



# *Leacock Communicator*

Leacock Presbyterian Church

687-6619

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

December 2017-January 2018

## *Notes from the Manse*

Advent. During this season, the words, “Advent means coming,” are often spoken. And that is indeed what Advent means. It refers, of course, to the four Sundays prior to Christmas. But it refers to so much more than a block of the yearly calendar. For in this time, we celebrate a coming, the coming of God in Jesus Christ, not to condemn the world, but rather to save it. Jesus is the light that came into the world, and the darkness, any darkness, will never extinguish it. With Christ came healing and hope of a new creation and a kind of peace the world had never known. So, yes, this is a season of celebration. But it is also one of anticipation, for Christ has promised to return to finish the work begun long ago.



I suspect that most of us feel that anticipation, that longing for Christ to come again so that God's peaceable kingdom might finally be fully realized. As I have mentioned many times before, most all of the epistles of the New Testament were letters to people in troubled times. The political situation brought much misery, with Rome occupying many lands and fiercely putting down any dissent. Churches were divided. People mourned the loss of loved ones. In the face of confusion and suffering, doubt arose in the midst of faith. Does all this sound a bit familiar? Differences in politics have been replaced by rage, and I find myself longing for the time when dialogue was more present, when people could hold varying points of view—and each other. The Church is so caught up in divisive issues that we too often forget that there is one Body of Christ, that we are sisters and brothers that are supposed to be about encouraging one another, building each other up, not scoring points or winning arguments. Natural disasters seem to come at an ever more frequent rate and places of worship, be they churches or mosques, are no longer safe places as mindless violence makes its visits.

So, yes, I think many of us share the sentiment that closed *Revelation*. Immediately after Jesus is quoted as saying “Surely I am coming soon,” the text says, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” You can almost hear the human longing in those words. We need help. We cannot alone fix this broken world. Amen! So, please, hurry Jesus!

But also remember the words that close *Matthew*—“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We long for another coming. But let us not forget the first. Let us remember that Jesus has said he will never leave us alone. That light that came some 2,000 years ago is still here. When Paul said in *Philippians* that the Lord was near, it can mean either that Christ will come soon or that Christ is present now, right there with us. So, how are we to live this Advent, how are we to prepare for the coming that has been and the coming that will be? Those words of the apostle came in the midst of his urging people to feel and express joy, to be gentle and grateful, to put aside anxiety. How can this be done in what seems such a dark, discouraging world? By remembering that the Lord has come, that the Lord will come again, that he is near us now. The roots of the word Advent mean “coming towards.” Let us live not only this season, but always as if Jesus is coming towards us, bringing hope and help and healing. And you know what? Then we will find the peace that passes all understanding.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

# *Lectionary Texts*

<p><b><u>December</u></b></p> <p><b>December 3</b>          First Sunday of Advent          Isaiah 64:1–9          Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19          1 Corinthians 1:3–9          Mark 13:24–37</p>	<p><b>December 10</b>          Second Sunday of Advent          Isaiah 40:1–11          Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13          2 Peter 3:8–15a          Mark 1:1–8</p>	<p>December 17          Third Sunday of Advent          Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11          Psalm 126          Or Luke 1:46b–55          1 Thessalonians 5:16–24          John 1:6–8, 19–28</p>
<p><b>December 24</b>          Fourth Sunday of Advent          2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16          Luke 1:46b–55          Or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26          Romans 16:25–27          Luke 1:26–38</p>	<p><b>December 24</b>          Nativity of the Lord          Christmas Eve          Isaiah 9:2–7          Psalm 96          Titus 2:11–14          Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]</p>	
<p><b>December 25</b>          Nativity of the Lord          Christmas Dawn          Isaiah 62:6–12          Psalm 97          Titus 3:4–7          Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20</p>	<p><b>December 25</b>          Christmas Day          Isaiah 52:7–10          Psalm 98          Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]          John 1:1–14</p>	<p><b>December 31</b>          First Sunday after Christmas Day          Isaiah 61:10–62:3          Psalm 148          Galatians 4:4–7          Luke 2:22–40</p>
<p><b><u>January</u></b></p> <p><b>January 6, 2018</b>          Epiphany of the Lord          Isaiah 60:1–6          Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14          Ephesians 3:1–12          Matthew 2:1–12</p>	<p><b>January 7</b>          Baptism of the Lord          Genesis 1:1–5          Psalm 29          Acts 19:1–7          Mark 1:4–11</p>	<p><b>January 14</b>          Second Sunday after the Epiphany          1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)          Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18          1 Corinthians 6:12–20          John 1:43–51</p>
<p><b>January 21</b>          Third Sunday after the Epiphany          Jonah 3:1–5, 10          Psalm 62:5–12          1 Corinthians 7:29–31          Mark 1:14–20</p>	<p><b>January 28</b>          Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany          Deuteronomy 18:15–20          Psalm 111          1 Corinthians 8:1          Mark 1:21–28</p>	



**December Prayer Families**

December 3  
Ed & Barbara Johann

December 10  
Craig, Jenny, Alyssa,  
Sarah, Olivia & Emma Keenan

December 17  
Robert, Stephanie, Dykota,  
Kelli & Kayla Kloepper

December 24  
Joy Koshuta

December 31  
Nelson Koshuta

**January Prayer Families**

January 7  
Helen Kreider

January 14  
Gregory, Suzanne, Ian  
& Emily Lang

January 21  
Miriam Latshaw

January 28  
Cassandra Leitch



**CAROLING TIME**

**Sunday  
December 17, 2017**

After church service, we will meet in the fellowship hall. A light lunch will be served and then we will car pool to visit our at home members, spreading Christmas cheer by singing carols and delivering some Christmas cookies. Please plan to join us. Christmas carols sound so much better with more voices.

Thank you from CCL  
Committee, Merry Christmas!

**Flowers for the Church**



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday December 24 and Sunday, December 31 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.

**Trustees Notes**

The Manse looks really good with the new paint job outside. The siliconing will have to be postponed until spring due to the cold weather that set in. We will hold the funds raised for that.

Next year we are going to have to look at the Bell Tower for painting and repairs. If you don't walk by it everyday, things kind of slip past you.

The Trustees thank all of you for your support for keeping your church and grounds looking good. If you see something that needs the Trustees attention, please tell one of us.

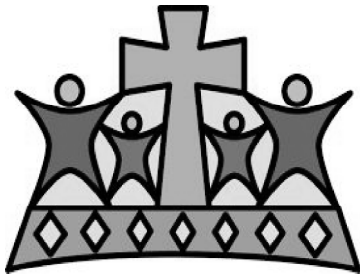
David Berkhimer  
Trustee President

**Leacock Youth Group**

The Leacock youth group is doing a good deed in the month of December and giving a gift to June Stannard. We plan to gather at her house on December 3 (in lieu of our regular meeting) to help her put up and decorate her trees.

Then, we will take a break for the remainder of December and the first week in January and will meet again the third Sunday in January to kick off the new year.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas,  
Youth Group Leaders



## ***Worship Committee Notes***

December is full of varied ways to worship at Leacock--by attending formal worship, helping at the bazaar, fellowshiping at the Advent breakfast, donating to the Caring Tree, caroling for our at-home members, providing and/or enjoying the special music and decorations. Morning worship on December 10, 17, 24, and 31 is at 9:30 a.m.

- December 2 The Christmas Bazaar 8:00 to 2:00
- December 3 The Family Advent Sunday Celebration 9:00 a.m.
- December 10 Caring Tree gifts due
- December 17 Caroling for At-home Members
- December 24 Christmas Sunday with Chancel Choir and Bells
- December 24 Christmas Eve Family Service (Paradise) at 7:00 p.m.  
Service of Lessons and Carols (Old Leacock) at 11:00 p.m.

We hope it will be an inspiring season for all of you.

## **BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE DECEMBER 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!

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Place and Time</u></b>
Wednesday, December 13	Kinzer Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, December 14	Lancaster County Courthouse - 9:30am
Thursday, December 21	Lancaster General Hospital - 2:00pm
Thursday, December 28	Intercourse Fire Company - 2:00pm

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. For January's schedule please call or visit [lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services](http://lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services).



## *Mission Committee*

This month's free community meal, as was last month's, will be held on the second Thursday, December 14th, instead of the usual last Thursday. The times are the same as always, from 5:30 to 6:30, in our Smith Fellowship Hall. Please make a note that our January meal will return to the last Thursday as usual, January 25th. Same time and same place. The sign up sheets will be in the Narthex 2 weeks prior to the dated meal, sheets for food donations and sheets to sign up to help prepare, cook, serve, and clean up. Your help and generosity is always greatly appreciated.

December is the month we take our **Christmas Joy Offering**. This is another chance to celebrate what Christ has given us-both in Himself and in our leaders. Advent season is a time of preparation for and celebration of the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ. Given as our Savior, Christ also served as an example of how to lead faithful, gracious, and generous lives. This example plays out every day through our church workers who give their lives to serve the church, an example that students in our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges strive to live into as they chart the course of their futures. 50% of this offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have given their lives serving the church: grants to help retired church workers with financial and housing needs, aid to church workers with urgent financial and medical needs. The other 50% goes to help create assistance for students and future church leaders: equipping leaders for ministry in the church and supporting important ministries in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Special giving envelopes will be placed in the pews for your convenience starting December 3rd through December 31st. As we prepare to celebrate this Advent and Christmas season, let us also celebrate the gift and the example Christ has given us in our church leaders-past, present, and future.

As we look forward to the month of January, please remember that this is the month that we collect the **Blanket Offering**. Many people around the world do not have the privilege of owning a blanket, something most of us take for granted. A single blanket can be used for many things; a pack in which to carry their belongings, shelter, warmth, and much more. Through Church World Service we are able to help these people obtain their own blanket. The special envelopes will be in the pews on three Sundays in January, January 14th, 21st, and 28th. Please help us to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

## *Stewardship*

Advent is almost upon us, our daylight hours continue to shorten, darkness fills more of the day but what comes to my mind are the joy-filled scripture verses:



\*The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; KJV Ps 24:1

\*For to us a child is born...he will be called Wonderful Counselor...Prince of Peace. NIV Isa 9:6

\*I came that [you] may have life, and [you] may have it abundantly. ASV John 10:10

\*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. NIV John 15:12,13

\*...lo, I am with you always,..... ASV Matt 28:20

This is our **saving grace**, no matter what, **Christ is with us**. As we in the Leacock community continue God's call to us as a body of Christ in Paradise, a place of mission to each other and all neighbors we know God is in charge and **we are blessed in the love that flows** among us. Always.

By the end of October, our spending had exceeded our giving by \$7,000. We may be **struggling with a budget shortfall** (November numbers will be on the graph in the church hallway), but **we are a people of abundance**, sharing greatly in all areas with our time, our talents and our treasures.

NEW as of November 17, the **opportunity to easily give to the general fund** of Leacock by using the **church website**, [www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org) . The **donation link** is on the right hand side of the website.

**Test it out** and give stewardship committee members feedback. **We certainly would appreciate hearing from all of you.**

Online Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.

1. Visit the church website ([www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org))
2. Click on the "Give Now" button
3. Click on the "Create Profile" button, then
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions

**OR use the QR-code:**



Committee members for 2017: Ed Johann, Craig Keenan, Carol Shearer, Darwin Eshleman, Dave Berkhimer, Steven Boas, Marie Brackbill, Chair.

Thank you all for your support, Marie Brackbill

## *Leacock Book and Movie Group*

At our November meeting, the Leacock book and movie group gathered to discuss the book *Wonder* by A. J. Pallacio. We all enjoyed this children's book, which has a lot to teach children of all ages and realized what a powerful message it provides. The movie isn't out on DVD yet, so we decided to "table" that and will instead, watch the original version of *Murder on the Orient Express* at our January meeting. We are doing something a bit different and watching the movie before reading the book by Agatha Christie for the February meeting, so we can then watch the new version of that movie and compare all 3. Please join us for a potluck dinner (bring a covered dish) on January 13 at 5:30 p.m. followed by the original **Murder on the Orient Express**.



## *Gratitude Corner*

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

As many of you know, Bob and I spent 4 days of our vacation at the end of October/beginning of November without electricity. Since it was the end of the summer season in Maine, once the power began to come on in the towns around us, like Southwest Harbor, many of the restaurants were already closed for the winter, so we didn't have a lot of options. This made for some interesting meals for us (we ate at a convenience store one night). We looked forward to coming home to the Land of Hot, Cooked Meals.

One such meal just showed up on our doorstep, the Sunday after we got home, and all we had to do was heat it up (in our house with electricity to do so!). It was chicken parmesan and an apple pie, and it was scrumptious! This treat was given to us by **Don and Bea Andrews**, who have been known to give us other delicious treats in the past. So, thank you, thank you, Don and Bea (my waistline maybe doesn't thank you, but my taste buds most certainly do!) for that welcome home feast.

Emily Birch



**THE CARING TREE**

**Christmas Caring Tree**

Our Christmas Caring Tree will be in the Narthex from **Sunday, November 19- Sunday, December 10**. There will be gift tags for children from the Paradise Youth Factory and Women from Bridge of Hope. The tags will either be for children's wish gifts- clothes or toys - or gift cards from local stores for the Bridge of Hope. The tags will give information needed to buy the gifts.

Directions for recording your tag selection will be explained when you select a tag. It is important for us to keep accurate information so the child receiving the gift is the child who requested it. Please follow the directions or ask a CCL member to help you. Hopefully everyone will get into the Christmas spirit and help make the holiday special for someone. Thank you from CCL!



**Saturday, December 2 - 8:00am to 2:00pm**  
**TREATS & TREASURES BAZAAR**



**Family Advent Sunday Celebration**

On **Sunday, December 3, 2017** Leacock Presbyterian Church will celebrate Advent with an exciting morning celebration. Our morning will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a Covered Dish Breakfast served in the Narthex. The Sunday school rooms will be set up like a small restaurant with tables and chairs to eat and share each other's company. Following breakfast, we will move to the sanctuary for Christmas carols and a modified worship service. This special Advent service will be celebrated at our regular time so all can enjoy. Please come and worship!





***CHRISTMAS POISETTIAS***

**You may purchase a Christmas Poinsettia for \$8.00 to be placed in the sanctuary in memory/honor of someone. Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by Sunday, December 17.**

**The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the Sunday bulletin on December 24, Christmas Eve day. Remember to advise the church if you plan to leave your poinsettia to be taken to an at-home member.**

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ wish to order \_\_\_\_ Christmas Poinsettia(s)  
In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
or in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please place a  in the box if your plant(s) is to be taken to an at-home member by our deacons.

***Order Forms will also be available in the Narthex***

## Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

### December

12/3	9:30	Advent Gathering	1/7	9:30	Bob Brackbill & Tracey Dippner
12/10	9:30	Nick and Evie Lopez	1/14	9:30	Bob Brackbill & Tracey Dippner
12/17	9:30	Nick and Evie Lopez	1/21	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
12/24	9:30	Linda and David Erikson	1/28	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
12/31	9:30	Linda and David Erikson			

### January

### February

2/4	9:30	Sue Funk & David Homsher
2/11	9:30	Sue Funk & David Homsher
2/18	9:30	Steve & Charlene Boas
2/25	9:30	Steve & Charlene Boas

## Sunday School Teacher & Helper

### December

12/3	<i>No Sunday School Family Advent Sunday</i>	1/7	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
12/10	Vicki Burkins & Danielle Short	1/14	Maureen & Sean Carney
12/17	Emily Birch & Danielle Short	1/21	Maureen & Sean Carney
12/24	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson	1/28	Kathy & Chuck Ankney
12/31	<i>No Sunday School Christmas Break</i>		

### January

### February

2/4	Kathy & Chuck Ankney
2/11	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty
2/18	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty
2/25	Jennifer McElhany & Shirley Smith

## Nursery

December & January "On Call"

Leacock Presbyterian Church  
3181 Lincoln Hwy. East  
Paradise, PA 17562  
Phone 717 687-6619

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## ***DECEMBER - JANUARY***

Articles for the February  
Newsletter will be due  
Monday, January 22, 2018

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor