



# *Leacock Communicator*

*Leacock Presbyterian Church*

717-687-6619

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

*Volume 62, Number 8*

*November 2021*

## **Notes from the Manse**

Probably most of you know where the name of the first month of the year comes from, the Roman god Janus. It's a name that fits well, for Janus was the god of beginnings and endings, transitions, doorways. Well, on January 16, you and Emily and I will be standing on a threshold, as my ministry at Leacock ends and something new unfolds for all of us. Including this, I will write only two more Notes from the Manse, and it occurred to me that I should use them to reflect on what has been and what may be. And so now I share with you some of my memories of the last 14+ years.

Start at the beginning, when Emily and I sat in what would be my office after my Candidating sermon, awaiting news of the congregational vote as to whether or not you would call me, and the joy that followed when we were told that you wanted us. In the course of the seasons that followed, beyond all the vicissitudes of mortal life, there were the glories of Christmas in a packed church in Paradise or at midnight at Old Leacock singing "Silent Night" by candlelight; there was the light rising from darkness at dawn on Easter morning at the old church followed by breakfast and the joy of word and song as we affirmed resurrection life. We were never spared the truth of the creature; it wasn't always all light. There were the sorrows of funerals, and I especially remember my first year when there just seemed so many. But there were also weddings and to my gratitude and delight the connection made with several of those young couples endured as they became a part of the church. So often, there was as much receiving as giving when I visited folks, some who could not hear me well, others who didn't really know who I was—one person, however, did acknowledge that I reminded her of her minister.

I recently looked back at the Lenten Studies I put together and led, and I was reminded of how special they could be, as together we shared, we tried new practices and ideas, we grew, examining things from the meals Jesus had with his friends to different ways of faith and worship to Celtic spirituality. I cherish the Communicants Classes we had, as I introduced the varieties of faith in a fashion similar to the one offered long ago to me by another pastor. And there were trips with the youth, to Buddhist and Hindu temples, to New York and Union Theological Seminary and Harlem for a worship service at a Presbyterian church. And sometimes, we at Leacock knew how just to have fun, with miniature golf (where I was not too competitive) and Barnstormer games, where I rather pathetically threw out the first pitch alongside little kids and robots.

We had the faith to try out new things together. I will forever be grateful that we moved the meals we served in Lancaster to our own neighbors in the Community Meal. Several folks joined me in working in the Acts 16:5 program as we tried to envision the church of the future. And one of the outgrowths of that was House Church, that informal evening worship intended to echo the earliest Christian gatherings. But we didn't only look to the future—we celebrated the past. Remember the Paradise parade marking the town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with a few of us dressed up in colonial costumes riding on a flatbed, preaching and playing the organ? And we marked our own 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Old Leacock with all living pastors participating.

I could go on and on. There has been so much. But what I will cherish the most is your support, your kindness, your grace to a sometimes befuddled minister and his wife. You were there with us, for us, when we learned of the tragic school shooting in Sandy Hook that touched Emily and me in very personal ways. You were there when Emily's dad died. You walked with us all these years, in the good and the bad, in learning and growing, in surprising joy and profound sorrow. You have truly been my, our, sisters and brothers. And for that I will be forever thankful.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## Lectionary

<p><b>November 1</b> <b>All Saints' Day</b> Isaiah 25:6–9 Psalm 24:1–10 Revelation 21:1–6a John 11:32–44</p>	<p><b>November 7</b> <b>Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24–28 Mark 12:38–44</p>	<p><b>November 14</b> <b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 1 Samuel 1:4–20 1 Samuel 2:1–10 Hebrews 10:11–14 (15–18) 19–25 Mark 13:1–8</p>
--	--	---

<p><b>November 21</b> <b>Christ the King</b> 2 Samuel 23:1–7 Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18) Revelation 1:4b–8 John 18:33–37</p>	<p><b>November 28</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Jeremiah 33:14–16 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 Luke 21:25–36</p>
---	--

### Where Do We Go From Here?

The Session continues to meet to discuss applications received for our interim/transition pastor. As we examine the information and listen to online sermons, we again covet your prayerful support that we can discern whom God is calling to shepherd us. Our hope is to have someone in place by the beginning of February.

Dianne Yuninger  
Clerk of Session



**November Prayer Families**

November 7  
**Robert Clark**

November 14  
**Derek, Molly & Finn Colton**

November 21  
**Harold & Janet Cosby**

November 28  
**Betty Denlinger**



*Altar Flowers*

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on November 14, 21, or 28th in honor or in memory of someone or a special occasion  
Please call the church office  
717-687-6619

**Christian Ed Committee**

**Leacock's Children Sunday School 2021-2022 Sessions started October 10th.** If you know children, of members or friends, who may be interested in attending, please share the following information with them and invite them to join this wonderful group of children. After the worship service Children's Sermon by Rev. Birch, children are picked up from the sanctuary and taken to the classroom. A Bible story is read, games played, and a coloring page with a parent note is sent home when the parents pick up the children after the worship service. It is a short but much enjoyed time of Bible sharing.

Scheduled Sunday School dates for the remainder of this year are:

- November 7**
- November 21**
- December 5**
- December 19**

Children's Sunday School (SS) will meet 2 times a month.

CE invites all families to join in fellowship on November 28th for the Family Advent Sunday Breakfast.

**Trustee Notes**

The Trustees had a very successful workday on October 16. Thanks to all that came to help.

Due to the extra hot summer and humidity there is some mildew in the church that we have to get rid of..

The Trustees will be testing different areas to determine location. Please do not move these units if you see them sitting out.

The fellowship hall has been cleaned already but it will be checked again. Tell a Trustee if you see something that needs our attention.

Dave Berkhimer  
Trustee President



**PEANUT BUTTER BON BONS!**

We will be making peanut butter bonbons on Monday, November 8 at 10 a.m. and on November 29. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to help make them or donate supplies. There is also a sign-up sheet to order bonbons. You will be able to pick them up here at the church, or you can buy them at Loretta McClarigan's shop. We will have milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or mixed at a cost of \$6.50 per container.

## October Session Snippets

The Session and Trustees held a combined meeting in October to update each other on the work they are doing and to examine and approve the 2022 budget for presentation to the congregation.

The Trustees, under the capable leadership of Dave Berkhimer, continue to monitor our three properties — Paradise, Old Leacock, and the manse — to be sure they are in good condition. With COVID, finding companies to silicone Old Leacock and repair woodwork at Paradise has been a challenge, so some tasks have been put on hold until 2022.

The Session sincerely applauds the Trustees for their faithfulness, dedication, and hours of hard work as they keep our facilities safe and in good working order.

Session actions included the following:

- Adjusting COVID protocols to have seating every other pew and strongly urging masking.
- Approving vacation for Rev. Birch November 1 - 15.
- Calling a Congregational Meeting for November 21.
- Scheduling Thanksgiving Eve service November 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Old Leacock.
- Scheduling Family Advent Sunday November 28 with breakfast in Fellowship Hall followed by worship in the sanctuary.
- Scheduling Communion December 19, Christmas Sunday.
- Scheduling Christmas Eve candle light services at 7:00 p.m. at Paradise and 11:00 p.m. at Old Leacock.
- Approving the baptism of Austin Miles Funk for October 31.
- Receiving the report of the Nominating Committee for presentation to the congregation.
- Adopting protocols for Session meetings
- Forming a Technology Committee to assess current technology as it supports virtual and hybrid meetings and to recommend the types of equipment needed.

The Session also held a Special Meeting to discuss COVID protocols for special services and approved suspending every other pew seating, requiring masking, handing out masks to those not having them, and suspending the single-use restroom policy.

The Session calls a meeting of the congregation for Sunday November 21 for the purpose of receiving the 2022 budget, electing officers, and concurring with Rev. Birch's request to dissolve his pastoral relationship with Leacock, effective January 16, 2022.

## **Nominating Committee Report**

The following slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation at our Congregational Meeting November 21:

### **Elders - Class of 2023**

Mark Andrews  
Dianne Yuninger

Lois Eshleman  
Elaine Gouba

Steven Boas  
Skip Brackbill

### **Deacons**

#### **Class of 2024**

Karen Homsher

Ed Margerum

Mary Alice High

Charlene Boas

#### **Class of 2022 (to fill an unexpired term)**

Esta Fisher

### **Trustees**

#### **Class of 2024**

Richard Buck

#### **Class of 2023**

Marie Brackbill

Carol Shearer

#### **Class of 2022**

Danielle Short

Dave Berkhimer

Submitted by Dianne Yuninger and Lori Smith, co-chairs

## Fifty year Members

Robert Clark	April 19, 1946	Dianne Yuninger	April 10, 1960
Ruth Anne Appel	April 17, 1949	Carol Shearer	April 15, 1962
Mildred Young	April 17, 1949	James L. Brackbill	April 15, 1962
Arlene Brackbill	April 17, 1949	David Homsher	April 15, 1962
Jane Witmer	April 6, 1950	Lois Eshelman	April 15, 1962
Betty Denlinger	January 7, 1951	Esta Fisher	April 15, 1962
Lucy Ames	July 20, 1952	Kirk Beane	May 2, 1965
Harold Yuninger	November 1, 1953	Ed Margerum	April 13, 1966
Betty Sowers	April 3, 1955	Tom Burkins	October 1967
Mary Ellen Rice	March 25, 1956	Robert Brackbill	October 6, 1968
Janet Cosby	April 14, 1957	Bonnie Rice	October 6, 1968
Donald Clark	August 5, 1957	Skip Brackbill	May 4, 1969
Ruth Bryson	March 13, 1958	Marie Brackbill	April 1971
H. Donald Andrews	December 21, 1958	Karen Homsher	April 1971
Beatrice Andrews	December 21, 1958	Nelson Koshuta	September 1971
Vicki Burkins	April 10, 1960		

### October Stewardship



The other week the Session and the Trustees had their annual meeting to devise a budget for the following year. That budget will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. But we can give you now a preview of sorts. In most cases, we rolled over the same amounts from this year for the various budget lines; in a few instances, we are proposing slight increases, while in other places, there are some decreases. All this may seem just like dollars and cents, but this budget is something more—it is a mark of faith, faith that we can next year do more of all those things we do so well and that have been curtailed by the pandemic. That faith is possible for many reasons, one of which is that our finances are strong and the balance in our account is healthy. But we have noticed a new phenomenon recently—while most weeks the offering is as it long has been, some weeks are strangely low. It is uncertain why this is happening. Some folks may be waiting till the end of the year; some may give only monthly. Sometimes folks are away (if you are, please consider filling in for the weeks you've missed). And Leacock is in a time of transition, with all the attendant uncertainty. In the end, it all comes back to faith, faith in God to lead us into the future, faith in each other. We need your support to enter that future. But we fully believe that we can do together whatever is needed to make our future bright.

## Worship Committee News

If you read Session Snippets, you realize that we are gearing up for the Advent and Christmas season with Family Advent Sunday, Christmas Sunday Communion, and Christmas Eve services scheduled. Of course, all of this is contingent on the COVID pandemic remaining somewhat at bay. If circumstances dictate, we may have to rethink our schedule.

We continue to strongly urge masking at services to protect those among us who are most vulnerable to this virus.

We are also looking forward to

**Thanksgiving Eve service at Old Leacock November 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

What a wonderful way to enter into this festive, family holiday as we give thanks together!

### ADVENT CALENDAR

#### November 28 - Family Advent Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Gather for a buffet breakfast in Fellowship Hall featuring your covered dishes

9:45 a.m. - Worship with singing of favorite carols, a special children's story, ordination and installation of officers and Communion

#### December 19 - Christmas Sunday with Communion

#### December 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Services

7:00 p.m. - Family oriented service at Paradise

11:00 p.m. - Old Leacock

### Family Advent Sunday Breakfast

**November 28 at 9 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

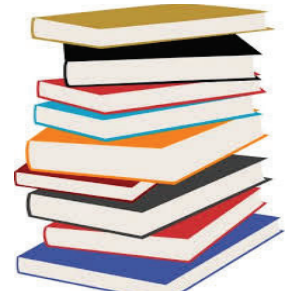
**Please bring a covered dish, drinks, to share.**

Come, eat, and worship! Leacock's annual Family Advent Sunday Breakfast offers a joyous sharing of food and heartfelt thankfulness for our Leacock families and friends in loving fellowship. This meal starts the advent season during which Christians prepare for the coming of our Messiah which ends with the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. It will be well worth the early rise to offer God's greetings, Peace in Christ, and any new friendly news.

CCL and CE Committees



## Leacock Book and Movie Group



The Leacock Book and Movie Group had a week of technical difficulties and had to postpone its meeting scheduled for Friday Oct. 22 to Friday Oct. 29. We're sorry this happened. The next and last meeting of the year will be on Friday Dec. 3, and we will be discussing a classic, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. For most of us, this will probably be a reread, but some of us haven't read it since high school or college (hand raised here), so it should be like reading something again for the first time. On Friday January 7, we will gather one more time before I take off to the Great White North to watch the movie version. Please join us on both dates and bring a covered dish to share as we gather for a potluck dinner beforehand. On Dec. 3, we will discuss the book, and on January 7, we will watch the movie together and discuss it.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



### Gratitude Corner (Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care for their Minister and HisWife)

Sometimes, when we are harried, stressed, and not giving ourselves the chance to slow down and catch our breaths, we receive a little gift that makes our day. One of these little gifts that Bob and I receive fairly regularly and which was such a nice treat during those long COVID months when all of us were down, and we weren't getting to worship together, are text messages with sweet drawings and words. They often remind us to keep love and God in our hearts, and they are so welcomed. I bet many of you didn't know you have a text expert in your midst, but I'm here to tell you that you do, and that she regularly puts a smile on our faces.

So, thank you, thank you, **Bea Andrews**, for all your wonderful texts. I don't know where you find all those cute messages, but we sure love them, and hope you'll keep them coming.

Emily Birch

## Ushers

November - Steven and Charlene Boas  
December - Craig Keenan and Darwin Eshleman  
January - Dave and Carol Berkhimer  
February - Mark and Barbara Andrews



## Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots box is in the narthex until the middle of December. Please give as you want, but we are in need of gifts for *six to eight year old* boys and girls. Last season we gave to over 5,000 children. If it wasn't for Toys for Tots there would be children that would get nothing for Christmas. There is much need in Lancaster County. Thanks ahead of time for your help!

Dave Berkhimer



---

## How can you help?

The Deacons need to update their list of potential helpers. Please indicate where you would be willing to help and mail the questionnaire back to the church office or return it in person to the back of the church.

Make a meal

Deliver a meal

Visit

Provide transportation to church

Provide transportation to doctors or other appointments

Do some grocery shopping

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Make sure your name, address and phone number is included above. Thank you for helping.

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 December/January Newsletter  
Are due by Monday, November 22

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor