



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 59, Number 9

November 2018

Notes from the Manse

“Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.”—Hebrews 12:28

Whoa! This verse is loaded—lots to talk about there. Election day is just around the corner. So, let's start with this idea of the kingdom we are receiving. It is a kingdom, we are told, which cannot be shaken. That would be nice. Human kingdoms, they sure can be and often are shaken. It seems a day doesn't go by without word of yet another country facing the collapse of a government or the economy or both. We are blessed in the United States by peaceful transfers of power, by checks and balances in our system of government, by institutions and rules that guard us against an economic catastrophe like the Depression. Yet even we can be shaken. As I write this, news reports are describing pipe bombs that have been sent to politicians and a national network. Where have we gotten to? Partisanship, an angry divide that will not allow people with different views to talk with, hear, each other, has led, it seems, to a loss of all civility, hate, violence. How different is this kingdom of God, which, in Christ, has come near? In this kingdom, the Lord seeks to serve, not be served and all people are one past all differences, no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, man and woman. To me it is a comfort to remember that I am a citizen of this kingdom.

Okay. Onto the rest of the verse, the bit about giving thanks. Being grateful, giving thanks, seems to have been a preoccupation of many of the early followers of Christ. Which makes sense—after all, before he fed people hungry in so many ways, Jesus always first gave thanks. What about us? Paul, in his earliest letter, *1 Thessalonians*, urged folks to do several things constantly—to rejoice, to pray, to give thanks. Hmm. I don't know about you, but I can't honestly say I am rejoicing all the time. And giving thanks in all circumstances? It sure seems people are far more prone to find fault, to complain, to judge all the time than to give thanks. Being grateful appears to be harder to do. Try this out—on a given day, take note of your interaction with others. How many times do you point out a problem or mistake someone has made? How often do you silently criticize others? By contrast, how often do you thank someone? And what about God? What do we say to God when we pray? Do we ask for things, for health, or hope, or peace of mind? Do we list our woes, in our lives, with others? All this is fine. God already knows it. But how often do we thank God, even in our most difficult, harried times? For there are always things to be grateful for, if we but look. *Hebrews* tells us speaking our gratitude is an acceptable form of worship. God doesn't need our praise. God doesn't have an ego problem. But God does desire our thanks, if for no other reason than that will help us remember that we are indeed blessed.

So, **here's a request** (I hope that got your attention). Please let me know some of the things for which you are grateful to God in this season of Thanksgiving. Call me; e-mail me; drop me a note. I will keep them confidential, but I will build the Thanksgiving Eve service around what you send. Try it. It might actually brighten your day. Why, it's your duty, so it seems, as a citizen of the kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

November Lectionary

<p>November 1 All Saints' Day</p> <p>Isaiah 25:6–9 Psalm 24:1–10 Revelation 21:1–6a John 11:32–44</p>	<p>November 4 24th Sunday after Pentecost 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Ruth 1:1–18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11–14 Mark 12:28–34</p>	<p>November 11 25th Sunday after Pentecost 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24–28 Mark 12:38–44</p>
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<p>November 18 26th Sunday after Pentecost 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>1 Samuel 1:4–20 1 Samuel 2:1–10 Hebrews 10:11–14 (15–18) 19–25 Mark 13:1–8</p>	<p>November 25 Christ the King (or Reign of Christ)</p> <p>2 Samuel 23:1–7 Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18) Revelation 1:4b–8 John 18:33–37</p>
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In October, our Session and Trustees reviewed the proposed budget for the upcoming year. We looked at every line item in all sections of the budget. We discussed, made points and counter-points, compromised and eventually agreed to a number we thought best. It was a grueling, gut-wrenching, long and difficult process.

Why is it so difficult? Year after year, our income from offerings is slowly declining, and we are making adjustments in our spending to correspond with this. What is most heart wrenching about this is we have to continue to reduce the mission and benevolence giving to our community, local Presbytery and beyond. However, we reduce in ALL areas as a whole wherever we think possible. We will review the 2019 budget at our Congregational meeting in November. I urge you to get a copy of it the week before in Church, and attend the meeting in November. We feel it is a good budget and reflects what is possible for 2019. See you at the meeting!

Session Snippets

The Session and the Trustees met together in October to go over the proposed 2019 budget. The Trustees presented the Maintenance of the Ministries portion of the budget, showing both foresight for projects which need addressing and restraint in light of the financial realities of Leacock.



The Session highly commends the Board, under the capable direction of president Dave Berkhimer, for the many ways they personally work to keep Leacock's three properties in excellent condition. From watching Keo Phongsaysanith weeding and pruning in the Memorial Garden to hearing Dave's adventures about removing a huge wasp's nest to seeing Chuck Ankney's work truck parked in the lot as he checks plumbing issues on his own time, members of this board work long and hard to be good stewards of the facility.

After the joint meeting (and delicious refreshments), the Session, under the capable leadership of Stewardship Chair Steven Boas, tackled the two remaining parts of the budget: Ministry to Ourselves and Ministry to Others. In Steven's apt words, many of the decisions elders made were "gut-wrenching and tough," but ultimately necessary. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the November 11 Congregational Meeting.

In other matters, the Session completed the following work:

- Approved the following volunteer positions:
 - Bell Choir Director - Karen Homsher
 - Worship Enhancement Director - Jennifer McElhany
 - Head Usher and Beadle 9:30 a.m. - Ed Margerum
 - Head Usher 8:00 a.m. and Church Historian - Skip Brackbill
- Approved vacation (four days) and continuing education (seven days) for Rev. Birch from October 29 thru November 8.
- Approved Rev. Richard Sindall, HR, as pulpit supply for November 4.
- Approved celebrating Communion during the Advent Family Service.
- Approved worship dates for 2019.
- Approved Mission dates for Community Meals in 2019.
- Approved Mission special offerings for 2019.
- Received the report of the Nominating Committee

Flowers for the Church

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on *November 4* in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 717-687-6619



November Prayer Families

November 4 Daniel Short	November 18 Kitty Shumatet
November 11 George & Karen Shue	November 25 Dick & Debbie Sindall



Worship Enhancement Committee

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the sanctuary and church building for Christmas. No special skills or artistic talents are necessary! If you can assemble a tree, hang a wreath, craft a simple ornament (very easy, we promise!), or hang some banners, your help will be welcome and appreciated.



Also, if you have artificial green plants or silk floral arrangements and are looking to change your decor, please consider donating them to the committee for consideration. Some of our plants and flowers are getting a little faded and "tired", and blooms from your arrangements may be just what is needed to spruce up the Narthex and church building. We just got a donation of beautiful summer flower stems, but floral arrangements and green plants (artificial) from all seasons would be appreciated. If your donation does not quite fit into any of the seasonal decorating schemes planned, we will save them for future use!

Contact Jennifer McElhany (mcelhany2@comcast.net) to help with decorating, or if you have plants/flowers to offer. Thank you!



Mission Committee

Due to Thanksgiving, our next community meal will be held on Thursday, November 8th from 5:30-6:30 in our Smith Fellowship Hall.

Just a quick update and a big THANK YOU to everyone who cheerfully donated all that gently used clothing in September. We took 605 lbs. of clothing to the clothing bank in Lancaster. That's the highest single amount we've ever taken. That makes the total for this year over 1000 lbs.

On October 21, seven courageous people braved the beautiful sunshine and the somewhat cold and windy conditions to walk for CROP. Although the number was small we still managed to collect over \$1700, of which 25% will stay here in Paradise to help support the Paradise area food bank. Thanks to the walkers and also to everyone who so generously donated and helped to make this a success.

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 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 and Time</u>	
Wednesday, November 14	Bart Fire Co.	2:00pm
Thursday, November 15	Yoders Market	2:00pm
Wednesday, November 21	LG Hospital- 3rd Floor Balcony James Street	7:00am

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 717-544-0170.



Worship Committee

What Are You Thankful For?

“Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom our heart rejoices.”

Before the festivities of food, family, and football on Thanksgiving Day, come join your church and community brothers and sisters Wednesday evening, November 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Old Leacock for our Thanksgiving Eve service. Song, prayers, and the Word will nourish our spirits.

Start a new tradition. Worship with us on Thanksgiving Eve.

Family Advent Celebration

“Light one candle to wait for Messiah . . .”

As we begin our Advent journey to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Lord, we all have lists — finish shopping, bake cookies, decorate the tree — but have you put WORSHIP on your list?



Come away from the rush and hurry of the season and join us for our 1st Sunday in Advent Family Advent Celebration. We begin with a covered dish breakfast in the upstairs Sunday School rooms where we fellowship around tables as we break bread together.

Then it's on to the sanctuary and our worship with your favorite Christmas carols (as you request them), a new Christmas Tail (Tale) for young and old, and lighting that first Advent candle.

We will conclude the service with the celebration of Communion, remembering how the birth of Jesus led to the cross and our salvation. What better way to prepare for Christmas?

Join us at 9:00 a.m. to begin our journey together.

Fifty Year Member/ Congregation Celebration Sunday, November 11, 2018

On Sunday November 11, after our service of worship and the annual Congregational Meeting, the entire congregation is invited to a luncheon to honor our 50+ year members and our church musicians. We have 35 members who have belonged to Leacock Presbyterian Church for fifty or more years. Our newest 50-year members are: Robert Brackbill and Bonnie Rice.

Let's all join together to honor all our Fifty-Year members and our Church Musicians, the Bell and Chancel Choirs, and enjoy fellowship with each other at a special luncheon prepared by your CCL Committee. Reservations will help us plan so please call the church office and tell Sandy your name and how many are in your party by Tuesday, November 6. Phone 717-687-6619.

Fifty+ Year Members

Mary Jane Mowrer	April 11, 1941	Ruth Bryson	March 13, 1958
Ruth Usner	December 29, 1943	H. Donald Andrews	December 21, 1958
Robert Clark	April 19, 1946	Beatrice Andrews	December 21, 1958
Helen Kreider	October 4, 1946	Vicki Burkins	April 10, 1960
Ruth Bair	April 6, 1947	Joy Koshuta	April 10, 1960
Ruth Anne Appel	April 17, 1949	Dianne Yuninger	April 10, 1960
Robert Mowrer, Jr	April 17, 1949	Carol Shearer	April 15, 1962
Mildred Young	April 17, 1949	James L. Brackbill	April 15, 1962
Arlene Brackbill	April 17, 1949	David Homsher	April 15, 1962
Jane Witmer	April 6, 1950	Lois Eshelman	April 15, 1962
Betty Denlinger	January 7, 1951	Esta Fisher	April 15, 1962
Lucy Ames	July 20, 1952	Kitty Shumate	May 2, 1965
Harold Yuninger	November 1, 1953	Kirk Beane	May 2, 1965
Betty Sowers	April 3, 1955	Ed Margerum	April 13, 1966
Mary Ellen Rice	March 25, 1956	Tom Burkins	October 1967
Janet Cosby	April 14, 1957	Robert Brackbill	October 6, 1968
Donald Clark	August 5, 1957	Bonnie Rice	October 6, 1968

**2018 Nominating Committee
Presents Slate of Officers to Begin Serving in 2019**

<p>Trustees Class of 2021</p> <p>David Homsher Richard Buck Scott Shenk</p>	<p>Class of 2020 Currently serving:</p> <p>David Berkhimer Craig Keenan Danielle Short</p>	<p>Class of 2019 Currently serving</p> <p>Charles Ankney (Chuck) Keo Phongxaysanith Michael Ruhl</p>
<p>Deacons Class of 2021</p> <p>Karen Homsher Esta Fisher Edwin Margerum Sharon Williams</p>	<p>Class of 2020 Currently serving:</p> <p>Brendon Shenk Molly Colton Bob Hershey Betty Sowers</p>	<p>Class of 2019 Currently serving:</p> <p>Carol Berkhimer Katherine Boas Gwen Hess</p>
<p>Elders Class of 2019 Currently serving:</p> <p>Steven Boas Christian Brackbill Tom Burkins Derek Colton Mary Alice High Dianne Yuninger</p>	<p>Class of 2020</p> <p>Charlene Boas Bonnie Rice Linda Erikson Margaret Hershey Alba Ruhl Lori Smith</p>	

The Session calls the annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 11, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2019 and elect new officers for 2019. A few copies of the budget are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you take one, please bring it back for the meeting. Digital copies may be requested by emailing the church office: leacock.secretary@gmail.com.

Leacock Book and Movie Group

We enjoyed a small but engaged group for our October meeting of the Leacock Book and Movie Group to view the movie *A Wrinkle in Time*. The general consensus (although with a nod to some aspects of the movie that were good) was that the movie version is very different from the book and not as good. We also wondered if the movie would have been easy to follow/understand if for anyone who hadn't read the book. I do want to note, though, that the main message of love conquering evil still came through in the movie, a good one for us Christians to remember. November and December are hectic holiday months, so we agreed to take them off and to meet back in January. We will be discussing the book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann, which is a fascinating book that reads like a thriller and captures a little known piece of American history. We're looking for movie suggestions on the same topic, since this book has not (yet) been made into a movie.



Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Gratitude Corner

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

Some of you are very good at keeping up with members of the congregation and knowing who might need a little boost or prayer but who might be too shy or self-conscious to tell anyone they need help. A minister who is trying to care for so many people may not be aware of these shy people without the help of those willing to keep an eye out for them. This is what makes a congregation so great, the way everyone takes on a caring role. This month, I would like, especially, to thank someone who is very good at seeing Bob or me and gently saying, "I think so-and-so might like a call" or "So and so doesn't seem to be doing well" so that we can make sure that person gets a little extra care from both ourselves and from other members of the congregation.



So, thank you, thank you, **Betty Sowers** for being the eyes and ears to focus on those with extra care needs and letting us know who they are.

Emily Birch

Leacock's Treats N' Treasures CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday, December 1, 8AM - 1PM

(Please note earlier ending time)



Can you believe that there are less than 30 days until our Bazaar? Donations are now being accepted for Christmas ornaments/decor. Something new this year: we will be having a Fashion Corner. We will accept gently used jewelry, purses, hats and scarves. We also will have a Disney table with toys, books, and new items for children of all ages. Please place donated items in the Narthex marked for bazaar or downstairs in the Christmas storage room (look for the sign on the door). We'd love to have these items by November 12.

We will be making our "FAMOUS" peanut butter bonbons on Monday, November 26 at 1 pm. You can order bonbons ahead of time if you are unable to come to the bazaar. We will put them aside for you. Sign-up is in the Narthex or text or call Loretta. Be sure to note if you want milk chocolate, dark chocolate or mixed. \$6.50 per container.

Gift baskets will be due Sunday, November 18. Help yourself to any of the baskets in the Narthex!

Food items and baked goods will be needed for the Holiday Cafe - sign ups are in the Narthex.

Already in the Narthex is a sign up sheet for "unpackers" on Monday, November 12 (after 6pm) and Tuesday, November 13 (after 12 noon) (and then after 6pm). You just need to open boxes (we have 70+ boxes) and place items in the correctly labeled areas.

Also, consider helping as a cashier, bagger, tear-down table people or condensers (moving items from one table to another).



Come celebrate the spirit of the holiday by fitting in at least one or two of these dates - filled with fun and fellowship - into your schedule. Sign-ups are in the Narthex or you can text or call us. Thank you so much in advance!

Loretta McClarigan (717) 808-7689


Lois Snader (717) 989-0628

TREATS AND TREASURES

Donations are now being accepted of your jewelry, home décor, ornaments, etc. We will need homemade cookies, pies, breads, candy, fudge and bagged treats as they are one of Leacock's best selling points. Jams and jellies are always great sellers, too! Once again, we will be plating the cookies on pretty plates or tins so you only need to send in your goodies, and we will do the rest. Put the items in the kitchen marked for the bazaar by November 29 or 30. If you have any questions, please contact Loretta McClarigan 717-808-7689 or Bonnie Rice 717-407-5372

Mark your calendars:

Monday, November 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving Bazaar items up to church (contact Dianne Yuninger if you can help). - 6 pm unpacking boxes downstairs.
Tuesday, November 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 noon - ? unpacking boxes downstairs - 6 pm unpacking boxes downstairs
Sunday, November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Filled baskets due - Last day to pre-order bonbons
Monday, November 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 pm Making peanut butter bonbons
Wednesday, November 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 pm Packing peanut butter bonbons
Thursday, November 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baked goods - cookies/breads due - Help plate cookies 1 pm-?
Friday, November 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baked goods - cookies/breads due - Help plate cookies 1 pm-? - Items needed for the cafe: soups/BBQ/rolls/mac & cheese etc.
Saturday, December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 am-1 pm Christmas Bazaar - Enjoy breakfast, lunch and shopping!

 <p><i>Christmas Bazaar</i></p>	<p>OUR "FAMOUS" LEACOCK PEANUT BUTTER BONBONS</p> <p>Ingredients needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 (32 oz.) Jif Peanut Butter 4 (8 oz.) Philadelphia Cream Cheese 5 lb. Butter 5 (2 lb.) Domino 10X Confectioners Sugar \$\$\$\$ Money for Melting Chocolate <p>If you can contribute, sign up in the Narthex or call Carol Shearer (717-687-7494). Consider helping her dip the BonBons in chocolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monday, November 26 (1p.m. - ?). Help packaging would be great too - Wednesday, November 28 at 1 p.m.
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Bazaar Cafe

Make plans now to eat Breakfast and/or Lunch at Leacock's Cafe on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, please consider donating a food item:



Ham & Bean Soup	Rice Krispie Treats
Chicken Corn Soup	Brownies
Vegetable Soup	Whoopie Pies
Beef Vegetable Soup	Sticky Buns
Macaroni & Cheese	Hamburger &
Beef BBQ	Hot Dog Buns
Pies	Hot Dogs

If you can donate an item or two call Alba Ruhl (717-475-1560) or Betty Sowers (717-355-6393) or sign up in the Narthex. Thank you.

Christmas Gift Baskets



Get ready to start thinking of ideas to fill baskets to sell at the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 1. You can fill a basket with goodies with a theme of your own or donate items for us to create a filled basket for you! Place your filled baskets in Fellowship Hall with bazaar items by Sunday, November 18.

Any questions or if you need basket ideas, please contact Karen Shue (717-687-7240) or Lois Snader (717-989-0628).

Caring Tree

It is time again for our Christmas Caring Tree. The tree with tags decorating it will be in the Narthex from November 11 through December 2.

We are collecting gift cards for The Bridge of Hope as we have for many years. This organization is so thankful for any cards they receive for their struggling mothers and children. The cards will have the names of stores where gift cards are most useful for them. The cards can be from \$10.00-\$25.00. Every amount is greatly appreciated.

Also this year we are collecting gifts for "Toys for Tots". Dave Berkhimer informed us that there is a need for gifts for older children ages nine to twelve, and young children ages 3 months to two years. The older children would like higher thinking games, science kits, watches, jewelry, radios, any thing an older child would enjoy. The babies need toys appropriate for their age and these are marked on the toys.

All gifts should not be wrapped but placed in a bag with the tag attached. Tags will have the appropriate ages on them.

So get into the Spirit of Christmas. Take a tag or two on November 11 and do some Christmas shopping. Place your gift under the tree in the narthex or give the gift cards to Sandy, our church secretary, Margy Hershey, Charlene Boas, or Mary Alice High. Hopefully everyone will enjoy sharing the joy of Christmas with others. Thank for your participation.

Sincerely, The CCL Committee



USHERS

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

November	David Homsher & Craig Keenan
December	Alba & Mike Ruhl

November Nursery On Call



SUNDAY SCHOOL

November

11/4	9:30 a..m.	Vicki & Tom Burkins
11/11	9:30 a..m.	Vicki & Tom Burkins
11/18	9:30 a..m.	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
11/25	Thanksgiving Break	No Class

December

12/2	Family Advent Day	No Class
12/9	9:30 a..m.	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
12/16	9:30 a..m.	Kathy & Chuck Ankney
12/23	Review/Party	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson
12/30	Christmas Break	No Class

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Articles for the December/January Newsletter
Are due by Monday, November 19

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor