



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 62, Number 4

June 2021

Notes from the Manse

The last few weeks have been hard. The letter I wrote to the congregation, my words at the Annual Meeting, showed that retiring from parish ministry, leaving Leacock, is not easy, for I care very deeply for you, God's people in this church in Paradise. And I know that with my news comes the uncertainty of change for you. For all of us, then, for varied reasons this can be a sorrowful time.

In *Isaiah 55*, there is a beautiful image of rain and snow falling to and watering the earth before the water returns to the sky. It is this that makes the earth bring forth buds, which in time yield seeds, seeds for the sower. I turned to this passage recently because I was thinking about seeds. Seeds, usually, make us think of the new, of beginnings. Yet, this passage points out that seeds have a history, that they are not a beginning out of nothing, that they are a product of an earlier growth. This congregation, Emily and I, we all are on the threshold of something new. What are the seeds to be sowed? And from what fruit have they come?

This congregation has a rich and long history. The church's future will emerge from that soil, a soil of dedication to serving others, to caring for each other, to maintaining traditions while starting new ones. That soil was watered by gentle rains and freezing snow, the good and bad that enabled it to bear fruit. And this has been true not only in the past. Over this long, last year of pandemic and unrest and division, you have embodied a faithfulness in so many ways, in holding fast to love in an angry world, in mutual support and caring, in a unity in diversity that our Lord calls us to. We didn't fracture over the issues that broke so many other fellowships. Instead, we wrote notes; we made calls; we visited with each other and worshipped using technology in new ways; we supported decisions about keeping safe even amidst disagreement.

All that you, we, have done over the last year and in years past have brought fruit, fruit of grace. Now, it is time to sow the seeds of that fruit. What might come from those seeds? There will be old, familiar crops, from well missed patterns of worship, choirs singing, perhaps Barnstormer games and miniature golf. There will be new things, imagined and realized, a future born of reflection on the present and past, such things as continuing to make worship and fellowship available to those who cannot be physically present. Water that moistens the earth so it can bear fruit that contain seeds—all of this is a metaphor for a cycle of life, a cycle of grace. As *Isaiah* says, it is a cycle that reflects the power of God's word in the lives of God's people. This church, grounded in God's word, has always sowed good seeds. And because you have, you will, in the prophet's words, "go out in joy and be led back in peace."

Rev. Robert W. Birch

June Lectionary

<p><i>June 6</i> <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> 1 Samuel 8:4–11 (12–15) 16–20 (11:14–15) Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1 Mark 3:20–35</p>	<p><i>June 13</i> <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 (11–13)14–17 Mark 4:26–34</p>
--	--

<p><i>June 20</i> <i>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4–11, 19–23) 32–49 Psalm 9:9–20 or 1 Samuel 17:57–18:5, 10–16 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6:1–13 Mark 4:35–41</p>	<p><i>June 27</i> <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7–15 Mark 5:21–43</p>
---	---

May Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee met this month to review the finances of the church, and we are happy to report that financially we are on strong ground. Your giving continues to be faithful and generous—thank you! Even during those long months when we could not worship in person together, the members of this church have ensured that expenses can be met. This last month a gift enables us to repay a loan taken from our endowment. Money is allocated every month to our benevolence fund and as a result we have been able to support our various mission pledges. All this is wonderful, but the committee is now looking to the future, a future when we can get back to some of the things we have missed during the pandemic. One of those involves FUNdraising activities. There is talk of a corn roast later this summer. People are excited about another fiercely contested Chili Cook-off. And who knows? If there is interest and folks willing to make it happen, we might be able to have a Christmas Bazaar. Stewardship is not only about finances. It is about fellowship, being good stewards in all the ways God wills. And it all is only possible because of you—so, again, thank you!



June Prayer Families

June 6
Ruth Anne Appel

June 13
Lauren J. Appel

June 20
Lea Lichty Armstrong

June 27
Marsha Ault

Flowers for the Church



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on **June 13, June 20, or June 27** in honor or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Please call the church office
717-687-6619

Trustee Notes

To keep you informed, the painting of Old Leacock and Paradise totaled \$7,579. There was a lot of patch work done at Old Leacock that made the painting turn out great.

The touch up at Paradise was time consuming and tedious but it also turned out well.

This year we have to silicone Old Leacock, so some of the Building and Facilities money will go towards that.

The pandemic didn't slow down the repairs of our properties. We had plumbing repairs of all things! Holes rust through pipes whether they get used or not.

The Trustees are usually busy, but we could not do the repairs without your continued support.

The Trustees thank you all for that. YOU make the Trustees job easier. As always, if you see a problem, tell a Trustee. Thank you.

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

Session Snippets

The Session experienced yet another first as we held a hybrid meeting with elders present either in person or via zoom. In spite of a frozen screen at times, the following business was conducted:

- Received both the Church Treasurer and Benevolence reports.
- Approved use of the Paradise sanctuary for the November 22 vow renewal of Cynthia Ames Weaver and Ronald Weaver.
- Approved foregoing indoor summer hymn sings this year.
- Granted permission to the Bell Choir to resume rehearsals following safety protocols.
- Approved the following worship protocols through the month of June:
 - Remaining masked and socially distanced
 - Participating in spoken responses wearing masks
 - Singing into masks
 - Returning Bibles and hymnals to the pews
- Approved placing a tear-off section on bulletins where congregants can voluntarily and anonymously indicate whether or not they have received the COVID 19 vaccine.

The Session will hold a Special Meeting May 26 with the Executive Presbyter and the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to begin learning about vacancy process protocols.

Worship Committee News

We have regathered, and it is glorious to be together again even with our masks! On Pentecost we began following our new guidelines which allow singing into masks and, yes again, it was glorious. What better way to celebrate the wind of the Spirit and the tongues of fire than singing “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us” and “I Come With Joy.”

The 8:00 a.m. service began at Old Leacock May 2 and offers the quiet of creation as gentle breezes waft through that historic sanctuary, tying worshippers to the saints that have gone before us. Services will continue there through the end of the summer.

We know, however, that some of you feel safer worshipping at home, and we cherish your presence virtually as we continue to record and post services.

Again we thank Jennifer McElhany for her artistic gifts as she dressed Paradise in red for Pentecost. These visuals enhance our worship experience as we lift our hearts in praise.

And, of course, videologist extraordinaire Mike Hartmann continues to bless us with his recording, editing, and posting, allowing us all to be “one in the Spirit.”

We Need Your Help

As the Worship Committee and the Session continue to discern how our worship can remain safe, we are asking for your help. Knowing the number of worshippers who have been vaccinated can make the difference between wearing masks and remaining socially distant.

For several Sundays there will be a tear-off portion on a bulletin insert which will ask you to check either “yes” or “no” concerning the vaccination. At the end of the service, you may place this slip of paper (and your used bulletin) in the recycling bin. All of this is voluntary and anonymous.

After several weeks, if it is clear that a large percentage of us have been vaccinated, we will be better able to formulate new protocols.

Thanks in advance for your assistance!

Ushers

With our return to in-person worship, we again need ushers to greet congregants, hand out bulletins, and help with seating.

June - Mike and Alba Ruhl

July - Bob and Mary Hershey

If you are unable to usher during the assigned month, please contact Head Usher, Ed Margerum.



Thank you, my church family, for the cards, phone calls, prayers, visits, flowers from the deacons and phone call from Bob during my convalescence.

They all helped make my recovery go faster and were greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen Rice

I want to thank my church family for all the support I've felt through your prayers, cards and calls after my brother Bill's passing. It has meant so much to me.

June Stannard

Elaine and I would like to thank the Caring Connection Committee for the wonderful and beautiful cards that we have received. They have helped uplift us from these trying times. Camila and Valentina love getting mail and seeing the beautiful cards sitting on our entryway table.

Elaine & Bobby Dyer

Leacock Book and Movie Group

After enjoying *Little Women* in both book and movie form (I would argue many of us like the recent movie version better than the book), we thought we might read something for the men in the group, so we're reading *Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby, which is a memoir centered around his obsession with football (that's soccer for us Americans). We'll be gathering via Zoom on Friday June 4th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the book. I promise you don't have to be a soccer fan to enjoy this book, but you also don't have to have read the book to come to our discussion. In July, we hope to meet in person - yea! - at the church to enjoy a potluck dinner for the first time in over a year and watch the movie version.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



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

The outpouring of love and affection from members of the congregation since Bob and I made our announcement about moving has been, not surprising, but so humbling. Not surprising, because we've known since we first began our ministry here that this congregation is made up of so many loving, kind, generous souls, but humbling all the same. Thank you, thank you to all those of you who have reached out with hugs (both virtual and vaccinated-real-life ones), texts, emails, phone calls, and notes. It means the world to us. God bless you all!

Emily Birch

The **Prayer Shawls Knitters** will begin regathering. We meet the first and third Mondays of the month, 9:30 am. We plan to meet following safe guidelines and Leacock policy, **June 7** and **June 21**. Join us in the church library!

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

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #951
Lancaster, PA



Articles for the July/August Newsletter
Are due by Tuesday, June 22, 2021

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor