



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 62, Number 7

October 2021

Notes from the Manse

Summer has passed. And you know, it was a good one, even with all the noise out there in the world. Yes, COVID-19 still torments us. By the end of the summer, the number of people dying in this country alone on a daily basis exceeded 2,000, again. And with the pandemic has come all the coarse, angry division, often sadly breaking apart bonds long established. Half of the country experienced floods, while the other half burned. But still, there was good; there was blessing. The people of Leacock are of course well aware of all the shadows out there. Yet I am so gratified to witness the resilience, the will and the grace, of this fellowship. We went back to worshipping in person. We again have been singing together. We had the Share the Bounty table, which always for me is an embodiment of Christian love, as people share the good they have grown. And we had fun. We had a Corn Roast. We had an Ice Cream Social. We went to a Barnstormers game, although those there were subjected to my rather woeful first pitch (it was short, but it was at least straight!). All in all, this summer has in many ways been a testament to faith, our faith, as we chose life in the face of all the many deaths around us.

The seasons held a central place for the people of God all through the Bible. And that makes sense. For this was a people tied closely to the land and their lives depended on the regularity and renewal in the turning of the year. *Psalm 74* states that the Lord fixed the bounds of the earth and made summer and winter. In other words, the seasons were an integral component of creation. And the people honored that. Many of the religious festivals of Israel were tied to the seasons, marking the times of sowing and reaping. *Psalm 1* uses the image of yielding fruit in season as one of the marks of those who follow the Lord. Pentecost marked the spring barley harvest. Religion and the more general rhythms of life were bound together, and people learned about themselves and their God by reflecting on the unfolding of the seasons. *Ecclesiastes*, in those well-known words, said that for everything there is a season. Just as there so clearly were times fit for planting and others for reaping crops, so were there different seasons to our lives. Why, in the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earths, the sun and the moon were made, we are told, for signs, seasons, days and years. Now, as then, we do gain wisdom by recognizing the signs and seasons that mark our lives.

The coming of the Autumnal or Fall Equinox, that day when there is equal night and day, prompted all this reflection on the seasons. Many years ago, I read a book that said that humans have a liminal existence. Liminal is just a fancy word for threshold. And it does seem true that over and over our lives are marked by thresholds, where we grow and change, say goodbye to people and places while greeting others. We, here at Leacock, are at a threshold, of the seasons, yes, but also in our lives, as a congregation and perhaps as individuals. It might be good, then, to follow the example of those people who went before us, to stop, ponder who we are and where we are going. If we do, we will probably recognize some things whose time has passed or should; that is a letting go. But we can also look across the threshold and with hope and confidence enter another season, a season in which as always the Lord is with us.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary

<p>October 3 <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16</p>	<p>October 10 <i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 23:1-9; 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31</p>	<p>October 17 <i>Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 38:1-7 (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45</p>
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<p>October 24 <i>Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52</p>	<p>October 31 <i>Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34</p>
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Where Do We Go From Here?

Again as the Session continues working through the “Vacancy Process,” we ask your prayers for discernment and encouragement.

The Job Description for an Interim/Transition Pastor who will begin serving us in January has been posted, and several applications have already been received. We plan on closing the applications at the beginning of October and then will begin the interview process.

Please pray for the life and health of Leacock Church and the future pathway God has designed for us. We ask for patience and stability as this process continues.

Dianne Yuninger
 Clerk of Session



October Prayer Families

October 3
Alba Buck

October 10
Richard Buck

October 17
Dorothy Buckwalter

October 24
Thomas & Vicki Burkins

October 31
Sean, Maureen Alyssa & Garrett Carney

Flowers for the Church



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on **October 31** in honor or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Please call the church office 717-687-6619

Trustee Notes

The next two Special Offerings are for the Building Fund and will be going towards the Manse.



The Trustees are planning a Work Day on Saturday, October 16. We will have our usual raking, pulling weeds and cleaning of the church.

As usual, there will be drinks and refreshments. This is a great time for fellowship and catching up on the local gossip in the community, not that Presbyterians do that.

Thanks to you all.

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

Session Snippets

The Session gathered in mid-September, meeting in person in the Board Room for the first time in many, many months. Being together and sitting across from each other at a table felt good as did the laughter we shared from time to time. However, we realize Zoom and Hybrid meetings will play a significant part in the future. The pastor and clerk have been commissioned to devise a plan for future meetings and present it to the Session for discussion.

The Session is also discussing appointing a Technology Committee to aid in bringing Leacock more up to date within this area.

Our October meeting will be with the Board of Trustees to discuss the 2022 budget.



To the Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Thank you for the beautiful lavender/pink shawl you sent to me after the death of my son, Randy. It has been a difficult year as we have been closed to visitors for most of the time. I also miss attending church.

Sincerely,
Lucy Ames



Worship Committee

Summer worship at Old Leacock has passed for another year. A small but faithful bunch gathered each Sunday in the stillness of the early morning to share in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Old Leacock Sunday, with Holy Communion, is also history for 2021. What a beautiful, glorious morning we all shared in worship, fellowship, and good food. A special thank you to the CCL Committee and Mark Andrews for planning and coordinating the picnic, providing gorgeous autumn table decorations and corn-hole! And thank you to Bonnie and Jim for

the well-cooked hot dogs. What a perfect way to end the summer.

As fall advances, we still need to be aware of the COVID protocols in place. Social distancing continues and masking remains optional.

World Communion Sunday occurs October 3 when we celebrate the Sacrament with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ throughout the world. Come and be fed.

The Bell Choir has regathered for rehearsals, following safe practices, but Chancel Choir remains on hiatus. Rehearsal space is too small and not ventilated well enough to allow for gathering. We are hoping that as the infection and hospitalization rates continue to decline, regathering may occur later in the year.

October Stewardship

It is always good to remember that stewardship is more than just dollars and cents, as important as they are. Stewardship is also serving the Lord in serving each other, all our neighbors, in truth all of God's good creation. The summer that just ended was filled with many kinds of great stewardship. We had the Corn Roast and it was a success, measured not only in sales of corn and barbecued pork, but also in fun and fellowship. The Share the Bounty tables offered ways to share wonderful produce in our fellowship. As far as the dollar and cents part, we did well, seemingly better than we did other summers. Yes, giving was down a bit; it always is during the summer. But our expenses, with a few large, one-time expenses, tracked well with the offering. Overall, we continue to have a very healthy balance in our account. And the Paycheck Protection Loan was finally, after great effort, fully forgiven. Many of our committees are working hard to bring back some of those activities that had to be put on hold during the early days of the pandemic. And all that will increase our expenses. So, please do continue to support your church as you always have. Once more, let us say—well done, good and faithful servants! You—we—are good stewards of God's church in Paradise.

Our at-home members

Lucy Ames
Lancashire Hall Rm. #311A
2829 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-569-3211
Birthday: **August 12**

William Berkhimer
1614 Bentley Ridge Blvd.
Lancaster, PA 17602
717-293-8782
Birthday: **January 9**

Alba Buck
14 Cherry Hill Rd.
Ronks, PA 17572
717-687-8607
Birthday: **April 14**

Arlene Brackbill Rm. #513A
Pleasant View Retirement Community
544 N. Penryn Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545
Birthday: **April 5**

Betty Denlinger Apt. 320
4 Conestoga Dr.
Lititz, PA 17543

Joyce Hamme
c/o Elaine Lewis
2754 Welsh Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540
Birthday: **Nov. 1**

Miriam Latshaw
1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-490-8610
Birthday: **February 28**

Virginia Stauffer
113 Summers Drive
Lancaster PA 17601-5860
717-517-8775
Birthday: **July 22**

Jane Witmer
378 Yellow Hill Drive
Narvon, PA 17555
717-333-8475

Mildred Young
Rm. 207 Wilbur Square
Luther Acres Manor
400 St. Luke Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-1171 ext.1300
Birthday: **April 15**

Gwen Hess
3165 Lincoln Hwy. East
Paradise, PA 17562
717-687-0801



CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

We hope you will consider joining us on October 10 for Adult Christian Ed in the library. We are reading Acknowledging God, which is a thin, gem of a book that guides the reader's daily path with short scripture readings. If you cannot make the after-worship time, consider asking for a copy from the church library for yourself. Also, please invite others - friends, neighbors - to join us. On October 10, Acknowledging God starts with How the Lord Provides. But each week is a separate discussion; come anytime you can. We will meet weekly until the New Year unless cancelled in the bulletin.

The Children's Sunday School program is set to start. Parents and children will be invited to a meeting to help plan the most stable times for it to begin. If you know of children or grandchildren that could be included, please call the office or mention to Rev. Birch.

The Women's Group has been enjoying Wayne Muller's Sabbath... full of poetry, famous quotes, real-life connections, statistics, and ideas on times and how to reflect. Next evening meeting is October 25, 7:30 p.m. in the Church Library. If you are interested in a personal introspective approach to our God given time of rest, please ask Elaine Gouba for a free copy of this book.

As always, if either you or a person you know cannot attend in-church fellowship, please call the office or tell Reverend Birch. Whether a study group, women's study, or Second Sunday fellowship, Zoom is often available.

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"Let life come as it will, and don't
be afraid. God does not leave us
comfortless, so let evening come."
--Jane Kenyon from Sabbath



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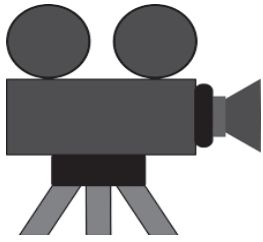
Ushers

October - Brit Kilbourne and Angela Killian

November - Mike and Alba Ruhl

December - Darwin Eshleman and Craig Keenan

Leacock Book and Movie Group



The Leacock Book and Movie Group gathered on Friday September 24 to discuss *The Hundred Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morris. I think this was the largest group we've had since well before the pandemic started, and we had a delicious feast, which was fitting for this fun, fairy-tale of a book that centered around food. We'll be watching the movie version of the book on Friday October 22 and hope you will join us. Please bring a covered dish at 5:30, and we'll watch the movie afterwards.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



Gratitude Corner

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

So, we thought we'd managed to make it through the summer season untouched by spotted lantern flies. We'd seen a few on the sugar maple in the manse's side yard but nothing like last year when they seemed to swamp to it. Then September came. All of a sudden, the annoying killers seemed to have come from nowhere, latching onto the tree everywhere we looked. Last year, one of our kindly church members came over and sprayed for us, and this year, he sprayed for us again (twice!). Meanwhile, we have a ficus tree that had outgrown its pot, and neither of us has very green thumbs, but another kind member of the church came over and repotted it for us. It's now looking better than it ever has!

So, thank you to Ed Margerum and Angela Killian for helping us keep our trees alive.

Emily Birch

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