



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 62, Number 2

April 2021

Notes from the Manse

“If we have died with him, we will also live with him.—2 Timothy 2:11

These words are generally believed to be taken from one of the very early Christian hymns. They reflect a theme that runs through Paul’s thought, that an essential part of following the way of Jesus Christ is to die and rise as he did. Certainly, this refers to a belief that life does not end with our physical bodies. But it also points to something that needs to be an essential, even urgent, part of our lives now. Paul didn’t invent this. Jesus himself spoke to this in many ways. He died on a cross. And he insisted that each of us, if we are ever to claim to be disciples, have to take up our own cross. He spoke of the need for a seed to die if it is to bear much fruit. Clearly, he and Paul were trying to make it so clear that we must die in a way if we are to live, not just in the future, but this day, this year, this season of our lives. Yes, we are to be born again, over and over.

What does this mean? Well, it can be so easy to freeze in a way of being, even if it is not healthy, even if it makes us sick. As children, we are open to a wonderful world that is new. We dream, we imagine everything from friends to adventures that seem more than possible. But then all the hurts begin and we learn to guard ourselves, to pull away from others, at first a little, then ever more. Dreams die. The adventures we dare take become smaller and smaller, because the shame and pain of failure are too great. One of the children of hurt is anger and we can find ourselves quicker to judge others, condemn them, cast them out. We settle into ever smaller tribes, with people we think are like us, people we hope like us. In the end, we may feel a little safer, perhaps more affirmed and validated. But at what cost! We lose the ability to become new, to grow. Our vision blurs until we no longer recognize a sister, a brother, a neighbor, right there before us, because they seem strange, different, dangerous. We spend so much time trying to protect our fragile self, we miss chances to love and heal; we miss the chance to be loved.

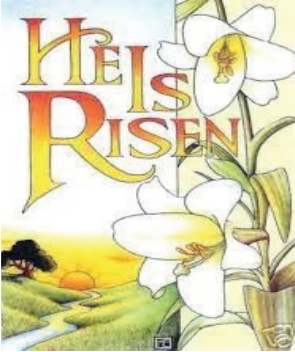
It doesn’t have to be this way, the way of brokenness. God wants so badly to end all of that sorrow that God sent the Son, to save, not condemn the world, to show us another way. We can heal. But first, we have to be willing to die, to die to whatever in us is poisoning us, pinching us, keeping us from being the creature we were always created to be. Let me give you an example. I hate politics, all kind of politics, not just national politics (though they are bad enough), but also office and church and family politics. Over the last year, I have found myself resenting all the sniping, all the division, that seems everywhere. But if I sit only in my anger, my indignation, I am a part of what makes politics toxic. What if I did something else? What if I died to partisan righteousness and instead tried to listen, to understand, more? Maybe, even if only with a few people, I might be able to find a way to a new, more peaceful, community.

When you read this it will be Holy Week. Do not rush to Easter. Pause, sit at the cross, consider in what ways, in this season of your life, you need to die. Do not be afraid to do so. The stone will be rolled away from your life. You can step into a new day; you can become a new creation. And look, there with you is your risen Lord.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

April Lectionary

<p><i>April 1</i> Maundy Thursday</p> <p>Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14 Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 John 13:1–17, 31b–35</p>	<p><i>April 2</i> Good Friday</p> <p>Isaiah 52:13–53:12 Psalm 22:1–31 Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9 John 18:1–19:42</p>
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<p><i>April 4</i> Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Sunday</p> <p>Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9 Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43 John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8</p>	
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<p><i>April 11</i> Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 4:32–35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1–2:2 John 20:19–31</p>	<p><i>April 18</i> Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 3:12–19 Psalm 41 John 3:1–7 Luke 24:36b–48</p>	<p><i>April 25</i> Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 4:5–12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16–24 John 10:11–18</p>
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Holy Week Opportunities

Just as before the dawn comes the darkness, so before the joyous celebration of the Resurrection comes the solemn time of Holy Week. Quiet time meditating on Christ's sacrifice of love can only add to our walk of faith.

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, there will be two opportunities for such meditation and for receiving the Sacrament of Communion. The sanctuary will be open from noon until 1:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for you to drop in as you are able and be fed.

On Good Friday, there will also be two opportunities for meditation as you listen to organ music and contemplate the moving window art depicting the Stations of the Cross. The sanctuary will be open from noon until 1:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for you to drop in and contemplate the depth of love our Savior has shown us.



April Prayer Families

April 4
Mildred Young

April 11
David, Bethany, Deanna
& William Swanson-Yuninger

April 18
Harold & Dianne Yuninger

April 25
Lucy Ames



Flowers for the Church

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on

April 11
April 18
April 25

in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Please call the church office
717-687-6619

Trustee Notes



The Trustees are having a workday on **April 17** from 8:30 AM to 12 noon. There will be raking, cleaning and of course, mulching.

In addition to the inside of Old Leacock being painted, Paradise is getting the woodwork touched up to get rid of the white spots in and around the sanctuary.

If you care to give to the Building and Facilities in May, we can use that to pay back what we borrowed from the Endowment Fund to replace the Old Leacock roof. We borrowed \$8,000 and have paid back \$4,100 so far. It is good to have that fund in place if we need it.

The Trustees try to keep YOUR CHURCH properties in shape but we do need your help. Thanks and see you on the 17th of April!

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

Session Snippets

The Session gathered once again via Zoom for their stated March meeting. Much discussion centered on regathering for in-person worship and how to effect that move safely.

The decision was made to regather May 2 for two services of in-person worship, one at Old Leacock at 8:00 a.m. and one at Paradise at 9:30 a.m. Mask wearing, socially distancing, and hand sanitizer will be in place for the foreseeable future, nor will singing be possible for a while.

Your elders realize how much many of you want to be in the sanctuary for worship, but also take seriously their mandate to shepherd our Leacock flock. We also scheduled the postponed Annual Meeting for Sunday May 16, following the 9:30 service.

Call for the Annual Meeting

The Session calls for the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday May 16 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting is called for the purpose of accepting annual reports, electing at-large members to the 2021 Nominating Committee, and conducting any other business which may arise.

A Tribute to Ruth Bair

A dear sweet lady who was always had a smile, caring and kind words for each person she greeted. Our love to her and her family. Also, a thank you for all who sent cards and notes of encouragement to us during this tough time. A hope for all - Healthy, Happy lives of Peace. Love in Jesus!
Don & Bea Andrews

Dear Leacock Church,
Thank you so much for the wonderful monetary gift. During this time of Covid you gift allows us to provide the tiems needed for our weekly weekend Food Pack Program. Your thoughtfulness if greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Lapp



April 5

Arlene Brackbill Rm. #513A
Pleasant View Retirement Community
544 N. Penryn Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545

April 14

Alba Buck
Wyomissing Health & Rehabilitation Center
1000 Wyomissing Blvd.
Reading, PA 19611

April 15

Mildred Young
Rm. #207 Wilbur Square
Luther Acres Manor
400 St. Luke Drive
Lititz, PA 17543

Leacock Book and Movie Group

On Feb. 19, we enjoyed a thought-provoking Zoom in which we discussed the movie version of *Just Mercy*. Then, on March 19, we gathered to discuss *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, and we even had a little show and tell. All I can say, is Sandy has some special dolls. Our next meeting will again be via Zoom on Friday April 23 at 6:00 pm. Bring your dinner, if you so choose, to discuss the 2019 movie version of *Little Women* (adapted and directed by Greta Gerwig). There are lots of movie versions, so make sure you have the right one. You can get copies of the movie through the Lancaster library system, or if you subscribe to Hulu, you can stream it there. Please join us even if you haven't read the book or seen the movie. We always have a good time. Also, please make sure I have your current email address, so I can send you the Zoom invite.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Please Remember our At-Home Members this Easter
by sending a card.



<p>Lucy Ames Lancashire Hall Rm. #311A 2829 Lititz Pike Lancaster, PA 17601 717-569-3211</p> <p>Dalin Appel Rm. 108 Rose City 425 N. Duke St. Lancaster, PA 17602</p> <p>William Berkhimer 1614 Bentley Ridge Blvd. Lancaster, PA 17602 293-8782</p> <p>Arlene Brackbill Rm. #513A Pleasant View Retirement Community 544 N. Penryn Rd. Manheim, PA 17545</p> <p>Alba Buck Wyomissing Health & Rehab Center 1000 Wyomissing Blvd. Reading, PA 19611</p> <p>Betty Denlinger Apt. 320 4 Conestoga Dr. Lititz, PA 17543</p> <p>Joyce Hamme c/o Elaine Lewis 2754 Welsh Rd. Mohnton, PA 19540</p> <p>Helen Krieder Masonic Village, Rm. W. #1862 600 Freemason Dr. Elizabethtown, PA 17022 Birthday: March 23</p>	<p>Miriam Latshaw 1520 Harrisburg Pike Lancaster, PA 17601 717-490-8610</p> <p>Kitty Shumate 433 S. Kinzer Ave. Apt. 443 GE New Holland, PA 17557 717-355-6900</p> <p>Virginia Stauffer 113 Summers Drive Lancaster PA 17601-5860 717-517-8775</p> <p>Ruth Usner Rm. 116 Oakleaf Manor 3901 Harrisburg Pike Landisville, PA 17538</p> <p>Jane Witmer P.O. Box 398 Blue Ball, PA 17560</p> <p>Mildred Young Rm. 207 Wilbur Square Luther Acres Manor 400 St. Luke Drive Lititz, PA 17543 717-626-1171 ext.1300</p>
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Worship Committee

As winter has faded into spring, we are excited to announce in-person worship will begin May 2. To facilitate safety protocols, we will have two services: one at 8:00 a.m. at Old Leacock and the other at 9:30 a.m. at Paradise. We will continue with mask wearing, social distancing and the use of hand sanitizer; singing will not be possible for a while.

Additionally, the service will be recorded and posted later in the day on our website.

What would we do without faithful volunteers who work so hard to add to our worship experience?

Always sensitive to the impact of the visual as a worship enhancement, Jennifer McElhany has worked throughout Lent and Easter to add to the spiritual dimension of And who can forget the glorious reminder of the Resurrection through the Easter flowers and lily-draped cross, all symbolizing our new life through Christ. Thank you, Jennifer!our worship. Beginning with the draped cross and crown of thorns, she added the Lenten banner beside the Communion Table as our journey through those forty days continued. The window sill art featuring the journey of Jesus to the cross helps emphasize the sacred sacrifice of our Lord on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.



Then there is our videographer Mike Hartmann. Faithfully each Saturday he has recorded our worship services and then edited them and posted them online. But Mike does so much more than record. Constantly his creativity and artistic eye find ways to enhance our worship. From the snow outside the church in February to the flowers of spring, the opening shots bring a sense of home to viewers. The Sunday he included not only a picture of our bell but its actual tolling made some of us think for a moment we were actually in the sanctuary. Camera angles, zooming in and zooming out, focusing on the various symbols of our faith at crucial times during the service — all this Mike does with humility and grace. Thank you, Michael!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Christian Education Invites you to Join the Sunday Scripture Sharing and Fellowship APRIL 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Reverend Birch will send an email Zoom invitation to all who have wifi and would like to join in sharing thoughts and reflections about the April 11th Scripture in the Worship Service Bulletin at www.leacockpres.org. Please call the church office or contact Rev. Birch for more information or to add your email to the Zoom list. Rejoice in Easter's renewal and our upcoming regathering by sharing during this time.

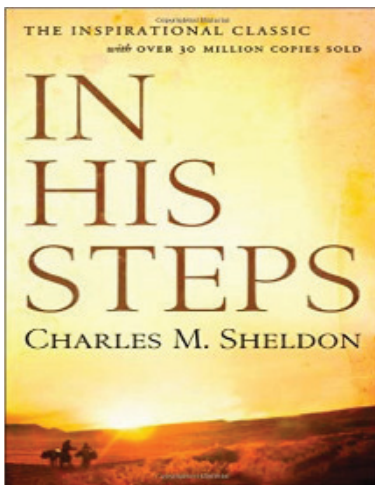
How to participate in Sunday Scripture Sharing, SSS:

- Watch the website's April 11 Sunday Sermon at www.leacockpres.org
- Reflect on the Scripture being discussed in the Sermon.

Join the emailed Zoom Invitation link at 5:30 pm:

- Share your scripture insights and reflections.

The Christian Education Committee urges you to try SSS and Zooming. Give Zoom a chance - it gets easier and if you need help, contact the office. SSS will be an opportunity for fellowship even for those still unable to regather.



The Women's Study Group will discuss IN HIS STEPS by Charles Sheldon on **April 26**.

Perhaps you remember, have even read, this inspiring challenge for Christians. Now the updated version is worth revisiting and experiencing especially as our church is stepping out afresh into meeting the changes and challenges taking place today. It is available at libraries, online, and at many bookstores. You are welcome to join if you have read, are reading, or didn't have time to read it. Please call the Church Office to be sure you are on the email list. A zoom link to the Book Group meeting will be sent on April 26.

Stewardship

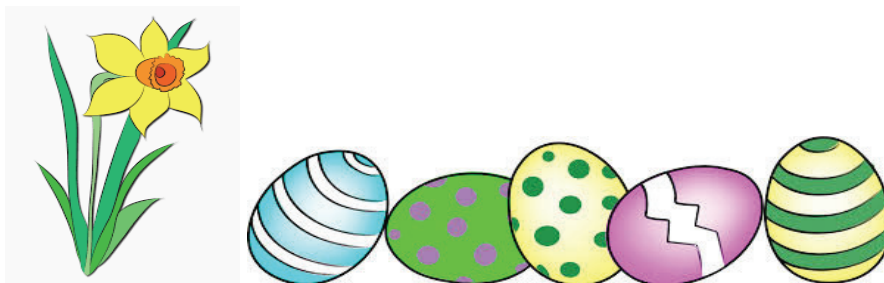
We are all looking forward to re-gathering in May. Our contributions have covered our expenses to date, but the re-gathering will add some financial needs. Please consider what the spirit is saying to you.

Even as we move forward, there are still many in need. Our Benevolence monies help local, national and world needs in these trying times. Please consider what the spirit is saying to you.

Our trustees have plans for some maintenance and improvements. Please consider what the spirit is saying to you.

Our lives speak to our inward needs and our outward generosity. Please consider what the spirit is saying to you.

Thank you.



Gratitude Corner

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

Bob and I have been overwhelmed by all the care we've received since I broke my arm. From prayers to text messages to phone calls to cards to meals (boy, do we have great chefs and bakers in our congregation!) to offers of rides, we've received it all with such appreciation. I'm sure all your loving kindness has helped me heal. So, thank you, everyone, for thinking of us and making this difficult period easier.

Rev. Robert and Emily Birch

Note: Bob and I have a few plastic food containers thanks to everyone's generosity while I've been recuperating. We haven't done a very good job of keeping track of what belongs to whom. S-o-o-o, if you're missing a container and want it back, please call us, so we can arrange to return it to you. Thanks!
Emily Birch

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Articles for the May Newsletter
Are due by Wednesday, April 21, 2021

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor