



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 61, Number 2

March 2020

Notes from the Manse

By the time you read this, we will have entered Lent. Lent offers us a season of preparation, a time to ready ourselves for the shadows and light of Holy Week. If we just keep on going about our lives during this time as if nothing has happened, nothing will happen when we reach that most important week of our faith. How can we possibly grasp all that Jesus did for this world, his journey from acclamation to agony to dawn, if we do not shift our focus intentionally away from the busy-ness of the mundane so that we can see, really see, grace in action? Ever since the earliest days of the church, people have undertaken what are called Lenten disciplines. For some, that involved fasting, like the fast Jesus undertook in his 40 days in the wilderness. Nowadays, many people give something up, something they don't want to give up, like chocolate. Others instead take something on, like extra prayer time or a study of some kind. What I propose this year is kind of combination of these various disciplines. And it is hard.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told us not to judge, lest we be judged, not to look for the speck in our neighbor's eye, while ignoring the log in our own. Well, I think he meant it. Yet, those words are often among those Jesus spoke that we ignore, forget, or rationalize away. It is so easy, so human, to find fault, to criticize, to judge others. After all, we are mortal; we all have flaws; we all have failed; we all have done wrong. It's not terribly difficult, then, to find something wrong in a neighbor. And there's an added benefit—when we do, we neatly shift attention away from ourselves. It can be so much harder to see, name, focus on the good of another person, the things they do that help, that are kind, that at the very least mean well. If we saw past what we judge, what might we see in a sister, a brother?

So, here's my proposal for a Lenten discipline this year. It has several steps. First, let's stop fixating on the speck in our neighbor's eye. Then, let us, as the Lord commanded Job, gird up our loins and face the log in our own eye. Let us with courage examine ourselves for all the big and little wrongs we have done and may still do. Let our gaze rest on them for a while. It will humble us; it will do some preparing of us. When we are ready, let us turn again to our neighbors. Let us be careful not to say anything critical about them behind their backs. If we must find fault, let us go to them with love and humility. For every negative thing we say, let us speak two positives, two words of gratitude, and not some tossed off, superficial things—something we have really thought about and appreciate. When the fault we find is real, let us do what Paul urged—let us build up, help, not tear down. Last, let us forgive, remembering that Jesus found it possible to forgive even those who crucified him. And we will know we too are forgiven.

If we were to do all this, if this were our Lenten discipline, imagine how we, how the world, might be changed. I believe there would be less anger, less division, less hate. Instead there would be more gentleness, more fellowship, more mending. We would be ready then for Holy Week. We would be ready for grace.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

March Lectionary

March 1 First Sunday in Lent Genesis 2:15–17;3:1–7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12–19 Matthew 4:1–11	March 8 Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 12:1–4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9	March 15 Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1–11 John 4:5–42
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March 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8–14 John 9:1–41	March 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6–11 John 11:1–45
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BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE MARCH 2020

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, March 4	Gordonville Fire Co. 2:00pm
Monday, March 16	Willow Valley Outpatient Center 8:00am
Tuesday, March 24	Yoder's Country Market 2:00pm
Wednesday, March 25	Willow Street Lions Club 2:00pm
Tuesday, March 31	Lancaster General Hospital 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.



March Prayer Families

March 1

Michael, Kelly

Owen & Nora Hartman

March 8

Austin, Kristin

Finley & Casin Hayes

March 15

Robert & Margaret Hershey

March 22

Geraldine Hess

March 29

Gwen Hess

Trustee Notes

TRUSTEE WORKDAY this Spring will be on March 28 at 8:30 AM. The raindate is April 4.

We usually finish about 12 noon. There are pasteries and drinks to get your morning started!

Bring your rakes, trimming shears and cleaning rags. The Trustees appreciate your attendance and concerns to keep OUR property looking good. Thanks to all.

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

Altar Flowers

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

Session Snippets

At their February meeting, the Session completed the following business:

- Co-sponsoring an April 21 book talk at the Pequea Valley Library by Shawn Smucker on *Once We Were Strangers*.
- Approving fundraising events and dates: Chili Cookoff April 25; Craft and Flea Market June 27; Corn Roast August 29; Christmas Bazaar December 8; selling Leacock "Spirit Wear"
- Transferring approximately \$2000 from the Emergency Fund to the Benevolence Account.

March 23 Happy Birthday!

Helen Krieder Rm #1862
Masonic Villiage
600 Freemason Dr.
Elizabethtown, PA 17023



EASTER PLANTS



The Deacons plan to offer Daffodills, Geraniums, Hyacinths, Tulips and Easter Lillies for purchase and placement in the Sanctuary as usual. Order forms will be in the Narthex as soon as prices are available. The information will be on the church website, also. Order deadline this year is April 1.

Mission

The next community meal will be held **Thursday, March 26**. We will be serving Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread and Fruit Cup along with desserts. Everyone is welcome and you can sign up to help or donate on one of the signup sheets in the Narthex two weeks ahead of the meal. Come and join us!

Also, the **One Great Hour of Sharing** begins March 1 and runs through Easter Sunday. The One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. We share God's love with our neighbors in need from around the world by providing relief from natural and human made disasters. These gifts support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People Program. With your heart-felt gifts and those of Presbyterians world-wide, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports programs in 100 countries. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Just a reminder for April and your spring house cleaning - our next **Clothing Drive** will be in progress during the month of April. Please keep us in mind. All donations go to the Lancaster County Clothing Bank.

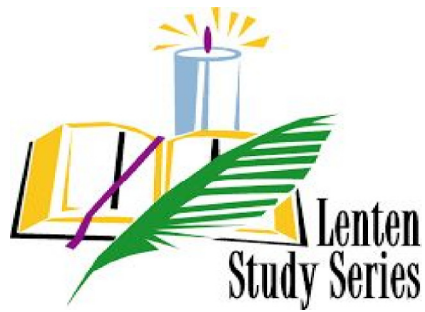


The Connectional Church—News from Our Denomination

The beauty, the truth, of our faith for me has always been intimately found in its engagement with the complexity of human life. There is no attempt to make faith simple or falsely reassuring. And our denomination works to address that complexity, as a few upcoming events show. The Enneagram is an ancient tool that helps people better understand themselves and their relationships with others. Suzanne Stabile, the co-author of *The Path Between Us*, a book about the Enneagram, will be leading a workshop on March 27th and 28th exploring this tool.

On April 18th, there will be a symposium in New Castle, PA addressing the reality that the world and the church are both changing. The goal is to consider what a future church might look like. Finally, the May Presbytery Meeting will, among other things, consider Disability in Church Life and how we can best be welcoming, in ourselves, our programs, and our buildings, to those with disabilities. If any of these interest you, and you would like more information, please let me know.

Rev. Robert W. Birch



Incarnational Worship: A Spirituality for the Human Creature Lenten Study, 2020

This is just a reminder that we will be having a Lenten Study each Sunday evening throughout March. This year's study will attempt to explore ways we can enrich our practice of faith by using all of ourselves, our spirits and bodies, as well as our minds. After all, when God wanted to speak good news, his word became incarnate in Jesus. When we are in touch with all the ways God has spoken in creation, in ourselves, in our fellow creatures, we will be closer to God, and our faith will be fuller and more alive. So, come join us. We will begin each evening with a light Lenten meal at 5:30; our practice together will follow at six. Each session is self-contained, so even if you are unable to be there for all, still we hope to see you. For a fuller description of this study, please see the January newsletter or Rev. Birch.



Worship News

For the month of March we are in the Liturgical season of Lent —a time of introspection, meditation, and discipline — as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Worship with your Leacock family each week as we go through Lent.

Another opportunity for spiritual growth will occur each Sunday evening with our Lenten Study beginning at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will share a simple meal of soup and bread before each session.

Looking ahead to April, our Holy Week and Easter schedule has been set.

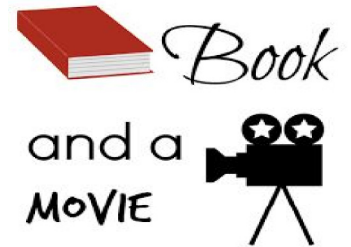
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|----------|---|
| April 5 | Palm Sunday - 9:30 a.m. |
| April 9 | Maundy Thursday Communion - 7:00 p.m. |
| April 10 | Good Friday Service at Noon |
| April 12 | Easter Dawn - 6:30 |
| | Easter Covered Dish Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. |
| | Service of the Resurrection and Communion - 9:30 a.m. |

Stewardship Update:

- We had asked the Emergency Fund administrators to look at current guidelines defined in our Manual of Operations with intention of making sure the use guidelines are up to date. The determination was that it was still appropriate, but some small wording changes are to be made, along with adding some process controls for the “liquid” cash part of the fund, which is held for emergencies where cash is needed. Stewardship team to revise and provide to Session for approval and inclusion to the Manual of Operations.
- As covered in the annual congregational meeting, our main Church account, Endowment account and other Church accounts were reviewed in January per our end of year financial process. The main account and Endowment were reviewed by two persons from Presbytery for no charge to our Church. One of them also helped us last year. The Presbytery is interested in possibly providing this service to other Churches and was happy to help us and gain some experience.
- In case you are wondering what the Manual of Operations is, it is the book where all Church operational information is collected for reference. The Manual is updated and added to constantly. It is a living collection of documents that describe how things are done in the Church. Several years ago, the PCUSA asked ALL Churches to create such a manual, and a large effort was made by Leacock’s Session to put it together. Our Session is committed to keeping our Manual updated and accurate. If you are interested in seeing our manual, there are copies kept in the library. If you would like a personal copy, please join Session and you get a complimentary copy 😊.
- Stewardship team announced the intention to create a group to look at current kitchen use and future needs and then plan for updating and improving the facilities to meet these needs. The scope of the group’s planning is not only physical equipment of the kitchen but also training of people using the kitchen. We did not get this group defined and meeting last year as hoped, so we will make it a priority for 2020.
- The Fundraising Team made a list of events for 2020 and set dates for them. Here is the list:
 - Chili cookoff – Second one! April 25, 2020. (inside tip - I hear a bit hotter is better)
 - Craft & Flea Market – June - Unlike last year’s yard sale, this will allow people to book tables and sell items themselves. We won’t be soliciting donations for a yard sale. A robust selection of food items will be available for sale too.
 - Corn Roast – August – Roasting corn, plus a full dinner. Who doesn’t love good sweet corn?
 - Christmas Bazaar – December as usual, first Saturday.
 - We will be designing and selling Leacock Church “spirit wear” which will be t-shirts, polo shirts and possibly hats. Would love to see a bunch of people wear these items at all our events.

Leacock Book and Movie Group

In February, the Leacock Book and Movie group met to watch the movie version of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* based on the book by Maria Semple. As always, we had a delicious potluck meal, with a wide variety of foods (this was probably one of the most well-attended movie nights we've had). The general consensus was that the movie did justice to the book, and we enjoyed it.



The next book we will be reading is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. This is a very important work about a lawyer fighting for justice for an innocent man put on death row in Alabama. We will meet on Friday March 20 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Please join us for a potluck dinner along with the discussion, and bring something to eat if you'd like.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Gratitude Corner

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

Okay, so it's that time of year to thank everyone who made my birthday special. I received so many birthday greetings and cards, I am overwhelmed. I even got a delicious cake to top off the delicious pot luck meal we had at the book and movie night on my birthday (thank you, Sandy! — and, I'm told, Bob). I would be remiss in not mentioning the fact that, even though she has moved away, I received not one, but **two** phone messages from **June Stannard**, trying to reach me on my very busy day to wish me well.

So, thank you to all!

Rev. Robert and Emily Birch



USHERS

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

March	Joe & Elaine Gouba
April	Bob & Margy Hershey
May	Mike and Alba Ruhl
June	Mary Alice High and John Shenk

**March Nursery
On Call**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

March

3/1	9:30 a.m.	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
3/8	9:30 a.m.	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
3/15	9:30 a.m.	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
3/22	9:30 a.m.	Lois & Darwin Eshleman
3/29	9:30 a.m.	Emily Birch & Elaine Gouba

April

4/5	9:30 a.m.	Danielle Short & Carol Berkhimer
4/12	No Class	Easter Sunday
4/19	9:30 a.m.	Jennifer McElhany & Shirley Smith
4/25	9:30 a.m.	Kathy & Chuck Ankney

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Articles for the April Newsletter
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THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor