



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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March 2018

Notes from the Manse

"A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."—Isaiah 40:3


This verse is usually associated with John the Baptist during Advent. According to the Gospels, John did prepare for Jesus by foretelling his coming and preaching a baptism of repentance. But this verse, like so many in Scripture, can have a deeper, broader significance. And read one way, it can speak not only to Advent, but also to Lent. The season of Lent, like that of Advent, is a season of preparation. It's a shame that many have long since lost the importance of Lent, sort of acknowledging Ash Wednesday and then not really paying attention again until Palm Sunday, after which they skip right to Easter. To do so misses the heart of our faith, the incredible gift of grace that came at such a cost, a cost revealed on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. In the early church, people reflected on Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, his time being tested, learning about himself, making choices that would make all the difference. And those people long ago thought it would be a good thing if we too spent 40 days in a wilderness, searching ourselves and why we so need grace, reflecting on all Jesus did for us in that last, lonely week of his life. Every year, on Holy Week Jesus comes again to us, comes to our hearts, offering the free gift. Surely, it would indeed be good to prepare our hearts.

Traditionally, people have fasted during Lent. Most think that means giving something up, and that can be good, especially if it is something that might linger with us long after Easter. Fasting, however, can lead us to take something on. Perhaps this Lent, you can resolve to do something that will prepare your heart for the Lord. You might read a little Scripture every day, maybe the chapters tracing Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Read only a verse or two and then sit with them; ask what they are speaking to you. Or you could look through our hymnal in the section about Christ's passion and death, hymns 196-228. Each day, pick a hymn; read the lyrics; sing the song if you can or search for it on-line or at the library. Or you could go outside; sit or take a walk. It is a hinge point between seasons. Look, listen, smell, touch, hear what God's creation is saying about life coming from death; reflect on how God is offering you new life. Another possibility would be to read a book reflecting on Christ's passion. Or you might pray, with or without words, concentrating on who Jesus is for you, now, at this point in your life. Light a candle, perhaps some incense; let him be present with you. Still another thing you might choose to do would be to help someone you know needs help, working with them on a repair or a project. Or you could get involved in work bringing justice to some of the oppressed or lost of whom Jesus so often spoke.

These are just a few suggestions; you could come up with something else that might be more meaningful for you. What's important is that whatever you choose to do you do on a regular basis. Put aside a little time each day the remainder of Lent. You might make an exception of Sunday, for traditionally each Sunday is considered a little Easter. But if you stick with it, what you do will orient you, prepare you, for Holy Week. When it comes, your heart will be open. And it will be filled, in new and deeper ways.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary Texts

<p>March 4 Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 20:1–17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 John 2:13–22</p>	<p>March 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent Numbers 21:4–9 Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22 Ephesians 2:1–10 John 3:14–21</p>	<p>March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm 119:9–16 Hebrews 5:5–10 John 12:20–33</p>
		
<p>March 25 Passion/Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16 Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29</p>	<p>March 26 Monday of Holy Week Isaiah 42:1–9 Psalm 36:5–11 Hebrews 9:11–15 John 12:1–11</p>	<p>March 27 Tuesday of Holy Week Isaiah 49:1–7 Psalm 71:1–14 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 John 12:20–36</p>
<p>Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16 Philippians 2:5–11 Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39 (40–47)</p>	<p>March 28 Wednesday of Holy Week Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 70:1–5 Hebrews 12:1–3 John 13:21–32</p>	<p>March 29 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14 Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 John 13:1–17, 31b–35</p>
<p>March 30 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13–53:12 Psalm 22:1–31 Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9 John 18:1–19:42</p>	<p>March 31 Easter Vigil Genesis 1:1–2:4a Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26 Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13 Psalm 46:1–11 Genesis 22:1–18 Psalm 16:1–11 Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21 Exodus 15:1b–13, 17–18 Isaiah 55:1–11</p>	<p>Isaiah 12:2–6 Proverbs 8:1–8, 19–21; 9:4b–6 Psalm 19:1–14 Ezekiel 36:24–28 Psalm 42:1–11 and Psalm 43:1–5 Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 143:1–12 Zephaniah 3:14–20 Psalm 98:1–9 Romans 6:3–11 Psalm 114:1–8 Mark 16:1–8</p>



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday March 11 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619



March Prayer Families

March 4
Ed Margerum

March 11
Barry & Lee Nettke Martin

March 18
Kevin & Loretta McClarigan

March 25
Barton & Jennifer McElhany

TRUSTEES NOTES

SPRING WORKDAY is scheduled for March 24 and we will start around 8:30 AM.

This is the time we spruce up the grounds and do some extra cleaning of the properties. It is a good time for fellowship and a Continental Breakfast.

Please bring rakes, pruners, and anything thing else you think of. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will go the following week. Thank you all for your help!

David Berkhimer
Trustee President



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**



On **Sunday, April 1**, between the sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. and the 9:30 a.m. service we will be celebrating Easter with a covered dish breakfast in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:00 a.m.

Please bring a breakfast covered dish - juice, donuts, casseroles, fruit - to share with your Leacock family and celebrate Easter morning.

At-Home Member's Birthday

Helen Kreider
Masonic Village
600 Freeman Drive
Room 2604
Elizabethtown PA 17077

Birthday: **March 23**

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for all your thoughts and Prayers during my recent hospitalization and health issue last month. Chuck and I felt so blessed to have you thinking and Praying for us. The cards you sent were so uplifting and helped keep our spirits up. Thanks also for the visit from Rev. Birch who kept in touch with me to see how things were going. The flowers were so pretty that Esta brought in, and I thank her and all the Deacons. Also the Prayer shawl that was given to me was so beautiful and warm and I thank you all for that too. As each day goes by I am feeling better. It will be a long slow process, but things seem to be going in the right direction. It was so unexpected and we are so thankful for such a loving caring church family to help us get through it all.

Thank you all again so much. May God Bless you all.

Chuck and Kathy Ankney



Janet and David Birch want to thank our wonderful congregation for all the cards, prayers, soft warm prayer shawl, carolers, cookies and concerns sent to us during our recent sickness. We are doing very well and hope to get into the full swing of things soon. Thanks for all your support.

Janet and David Birch

Leacock Book and Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group now meets the fourth Friday of every month. We met in January to watch the original movie version of *Murder on the Orient Express*. (We also had a wee celebration of David Homsher's birthday.) This was a fun movie, that, for once, we all agreed did justice to the book. In February (doing things in reverse order here), we'll be discussing the book by Agatha Christie. Then, in March, we will view the movie *Wonder*, based on the book, which we read last year, and in April, we will view the new version of *Murder on the Orient Express* to compare it with both the book and the movie. We hope you'll join us for any of these meetings, bringing a covered dish for a potluck beforehand, the fourth Friday of every month (at 5:30). Please remember that reading the book is not a requirement for attendance.

Mission Committee

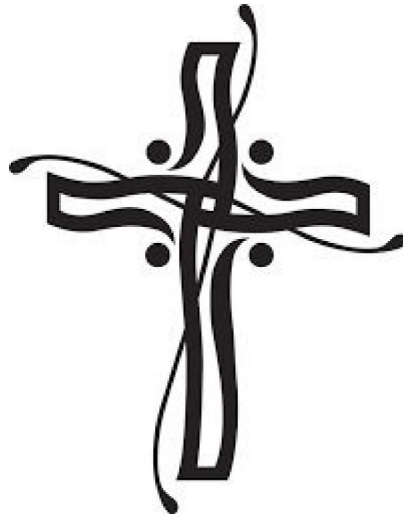
Due to Easter being on April 1st and the week before being Holy Week, we will not be having the community meal on the last Thursday in March. The last Thursday will be our Maundy Thursday service (the 29th.) Instead, the **Community Meal** will be held on **Thursday, March 22**. Everything else remains the same; the time and the place. The sign up sheets will be in the narthex on March 11 and the 18, as usual. Please feel free to sign up for any item on the food list and any time to help on the volunteer list. We appreciate all your help. Without your help we could not continue this ministry.



Our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering will be accepted from March 4th through Easter Sunday, April 1st.

Isaiah 58 says, "You shall be repairers of the breach." In our nation and around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The recent devastation by the hurricanes, earthquakes, and storms have ravaged many communities and reminds us our help is needed now more than ever. The OGHS offering is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. We share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural and human made disasters. The OGHS gifts support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, The Presbyterian Hunger Program, and The Self-development of People Program. With your heartfelt gifts, and those of Presbyterians world-wide, OGHS currently supports programs in 100 countries. "**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**"

The Way to Easter—through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday



It can be tempting, given all the troubles of human life, to want to rush from Palm Sunday to Easter. But if we do, we miss so much. We cannot understand what kind of king Jesus is; we miss the lonely, painful path he followed to glory. We cannot comprehend the life he calls us to, which will always be a mixture of shadow and light.

So, come. Join us in two special worship services. The first is Maundy Thursday, which this year will be March 29. We will gather at 7 p.m. in Leacock's sanctuary. On this night long ago, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. But he did more—he fed them, with the bread and the cup. And he feeds us still. In this service, we will together enter into the shadow and light of that evening, letting our senses and hearts and minds be touched by what Jesus did and said. And in communion, we will be fed.

The next day, at noon, we will literally and figuratively come to the foot of the cross, to be present with Jesus in his darkest hour. We will hear the words he spoke from the cross. We will listen for what they say to us today.

So, come. The Lord is always with us. Let us be with the Lord in his passion.

Lent

Lenten Study—Paths to God: Finding Your Way to the Lord

Sunday Evenings March 4, 11, 18

Beginning at 5:30 with a light supper of soup and bread



Palm Sunday, March 25

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Service with communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 30

A service of prayer and reflection, 12:00 noon.

Easter Sunday, April 1

Easter Dawn Service at 6:30 a.m.

Old Leacock Church

Easter Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00

Covered dish in Fellowship Hall

Easter Worship in Paradise at 9:30 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE MARCH 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

Tuesday, March 6

Thursday, March 15

Thursday, March 29

Place

HAAC- 9:00am

Bird In Hand Fire Company - 10:00am

Lancaster General Hospital - 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.

Easter is less than a month away, and it is time to order your Easter plants. Order forms are in the narthex and will be included in the coming Sunday Bulletins. Below is a sample order form.



EASTER PLANTS

Easter plants may be purchased to be placed in the Sanctuary in memory of someone deceased

or in honor of someone living. Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by **Wednesday, March 21**. The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Remember to advise the church if you plan to leave your plant(s) to be taken to an at-home member.

I/We _____

wish to order

___Lilies \$9.50

___Daffodils \$7.00

___Hyacinths \$7.00

___Tulips \$7.00

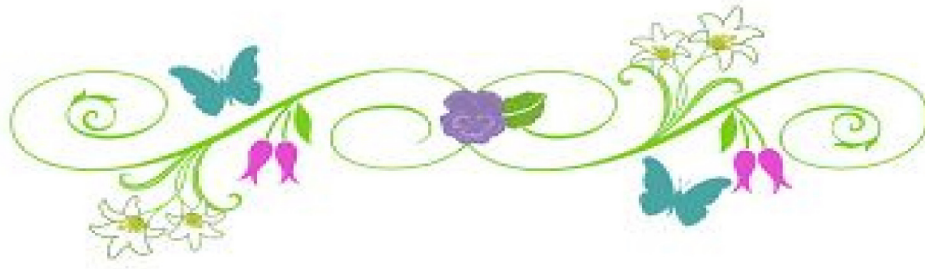
All plants are in 6 inch pots

In Memory of _____ or

in Honor of _____

Please place a (X) if your plant(s) is to be taken to an at-home member by our deacons ____

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21



Gratitude Corner

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

I've always thought that those people who make the best gift-givers are those who listen, paying attention to passing details in conversations with friends, and then remembering what they hear. These people sort of amaze me. As I write this, I'm getting ready to celebrate my birthday tomorrow, and I want to write about an early birthday present I received in church on Sunday. It was from one of these amazing gift-givers, who paid attention back in December when I was visiting her home and noted that I was immediately drawn to her adorable frog salt and pepper set (with an accompanying bigger frog). (I have been one of those "crazy frog-people" ever since I was a child). She was listening when I told her how much I loved it, explaining to me that it had belonged to her husband, and then I forgot all about it. That is, until she gave it to me, all wrapped up with a birthday card, on Sunday.

That someone was **June Stannard**, and the frogs had belonged to her late husband Malcolm. I was so touched when I opened this special gift. So, thank you, thank you, June, for a gift that has certainly made my birthday very special!

Emily Birch

CCL

On **Saturday, April 21**, starting at 1:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall we will be having a **Table Game Party**. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share for a fun afternoon. If you do not have a favorite game come anyway and Shirley Smith will teach you how to play Golf, but not the kind of Golf where you need clubs! Sign up in the Narthex. Hope to see you all there!



Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

March

April

3/4	9:30	Mary Alice High & Shirley Smith	4/1	9:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
3/11	9:30	Mary Alice High & Shirley Smith	4/8	9:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
3/18	9:30	Craig Keenan & Mark Andrews	4/15	9:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
3/25	9:30	Craig Keenan & Mark Andrews	4/22	9:30	Alba & Mike Ruhl
			4/29	9:30	Alba & Mike Ruhl

Nursery

March "On Call"

Sunday School Teacher & Helper

March

April

3/4	Carol & Dave Berkhimer	4/1	Easter Sunday No Sunday School
3/11	Vicki & Tom Burkins	4/8	Vicki & Tom Burkins
3/18	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson	4/15	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter
3/25	Palm Sunday No Sunday School	4/22	Alba & Mike Ruhl
		4/29	Alba & Mike Ruhl

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Lancaster, PA

The word "MARCH" is written in a large, stylized, bubbly font. The letters are white with a thick green outline and a yellow-to-orange gradient fill. The letters are slightly slanted and have a playful, rounded appearance.

Articles for the April
Newsletter will be due
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor