



# *Leacock Communicator*

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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November 2019

## Notes from the Manse

*“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.” Job 12: 7,8*

As I write this, I am in Maine. I know there are some of you who probably think Emily and I are a little crazy given how often we come up here. It’s a long way away, and it is usually about ten degrees colder than it is in Pennsylvania. And, come on, we actually make it a point to be here for New Year’s! Maybe all that is a little crazy. But for me there really are some reasons, I believe good reasons, for coming here. And many of them have a strong spiritual component.

It is dark now. The sun sets and rises about an hour earlier here. It seems I am surrounded by stillness. There is no sound of traffic. We don’t have access to TV or the internet. Even the planes that pass are so high we cannot hear them. The human world, for this time, seems distant. But if I listen well, I hear another world. It is God’s creation, and through it I believe God speaks. This is what Job was referring to in the lines above. It was said in the early church that there are two sacred books, the Bible and creation. We can—I think we must—learn from both.

What have I learned in the woods, by the sea, within the wind? I have learned humility, as I am reminded what a fragile gift life is. Beneath a night sky almost white with stars, I strangely feel both small and enlarged, for I am a part of something bigger than myself, with a horizon far beyond any human one. In *Galatians*, Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit. I know what those words mean. But in many ways I have been taught best their meaning by the animals, the birds, plants and fish. Patience—if you rise before dawn, you can witness birds waiting for that first hint of light to begin their song. Faithfulness, self-control—in the spring, if you walk down by the water near where a duck has made her nest, you will encounter her mate, nervously paddling in circles, making noises to get you away, but never leaving no matter how much he might want to. Peace—it comes when you sit on a rock and watch the sun rise or set. Joy—oh, it’s in seal pups taking their first swims under the watchful eyes of their moms, and they share that joy with me. Kindness, generosity—I recently read about a dog who raced behind a car backing up to snatch a puppy who was not his own and bring it to safety at the risk of his life. Gentleness—it is the grace of a butterfly landing on a flower. Love—I’m taught that every time I come home and am greeted with delight by Francis and Clare and Bernie, even when it’s not dinner time.

Jesus told us to behold the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, because, yes, they will teach us. All of God’s creation will. That teaching will sometimes be hard. Violent storms will come and destroy carefully made nests. Humans are not the only creatures that hurt and are afraid. But when I am still before God’s creation I do get a glimpse of what God willed in creation, before it got broken. There is beauty there, a wild beauty different from the kind we make. There is wholeness, and that is peace. There is life. All this God’s creatures teach. It is why I scuba dive, why I return to the high desert, why I take time most every day to go to Paradise Park. And it is why I go to Maine.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

# November Lectionary

<p><b>November 1</b> <i>All Saints' Day</i></p> <p><i>Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18</i> <i>Psalm 149</i> <i>Ephesians 1:11-23</i> <i>Luke 6:20-31</i></p>	<p><b>November 3</b> <i>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4</i> <i>Psalm 119:137-144</i> <i>Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12</i> <i>Luke 19:1-10</i></p>	<p><b>November 10</b> <i>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>Haggai 1:15b-2:9</i> <i>Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98</i> <i>2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17</i> <i>Luke 20:27-38</i></p>
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<p><b>November 17</b> <i>Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 65:17-25</i> <i>Isaiah 12</i> <i>2 Thessalonians 3:6-13</i> <i>Luke 21:5-19</i></p>	<p><b>November 24</b> <i>Reign of Christ / Christ the King</i></p> <p><i>Jeremiah 23:1-6</i> <i>Luke 1:68-79</i> <i>Colossians 1:11-20</i> <i>Luke 23:33-43</i></p>
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## BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2019

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>
Tuesday, November 5	Yoders Market 2:00pm
Wednesday, November 13	Bird in Hand Fire Co 2:00pm
Thursday, November 14	Yoders Market 2:00pm
Tuesday, November 26	LG Hospital-3rd Floor Balcony James St. 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.



### November Prayer Families

November 3  
**Robert Clark**

November 10  
**Derek & Molly Colton**

November 17  
**Harold & Janet Cosby**

November 24  
**Betty Denlinger**



### Altar Flowers

#### Flowers for the Church

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on November 24 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 717-687-6619.

### Mission Committee

November's community meal will be served on November 14th because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The meal will be Amish wedding casserole - mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, corn, fruit salad and desserts from Weis markets. Everyone is welcome!

### November Worship Notes

**November 24** we will celebrate the ordination and installation of our newly elected officers who begin serving in January. Support your leaders with your prayers and your presence.

November 24 is also Christ the King Sunday, the end of the liturgical year. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion during worship using Intinction.

As fall deepens and we approach Thanksgiving, remember to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service Wednesday **November 27** at 7:30 p.m. at Old Leacock. We will join together for praise and prayer as we reflect on the bounties our Lord has provided.

Advent begins Sunday **December 1** with our traditional Advent Family Celebration. Worship will follow our covered dish breakfast served in the Narthex and Sunday School rooms. Plan which favorite carols you want to sing at this service.

### Session Snippets

The Session and Board of Trustees met together in October to go over the proposed 2020 budget and update each other on their activities. Elders praised the Trustees for their continued attention to the minute details of keeping both of our properties in good repair as well as their diligence when larger maintenance is required.

Session action items included the following:

- Approval of 2020 dates for the Community Meal
- Approval of the Mission Committee Special Offerings for 2020
- Approval of the following pulpit supplies
- Rev. David Drain, H.R. - October 27
- Rev. Patty Stoltzfus, H.R. - November 3
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Indoor Sexton, Charlene Boas

***Fifty Year Member, Musicians, New Members  
and entire Congregation Celebration  
Sunday, November 10, 2019***

On Sunday November 10, following 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. Also being honored this year are our new members. We have 34 members who have belonged to Leacock for fifty or more years. Our newest 50 year member is Skip Brackbill who joined on May 4, 1969. Our longest standing member is Ruth Usner who joined December 29, 1943. Both of these members regularly attend our Sunday services.

This luncheon will be provided by the CCL Committee. In order to help with the planning, we are asking you to call the church office and tell Sandy your name and how many will be in your party by Tuesday, November 5. The phone number is 717-687-6619.

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
Ruth Bryson	March 13, 1958	Skip Brackbill	May 4, 1969

The Session calls the annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 10, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2020 and elect new officers for 2020. 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](mailto:leacock.secretary@gmail.com).

## The Connectional Church—News from Our Denomination

One of the strengths of Leacock's congregation is how we all bring different backgrounds and experiences to our fellowship. For instance, not all of us are lifelong Presbyterians. Those who are not can sometimes be a bit confused about what is the value of having all Presbyterian churches in the PCUSA connected. Every two years there is a General Assembly, in which decisions are made that affect churches across America. We have a Synod, that supports presbyteries and even local churches. And we have our own Presbytery. Our per capita and some of our mission giving goes to support all these levels of our denomination. Well, why bother, you might ask. Why not keep our money right at home?

This month I am beginning a new column for our newsletter that will try to answer those questions. In it, I will highlight some things that are happening in our denomination, sometimes local, sometimes national. For instance, Westminster in West Chester is having a Poverty Simulation on October 26<sup>th</sup>, where people learn how better to experience and understand poverty and all the complex things that lead to it. Obviously, it will have passed by the time you read this, but I thought it was one good example of the opportunities and resources that are available, precisely because we are interconnected. So, look for more in the months ahead.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Dear Church Family,

Sunday, October 6, 2019 will be a day I will remember for the rest of my life. From the moment I stepped into the sanctuary, I knew I had come home for awhile, to be with you, my church family.

It was special also, because it was World Communion Sunday. I appreciated Bob's sermon, as usual, and for his kind words.

A special thank you to Shirley and Sandy for organizing the delicious brunch and all who brought food. It meant a lot to me to be with you and visit for awhile. I guess you know by now how much I miss you all and love you.

Blessings,  
June

P.S. My family appreciated everything too!!



## Family Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 1, 2019

As we begin our Advent journey to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Lord, we all have many things to do in preparation of this busy season. We will start the season, our 1st Sunday in Advent, with our Family Celebration. We will have a covered dish breakfast in the upstairs Sunday school rooms where we will join in fellowship around tables as we break bread together.

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

We will conclude the service with the celebration of Communion. Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Narthex as we begin our journey together.



## Christmas Caring Tree 2019

Our Christmas caring tree will be in the narthex from November 17-December 8. You will notice tags of different colors. We are collecting gifts for the Marines "Toys for Tots" program in Lancaster County. We will be concentrating on two age groups-very young children ages three months to two years, and older children ages nine to twelve years of age. Our church member, Dave Berkhimer, is active with the Marines and has been helping with this collection for years. He will help us deliver the gifts to the Lancaster County program. Possible gifts for the younger children are infant toys, and they are usually marked with the appropriate ages. The older children might like model kits, jewelry, science kits, games, and brain challenging games.. All gifts should be not wrapped but put in a bag with the tag you took from the tree attached to the top.

You will also notice some tags asking for gift cards for stores in our area. These gift cards will be for "The Bridge of Hope" program in Lancaster. We have collected for this program for the past seven years, and they really appreciate our support. The gift cards are for Weis, Target, Turkey Hill, Giant, Walmart, Wawa and others. These cards may be for amounts from \$10 - \$25. They will be delivered to Bridge of Hope office in Lancaster. These cards will help support young mothers struggling to make ends meet in Lancaster County. Last year we presented 23 gift cards to Bridge of Hope. Please give all gift cards to a CCL Committee person - Margy Hershey, Charlene Boas, Lori Smith, Shirley Smith or Mary Alice High or Sandy our secretary.



# Leacock's Trees, Treats, Treasures

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

### Saturday, December 7, 8AM - 2PM



Can you believe that there are less than 35 days until our Bazaar? Donations are now being accepted for Christmas ornaments/decor. 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 16.

We will be making our "FAMOUS" peanut butter bonbons on Tuesday, December 3 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 Carol Shearer. Be sure to note if you want milk chocolate, dark chocolate or mixed. \$6.50 per container.

Gift baskets will be due Sunday, November 24. 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.

Consider helping on bazaar day as a cashier, bagger, tear-down table person or condenser (moving items from one table to another). Again, sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex.

Come celebrate the spirit of Christmas with us in pre-Bazaar and Bazaar day activities!




### TREES, TREATS, 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. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Brackbill, Dianne Yuninger or Bonnie Rice.

## Mark your calendars:

Sunday, November 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Filled baskets due</li> <li>- Last day to pre-order bonbons</li> </ul>
Monday, December 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 pm Greens Night</li> </ul>
Tuesday, December 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 pm Making peanut butter bonbons</li> </ul>
Wednesday, December 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 pm Packing peanut butter bonbons</li> </ul>
Thursday, December 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baked goods - cookies/breads due</li> <li>- Help plate cookies 1 pm-?</li> </ul>
Friday, December 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baked goods - cookies/breads due</li> <li>- Help plate cookies 1 pm-?</li> <li>- Items needed for the cafe: soups/BBQ/rolls/mac &amp; cheese etc.</li> </ul>
Saturday, December 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 am-2 pm Christmas Bazaar</li> <li>- Enjoy breakfast, lunch and shopping!</li> </ul>

 <p><i>Christmas Bazaar</i></p>	<p><b>OUR “FAMOUS” LEACOCK PEANUT BUTTER BONBONS</b></p> <p>Ingredients needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 (32 oz.) Jif Peanut Butter</li> <li>4 (8 oz.) Philadelphia Cream Cheese</li> <li>5 lb. Butter</li> <li>5 (2 lb.) Domino 10X Confectioners Sugar</li> <li>\$\$\$\$ Money for Melting Chocolate</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- Monday, December 2 (1pm). Help packaging would be great too</li> <li>- Wednesday, December 4.</li> </ul>
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## Bazaar Cafe

Make plans now to eat Breakfast and/or Lunch at Leacock's Cafe on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 from 8 am to 2 pm. 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 24.

## Gratitude Corner

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



Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can sometimes be quite challenging. Imagine being in the middle of sending a newsletter article, say, and suddenly the Internet goes down. Or one might be in the middle of learning a new yoga pose, and the video suddenly freezes. (First World problems, I know, but still annoying for those of us who are lucky enough to dwell in the First World.) For Bob and me, this used to mean having to go to the church office to reset the Internet (often 2-3 times a day if it was windy or rainy). Then, along came three people to fix this problem for us and to give us better online access in the manse. Two came to rewire us, and the third came to entertain Bob, Clare, and me, so we didn't interfere.

Thank you to **Tom Burkins** and **Chad Burkins** and **Owen Burkins** for insuring our Internet is stronger, goes down less often, and we no longer have to go back and forth to the church to fix it.

Emily Birch



## Stewardship

Now that it is getting to the end of the year, some of our older congregants who are retired, may need to meet minimum required distributions from their retirement accounts, and also wish to get a tax break. While I am not a financial advisor, the basics of how this works and how it may be beneficial to you is laid out below. If you feel you may want to take advantage of this, I would recommend you speak with a financial advisor to look at your individual situation.

### **Making Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA**

You can use money from your IRA to donate to charity. What's more, your donation from a traditional IRA will be **nontaxable** since Congress made that tax break permanent at the end of 2015.

How a Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA Works -

Normally, when you take a distribution from a traditional IRA, you pay taxes on it since you didn't pay taxes on the money when you put it into your IRA. But if you are age 70½ or older and make a contribution directly from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity, you can donate up to \$100,000 without it being considered a taxable distribution. To avoid paying taxes on the donation, you must follow the IRS's rules for qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), also called charitable IRA rollovers. Most churches, nonprofit charities, educational organizations, nonprofit hospitals and medical research organizations are qualified charities. The charity you give to will not have to pay taxes on your donation.

Since you are already getting a tax break on your donation, you cannot double dip and also claim the donation as a deduction on [Schedule A](#). You're allowed just one tax break, not two. If you make other donations to charity that don't use your IRA funds, however, you can still claim each of those donations as an [itemized deduction](#) on Schedule A. If you don't itemize your deductions on Schedule A and you take the standard deduction on your annual tax return instead, a charitable IRA rollover will give you a tax break that you otherwise couldn't receive for donating money.

Required Minimum Distributions

You can also use your qualified charitable donation to meet all or part of your IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Traditional IRA owners must start taking RMDs at age 70½ or face tax penalties. The charity must receive your donation by Dec. 31 for you to apply it to that year's tax return. Roth IRAs do not require distributions while the account holder is alive.

Qualified charitable donations are also a good choice for individuals who otherwise could not deduct all or part of their charitable donations because of the IRS rule that says you cannot take a tax deduction for the amount of your donations that exceeds 60% of your [adjusted gross income \(AGI\)](#). At first glance, this

rule might sound like it only affects wealthy taxpayers who give generously, but it also affects anyone who is retired and has little to no income but still wants to make a tax deductible donation.

#### Tax Filing Requirements

Your IRA trustee will use IRS form 1099-R to report your qualified charitable distribution when you file your annual tax return. You will then report this information on form 1040. You should also keep your own records of the donation date, the account from which you made the donation, the amount you gave and the charity you donated to in case there is any discrepancy. You also need a receipt from the charity stating that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for your contribution. If you do, the amount of your donation is reduced by the value of the goods or services you received in exchange, and that part of your donation will be taxable.

#### The Bottom Line

Using your IRA to make a charitable donation can help you lower your tax bill and help any charity you designate, as long as it is a qualified 501(c)3 organization. Keep in mind, too, that distributions must be made directly to the charity, not to the owner or beneficiary. All distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or they will be counted as taxable distributions.

Another way to donate IRA assets to charity is through your estate after you pass away by naming the charity as the designated beneficiary of your IRA. The charity will receive whatever percentage of your IRA assets you provide for on the beneficiary form. Distributions from [SIMPLE IRAs](#) are not eligible to be qualified charitable donations.

Steven Boas

## *Book and Movie Group*



Some of you may have noticed that the book and movie club didn't meet in October, despite the fact we were supposed to do so. When last we met, the book and movie club organizer forgot she was going to be out of town almost every weekend in October and set a date without thinking (thus giving all of you a chance to practice forgiving her for being human). Now, however, she is ready to pick up where we left off, which is getting together to watch the movie version of *The Book Shop*. We will do so on Friday November 15 at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and join us for supper before the movie.

Emily Birch, Book & Movie Group Coordinator

## A Letter from Jim & Joan Farr

Dear Leacock Friends,

In one way we feel like we've hardly left the field. Packing, sorting, making lots of things fit in a small village house was always an ongoing challenge, and guess what? That's what we're still in the midst of! We left PA April 13 for our long trip to say goodbye to supporters in other states, put about 12,000 miles on the car doing that, and finally moved in here to our house in Kissimmee on August 14. Jim's enjoying flat Florida with his new bike and the local tennis group. Joan is enjoying swimming aerobics.

From then to now we had just about put in enough shelves and new furniture to hold all the "stuff" we'd had in storage over the last years. We had about one day to 'breathe' and this week Monday our crate from Papua New Guinea finally arrived. Those boxes are stashed around the edges of walls now waiting to be opened!

**But the reason for this letter is this.** We've always tithed, but almost always our tithe money was going to Korafe, Baruga or Kombio project expenses. Now since January 1, we've had the privilege of using our tithe to bless other ministries. And we'd like to give a little token back to you from what you've given us. So we're returning to you a tithe of what you gave us this year before we retired on June 30.

Through so many years, you have been FAITHFUL LOVING, CARING, PRAYERFUL AND WARMHEARTED in so many, many ways, we can't even count them all if we tried.

We know you've had your own challenges of different sorts along the way, but you never faltered in your commitment to us. Down through the years many of our Wycliffe friends in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere had their support dropped or cut, but you held on for the long haul with us, behind us and surrounding us in prayer. May the Lord continue to bless your faithful loving hearts!

If you're coming to the Orlando area, give us a call!

Love,

Jim & Joan Farr  
4136 Northgate Drive, Apt. 8  
Kissimmee, FL 34746

## USHERS

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

<b>November</b>	Bob & Margy Hershey
<b>December</b>	Craig Keenan & Darwin Eshleman

## November Nursery On Call



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### November

11/3	9:30 a..m.	Karen Homsher & Elaine Gouba
11/10	9:30 a..m.	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter
11/17	9:30 a..m.	Vicki & Tom Burkinsll
11/24	Thanksgiving Break	No Class

### December

12/1	Family Advent Day	No Class
12/8	9:30 a..m.	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
12/15	9:30 a..m.	Emily Birch & Linda Erikson
12/22	Christmas Crafts	Danielle Short & Carol Berkhimer
12/29	Christmas Break	No Class

Leacock Presbyterian Church  
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Articles for the December/January Newsletter  
Are due by Wednesday, November 20

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor