



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 63, Number 8 December 2022/January 2023



Dear Followers of the Way and Friends,

Thanks to an abundant show of volunteers, the sanctuary is now beautifully decorated for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. The four weeks preceding Christmas, collectively known as Advent, begin the four Sundays before Christmas and end on December 24th.

Bonbon making, the Christmas bazaar, the Community Meal, to-do-lists and shopping aside, the lighting of the Advent Candles in church week by week will mark the season which is a time of preparation and reflection. We look forward to our families with children to volunteer for this worshipful ritual.

Advent is all about anticipation.

The dominant color purple, a symbol of penance, highlights the humble waiting that we do as Christmas approaches. It's a time our scriptures and hymns focus on both the first coming and the anticipated second coming of Christ.

In some church traditions bright blue is the color of choice, emphasizing with awe and wonder the royalty of the coming Christ Child. Rather than the traditional colors of red and green in the wider culture, gold and white also best signify the divinity and royalty of the holy birth.

It is a miraculous, mysterious, unpretentious birth which created both wonder and worry to the early observers. For some, creating adoration and rejoicing for the fulfillment of long-awaited promises. For others, creating threat and worry, resulting in the horrific loss of young life and travail in the land.

It's a birth which transformed and continues to transform history, the world, and all that is known and unknown.

Christmas is all about fulfillment—Presence! (*not presents. . .well, that, too!*)

In the depth of humble and utter poverty arrived the wealth of God's grace, mercy and love bringing hope, peace, and joy.

Following Advent, Christmas to come is a season of twelve days as the popular Christmas song declares.

It might seem unbelievable given that the “Christmas creep” now begins before Halloween, sometimes in September, as I pointed out in the sermon of November 20th when I saw Christmas decorations displayed one year at JCPenney.

But the true Christmas season actually starts on Christmas Day itself. That’s right: December 25 marks the official start of the 12 days of Christmas, the Christian tradition that shares its name, sometimes called “Christmastide,” with a relentlessly stick-in-your-head Christmas carol—“The 12 Days of Christmas.” In this carol the singer brags about all the cool gifts received from a “true love” during the 12 days of Christmas. Each verse builds on the previous one, serving as a really effective way to annoy family members on road trips.



For us as Christian believers, the 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men, when Jesus was a child (*Note: not as a baby in the manger*). It begins on December 25 (*Christmas*) and runs through January 6 (*the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings’ Day*).

Some families choose to mark the 12-day period by observing the feast days of various saints (*including St. Stephen on December 26*) and planning daily Christmas-related activities, but for many, things go back to business as usual after December 25, the returning of unwanted gifts, more shopping madness, and too much eating and drinking as New Years Eve and New Years Day approach.

So, what will you do with the 12 days of Christmas? Together may we worship and rejoice, rest and renew, offer encouragement and reach out. Give a shout out to someone who’s alone, someone who needs a lift up. Think of ways to “gift yourself” in the way God in Christ has gifted the world. Have a Blest Advent and Christmas Season. Keep your faith and witness alive for those things that truly matter.

In peace and joy, *Jim*

Lectionary

<p>December 4 Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Isaiah 11:1–10 Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 Romans 15:4–13 Matthew 3:1–12</p>	<p>December 11 Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Isaiah 35:1–10 Psalm 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46–55 James 5:7–10 Matthew 11:2–11</p>	<p>December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Isaiah 7:10–16 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 Romans 1:1–7 Matthew 1:18–25</p>
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<p>December 24 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve</p> <p>Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]</p>	<p>December 25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Dawn</p> <p>Isaiah 62:6–12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4–7 Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20</p>	<p>December 25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day</p> <p>Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12] John 1:1–14</p>
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<p>January 1, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:22–40</p>	<p>January 6 Epiphany of the Lord</p> <p>Isaiah 60:1–6 Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 Ephesians 3:1–12 Matthew 2:1–12</p>	<p>January 8 Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>Isaiah 42:1–9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34–43 Matthew 3:13–17</p>
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<p>January 15</p> <p>Isaiah 49:1–7 Psalm 40:1–11 1 Corinthians 1:1–9 John 1:29–42</p>	<p>January 22</p> <p>Isaiah 9:1–4 Psalm 27:1, 4–9 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 Matthew 4:12–23</p>	<p>January 29</p> <p>Micah 6:1–8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 Matthew 5:1–12</p>
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Prayer Families

December

December 4
John Jr. & Kristine Shirk

December 11
Danielle, Kyle & Jayde Short

December 18
George & Karen Shue

December 25
Richard & Debbie Sindall

January

January 1
Lori A. Smith

January 8
Douglas & Lois Snader

January 15
Betty Sowers

January 22
Matthew Sowers

January 29
June E. Stannard

Trustee Notes

The Manse is rented and the renters were given a welcome basket and invited to church Sunday mornings. They seem very nice and easy to talk to.

We are having some major items looked at and are getting quotes. The Trustees will tell you what and how much the repairs will cost. The buildings are aging just like we are.

Please keep supporting the Special Offerings and the main offering so we can pay the bills and keep YOUR properties in repair. Tell a Trustee if you see something that needs our attention. Thank you!

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

Unsafe Weather Policy

Now that cold weather has arrived, you are reminded about our Unsafe Conditions Policy: When unsafe conditions exist, Sunday morning worship will be cancelled.

The decision to close will be made by the available members from the following: Pastor, Clerk of Session, Trustee President.

The decision will be communicated by 7:00 a.m. to mass media, the church website, and the church answering machine.

Please ALWAYS be safe!

Session Snippets

Your Session met in November and spent almost two hours discussing church finances and specifically the proposed 2023 budget. Special thanks to the Ad Hoc Financial Committee (Mark Andrews, Steven Boas, Brit Kilbourne, Mike Ruhl, Dave Berkhimer, Carol Shearer, and Angela Killian) for their hard work in getting the budget to the discussion phase.

The Session did approve a budget, printed copies of which may be found at the rear of the sanctuary.

We discussed Terms of Call for Rev. Shuler and recommended a package which was presented to the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting.

The Session also adopted the following Mission Statement:

Building on our heritage, led by the Spirit, committed to Christ, we welcome our neighbors to share in this family of faith.



Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

The following persons have been elected to Leacock's Pastor Nominating Committee:

Mark Andrews	Chuck Ankney	Carol Berkhimer	
Mary Alice High	Karen Homsher	Jenny Keenan	Dianne Yuninger

Please keep them and Leacock in prayer as we move forward in our search for an installed pastor. The committee will be trained by either the Presbytery Executive or the Stated Clerk before they officially begin their duties.

Church Boards

Trustees

Class of 2023	Carol Shearer	Joe Gouba	Dave Berkhimer
Class of 2024	Richard Buck	Darwin Eshleman	Mike Ruhl

Deacons

Class of 2023	Barb Andrews Sue Funk	Bob Hershey	Debbie Sindall
Class of 2024	Karen Homsher Mary Alice High	Charlene Boas	Edwin Margerum

Elders

Class of 2023	Mark Andrews Elaine Gouba	Steven Boas Lois Eshleman	Dianne Yuninger Skip Brackbill
Class of 2024	Brit Kilbourne	Angela Killian	



Christmas at Leacock

December 3

Christmas Bazaar 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

December 4

Family Advent Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.

Family Advent Worship - 9:30 a.m. (Includes singing YOUR favorite carols)

December 18

Christmas Sunday

Worship at 9:30 featuring Special Music from the Chancel Choir

December 24

7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service at Paradise with candle lighting

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols at Old Leacock with candle lighting

December 25

Come Worship the Newborn King 9:30 a.m.

January 1

New Year's Day Worship 9:30 a.m.

January 8

Epiphany Worship at 9:30 a.m.

The Sacrament of Communion

Decoration Task Force Needed

Many thanks to all who came to our Decorating Party! The sanctuary has been beautifully prepared for Advent and Christmas.

However, we need a more permanent worship enhancement plan.

Seasonal banners and flower arrangements, crosses, Lenten displays, garlands, Easter lilies — all of this and much more are stored in the Decorating Room located on the third floor. They just need loving, dedicated hands to place them throughout the sanctuary and Narthex as the church year unfolds.

Anyone hearing the call to this important worship ministry may contact members of the Worship Committee: Sue Funk, Karen Homsher, Angela Killian, Dianne Yuninger.

*Please remember our At-Home Members
this Holiday Season*



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
293-8782
Birthday: **January 9**

David & Janet Birch
111 Moravian Ave.
Lititz, PA 17543
717-627-3204
David's Birthday: **November 22**
Janet's Birthday: **August 26**

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

Dorothy Buckwalter
Oakwood House
42 Circle Dr. Apt. 201
Lititz, PA 17543
717-687-6566
Birthday: **November 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
Birthday: **November 22**

Geraldine Hess
600 E. Roseville Rd., Apt. 1209
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-358-9611
Birthday: **May 23**

Earl Miller
11 Pequea Drive
Paradise, PA 17562
717-768-8584
Birthday: **December 7**

Virginia Stauffer
Mountain View Apt. B20
433 So. Kinzer Ave.
New Holland, PA 17557
717-629-8852
Birthday: **July 22**

Jane Witmer
378 Yellow Hill Drive
Narvon, PA 17555
717-333-8475
Birthday: **September 26**

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

Friend of the Church:
Dorothy Wegst
Newport Meadows
41 Newport Ave.
Christiana, PA 17509
Birthday: **June 3**



Welcome to Advent and the Christmas season! A joyous time of year for celebration that oddly enough will test our ability to use the resources God has given us in ways that glorify God. Everything we have and have achieved is by the grace of God. The way we use those resources for God's purpose is the very definition of Stewardship, be it good or not so good.

This season brings many competing factors for our resources, be they commitments of time, use of talents and of course choices on how to utilize your hard-earned money. These decisions are tough, unrelenting and are presented to us daily. I think I have grown over time to be a better steward of the resources God has given me, but I can't help to wonder how

good a Steward am I really? Am I turning those "talents" entrusted to me into greater resources for my master? My guess is I am certainly not the best steward, but probably not the worst either, and have plenty of room for improvement.

This time of year is an important time for me to personally reflect on my choices, and make a conscious effort to improve, to overcome popular expectations of our culture and remember that I am just borrowing everything I have been given during my time on this earth. I'm just a human being, flawed and imperfect. Help me please and I will try to help you. Let us be generous this season of giving and all year long, remembering we are nothing without God's generosity. Now, more than ever, our Church as a whole depends solely on your faith, your generosity, your stewardship, your love.

I wish you a blessed and merry Christmas.

Stephen Boas

Mission Committee

Our next Community Meal will be Thursday, December 8. The menu is ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, and cookies and ice cream for dessert.

The January meal will be Thursday, January 26. The menu will be hot dogs, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce and dessert.



Ushers

December - Darwin Eshleman and Craig Keenan

January - Dave and Carol Berkhimer

February - Mark and Barbara Andrews.

The **Toys for Tots** box is in the narthex until the middle of December. Please give as you want. Last season we gave to over 5,000 children. If it wasn't for Toys for Tots, there would be children who receive nothing for Christmas. There is much need in Lancaster County. Thanks ahead of time for your help!





Birthdays

December 7 Earl Miller 11 Pequea Drive Paradise, PA 17562	January 9 Bill Berkhimer 1614 Bentley Ridge Blvd. Lancaster, PA 17602
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Our last *SUNDAY SCHOOL* of the year will be Sunday, December 4

January's schedule: January 8 and January 22



Leacock Presbyterian Church
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Paradise, PA 17562
Phone 717 687-6619

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December 2022/January 2023 Newsletter

Articles for the February Newsletter
Will be due Tuesday, January 23, 2023
The leacock Communicator

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor

