



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

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February 2021

Notes from the Manse

Most of you know that I love snow—a lot. I realize that probably most of you don't and you've likely been amused at my disappointment over the last few years when, time after time, a big snowfall was forecast and nothing came. As I write this, we have finally had a real snow, not as much as I would have liked (or was forecast), but the world is fully, wonderfully white. You may have wondered what is this thing I have with snow. Part of it is that I enjoy snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. And it is beautiful. But for me it's more than such obvious things. When I was growing up around Cleveland, we had glorious winters, since, due to what is called the lake effect, snow came and came and stayed. And yes, I loved sledding with my friends, building snowmen and snow forts. But what meant the most to me was when I would go outside at night, alone, with the snow still falling, perhaps blown in a wind. I wrapped myself in the quiet; the cold made me feel clean and more alive; I felt such great joy.

Snow brought all this to me, and it still does. But thinking about this now, there was perhaps a deeper reason for the grace I found in snow. Consider the words of *Psalms 46*—"Be still, and know that I am God!" It seems that one of the ways of knowing that God is God and all that means is to be still. Back when I was a teacher, a couple on the faculty divorced. Once, the wife told me that living alone now for her was so hard that she left the television on always. Jesus makes it very clear that we are to be together, that the way of faith is the way of fellowship, that we discover God in the neighbor, our sisters and brothers. We do need each other, as that sad woman knew. But there are times when we fill our lives with noise and busy-ness, not to know God or ourselves better, but rather to avoid a kind of knowing that frightens us. Being productive, singing, laughing, crying together, all is good. Yet, there is a need for stillness, for quieting the noise of our lives, for stopping and learning to listen, to see, to be.

Snow helps me become still. There are other things that do this for me. I am a night person, for I love those hours when the phone no longer rings, the traffic of the world lessens, things seem to become more spacious and, yes, more still. Scuba diving too brings stillness. Underwater, all you hear is your own breathing and sometimes the murmur of currents. You cultivate the discipline of moving slowly, for then you see, then you are surprised. Diving can be like worship—it is why dive sites are called cathedrals or chapels. But it's not only in times or places of beauty that stillness comes. I found it, with Emily, during the long hours waiting for news while my father underwent a procedure in which the odds were against him. We didn't say much; we didn't need to, as our sitting quietly was a form of prayer. I have found stillness in the presence of people suffering. Often the urge is there frantically to speak, to fix things that are painful to witness, when what is really needed is not words, but rather seeing that other, waiting, listening.

The psalm is right, you know. In all these forms of stillness, I have come to know God in new and deeper ways. I have known, I have felt, God's presence and grace and glory. Then, I have indeed known that God is God and that is good. So, yes, let it snow!

Rev. Robert W. Birch

February Lectionary

<p>February 7 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Isaiah 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11, 20c1 Corinthians 9:16–23 Mark 1:29–39</p>	<p>February 14 Transfiguration of the Lord</p> <p>2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–62 Corinthians 4:3–6 Mark 9:2–9</p>	<p>February 17 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–172 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21</p>
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<p>February 21 First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Genesis 9:8–17 Psalm 25:1–101 Peter 3:18–22 Mark 1:9–15</p>	<p>February 28 Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 Psalm 22:23–31 Romans 4:13–25 Mark 8:31–38</p>	<p>March 7 Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Exodus 20:1–17 Psalm 191 Corinthians 1:18–25 John 2:13–22</p>
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The Way of Healing—A Lenten Study

Some of the earliest followers of Jesus called him the Divine Physician. Over and over again in his life, Jesus healed people, so that healing was revealed to be an integral part of his teaching, his ministry, the good news he brought. In our faith, we believe God in Christ still does heal. But what does this healing mean? You probably have noticed that in my prayers during worship I often say that we all need healing, each of us. It can be easy to think we don't need it, that rather it's others who need healing, all those that are physically or emotionally or psychologically not well. But that misses the need we all have for grace, all we broken people. Healing, as I have mentioned, is not always a cure; it does not always come in the forms we may desire. So what is it? What is the healing that Christ did and does? Our Lenten Study this year will explore the many forms of Jesus' healing, whom he healed, how he healed, what was the nature of the healing he offered. We live in a time so much in need of healing, from the pandemic to broken societies. By reflecting on the healing described in the Gospels, perhaps we can discover the healing we need and that can come still, today.



Prayer Families

February 14
Joanne Stoltzfus

February 21
DiepNgoc & Anh Tran

February 28
Ruth Usner

March 7
Mary Weaver

Flowers for the Church

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on **February 21** in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Call the church office
717-687-6619

Trustee Notes

Normally February would be a month for Special Offering. This time we ask that you give extra to our regular offering to pay the bills we currently have, We still need to paint the inside of Old Leacock, replace the narthex storm windows and fix gutters. COVID or not they are there.

FYI The cemeteries at Old Leacock and Paradise are now joined into one cemetery, called The Paradise Leacock Presbyterian Cemeteries of Lancaster County. Officers are Dave Berkhimer, Ed Margerum and Mike Hartmann. Others involved are Wayne Homsher and Megan Homsher. George Shue has left and Steve Mowrer is leaving. If someone would like to replace these people please contact one of the officers, They would be glad to talk to you. This Board meets four times a year.

As always, the Trustees thank you all for your support to keep YOUR CHURCH and grounds looking good.
Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

Session Snippets

The Session met via Zoom January 28 and conducted the following business:

- Elected Dianne Yuninger as Clerk of Session.
- Approved continuing remote worship through the month of February.
- **Postponed the Annual Meeting until we are back to a hybrid form of worship.**
- Approved a Lenten Study via Zoom for February 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21.
- Approved administering of ashes for noon and 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday.
- Approved an adult Christian Education class, Sunday Scripture Share, via Zoom beginning February 14 and continuing in April after the Lenten Study concludes.
- Scheduled Communion for February 21.

Stewardship

Our **per capita** apportionment this year is \$35.38. Please use the envelope in your envelope box for this one-time donation. The Session and Stewardship Committee thanks the congregation for our financial giving in the past year. We contributed enough money to meet our current expenses. We also made significant contributions to our Building and Facilities Fund.

Stewardship extends to all of our personal lives. As we have received, so shall we examine our lives and our gifts. We have been gifted to “stimulate” the economy. I will be asking myself if there are more needs elsewhere than in my personal consumption. We can all examine the needs around our households and our community. Thank you,

Skip Brackbill, Chair of Stewardship

Worship Committee


As the days get a bit longer, the cold and the virus (and some snow) continue. Leacock will be worshipping remotely again for the month of February. We know many of you are deeply wanting to be back together again, but we must do all that we can to care for each other and remain safe. The Session will examine this decision again at their February stated meeting.

The holy season of Lent begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday. The church will be open from noon until 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to receive ashes. Masks are required as well as social distancing. The physical act of receiving the mark of the cross on our foreheads reminds us of the truth of all existence: "From dust you have come, to dust you shall return." This mark also serves as a symbol of the quiet penitence and preparation of Lent as we look forward to Holy Week and the glorious resurrection of Easter Sunday.

Once again we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion remotely February 21. As you prepare to worship that day, remember to have a glass of juice and small piece of bread or a cracker with you so we may commune together.

Thank You!

<p>Dear Deacons Thanks for the beautiful poinsettia. The bright red color adds to the limited Christmas decorations in my living room. It was kind of you to include me during this difficult year.</p> <p>Dalen also sends his thanks for the flowers that brings some cheer to his room.</p> <p>Happy New Year to all! <i>Ruth Anne Appel</i></p>	<p>Pray this holiday season finds all of you in good health and doing well.</p> <p>We are doing well and sure do appreciate the cards and phone calls!</p> <p>God bless ya'll! <i>Deb & Kirk Beane</i></p>	<p>To the Deacons of Leacock Presbyterian Church, Thank you for the poinsettia you gave me for Christmas! It was really beautiful and is still very nice.</p> <p>Also, for all the deacons who sent me Christmas cards and thinking of you in general cards as well as the members of the congregation. I feel close to those members even though I know very few of you and feel your caring thoughts. Not many churches are this active with their membership.</p> <p>Thanks again, Sincerely, <i>Joyce Hamme</i></p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>February 28</i> Miriam Latshaw 1520 Harrisburg Pike Lancaster, PA 17601 717-490-8610</p>
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Christian Ed

Be part of sending a Valentine to your Leacock Friends

Join in fellowship with your Leacock friends for the first SSS, Sunday Scripture Share,
February 14

Using the Worship Service Scripture, the Christian Ed Committee will send an email inviting you to Zoom where you can join in sharing your thoughts and reflections about the word and message for the 14th

Timeline: VALENTINE'S DAY

Watch the website Sunday Sermon

Note the Scripture in the Bulletin

Reflect on the Lectionary Scripture being discussed in the Sermon.

Join the Zoom Invitation 8 at 5:30 pm,

“Sunday Scripture Sharing” SSS,

Give a Valentine sharing to your Leacock friends

in fellowship and joy with friends,

Share your thoughtful scripture insights and loving reflections,

and support each other with passing the peace.

A Valentine Meeting of Friends

The CE Committee urges you to give this a try - even if you are new to Zoom. If you need help getting connected to Zoom, let the office know; we will help you.. We will see how the first meeting goes. But one way or another, It will be a giant step toward congregational sharing spiritually in fellowship.

Elaine Gouba, Emily Birch, Derek Colton, and Rev. Birch

Deacon Report for 2020

In spite of the pandemic restrictions on visiting, the Deacons have maintained an active ministry to our at-home members. In addition to the monthly card or phone call which replaced individual visits, an additional card was sent every month to each of our at-home members. The Deacons also participate in The Caring Connection as do many of you. This wonderful effort organized by the minister reaches out to the whole congregation. Easter plants could not be delivered last year, but by Thanksgiving the situation had improved a bit so we delivered cyclamen plants to 14 members and at Christmas (thanks to some donations) we delivered 17 poinsettias. Many of the congregation also participated in Thanksgiving and Christmas and birthday card showers for at home members. The Deacons sincerely thank all who participate in our mission by making donations, sending cards, placing phone calls and faithfully praying for those members suffering illness or loneliness.

Esta Fisher
Deacon Moderator

Mission Committee

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering begins February 21st until March 28th, the six Sundays of Lent 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!

Leacock Book and Movie Group

On Jan. 15th, we enjoyed a fun "potluck" Zoom in which we all gathered with our suppers to discuss the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. We will be gathering again on Friday Feb. 19th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the movie version of the book. Due to COVID-19, we, unfortunately will not be able to watch the movie together (some day soon we'll get to do that again, we hope!), so we're hoping everyone will be able to watch it beforehand. The library system has copies you can borrow, and you can also find it streaming online. The next book, which we will be discussing in March, will be an oldie but goodie: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Please join us even if you haven't read the book or seen the movie. We always have a good time. Please make sure I have your current email address, so I can send you the Zoom invite.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Gratitude Corner

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



This is the time of year when I thank everyone for their generosity during the Christmas season. We just love getting all your cards and thoughtful little gifts and delicious baked goodies. This year, it seems, we got more cards than ever, which we always love. We open them together and are always reminded of what the season is really about: the birth of our Savior and the love we all share. We keep them displayed on our bookshelves and appreciate them during the whole month of January, so they only just came down. So, thank you, everyone, for thinking of us and making our Christmas season all the more merry.

Rev. Robert and Emily Birch

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