



# *Leacock Communicator*

*Leacock Presbyterian Church*

717-687-6619

[www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)

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## Notes from the Manse

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will again regather in person for worship, at Old Leacock and Paradise. I have heard from so many of you about how excited you are, how good it will be to see friends, neighbors, to be present in the old, familiar way with each other. It was disappointing, to be sure, that the regathering didn't happen earlier. I, for one, was deeply saddened that we couldn't be in the sanctuary together on Easter and I know I was not the only one. But still, there is such a sense of relief that our time apart is ending. It just feels like we have gotten through a long, hard ordeal, that we have been freed at last.

That is true. It is a reason to rejoice. But there is still more to do. I hope, I believe, that we are through the worst of the pandemic, but we are not yet free of COVID-19. In recent weeks, cases went up again, as did deaths, and hospitals spoke of once again being stretched by the virus. There are new variants threatening; the upper Midwest is seeing a staggering number of infections. We therefore must continue to care for each other, to do everything we can to keep people safe, following safe practices, erring on the side of caution when we are not sure of the danger before us.

Many of us, I am sure, do not want to hear that. "If we have somehow made it through this last, horrible year, why can we not put all the worry, the precautions, behind us and get back to normal?" some might ask. "I thought we were free at last." If you have such thoughts, you are not alone. The Israelites long ago felt just the same. Slavery, grinding, killing work, being far from anything one might call home—it was enough to end hope. But the Lord saw; the Lord sent Moses to let the people go, and they were brought out of the land of Egypt; they were freed. But passing through the waters turned out to be only a beginning. Oh, they were heading to a promised land, but they would not get there for 40 years. And so the people became impatient, not only over those long decades in the wilderness—why, they couldn't wait while Moses was up the mountain with the Lord. They complained and complained, demanding food, water. In the days of slavery, they hadn't lacked such things! When they had to wait, they made other gods, gods easier to understand, golden calves. And they got angry, at Moses, at God, at each other.

What they didn't realize was that those 40 years were to be a time of learning so much they had never known before. They were to love God, of course; but they were also to love their neighbors as themselves. And their care was to extend not only to friends and family, but also to the stranger amongst them, to the land itself. Really, in the end, it was all about caring, caring for each other, all others. In *Deuteronomy* 30, the Lord gives the people a choice, to choose God, which will bring life and blessing, or to choose idols that bring only death and curses. To choose God, to choose life, is the way of caring.

We too have passed through some waters, but we too have a ways to go before we reach the promised land. Let us rejoice in the progress we have already made. But let us be patient - with precautions still to follow and with each other. Let us help each other along the rest of our journey together.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## *May Lectionary*

<p>May 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 8:26 40Psalms 22:25–31 1 John 4:7–21 John 15:1–8</p>	<p>May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10:44–48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1–6 John 15:9–17</p>	<p>May 13 Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53</p>
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<p>May 16 Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1:15–17, 21–26 Psalm 11 John 5:9–13 John 17:6–19</p>	<p>May 23 Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21 John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15</p>	<p>May 30 Trinity Sunday Isaiah 6:1–8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12–17 John 3:1–17</p>
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### **Deacons**

As in-person worship approaches in May, the deacons also hopefully look forward to being able, once again, to visit in person with the at-home members. We have prayed, made phone calls, written notes, sent cards and delivered flowers and Easter plants, but we miss the smiles and hugs. I want to thank the congregation and the Deacons who participated in these endeavors and offer special thanks to Karen Homsher for delivering the altar flowers every week while we were not worshipping in-person.

Esta Fisher  
Deacon co-moderator

**Annual Meeting**  
**May 16**  
**In-person and via Zoom**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**Called to:**  
**Approve the Annual Reports**  
**Form the 2021 Nominating Committee**  
**Conduct any other business which may arise**

<p><b>May Prayer Families</b></p> <p>May 2 Donald &amp; Bea Andrews</p> <p>May 9 Mark &amp; Barbara Andrews</p> <p>May 16 Chad &amp; Nina Ankney</p> <p>May 23 Charles &amp; Kathy Ankney</p> <p>May 30 Dalín Appel</p> <p><b><i>Flowers for the Church</i></b></p> <p>You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on <b>May 9</b> in honor or in memory of someone or a special occasion.</p> <p>Please call the church office 717-687-6619</p>	<p><b>Trustee Notes</b></p> <p>Workday was a big success because of the number of people that participated in keeping the church properties in good shape. We had an excellent turnout, and I thank everyone that showed up.</p> <p>Old Leacock sanctuary is freshly painted and looks great. Paint at Paradise has also been touched up in and around the sanctuary.</p> <p>Your Special Offerings made that happen. We had one check given to the Trustees that covered the money owed to the Endowment Fund for the roof at Old Leacock. It was a surprise and greatly appreciated. The other monies we receive from the Special Offering we can use for other needed jobs for the properties. The Trustees thank everyone for their continued support.</p> <p>Dave Berkhimer Trustee President</p>	<p><b>Session Snippets</b></p> <p>At their April meeting, the Session approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates to Leacock's Manual of Operations.</li> <li>• Communion dates for the rest of 2021: May 23, July 18, September 12, October 3, November 21, November 28.</li> <li>• Appointment of Dianne Yuninger to the 2021 Church Nominating Committee.</li> </ul>
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## Leacock Book and Movie Group

On April 23, we enjoyed a discussion of the most recent adaptation of *Little Women* on the screen. If only Professor Baer had been German and a little older! We've chosen our next two books. The first is *Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby, which we'll read and discuss on June 3. In July, we'll discuss the movie version of the book. In August, we'll read and discuss the book *The Hundred Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais. The books and CDs are all available through the Lancaster Library System. On June 3, we'll meet via Zoom again at 6:00 p.m. Maybe by July, we'll be able to meet in person again to watch the movie. We'll keep you posted on that! Remember, you don't have to have read the book to join us for fellowship. We often have people join us who haven't, and we always have a good time.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

### Thank you!

Dear Caring Church Family,

I would like to thank you for all the cards, calls, prayers and visits I received during my recovery. I am doing well. I'm sure the peanut butter eggs that Carol Shearer delivered contributed to my speedy recover. Thanks, Carol!

God Bless, Sue Funk

## Thank You!

Hello my name is Marsha, I'm a member of this amazing family called Leacock Presbyterian Church. As many of you know, this has been an especially rough year for me, with losing an amazing Angel God lent to me for 52 years, my sweet, loving, humble, caring, mother. I miss her more than any words could ever describe! And then finding out my liver has gotten worse and now moving closer to hopefully my transplant.

When my amazing Leacock family got wind of my situation, BOY, the cards come filling up my mailbox! Cards of sympathy, and well wishes - let me just say, YOU all are amazing. I've gotten so many and I'm so thankful for every one - you have all lifted my spirits. I'd like to say a special thank you to Pastor Bob Birch. As soon as he heard of my liver issue, he got on the horn and in 2 days can you believe 2 DAY'S? I got a call from Reverend Birch about a lady who wants to try and be my donor, She is a member of our church. Imagine my family, someone from this wonderful family! I've got to tell you, you all are amazing! God has truly truly blessed me, you all have always been so welcoming to me and I just wanted to say

Thank You all so much. May our Lord's peace be with you always .

God bless you all  
and thank you again,  
Marsha Ault

Dear Leacock Friends: Janet and I want to send a great big, heartfelt THANK YOU to all our Leacock friends who have been so thoughtful in sending us cards, letters, phone calls and all kinds of greetings during the pandemic. We cannot begin to name all who have made us feel warm all over. We live in a retirement community and are surrounded by friends and neighbors, but close fellowship has not been possible. Your attention was so personal and so helpful to us during these many lonely days. Thanks again, your words were very meaningful to us. Love, Janet and David Birch

Rev. Birch, Beautiful service! So well done. We know lots of work went into a blessing for us all on Palm Sunday. Thank you! So happy to hear music, and the young ladies did a fantastic job. Great singing, and the pictures of Bible lessons were great.



Thank you all! May the good Lord bless & keep you! Don & Bea Andrews

### EASTER SUNDAY

Another beautiful church service! Opening with the glorious looks & sound of our church bell, Mike Hartmann's great photography. All the ladies singing & Dianne's & bell ladies talents & beautiful decorations & lovely flowers added so perfectly to a wonderful Easter service & with Rev Bob's scripture! Message.

We thank you all!

love in Jesus!

B&Don A

## Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Committee reviewed the church's finances at our April meeting. Our fellowship at Leacock continues to support the church in a generous and faithful way. Through the first quarter of the year, our income remains ahead of expenses. Some of this is due to some particularly generous one-time donations—thank you to those who made them! This does mean that we cannot count on such gifts as we move forward. Further, as we regather, there will be increased expenses and we have already begun some bigger projects. We urge you therefore to continue to be faithful in your donations. We have made it this far through the pandemic strongly. Given the character of our congregation, we are confident we will continue on this path.

## CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

Christian Education Invites you to  
Join the Second Sunday Scripture Sharing and Fellowship  
May 9 and June 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Reverend Birch will send email Zoom invitations to all who possibly will join in sharing thoughts and reflections about the May 9 and June 13 scriptures referenced in the Worship Service Bulletin on the [www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org) website. Rejoice in Easter's renewal, the upcoming regathering, and the reaching out to each other by joining in spiritual growth and fellowship.

Please consider participating in the online "Sunday Scripture Sharing" SSS. **How ?**

-Watch the website's Second Sunday Sermon at [www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)

-Note the Scripture in the Bulletin

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

-Give a greeting, share thoughtful insights, pass the Peace of Christ with Friends

\*\*CE Committee will have 2 (two) SSS meetings before breaking for the summer. After that, Christian Ed gatherings will be determined pending the pandemic situation. Hopefully, you will consider zooming and help this type of fellowship become a new way for spiritual growth for many people who may still be unable to regather on May 2.

The Woman's Group thanks all who participated in the discussion on In His Steps by Charles Sheldon on Monday, April 26. The last discussion before summer will be Monday, May 24. Please call the Church Office to get on the email list if you are not already on it.

## Ushers

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

May - Dave and Carol Berkhimer

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.

## Worship Committee Thoughts

May brings thoughts of Mother's Day, Memorial Day, graduations, and regathering.

We will be able to worship in person beginning May 2 with an 8:00 a.m. service at Old Leacock and a 9:30 a.m. service at Paradise. However, if you do not feel comfortable coming to either of these services, we will still be recording them and posting them to the website. We urge all of you to worship with us in the way that best meets your situation, remotely or in-person.

On Pentecost May 23 we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. Again whether in-person or remotely, you will have the opportunity to be fed with the body and blood of our Lord.

In the April newsletter we highlighted both Jennifer McElhany and Mike Hartmann for their spirit-filled additions to our worship. Once again we are grateful to them for their ability to expand our senses as we praise, pray, and meditate.

The window collages will remain in place until Pentecost, giving those of you who have not as yet seen them in person a chance to do so. Thank you, Jennifer, for sharing your artistic gifts with us.

Each week Mike seems to be able to add a visual which underscores a prayer, a reading, or a piece of music. The window sill shot during the April 18th postlude proved particularly moving as does the steeple bell call to worship each week. Thank you, Mike.



## Gratitude Corner

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

Bob and I certainly didn't expect a visit from the Easter Bunny this year, figuring he was saving his pandemic masks and energy to serve children, letting us adults fend for ourselves. And, well, with my broken arm and Bob's busy Easter schedule, it didn't look like fending for ourselves was an option. What a surprise that the Easter Bunny decided to enlist the help of some very talented candy-makers in our congregation to make sure we didn't feel neglected.

Thank you to **Lauren Appel, Ruth Anne Appel, Carol Shearer, and Jenny Keenan** for making sure our Easter baskets were filled. Yum!

Emily Birch

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

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Articles for the June Newsletter  
Are due by Friday, May 21, 2021

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor