mocked, for you reap what you sow.” Galatians 6:7

As I mentioned this last Sunday, the events that occurred in Charlottesville, VA have deeply troubled me, in so many ways. As a human being, it grieves me to see such a quick descent into anger and violence. As an American, it grieves me to see how coarse and divisive the national dialogue has become, when it is not altogether absent. As a follower of Christ, it grieves me to see how far we are still from the kingdom of grace, the kingdom of God, he announced. Yes, there were weapons brandished and used on both sides. And no, I do not embrace the tactics of the Antifa who believe that violence must be met with violence. How can I, if I claim to walk the way of the Prince of Peace, the one who called us to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies?

But there was no moral equivalency on both sides, not when protestors came brandishing swastikas, carrying Confederate flags, giving the Nazi salute. I realize that the stated reason for the protest was the removal of a statue honoring Robert E. Lee. But what did chanting “Blood and Soil,” a Nazi slogan, or crying out “Sieg Heil” as the marchers passed a synagogue have to do with that statue? Someone recently made an interesting point—if she had gone thinking it was a protest about the Lee statue and heard and saw all that, she would have simply left; that wouldn’t have been what she came for. And if she stayed, well, that would indicate that she was with the neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Seventy three years ago, my father landed at D-Day; how it would puzzle and grieve him to see Americans carrying the emblems of the regime he opposed.



The Bible makes it very clear—what we do, say, or even think matters. Jesus summed all the Law in the commandments to love, love God and neighbor. And he made clear in the Parable of the Good Samaritan who our neighbors are—everyone, without exception. So, yes, Paul is right—we can’t mock, we can’t fool God—we will reap what we sow. This line in *Galatians* comes shortly after the choice the apostle lays out for us. If we live by the flesh, we will bear its fruits. And it’s interesting that over half of his list has to do with human division and its causes: enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, factions, dissension, envy. But there is also the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

So, what will we sow? If we sow the seeds of that miserable first list, we will surely reap many more Charlottesvillees. We will corrode this world; we will corrode ourselves. But imagine what we and the world would be like if instead we sowed the seeds of the Spirit. Ours would be a gentle life, filled with kindness across all human differences, a generosity toward all our sisters and brothers, regardless of their race or creed or political persuasion. Folks would take a deep breath before responding; they would honor their bonds to each other. There would be love, and with it there would be joy and at last peace. We are perhaps a long way from that world. But this I believe—we as Christians are called upon to try our hardest every day to sow those seeds, even when we get discouraged, even when we are opposed or hurt for doing so. God’s kingdom will come, but still we have a work to do.

Rev. Robert Birch

Lectionaries Texts

<p>September 3 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17) Exodus 3:1–15 Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b Romans 12:9–21 Matthew 16:21–28</p> <p>September 10 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18) Exodus 12:1–14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8–14 Matthew 18:15–20</p>	<p>September 17 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19) Exodus 14:19–31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b–11, 20–21 Romans 14:1–12 Matthew 18:21–35</p> <p>September 24 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20) Exodus 16:2–15 Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45 Philippians 1:21–30 Matthew 20:1–16</p>
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<p>FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH</p> <p>You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday, September 3 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.</p> <p>Please call the church office at 687-6619</p>  <p>Altar Flowers</p>	 <p>September Prayer Families</p> <p>September 3 Stephanie, Sean & Seth Gray</p> <p>September 10 Ehren Graybill</p> <p>September 17 George & Dorothy Hall</p> <p>September 24 Betty Hamilton</p>	<p>Leacock Youth Group</p> <p>The Leacock youth group had a great time tubing earlier this summer before everyone got busy with work and vacations.</p> <p>We will kick off the 2017-2018 year on Sunday September 17 at 7:00 p.m. We are still looking at a trip to Longwood Gardens in the next few months, just trying to figure out when.</p> <p>This year, we will meet the first and third Sundays of every month from September 17 - May 20 from 7:00-8:30, so mark your calendars. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us.</p> <p>Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, Youth Group Leaders</p>
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Summer Session Snippets

Although the past three months have seen all of us in summer mode, your Session has continued to work to lead Leacock by holding committee meetings, bringing recommendations to the body as a whole, and engaging in a six hour August Stewardship Retreat with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley from the Presbyterian Foundation.

Actions from the June and August meetings included the following:

- Hiring Marsha Horst as church treasurer.
- Granting Rev. Birch vacation from August 21 - September 5.
- Approving pulpit supplies Rev. Jane Busey, H.R. for August 27 and Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson, Donegal Presbytery Stated Clerk, for September 3.
- Granting Donegal Presbytery building use September 12 for a Leader Team meeting and a Leadership Summit.
- Approving a jewelry making day October 14 with Gretchen Hershey Shea.
- Consolidating all of the current treasurer positions, with the exception of the Softball Team, in the position of church treasurer. still keeping the accounts separate but with the treasurer administering them. This change will begin after the church audit in early 2018.
- Approving the spending of \$3250 from the Ministry Enhancement Fund of the Endowment Fund to repair the Old Leacock pump organ.
- Naming Darwin Eshleman to serve on the Endowment Committee.
- Approving the installation of a wireless microphone system at Old Leacock.
- Approving a Funeral/Memorial Service Plan document for distribution to the congregation later this fall.

Trustees Notes

TRUSTEE SPECIAL FUND OFFERING for September will go towards the silconing of the Manse. No date is set for the painting, but the company was out looking over the building so it should be soon. October is Trustee Workday month. The date is October 21st. This is when we prepare the properties for winter. Come out and meet the Trustees and tell them how you would do this and that. We welcome new ideas. We thank you for your support and help with the Trustee Projects. As always, there will be refreshments on workday. Do you like cider?

David Berkhimer, Trustee President

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 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 & Time</u>
Wednesday; September 13	Bird in Hand Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, September 21	Lampeter Strasburg High School - 8:00am
Thursday, September 28	Lancaster General Hospital - 7:00am

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.

Come Sing With Us

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Plans include some new and exciting music as well as some old favorites.

All singers (or "I'd like to try it maybe" singers) are invited to join us as we look at our music, look at each other (wondering whether Dianne has finally lost her mind), and sing out our messages of faith.

I am hoping our first Sunday in worship will be Old Leacock Day September 10 (if we get a good number at our first practice). With Christmas Eve on a Sunday this year, we have a unique opportunity of singing and singing and singing at the 9:30 a.m. service on the 24th. (Perhaps even several numbers with the bell choir.)

The first new piece we will learn is Joel Raney's "Make This Church a Welcome Place," a marvelous theme for a new church year.

"Lord of mercy, Lord of grace
make this church a welcome place.
To the hungry and the poor,
may there be an open door.
To the weary and distressed,
may this be a place of rest."

If you have any questions, please contact Dianne. We would like to have **YOU** join us!

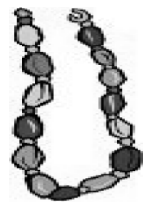


Church and Community Life



Picnic Time at Old Leacock! On Sunday, September 10, we will celebrate Old Leacock Day with a picnic after the 9:30 service. Hot dogs, rolls, drink, silverware, cups, plates, napkins and condiments will be provided. Just bring a covered dish to share and chair to sit on while you eat and visit with your church friends celebrating our heritage of worshipping at Old Leacock.

Jewelry Making Class on Saturday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m. We will have a jewelry making class taught by Gretchen Shea, who is Bob and Margy Hershey's daughter. We will be making necklaces which were very popular at our previous class. Come with your ideas for color, style and length. The cost of the class is \$20.00 which will cover the cost of the supplies. Class size is limited to 20 people so be sure to sign up on the clipboard in the narthex to reserve your place. Reservations must be made 3-4 days in advance.



Misson Committee

The next free community meal will be held on Thursday, September 28th from 5:30-6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to come and help with the meal or come and join us in fellowship. You may be surprised at the amount of joy that comes from working together in this type of situation. It is truly a blessing, not only for the community, but also for our Leacock family community. We learn to work together and thoroughly enjoy each other.

It's almost everyone's favorite time of year... Fall housecleaning! Time to clean out those drawers and closets to make room for other things. Typically women are usually more willing to do this than men. So men, if you haven't worn that shirt or that outdated pair of pants in the last two years, get rid of it! Someone else could really use it. It's called downsizing! This month, September, is our clothing drive for the Lancaster clothing bank, under the auspices of the Lancaster County Council of Churches. Please bring all your good, clean used clothing to church any time in September and place it in the narthex. Please exclude underwear. The mission committee will sort and pack the clothing and deliver it in early October.

NOTE: If you miss the deadline, PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS UNTIL THE NEXT CLOTHING DRIVE. WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE STORAGE ROOM. Thank you.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 15th. This is our annual CROP Walk. Registration will begin at 1:00 PM in the church narthex. The walk will begin at 1:30. Watch the next newsletter for more on this.

Leacock Book and Movie Group

On September 15, the Leacock Book and Movie Group will gather to discuss the book *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Please join us for a pot luck supper at 5:30 and what is bound to be a good conversation, especially given that the novel is about strength, and preservation, and love, and WWII, and the Nazis, and we have recently been seeing swastikas displayed in our own country. In October, we will gather again to watch the movie *The Monuments Men*, which also takes place during WWII and is also about strength and preservation.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

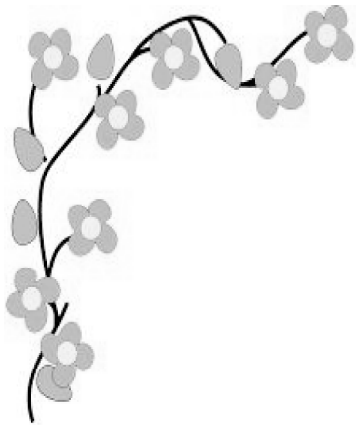


Worship Notes

“God uses us to make the knowledge about Christ spread everywhere like a sweet fragrance.” (2 Cor. 2.14 TEV). While our fragrance as Christians is a good thing, fragrances in the congregation are a problem for many with severe allergies. In love and respect for those neighbors, please refrain from using perfumes, after shaves, and other perfumed products prior to worship whenever possible.

We will celebrate Old Leacock Day on September 10 with one 9:30 service which will include communion by intinction. Our traditional picnic will follow. Please join us for this “church family” reunion.

We are planning to extend our “nursery on demand” into the fall since we have had no requests for care over the summer. Ushers are able to secure Nursery Supervisors as needed. If this poses a problem for your family please contact Karen Homsher.



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

One of my favorite pastimes when I was a child and teenager was riding around on my bicycle. I continued to enjoy it well into my twenties, until I bought a bike that never really seemed to fit me right, and then I got married, and Bob and I moved to a place that wasn't conducive to biking. Lancaster County is perfect for biking, with all its beautiful country roads that have gentle (not extreme) hills, and I've often longed to ride them, but I've never bothered

to get a good bike that I felt comfortable riding. Then, lo and behold! along came a bicycle, one that wasn't being used, with an owner who was happy to give it to me. All I needed to do was give it a good cleaning and promise to ride it. I've done both, and I'm thrilled to be rolling along our roads on two wheels. Double check next time you see someone pedaling away on the road. It just might be me.

Thank you, thank you, **Marie Brackbill**, for bringing this joy back into my life.

Emily Birch

Fall Adult Sunday School Class

Following our chosen format of using a variety of lesson formats, the adult class will be using Walter Brueggemann's popular book, *The Bible Makes Sense*. This is a unique how-to book about the Bible. Brueggemann proposes that Christians should approach the Bible not as a collection of ancient documents, but as our partner in an ongoing dialogue about our life here and now. This book explains how to enter into this dialogue, how to listen, and how to respond. More than simply introducing you to major themes, Brueggemann reveals an engaging biblical understanding of the world that leads to a life of joy, wholeness, and peace. The class will be starting **Sept 17** in the Library.

Stewardship—Retreat Year, Retreat Sunday

Leacock's Stewardship Committee decided in January to make this a "retreat year." The idea was that committee members and any others who were interested would take a fresh look at all stewardship matters, including time, talent, and treasure, to see what is going well that we should continue and new ideas that might help us do things better. We have been in contact with the Presbyterian Foundation, specifically our area representative, Ellie Johns-Kelley. The Foundation oversees endowment investments for our church and many others in the denomination. But it also helps churches large and small address stewardship issues. In order to set aside time so that all of this could be considered thoughtfully, we decided to have a Stewardship Retreat, which we had on August 12. Ellie led the gathering, with a morning session on general issues and an afternoon one on bequests. The retreat was very well attended and those who came left with a variety of ideas to pursue.

We learned a lot that day. For one, Leacock does remarkably well in its Mission giving, nearly doubling the amount that the average church in our denomination gives as a percentage of a total budget. But clearly we can do more, better. We are currently looking at various forms of on-line giving so that people who prefer going paperless can. Further, it will help members stay current with their offerings even while away. New ways of coordinating committees that are involved in the finances of the church are also being considered, with one idea being to have the Stewardship Committee and the Trustees hold joint meetings, at least in part.

There is more we are looking at—look for other newsletter articles and presentations in worship. Overall, Ellie tried to stress that what churches are about is far more than budgets in the usual sense. As followers of Christ, we seek to cultivate a culture of generosity so that we can do two things: affirm that our ministry in Paradise is needed and in many ways unique and therefore to support it; serve others in our community and throughout the world. This, then, is our goal—let our stewardship, in all its forms, be filled with faith and joy.

Updated financial information as of July 30, 2017 will be on the bulletin board in the back hallway.

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

September

9/3	8:00	Karen & David Homsher
	9:30	Shirley & Lori Smith
9/10	9:30	Shirley & Lori Smith
9/17	9:30	George & Karen Shue
9/24	9:30	George & Karen Shue

October

10/1	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
10/8	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
10/15	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
10/22	9:30	Steve & Charlene Boas
10/29	9:30	Steve & Charlene Boas

Nursery

September "On Call"

Sunday School Teacher & Helper

September

9/17	Emily Birch & Linda Erickson
9/24	Lois & Darwin Eshleman

October

10/1	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
10/8	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
10/15	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
10/22	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter
10/29	Vicki & Tom Burkins

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Articles for the October Newsletter
Are due by Monday, September 25

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettl, Editor