



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 59, Number 4

May 2018

Notes from the Manse


Yes, Emily and I love snow. And yes, we both were longing for a good snowfall this winter, one deep enough to snowshoe in (a good measure of snow accumulation that is beyond wimpy). We were sorely disappointed that so many times predictions failed miserably and we were left with a rather sad dusting. But then one good snowfall came, and we doggedly headed out on our snowshoes, with Clare gamely following behind. And we were happy; it was enough, even though some folks have been chiding me to stop praying for snow. No. It is time for spring. All of God's good creation is ready for it. And that should include us humans. We are in the season of Easter. It is a time for us to take what Easter means into our hearts and minds, our very being, so that we can try ever more to live Easter lives. Part of that very much parallels the turn of the seasons.

So much of the good news is the new life that Jesus promised and offered this hurting world. Paul got this, in his speaking of our becoming new creations. This being so, it can be kind of strange, when you think about it, how often Jesus speaks of dying. He shares the grief with those who mourn the death of loved ones. Of course, he knew he had an appointment with a rather hideous death, but still he made his way steadily to Jerusalem. Death, he knew, comes to mortals, and he wanted to give us hope beyond the grave. But the curious thing is that he also spoke frequently as if death were necessary, something to be desired. Consider the verse in *John*: "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Certainly, he was speaking of himself. But he was also speaking of you and me as well. The very next verses convey the message all the gospels conveyed, that those who try to save their life will lose it, while those willing to die will save it.

Long ago, in the fall, as the days grew shorter and colder, the earth seemed to die. Trees lost their leaves; seeds became dormant in the ground, almost as if they had died. And creation slept. Now, the days are becoming longer, the earth is warming, and the barren limbs carry unfolding leaves; seeds are stirring, breaking the earth, reaching for the light. This is the pattern of creation. There must be a letting go, a rest, a kind of dying, for there to be new life. Well, what about us? We are raised to new life through grace. It is a free gift, which we cannot earn. But still we have work to do. The message of Easter, the message of Jesus, would seem to be that we too need to follow the rhythm God gave creation. We need our seasons of quiet, or rest, of having the courage to let go, to let die those things in us that do not help us anymore and may never have. It can be a hard, cold season, but we must live it if we are to rise to life. So, let us ask ourselves. What in us, about us, needs to fall into the proverbial earth and die? Is it an old attachment, an unhealthy habit? Could it be crippling fears and anxieties or the sores of old angers that never heal? Whatever it may be for each of us, let us name it and then lovingly put it in the earth to die. Then, like the seasons, let us turn. It is spring; it is the season of Easter. If we have had the courage to let the seeds whose time had come to die, they will now stir, in a new way. They—we—will break the ground and rise to the light, the light that no darkness can overcome. With our Lord, we will rise. We will become a new creation.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

May Lectionary Texts

<p>May 6 6th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 10:44–48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1–6 John 15:9–17</p>	<p>May 10 Ascension of the Lord</p> <p>Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53</p>	<p>May 13 7th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 1:15–17, 21–26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9–13 John 17:6–19</p>
<p>May 20 Day of Pentecost</p> <p>Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21 John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15</p>	<p>May 27 Trinity Sunday</p> <p>Isaiah 6:1–8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12–17 John 3:1–17</p>	

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE MAY 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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>
Wednesday, May 2	Caernarvon Fire Co 2:00 pm
Thursday, May 17	Yoders Market 2:00 pm
Thursday, May 24	Lancaster General Hospital 7:00 am

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavillion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours on Monday are 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call 717-544-0170.



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday May 13 and Sunday May 20 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.



May Prayer Families

- May 6**
Richard Miller
- May 13**
Mary Jane Mowrer
- May 20**
Robert Mowrer Jr.
- May 27**
Robert Mowrer III



TRUSTEES NOTES

MAY is Trustee Special Offering Month. The painting company has not given the Trustees a quote on the Bell Tower as of yet. Knowing it will be considerable, we will be putting the monies collected in May toward that job. Also, some of the monies will probably go towards the painting of the vestibule at Old Leacock. The walls are peeling and looking bad. If you see something that needs the Trustees attention, please tell one of us. Thank you all.

David Berkhimer
Trustee President



We worship best when we worship together, when everyone who wants to attend church can be there. Sometimes getting to church is difficult for those who are recuperating from an illness or injury, or who can no longer drive for various reasons.

If you would be willing to provide occasional transportation to church (and home again) for someone in the congregation, would you please inform Esta Fisher (717-397-1151) or Jennifer McElhany (717-519-7528). The deacons would like to compile a list of volunteers, to be available as the need arises. Thank you!

*****At-Home Member Birthday***
May 20**

Kitty Shumate
433 South Kinzer Avenue
Apt. 443GE
New Holland, PA 17557

March & April Session Snippets

In March the Session met with the Deacons, and in April they met with the Trustees, learning about the work of both boards and sharing their own plans. Wishing to involve more of the congregation in caring for at-home members, the Deacons have placed names and addresses in the newsletter and supplied Easter cards for the congregation to send.

Repairing the Paradise bell tower, siliconing the manse, and painting the Old Leacock vestibule top the Trustee "to do" list.

Business items included the following:
Hiring Charlene Boas as Indoor Sexton, beginning April 1, 2018.

Approving Rev. Birch's attendance at General Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri from June 15 - 23 as an observer on behalf of the Presbytery of Donegal with the Presbytery paying his expenses.

Agreeing Sunday June 17 should not count as vacation or continuing education since Rev. Birch will be working on behalf of the Presbytery.

Scheduling a mini-golf evening at Bird-in-hand June 27 and Leacock's Barnstormer's night July 18.

Granting Loretta McClarigan permission to begin setting up the Christmas Bazaar November 12.



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

This month, I want to do something a little bit different and just thank one person for all the little things he does for us.

He always responds quickly to fix things in the manse that need fixing (or finds someone who can fix them). He's been known to shovel (lots of) snow, and he puts up with our strange requests concerning various trees, flowers, and plants, as well as the patch next to our back door that we like to let go wild, watching how God works to make it beautiful in unique ways.

His name is **Dave Berkhimer**, and we are certainly appreciative of all he does for us (and with a great sense of dry humor to boot). Thank you, Dave!

Emily Birch

CCL

Coming Events

Summer fun is just around the corner! Mark your calendar with the following dates:

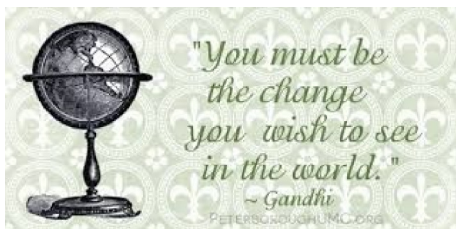
Wednesday, June 27, Waters Edge Mini Golf, Bird-in-Hand, PA, Leacock Church Mini Golf Tournament, 6:30 P.M. Cost \$5.50.

Take me out to the Ball Game!!!!
On **Wednesday, July 18**, Lancaster Barnstormers vs. York Revolution. Tickets are \$12.50 and our Mission Fund will receive \$3.00 for each ticket sold.

Join the fun, invite your friends and neighbors. If we get 100 people we can get \$5.00 per ticket! Wow.! We can do that!

Come watch Bob Birch throw out the first pitch and hear Sarah Keenan sing "God Bless America" to start the game. Enjoy an evening of ball with your family and friends. Tickets may be purchased online but be sure they are credited to Leacock. Tickets may be ordered and paid for then picked up and handed out at church the week before game. Or as last year, ordered and picked up at the ticket office at the Barnstormers.

If you have questions please call Mary Alice High 717-687-6542 or Shirley Smith 717-397-6926.



Mission Committee

The next community meal will be held on Thursday, May 31st from 5:30-6:30 in the Smith Fellowship Hall. There is always food, fun, and fellowship waiting for those who join us to help with the meal or come just for fellowship and to share a meal. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Pentecost is Sunday, May 20th. Therefore our annual Pentecost offering will be collected on 2 Sundays-May 13th (Mother's Day) and May 20th. 25% of this offering goes to youth ministries, ministries that guide youth in their walk with Christ and inspire those called to accompany them. The second 25% goes to young adult volunteers, volunteer programs that bring young adults together in fellowship, worship, and service throughout the world. 10% goes to child advocacy that protects an education that nurtures our children and youth in body, mind, and spirit. The remaining 40% is retained by our congregation for investment in local programs focused on children at risk, and development of youth and young adults. Our 40% will be added to our summer Hymn Sing offerings and be donated to Pequea Valley students for things that they may not be able to afford but that are necessary for a better education.

Worship Notes

Spring has finally arrived, and with this season of rebirth, the Worship Committee encourages you to make spending Sunday morning at Leacock with your brothers and sisters in Christ a priority in your life. Spending time in praise, prayer, meditation, and fellowship gifts and graces us to meet the challenges of the week ahead.

And with spring come **Hymn Sings at Old Leacock!** Beginning May 6 at 7:00 p.m. and continuing the first Sunday of June, July, August, and September, these hymn sings fill Old Leacock with glorious harmonies of old favorites and new songs which are sure to become favorites. Tom Perella will again be leading us with his energy, and Dianne Yuningger will accompany the singing. What is your favorite hymn? How long has it been since you have sung it? Come out on May 6 and sing anew!



Celebrating the Gift of the Holy Spirit, **Pentecost, May 20**, marks the end of Eastertide and the beginning of Ordinary Time. (But what is ordinary in the Christian life? We are, indeed, an extraordinary people graced with our Lord's presence,) The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated, the Bell Choir will play, and the Chancel Choir will sing. Come and **wear red** on this most glorious day!

May 27 marks our transition to our summer schedule with an 8:00 a.m. service at Old Leacock and a 9:30 a.m. service at Paradise. This schedule will be in effect through Labor Day Sunday.



New Worshipping Opportunity

In our recent Lenten Study, we explored a number of different paths to God. All of us are unique; God made us that way, with delight. And this means that there is not just one way to God, one way to worship the Lord. The goal of the Lenten Study was to help each of us find our own paths, the styles of worship that spoke to us.

In part as an outgrowth of the Study and my work in Spiritual Direction, we are going to be trying out a new worship experience in the months ahead. The early followers of Christ didn't have buildings set aside for worship. Instead, they met in each others' homes, sharing fellowship, caring for each other, rejoicing in the good news. Well, that's kind of what we will be aiming at, a house church of sorts. It will be a worship service, with prayer and singing and reflection on Scripture and our journey of faith. But it will be more informal, more interactive. Sometimes, we might share food. We may well meet in a variety of places, from the Fellowship Hall to Old Leacock to Paradise Park. And as the Spirit moves, we might spend most of our time together in song or in silence. Above all, the goal is to become closer to our Lord and to each other, in a meaningful, joyful way.

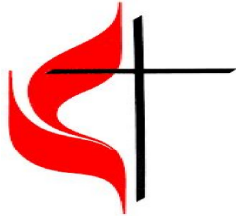
Look for more details in the weeks ahead. If you or someone you know might be interested, please tell me. My hope is that this will be something that will enhance our fellowship here at Leacock.

Leacock Book & Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group gathered in April for, yet another, delicious pot luck meal and to watch the movie *Wonder*. I have to admit I, for one, was skeptical that a movie version could live up to the book, but I was pleasantly surprised. On Friday, May 18, we will gather for another potluck and to watch the 2018 version of *Murder on the Orient Express*, hoping to compare it to both the book and the older movie version we watched earlier this year. Please join us on Friday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m., and bring a covered dish for supper before we view the movie. We will then take a break in the summer and start meeting again in September.



Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



Stewardship

“Time, talent and treasure” is the phrase that broadly describes aspects of stewardship that we have heard many times. Even though it is widely referred to, it is yet valuable in helping us to understand how our own personal choices as Christian stewards affect our Church.

Time. Sounds straight forward but there are no “easy” aspects of Stewardship. It takes time to worship together as a congregation, work together, fellowship together, help others in our community together, spread Christian love together, lead our Church, learn what it means to be Christian and so much more. Time is a personal resource with so many things competing for it in our world, so it is a big deal making the decision to be a Christian, to be a member of Leacock Presbyterian Church. For me, it helps that my immediate family is also involved in our Church, and that I can be with my Church family when spending time for our Church. Working together seems paramount to Christian life. “Many hands make light work” and *we need every pair of hands that we can get.*

Talent. We ALL have God given talents, which we should utilize to help our Church to help others, furthering the work of Jesus Christ. In relation to applying our talents for Church, this is not a time to be modest. I can make a lengthy list of talents that our Church needs, but virtually any talent you possess can further our Church and make us stronger as a whole. Think about and recognize your abilities, then apply them.

Treasure. Oh yeah, this is a tough one. Money is an intensely personal subject, one that we do not like to discuss with others, even with our fellow congregants, our Church family. The Session of Leacock does not invade privacy on the subject of money, even though many other Christian churches in our area insist on pledges from members so they can plan their spending. We do not; we create a spending plan based on faith. We determine the percentage of all our offerings that we will use for mission work. Helping others. Yet, as generous as we are, we sometimes have a difficult time maintaining our financial responsibilities. We need to heat and cool our physical Church, keep it clean and maintained. We have a responsibility to our Presbytery, Synod and the PCUSA to pay per capita. We need a Minister, a ministry of music, administrative help. We have legal responsibilities to manage our finances properly and so need a treasurer. We need all these things and more, plus we cannot lose sight of our mission and giving plans. What happens if we do not receive enough offering? The Session will make difficult decisions on how the funds we have will be utilized. Since we fund mission and benevolence as a function of overall offering, it is the first aspect of our plan that is negatively impacted when offering is lower than expected. So, as we have been given grace, so let us grace others with our time, our talents, and our treasure.

Steven Boas



Current Church Officers

Session

Moderator: Rev. Robert W. Birch

Clerk: Dianne Yuningner

Worship Committee:

Skip Brackbill (Class of 2019) Dianne Yuningner (Class of 2019)

Christian Education:

Tom Burkins (Class of 2019) Derek Colton (Class of 2019)

Church and Community Life:

Mary Alice High (Class of 2019) Linda Erikson (Class of 2018)
Charlene Boas (Class of 2018) Margy Hershey (Class of 2018)

Stewardship:

Steven Boas (Class of 2019) Marie Brackbill (Class of 2018)

Mission:

Lois Eshleman (Class of 2018) Alba Ruhl (Class of 2018)

Deacons

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Esta Fisher	Carol Berkhimer	Molly Colton
Edwin Margerum	Katherine Boas	Robert Hershey
Jennifer McElhaney	Gwen Hess	Brendon Shenk
Sharon Williams		Betty Sowers

Trustees

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Richard Buck	Chuck Ankney	David Berkhimer
David Homsher	Keo Phongsaysanith	Craig Keenan
Scott Shenk	Michael Ruhl	Danielle Short



Ushers

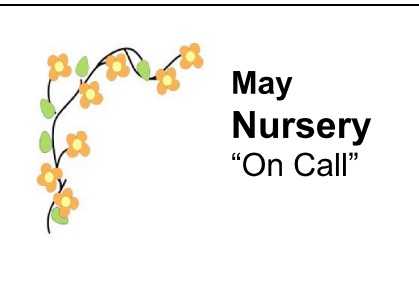
Ed Margerum, Head Usher

May

5/6	9:30 a.m.	Nick & Evie Lopez
5/13	9:30 a.m.	Nick & Evie Lopez
5/20	9:30 a.m.	Nick & Evie Lopez
5/27	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Nick & Evie Lopez Harold Yuninger and Craig Keenan

June

6/3	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue
6/10	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue
6/17	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue
6/24	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue



Sunday School Teacher & Helper

5/6	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
5/13	Cathy & Chuck Ankney
5/20	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
5/27	<i>Last Day</i> - Emily Birch & Linda Erikson

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Articles for the June Newsletter
will be due Monday, May 21, 2018

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor