



# *Leacock Communicator*

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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September 2019

## Notes From the Manse

I worry. I look around and I see people hurt, suspicious of each other, convinced that they are divided by differences that cannot be surmounted or resolved. I don't need to tell you that our society is so torn apart. But what makes me the saddest is that so is the church, the church, the body, of Jesus Christ. Well meaning people with strong faith can read the same passage of Scripture and hear two different things. In part, that was intended. Jesus spoke in parables, not to-do lists. This can result in a richness of response. When I was in seminary, a more experienced pastor told me the sermon I write will never be the sermon people hear. Our different life experiences become the lenses through which we shape our faith understanding. That can be good. But it can also divide. Our divisions, our conflicts, today may feel raw, worse than they have ever been. Maybe. But they are not new. So long ago Paul warned, "If...you bite and devour one another take care that you are not consumed by one another." He wrote that to church people.

It is precisely church people who can, who must, help heal. In *Ephesians*, we are told that Christ "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." It should be different for followers of Christ. We should be different, able to live and love each other even when we differ. But how can this be possible? Well, it begins for me with prayer, prayer that God bless, not change as I might wish, those who disagree with me; prayer for humility, the understanding that I may not fully understand whatever the issue may be; prayer not for the confirmation of my "truth," but rather for a glimpse of God's truth. It is good to be passionate, to have strong beliefs. We need to speak our beliefs. But words can wound; unfiltered passion can become hurtful. If what we are about is only righteous proclamation of our position and a denunciation of others', we will indeed end up doing nothing more than biting and devouring one another.

There is, in Paul's words, a more excellent way. In *Galatians*, he says, "(T)he only thing that counts is faith working through love." We need to start with ourselves. It is good to be alone sometimes in silence, so that we can hear God through the noise, we can hear the source of our beliefs. But then we must try to listen to others, really hear their points of view, especially when they are different than our own. In doing this, the point is not to change minds or to be right. No, but listening well may change hearts. I think of two people here at Leacock who differ in many ways over societal issues, but who are so similar in the way they embody their faith in a service of kindness. If they began at that common place of faith, I know they could hear each other across the divide.

And so can we all. In the months ahead, I am going to be looking to create some kind of forum where we can sit with each other, speak with kindness and respect, and listen, hear. When we do, let us begin by believing Paul's words: "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Let there be no hostility between us, sisters and brothers in Christ. Let us be together across our differences. May Christ truly be our peace.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## September Lectionary

<p><b>September 1</b></p> <p>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost          Jeremiah 2:4–13          Psalm 81:1, 10–16          Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16          Luke 14:1, 7–14</p>	<p><b>September 8</b></p> <p>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost          Jeremiah 18:1–11          Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18          Philemon 1–21          Luke 14:25–33</p>	<p><b>September 15</b></p> <p>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost          Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28          Psalm 14          1 Timothy 1:12–17          Luke 15:1–10</p>
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<p><b>September 22</b></p> <p>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost          Jeremiah 8:18—9:1          Psalm 79:1–9          Timothy 2:1–7          Luke 16:1–13</p>	<p><b>September 29</b></p> <p>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost          Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15          Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16          Timothy 6:6–19          Luke 16:19–31</p>
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### BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

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, September 3  
 Thursday, September 12  
 Monday, September 16

**Place and Time**

Bareville Fire Co. - 2:00pm  
 Yoders Country Market - 2:00pm  
 Providence Township Building - 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 717-544-0170 or visit [lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services](http://lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Our-Services).



**September  
Prayer Families**

September 1  
James & Delores Brackbill

September 8  
Robert & Marcia Brackbill

September 15  
Jim Brown

September 22  
Ruth Bryson

September 29  
Alba Buck



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on **September 29** in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Please call the church office at 717-687-6619

**Trustee Notes**

The Trustees Special Offering or Building and Facilities will be going to the replacement of the roof at Old Leacock. The cedar shingles there are rapidly going bad.

To get the job done as soon as possible, we are using the Endowment Fund and will replace the monies with the Special Offerings so the money will be there when needed again.

We will be using asphalt shingles that look like cedar shingles. The Trustees know you will be pleased with the job.

Thank you all for your support. The Trustees appreciate everyone's help in keeping our buildings in good maintenance. Thanks to all.

Dave Berkheimer  
Trustee President



September 29  
Ruth Bair  
15 N. Kinzer Rd.  
Kinzers, PA 17535

**Session Snippets**

The Session met August 22 and wrestled with several concerns: the growing animosity dividing our country and the possibility of The Factory opening their parking lot for overnight parking for the homeless. Discussion and prayer about these issues will continue.

In Action:

- Moved the October Community Meal to the 24th (because of Halloween)
- Decided that until the kitchen has been assessed for future needs no equipment should be disposed of.



**Sing a New Song  
to the Lord**

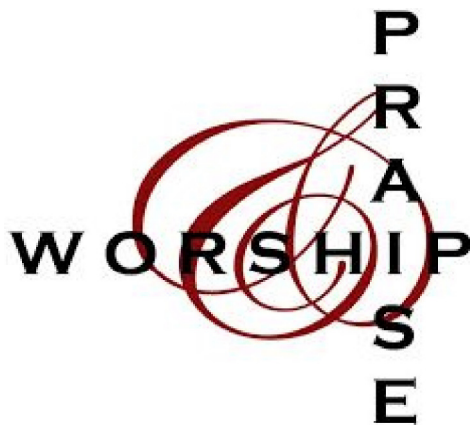
Chancel Choir will begin their season with rehearsal starting Wednesday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. All singers are welcome. We have an exciting season before us, but only if we have enough singers. Please consider joining us. For questions or more information, contact Dianne Yuninger.

## Mission Committee

The mission menu for our **Community Meal** on **September 26** will be Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, and Applesauce. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex two weeks ahead of the meal. Please join us as a guest or as a helper!

Also, during the month of September the Mission Committee will accept donations of used clothing. We will take all donations to the **Lancaster County Clothing Bank**. They will accept anything but used underwear. So please clean out your closets and bring the items to the narthex anytime during the month.

Due to the retirement of Jim Farr, the Mission Committee will now support Jamie Farr.



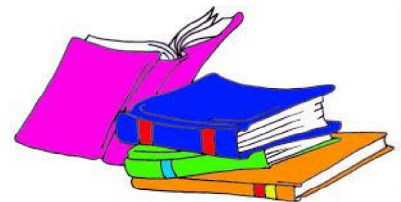
## Worship Committee News

- Beginning September 15, we return to our worship schedule of one service only at 9:30 at Paradise.
- One of the essential tenets of the Reformed Faith is the priesthood of all believers. To that end, here at Leacock we try to involve the laity as much as we can in worship services. We have a roster of folks who serve as lay readers, but we can always use more. Lay readers receive the first Scripture at the end of the week and can access the Call to Worship online. If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Dianne Yuninger.
- Our next celebration of the Sacrament of Communion is scheduled for Old Leacock Day September 8.
- Thank you to all of you who responded to our Communion Survey. The Worship Committee will be evaluating the results at our September meeting, Tuesday the 17th.

## Leacock Book and Movie Group

I can't believe it's already time to tell everyone to read *The Bookshop* by Penelope Fitzgerald, but it is. This is a short, wry, little novel about a woman who decides to open a book shop in a small English village and all that ensues. We'll be discussing it over a pot luck meal on Friday September 20 at 5:30. Please come join us, and bring a covered dish if you can.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



# *Old Leacock Day*

## Sunday, September 8



Old Leacock Day has been a 79 year old tradition here! We will celebrate it with a 9:30 a.m. service of worship. (There will be no church service at the Paradise Church that Sunday). Our yearly picnic will follow immediately afterwards. Hot Dogs, rolls, drinks, silverware, cups, plates, napkins and condiments will be provided. Just bring a covered dish to share and a chair to sit on while you eat and visit with your church friends celebrating our heritage of worshipping at Old Leacock!

### **Welcome Back to Sunday School**

Yes, the summer has flown by, and after our break, it's time to start our 2019-2020 Sunday School Season. Both the adult and children's Sunday School classes will resume Sunday, Sept 15, which is the week following Old Leacock Day.

The children's class will again occur following the children's sermon during the 9:30 worship service. The class consists of a Bible story, a game, and a craft.

The adult class will meet following the 9:30 Service. Grab some refreshment and join us. It is a great discussion group.



## Gratitude Corner

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



This month I just have a general feeling of gratitude to all our church family after having been on vacation. As many of you know, I was sick for most of the first week we were away, and the support I got from those who knew was very much appreciated. Then, we came home, and Bob and I have just felt so grateful for the warm welcome we've received from all of you. It's lovely to go away, but it's also lovely to know you were missed. So, thank you, everyone, for letting us know we were missed.

Emily Birch

## Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

September	Mary Alice High & Shirley Smith
October	Nick & Evie Lopez
November	Bob & Margy Hershey

## Sunday School

### September

9/15	9:30 a.m.	Emily Birch & Elaine Gouba
9/22	9:30 a.m.	Alba Ruhl & Derek Colton
9/30	9:30 a.m.	Alba Ruhl & Derek Colton

### October

10/6	9:30 a.m.	Lois & Dawin Eshleman
10/13	9:30 a.m.	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
10/20	9:30 a.m.	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey
10/27	9:30 a.m.	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey



**September Nursery On Call**





Leacock Presbyterian Church  
3181 Lincoln Hwy. East  
Paradise, PA 17562  
Phone 717 687-6619

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Articles for the October Newsletter  
will be due Tuesday, September 24 , 2019

THE LEACOCKCOMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor