



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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February 2018

Notes from the Manse

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it."—Isaiah 43:18,19

One thing I am reminded of over and over again is that you have to be careful with what you say and how you say it—it's easy to be misunderstood. Recently, someone commented on how I had said New Year's resolutions were a bad thing. That is not what I meant! New Year's resolutions can be wonderful things. In fact, from what I have heard, some folks have adopted some great ones—one person said she is taking time to meditate, to be still, even if for just 15 minutes, several times a day; another person spoke of how he wants to take a walk every day; still another said she was going to say a kind word to a stranger, again every day. Whatever it was that I said that led to the wrong impression that I was against resolutions was intended to urge people to be gentle with themselves. The problem all too often with New Year's resolutions is that folks have trouble keeping them. They start off great, full of resolve and enthusiasm. But then the old routine takes over, they get ever busier or distracted, and the resolutions tend to fall by the wayside, bit by bit. All that people then are left with is a sad sense of failure.

It's good to seek to grow, which is what New Year's resolutions usually are all about. But growing can be hard, even painful—just ask a teenager. Still, here's some good news: it isn't all up to us. Throughout Scripture, there are repeated references to new things, new creations, new heavens and a new earth. And it's the Lord who brings about the newness. Many people, I know, are awfully troubled these days. Some of it is personal, as sickness and uncertainty come to a life. Some of it has to do with all the division and animosity that seems everywhere, in this country, in the world. The creation, quite simply, seems broken, more broken, it can feel, than usual. But God sees what we see. God remembers, remembers that God saw that all was good when it was created—including us. God still loves the creation and all the creatures in it, broken as it and they may be. And so the Lord wills to heal, to save, not condemn, this broken world. God wills to do a new thing. And in Christ, God is doing just that.

As I said before, growing can be hard, and we may fail sometimes even when we want to grow. Change can be frightening and make us want to avoid it. But so many times we are told in Scripture not to be discouraged, not to be afraid. We may know all too well the times we have failed; we may be all too familiar with the parts of us that are broken. But the Lord wants us to forget the former things, not to dwell on them. In *Ezekiel* we are told God will put in us a new spirit and a new heart. And Paul, in *2 Corinthians*, assures us that anyone who is in Christ, who wills to walk the way of the Lord, is a new creation; the old has passed away; all has become new. So, yes, by all means, have New Year's resolutions. But be gentle with yourself. You may not be able to keep them perfectly. But your will to try speaks of a new heart, a new spirit that the Lord is putting in you. God will help us become new creations, far beyond any resolutions we might make.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

LECTIONARY TEXTS

February 4

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21–31
Psalm 147:1–11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16–23
Mark 1:29–39

February 11

Transfiguration of the Lord
2 Kings 2:1–12
Psalm 50:1–6
2 Corinthians 4:3–6
Mark 9:2–9

February 14

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1–2, 12–17
or Isa. 58:1–12
Psalm 51:1–17
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

February 18

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8–17
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:9–15

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16
Psalm 22:23–31
Romans 4:13–25
Mark 8:31–38

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2018

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!

Date

Thursday, February 8
Wednesday, February 21
Thursday, February 22

Place and Time

Lancaster General Hospital - 2:00pm
Kinzer Fire Company - 2:00pm
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.



February Prayer Families

*February 4
Lori Ann Leitch*

*February 11
Matthew, Michele, Ian, Lea
& Sara Lichty*

*February 18
Nick & Evie Lopez*

*February 25
Geraldine Lutz*

Indoor Sexton Needed

Leacock is looking for someone to be our new indoor sexton. The position involves cleaning the interiors of our church buildings. If you are interested or have a question,, please contact David Berkhimer or Reverend Birch.

TRUSTEES NOTES

2018 is upon us already and that means more repair jobs for Leacock Presbyterian Church. We will start off with **February** being **Special Offering** month and the monies will go toward the repair and painting of the Bell Tower. There is some work that needs to be done inside as well as outside the tower. As soon as the weather breaks, the Trustees will focus on that. As always the Trustees thank you for your support, and if you see something that needs our attention let us know.

David Berkhimer
Trustee President

Leacock Youth Group

The Leacock youth group (current and alumni members) had a wonderful time meeting to decorate June Stannard's tree in December. She has some truly beautiful and fun ornaments, and it was a pleasure to help her make her home festive.

In 2018, we will be focusing on the challenge of best times to meet for our very busy teens. Stay tuned...

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, Youth Group Leaders

Caling Your Inner Artist

Jennifer McElhaney has graciously agreed to serve as Leacock's Worship Enhancement Coordinator. She has already begun exploring how the visual arts can enhance our worship experience. Anyone wishing to help Jennifer as she pursues this vision is asked to contact Dianne Yuninger or Jennifer directly. See her article on the page 4.

Lay Readers

The Worship Committee is updating our list of volunteers for Lay Readers and would like to add your name to the roster. If you would like to volunteer or simply know more about serving the church in this capacity, contact Dianne Yuninger or Skip Brackbill.

****At-Home Member Birthday****
Miriam Latshaw, February 28

Cards from the congregation may be sent to Miriam at:
[1520 Harrisburg Pike,](#)
107 Anderson Run
Lancaster, PA 17601



The Worship Enhancement Committee

We all enjoy a beautifully-decorated sanctuary, but have you ever wondered if perhaps some of what you're enjoying has a deeper meaning, some important significance in church life?

As we move into a new year, we'll be sharing some explanations about visual arts in the life of the church, beginning with the Lenten season.

The sanctuary windows will feature wooden crosses, representative of the cross on which Christ died. There will be purple fabric draped across them, and rocks laid at their feet.

Jesus faced temptation during his 40 days in the desert, where the landscape was parched and covered with stones. The stones are a symbol of austerity and rigor, desolation and misery, severity and sadness. The devil used stones to tempt Jesus, saying, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread" (Matthew 4:3), but Jesus made them a symbol for overcoming temptation when he replied, "One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Purple is the liturgical ("public worship") color for the season of Lent. Purple is a somber color which symbolizes mourning, suffering, humility, regret, and the willingness to do penance, particularly fasting. Purple's association with suffering is based upon Jesus' Passion when the soldiers wrapped him in a purple cloak and tortured him.

"And they clothed him in a purple cloak and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail King of the Jews!" They also struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him." (Mark 15:17-20)

Each week will see new items added to the window scenes. You'll find a brief explanation of the displays in the church bulletin, with accompanying scripture. We invite you to reflect on what each of these symbols means to you as we journey as a church through this Lenten season.

(Source: Rediscover: Meaning Behind the Symbols. Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis)

Stewardship



2018 Presbyterian Per Capita Apportionment

Each year, our congregation along with other PC USA congregations join and contribute to their local Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly by way of a Per Capita apportionment. The session of our Church is committed to paying the Per Capita apportionment for each member of our congregation.

Because of this, we ask that every member of our congregation contribute the Per Capita amount to our Church, above and beyond other offerings given to the Church.

In every envelope box, a specific envelope is marked for Per Capita. We ask that every member of our congregation use this envelope to give the Per Capita amount to the Church. We keep track of all gifts received that are identified for Per Capita. Those funds are reserved specifically for payment of Per Capita to our local, regional and national organizations.

Historically, we do not receive the Per Capita amount from every member. In this case, since our Session is committed to the Per Capita apportionment, the remaining Per Capita is paid from our general offering. This can sometimes place a strain on our ability to cover other expenses and reduces our ability to provide more for mission purposes. Our plan is to pay one quarter of the total amount each quarter of the year.

If you have not done so already, please consider giving Leacock the Per Capita amount for each member in your household. The amount for 2018 is \$34.78 per member.

Be on the lookout for additional information regarding Per Capita apportionment and why it is important to Presbyterians.

Thank you!

Lent at Leacock

Ash Wednesday

February 14

6:00 p.m.

Come join us for a service of meditation
and administration of ashes.



Paths to God: A Lenten Study

Since we all come to church, we surely have at least one thing in common—we seek the Lord; we want to worship God. But just as we are different, so are there different paths to God. For example, some find God most outdoors; others find God working with others; still others find God in music that gets them moving.

This year our Lenten Study will explore different ways of worship. Come, find which speak most to you. We will meet on Sunday evenings, beginning **February 18**. We will gather for a meal at 5:30 p.m. and the study will follow.

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

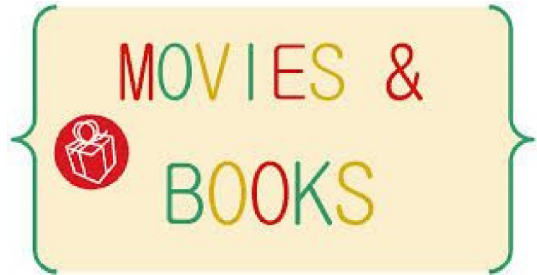
Our Annual meeting will be held on **February 25** after the 9:30 a.m. Service of Worship. It will be followed by a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship hall. Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy a Sunday meal with your Leacock family. Coffee, tea and lemonade as well as place settings will be provided. Anything you would like to bring will be just fine. We always have a wonderful selection of food -- salads, casseroles, appetizers, and desserts!



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

We're still fresh off the Christmas season, and, as always, Bob and I are so very grateful to all those of you who remember us at Christmas time. This year, we were a bit overwhelmed with illnesses and visitors and hope you will forgive us for not getting out individual "thank-yous" to all those who gave us gifts and sent us cards. Do know, though, that we are touched by each and every one of them, as well as for the annual monetary gift towards which many of you donate. We are so blessed to be surrounded by so many kind, loving, and generous souls. May God bless all of you this new year.

Emily Birch



Leacock Book and Movie Group

In January, the Leacock Book and Movie group all gathered for yet another delicious pot luck supper (lots of pie this time! If you weren't there, you missed out) and to watch the "old" (1974) version of *Murder on the Orient Express*. What a fun movie with a star-studded cast and a truly surprising ending for all those

who had not read the book. On **February 23**, we will meet again to discuss the book by Agatha Christie and to compare it with the movie version. Then, in March (fingers crossed that it is out on DVD), we will meet to watch the new version of the movie, which was released at the end of 2017 and to compare it as well. Please join us for any book or movie discussion, and remember, reading the book is never a prerequisite. The group meets the 4th Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish if you choose to come.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

February

March

2/4	9:30	Sue Funk & David Homsher	3/4	9:30	Mary Alice High & Shirley Smith
2/11	9:30	Sue Funk & David Homsher	3/11	9:30	Mary Alice High & Shirley Smith
2/18	9:30	Steven & Charlene Boas	3/18	9:30	Craig Keenan & Mark Andrews
2/25	9:30	Steven & Charlene Boas	3/25	9:30	Palm Sunday

Nursery

February "On Call"

Sunday School Teacher & Helper

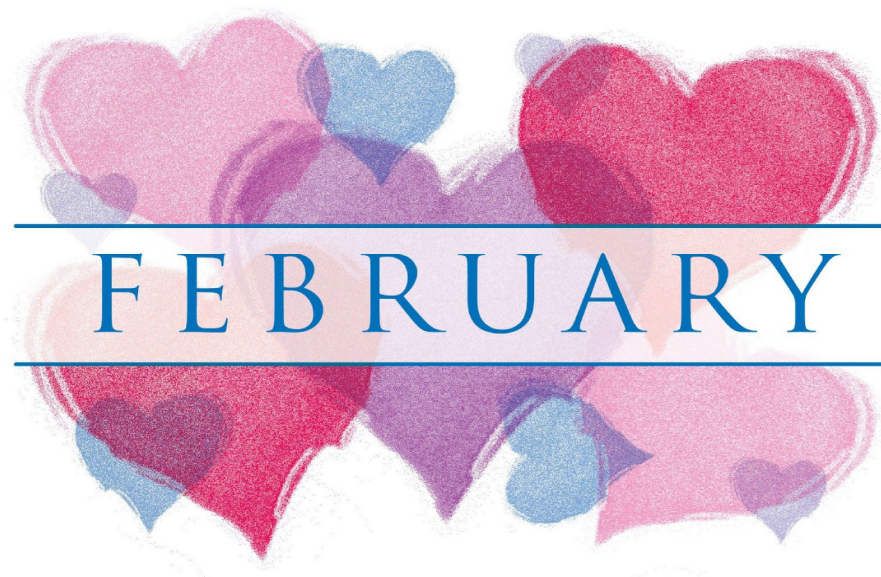
February

March

2/4	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty	3/4	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
2/11	Jennifer McElhaney & Shirley Smith	3/11	Vicki & Tom Burkins
2/18	Jennifer McElhaney & Shirley Smith	3/18	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson
2/25	Carol & Dave Berkhimer	3/25	Palm Sunday No Sunday School

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Articles for the March Newsletter
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THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor