



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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Notes from the Manse

The Way to Heal Partisanship

This country was born of disagreement. Our democracy is built upon the freedom to have different points of view heard and respected. Some argue that the greatest virtue of a two-party system is that it encourages a clarification of issues and the opportunity to debate them. But something seems off these days. It seems we no longer are able to disagree without dividing into hostile camps that refuse to listen to each other. And this is true not only in our political realm. Increasingly, it seems to appear in all our fellowships, from congregations to extended families. I feel a deep sadness over all this. I'd like to learn from those who differ from me rather than hate them.

I suspect that I am not alone. But what can be done? Well, I think the answers are all there in our faith. *Ephesians 2:14* speaks of Jesus Christ, saying, "For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." When that letter was written, the division was between Jew and Gentile. But the witness of Scripture is that the truth applies to all hostility. Jesus showed us the way to peace, which makes sense for, after all, he is the Way. Perhaps it might help us if we look at just a little of what he taught.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus insisted that murder alone wouldn't lead one to condemnation; no, if we are angry at a brother or sister, if we speak ill of them behind their backs, it's enough—we're liable to hell. He goes further—we are to love not just friends and family; we are to love, really love, in deed, not just word, our enemies. We are never to judge others; we should be content searching out our own wrongs, something that will keep us plenty busy.

This message was central in the early church, as the epistles give witness. Consider just one example, *Colossians 3:12-15*, which describes a way of life for a follower of Christ. We are to have compassion for others, suffering with them, trying to feel as they do, see with their eyes. We are to be kind, not cruel. We are to be humble, more willing to concede than make a point. We are to be meek, quiet, listening, never trying to overpower others. We are to be patient, waiting for others to reveal themselves in their good, helping them to get there. We are to bear with one another, accepting that others don't have any more annoying traits than we do. We are to forgive, not bear grudges. Above all, we are to clothe ourselves with love.

It all does come down to love. Paul, in *Galatians*, says that the whole law is summed up in loving neighbor as self. We are the neighbor to everyone, to the friendly as well as those who have hurt us, to those like us and those so different. Jesus lived this way. Imagine if we did. If we could be more about serving, healing, loving others, if we could put aside old quarrels, we might see past our differences. We might see a brother or sister. Then, all dividing walls will come down, and our hearts will be filled with the peace of Christ. May Christ be our peace, all of ours. That is our hope.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

June Lectionary Texts

June 3

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6

June 10

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11(12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)

Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

June 17

4th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

June 24

5th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49

Psalm 9:9-20 or

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16

Psalm 133

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41





June Prayer Families

June 3
Shirley Musselman

June 10
Arthur Myers

June 17
Keo & Khamtanh Phongxaysanith

June 24
Carl Plomchok

Deacon News



Send a Note

The Deacons are working on some ways to keep in touch with members who, though not designated as at home members, seldom get to worship with the congregation. If you would like to participate by sending a few "hello" notes, please contact Esta Fisher 717-397-1151.



Come join us where fun and fellowship are par for the course!

What: Mini-golf
Where: Water's Edge in Bird-in-Hand
When: June 27 @ 6:30 p.m.

For additional details, contact Linda Erikson, Mary Alice High, Charlene Boas or Margy Hershey.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Hope to see you there!

Mission Committee

The next free community meal will be held on **Thursday June 28th** from 5:30 to 6:30 in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. It will be our summer picnic, although it will be held indoors! As usual the sign up sheets for items to be donated and people to help will be in the narthex (at Rt. 30 church) and in the window well in the foyer at Old Leacock two weeks before the scheduled meal. Hope to see many of you there.





Leacock Book and Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group enjoyed watching the movie *Wonder*, which managed to do justice to the book (a fear some of us had, especially with stars like Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson). As I write this, we are preparing to meet for our final movie before we take our summer hiatus. We'll be watching the 2017 version of *Murder on the Orient Express* to see how it compares to the original movie and the book. We will take a summer break in June, July, and August and begin to meet again in September (book to be determined).

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Stewardship

Greetings from Stewardship committee! Coming up in June, we will be putting together a special **Stewardship Sunday**. To make it more interesting, we are going to try something different. Marie and I will be doing a conversational presentation in a question and answer format. Sort of a "fireside chat". If you have any questions regarding Stewardship you would like addressed, we welcome them. Please contact Marie Brackbill or myself (Steven Boas). Otherwise, we will be covering topics we believe are important.

As far as financial performance through April, offering is behind actual expenses. Marie has been maintaining a large graph located in the Narthex so you can graphically see where we are at with offering versus spending and our mission giving. It is a nice, easy to understand graph that should provide a high-level understanding of where we stand. Check it out! Any questions, please direct to Marie or Steven.

Thank you all for your giving of time, talents and financial support of our Church and I look forward to seeing you all at our Stewardship Sunday in June.





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

This month, I am going to do what I did last month and rather than pointing out one specific recent kindness, will address someone who shows a general kindness to us in so many ways. This is someone who manages to put up with all of Bob's idiosyncrasies on a nearly daily basis and manages, by keeping her cool and sense of humor, to avert the mini-crises (like a printer that has run out of ink just before a sermon needs to be printed) that can descend upon a church. She's also very patient in receiving my last-minute newsletter articles (often, literally, minutes before she goes to press, I'm sure). And she is very generous with food, giving us full meals of split pea soup and corn bread and remembering, when St. Patrick's Day rolls around, that I love her Irish potatoes. She's also been known to give us pies and cookies.

We are so very grateful for the love and care we receive from **Sandy Schoettle**. Thank you, Sandy, for making our lives run more smoothly (and keeping our tastebuds happy).

Emily Birch

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE JUNE 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>
Tuesday, June 12	Lancaster General Hospital- 3rd floor balcony, James St. 2:00 pm
Wednesday, June 13	Bird in Hand Fire Co. 2:00 pm
Wednesday, June 20	Kinzer Fire Co. 2:00 pm
Thursday, June 21	Intercourse Fire Co. 2:00 pm

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.



Take me out to the Ball Game!!!!

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.



From Arlene Brackbill

Dear Family and Church Friends who made my 90th birthday so special,

It was a wonderful gathering! I received around 60 cards from everyone and have enjoyed reading them. I didn't realize that the 90th birthday isn't reached by too many people, so we 're special! Thank you everyone for making it so special for me.

The Lord has been in my life most of those years – I joined Otterbein United Brethren when I was 15 and then joined Leacock Presbyterian when I married Jake. I've been singing in the choir since I was 23 except for time off to have my 5 children. Thanks again for helping me celebrate my birthday!

A Thank You from the Pequea Valley Schools

Thanks so much for how you have supported our Nurse's Office for the past several years. Students so appreciate having the little things like cough drops and easy access to feminine hygiene products. It has been so very thoughtful of you to continue to help supply these extra items for our Nurse's Office.

Sincerely,
Patty (school nurse at PVHS and PVIS)

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

June

July

6/3	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue	7/1	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill Carol Shearer & Bob Brackbill
6/10	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue	7/8	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill Carol Shearer & Bob Brackbill
6/17	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue	7/15	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill Carol Shearer & Bob Brackbill
6/24	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill George & Karen Shue	7/22	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill Carol Shearer & Bob Brackbill
			7/29	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Skip Brackbill Carol Shearer & Bob Brackbill



A Shout Out to Our Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

The Christian Education Committee would like to give a shout out to those of you who have graciously given of your time as Sunday School teachers and helpers. Your help with the Leacock Christian Ed Program is greatly appreciated, and is a very important part of the church's work.

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June

Articles for the July/August Newsletter
will be due Monday, June 25, 2018

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor