



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

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March 2022

A WORD FROM YOUR INTERIM PASTOR

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings as eagles!" Isaiah 40:31



Dear Members and Friends of Leacock Church,

On February 1st, I began as your new interim pastor and am delighted to begin a journey with you. It will be a journey of listening and learning, of reflection and renewal, of planning and working toward the future God has in store for you.

Last August, I began a sabbatical following a long-term pastorate in southern York County, Pennsylvania. It was there I served two congregations of Donegal Presbytery, one for 32 years and another for 8 of those last years. Prior to that, I served, as a Presbyterian, on the staff of a large Lutheran Church and following seminary as a youth worker in Baltimore.

I have returned to Harford Co. Maryland to live in the home where I began my married and family life. I am a native of Wytheville, VA, attended Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, VA, and a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville. I have four grown children, three of whom are married and living in Portland, Oregon, Albuquerque, and Houston. My youngest daughter Emily lives and works in Lancaster as a PR/Marketing specialist. When working at the church, I am able to go to and from her home. Otherwise, I will work remotely from Maryland. I am single, having raised three of the children while still at home following the death of my wife and their mother in an accident on the local highway. We know grief and suffering yet are a resilient family who delight in good food, simple times, travel and learning, and dedication always to the common good. From time to time I travel to and from Virginia in care of our 97 year old mother in assisted living.

In recent years I have enjoyed your monthly community meal when also meeting with your pastor and my colleague Bob Birch for spiritual direction. I came to you Sunday, September 12 for my first time as a pulpit supply.

Since that time, I have met many of YOU!—those currently serving as leaders and those of you attending worship. It has been my privilege to follow in the footsteps of a number of pastors and leaders who through the years have directed your worship and led this ministry.

If you've been away, we want you back!

Join with me in regular attendance at worship and participation in the life of the church. As you are able to resume in-person gatherings, we are here to be faithful and supportive together. Ahead are special opportunities you will read about herein—Lenten study and worship, a clothing drive, fellowship gatherings, and ways to serve the needs of others.

Let's soar together! Your pastor, *Jim*

March Lectionary

<p>March 2 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21</p>	<p>March 6 First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13</p>	<p>March 13 Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36</p>
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<p>March 20 Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–8 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9</p>	<p>March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32</p>
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Lenten Calendar

March 2 - Ash Wednesday

Drive Through Ashes
In-person worship 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

March 6 - Sacrament of Communion

March 13, 20, 27, April 3 - Lenten Study

Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m.

April 10 - Palm Sunday

Worship 9:30 a.m.

April 14 - Maundy Thursday


Worship and Communion 7:00 p.m.

April 15 - Good Friday

Worship (drop-in) - noon - 1:00 p.m.

April 17 - Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

6:30 a.m. Easter Dawn Old Leacock
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Service of the Resurrection

	Flowers for the Church	Trustee Notes
<p>March Prayer Families</p> <p>March 6 Michael, Kelly, Owen and Nora Hartmann</p> <p>March 13 Austin, Kristin, Finley and Casein Hayes</p> <p>March 20 Bob & Margy Hershey</p> <p>March 27 Geraldine Hess</p>	 <p>If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion, March 27 and April 3 are available. Please call the church office 717-687-6619.</p>	<p>I missed the last newsletter, so I will tell you the February Special Offering will still go towards the manse. We have \$10,330 as of the end of January to use for the manse.</p> <p>We changed trash haulers to save money and now have Cauler from Quarryville. We still need trash cans from them but they told me they have been waiting seven months to get what they need to hand out.</p> <p>We are looking to get some projects done we couldn't get done last year. We'll let you know as they get finished. Tell a Trustee if you see something that needs our attention.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dave Berkhimer Trustee President</p>

Session Snippets

The Session met for the first time with our interim, Rev. Shuler for a long but productive meeting on a wet, windy February evening. Being able to gather in-person to talk and plan was a blessing as we worked to move the mission of Leacock forward. The following actions were taken:

- Scheduling an Ash Wednesday Service March 2 from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Scheduling a Drive Through for Ashes in the church parking lot
- Scheduling a Lenten Study March 13, 20, 27, and April 3 at 5:30 p.m. beginning with a simple meal
- Scheduling Easter Dawn for 6:30 a.m.
- Beginning Summer Hymn Sings, after a two year hiatus, the first Sundays of May through September
- Approving pastor's vacation for early June to participate in a family wedding in Oregon
- Moving our Pentecost celebration and Communion to May 29
- Beginning 8:00 a.m. worship at Old Leacock June 5
- Approving pastor's study leave May 16-20 to attend a Festival of Homiletics in Denver, CO
- Scheduling a Liturgy of Celebration Feb. 27 to recognize the beginning of our interim minister
- Approving use of funds for the Technology Committee to acquire equipment to update the AV setup cart for presentations, events, and meetings.
- Scheduling a Used Clothing Drive for March
- Calling for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation March 13 following worship.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Perhaps it seems silly or redundant for me to continue this column with the advent of our interim minister, Rev. Jim Shuler, but I want to assure all of you that our work in this time of transition moves forward. One of our first steps, as a Session, has been to orient Jim to our history and Manual of Operations (fondly known as the MOO).

Jim has shared a beginning timeline with the Session which includes monthly retreats and learning time for elders to assess what Leacock's strengths and weaknesses are and to design ways for congregational input as to the missional directions in which we should move. Additionally, our financial situation and future will be assessed, as well as our community profile.

Before forming a Pastor Nominating Committee, these self-study items, sometimes known as a Mission Study, must be completed and evaluated.

There is much work ahead, but there is also much joy as we move forward together to discover what God has in store for us. Although it may seem as if only the Session is involved in this process, the Trustees and Deacons will also play a major role as will YOU, the congregation. Please be watching for surveys and possibly focus group meetings as we journey forward.

We covet your prayers for encouragement, guidance, and wisdom.

Dianne Yuninger
Clerk of Session



Dear Ladies of Leacock,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. How kind of you to think of me. Steve and I always enjoyed our visits to Leacock. I wish you well as you begin your journey to a new pastor.

Sincerely, Wendy Getty

Worship Committee

“The winter is past and the time of singing of birds has come.” (or almost.)

For the first time in two years we will gather in person for Lent and Easter! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Beginning with **Ash Wednesday March 2**, many opportunities for worship, reflection, learning, and growth will be available. See the related articles and calendar elsewhere in this newsletter.

And in another “return to normal,” we will begin our **Summer Hymn Sings** Sunday May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Old Leacock. These hymn sings continue through September.

CCL Committee

The CCL committee has once again started to provide a meal for 70 plus youth at the Factory Ministry on the second Thursday of every month. The last two months, we have provided, pizza, salad and brownies. If you are interested in participating in this community outreach, the committee would appreciate your help with the meal. Typically, we provide an entree, salad, dessert and sometimes a drink. Any cost that you might incur can be reimbursed with supplied invoice. We need to have the meal delivered by 6:00 pm to the Factory Ministries on Lincoln Highway in Paradise. Our next meal will be on March 11th at 6:00 pm. Please contact Mark Andrews if you are interested in helping or supporting this outreach in any way!



The Session has approved a CCL committee sponsored **Easter Sunrise Breakfast**. The breakfast will be held on Easter morning April 17th from 8:00 to 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is between the Sunrise Service at Old Leacock and the 9:30 am church service at Paradise. Everyone is welcome to come for food and fellowship. A breakfast casserole, coffee and juice will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a light dessert to share, like coffee cake or fruit. We hope to see you there!

Service with a smile 😊, CCL Committee



Lenten Study

Continuing our Lenten Study tradition, Pastor Jim will be leading us in a four week reflection in the theme: “Rediscovering Jesus” (Jewish Rabbi — Teacher and Messiah).

The study will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall March 13, 20, 27, and April 3 with a simple meal of soup and bread.

Jim will use an audio visual and discussion format with the following topics:

March 13 - “Who Did They Say He Was?”

March 20 - “Who Is My Enemy? The One Who May Save Me” (a fresh look at the Parable of the Good Samaritan)

March 27 - “Life After Death” (What Faith is Like)

April 3 - “Resurrection Now and Later” (A fresh look at Mary, Martha, and Lazarus)

Come and be fed.

Mission Committe

The mission committee will be having a **Clothing Drive** during the month of March. Please bring all donations to the church narthex. The clothing will be delivered to Lancaster Clothing Bank

Also, during the month of March the **One Great Hour of Sharing** will take place. Envelopes will be in the pews. This offering supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian hunger program, Presbyterian disaster assistance and self development for people in need. Thank you for your support.

Stewardship

Hello 2022! Leacock now finds itself at the beginning of a new chapter in its history. We welcome our Interim pastor and begin the process of finding a new pastor and leader for our Church. Hopefully we start to emerge from the pandemic and begin more normal activities at our Church and with the surrounding communities. Now more than ever, we need the support and participation of the congregation to take on the tasks in front of us.



Over the next year or more, there will be many activities that Rev. Shuler and the Session will lead us through to get to the goal of finding a new pastor. From deep introspection and self-examination of who Leacock is as a congregation, to the formation of a pastoral search committee and eventually the work of choosing a suitable candidate. All these activities take people's time, thoughtful work and, of course, the funds to support it all. We will encounter real, necessary costs around the search for a new pastor, and when we eventually find one, the costs associated with retaining them may well require a change in how our budget is distributed. Please consider this and continue to support our Church during this important time of change. We need participation as well as financial support to get through this. And after two years of spotty in person worship and no community activities, let us pray 2022 will see the prospects of more fellowship and Church activities.

Thank you, from your Session Stewardship team
Steven Boas
Brit Kilbourne

FOR PASTORAL NEEDS, CONCERNS, COMMENTS, OR QUESTIONS, you may place a message in the pastor's folder outside the church office door. Or contact Jim using any of the following ways: shuler6@gmail.com, cell #717-586-2017 (*texting is a preference, if able, or voice mail*) **but make sure to leave your name, reason for calling, and a good time to reach you.** My address is **Jim Shuler, 104 Chell Rd., Joppa, MD 21085**. Generally he will be on location Thursday through Sundays or Mondays, depending on scheduled meetings, but otherwise working remotely from home.

FIVE TASKS OF THE CHURCH DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD

While Jim is here among us, the overall goal is to work toward the future effectiveness of the church. In this newsletter article, he names five main tasks before us. Each month he will provide additional information regarding what the leaders and you, the members of the congregation, can do to assist the process. It is his desire that everyone be aware what's going on.

1. Coming to Terms with History:

Retell and celebrate the congregation's history, recognize a chapter "coming to a close", and deal with the feelings being generated by changes. Review the past; learn from it; and decide on those elements which need to be retained as part of the present and future. The purpose of coming to terms with history is to not be bogged down by it, but rather to be liberated to move on into the future.

2. Discovering a New Identity:

From time to time, the self-image or identity of a congregation becomes outdated. At other times, the identity of a congregation is lodged significantly in the personality or leadership of previous pastors. The interim period is a time when the congregation can discover a new identity. The congregation needs to gain a conscious understanding of how it, now, views itself. The interim period is an important time to do a self-study, providing a realistic appraisal of the congregation's life and outreach, including its strengths and weaknesses, its leadership and financial capacity, revealing attitudes the congregation has about its mission, vision and witness. It is also a time for the congregation to do some dreaming and formulate hopes for the future. Bible study and opportunities to explore faith issues are very essential in discovering a new identity.

3. Facilitating Shifts of Power: Some leaders who have achieved significant influence in the congregation may have done so because of the desire, encouragement and support of previous pastors or because of their connectedness with those pastors. Persons in leadership tend to be those who work best with the pastor, particularly in long pastorates. During the interim period some of these leaders may prefer to move into less conspicuous or time-consuming roles. Sometimes, such leaders are fearful they may not be as comfortable working with the next pastor and they choose to avoid the risk. Some may simply be tired and weary ready to pass the baton on to others. During this time, others may decide to increase their involvement and influence in the congregation. The goal is to facilitate this shift of power in pastoral and lay leadership without losing momentum in the life of the congregation, and without alienating or disenfranchising those who had formerly been involved in leadership. Previously, less active people can be encouraged to accept new responsibilities. The church will certainly want to honor dedicated leaders concluding their roles while embracing new leaders with dignity and encouragement. Mutual support built between former and new leaders is essential while emphasizing that all spiritual gifts are needed in the work of the church.

4. Reinforcing Learning and Linkages:

The interim pastor makes an intentional effort to promote learning experiences, helping both the leaders and congregation learn of resources available. The interim pastor also encourages linkages to Higher Levels of Church Leadership, the local community, area churches, or whatever connections are deemed essential to the future work and witness of the church. It is a time for the church to review and reaffirm its connectedness with their other wider relationships.

5. Making Commitments to New Leadership and a New Future:

While the interim pastor does not conduct the search process for a new pastor, Jim will resource and guide the Pastor Nominating Committee in its work as appropriate. Before the new pastor arrives, a sense of anticipation and hope for the future will be developed. During the interim period, information about future plans or dreams will be kept highly visible. Jim's preaching will convey the biblical basis of the future as one of both hope and grace.

ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THIS:

Jim's interim period ministry objectives: Assess the church's ministries, placing everything the church does in one or more of these categories.

- *CLEAN UP: Messes that need to be cleaned up; things broken that need fixing.
- *SHORE UP: Things in decline that need to be stabilized and re-energized.
- *KEEP UP: Things now okay needing to be maintained at the same level.
- *RAMP UP: Things going okay that can be improved and make even more impact.
- *START UP: Things that don't exist [at the present time] needing to be started.

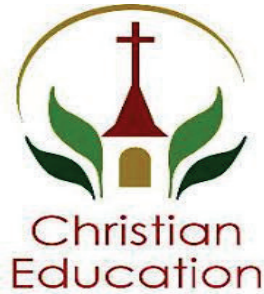
Thoughts and Ideas Box

Remember two years ago when we gathered in the Narthex for conversation and fellowship and there was a little wooden box sitting on the Welcome Center? Remember it was called our Thoughts and Ideas Box?

Safe practices indicated we should forego asking you all to continue using this way of communicating with your church leadership. However, now we believe it is time to resurrect our little brown box.

Do you have a question? A compliment? A suggestion? A concern? Use the paper beside the box to jot down your thoughts (signed or unsigned), and place it in the locked box. The Clerk of Session has the key (if she can find it) and will open the box prior to every Session meeting and share the comments with the Session. These messages will then be referred to the appropriate committee.

This is your chance to be heard.



Christian Education Updates

The Sunday School class will meet on the dates below for the rest of 2022 Spring. And our children continue to meet more of their congregational family friends as more Sunday School people help with the class. Please consider inviting children to visit our Leacock group, and volunteer to help and meet these wonderful kids!. Just call Elaine Gouba or Masha Ault or sign the signup sheet in the narthex. There are just 5 more classes!

Dates: March 6, March 20, April 3, May 1, May 15

A little-known group of Leacock friends have received a grant from the Presbytery to buy technology equipment to update the videotaping process. During the pandemic, online worship has been a blessing and a connection and an outreach to any in the community who enjoyed it. A big thanks to Mike Hartmann who wrote the grant and the groups' continued support to this outreach to those who cannot attend in-church worship.

The Tech Committee will also work on updating computer presentation equipment that the Lenten Studies will use. The studies will be a combo of online videos and discussions lead by Reverend Shuler and promises interesting, informative, and fun fellowship. Looking forward to insights and sharing. P.S. Children invited.

Dates: March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3.
"The best fellowship is a family of faith."

Call for the Annual Meeting

The Session of the Leacock Presbyterian calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held Sunday, March 13, 2022, following the 9:30 a.m. service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is to review and receive the annual reports, elect two members from the congregation to the 2022 Nominating Committee, and conduct any other business brought before the body.

Ushers

April - Joe and Elaine Gouba

May - Mary Alice High and John Shenk

June - David Homsher and Richard Buck

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

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Articles for the April Newsletter
Will be due Tuesday, March 22, 2022

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor