



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619
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February 2023



Dear Followers of the Way and Friends,

If you've ever gone swimming in summer or had a snowball fight in winter, then you know something about seasons. Seasons are the times our Earth has very specific weather patterns and hours of daylight.

Some people think that the seasons occur because of Earth's distance from the Sun. However, Earth is CLOSER to the Sun in December and January and FARTHER AWAY from the Sun in July and August. So what's going on?

As Earth revolves around the Sun, it rotates on its axis. Sometimes Earth tilts toward the Sun, which is when summer occurs. In the winter, Earth tilts away from the Sun. As it travels, the Earth is held in place by the Sun's gravitational field. Earth's rotation on its axis takes approximately 24 hours, which is why we have day and night. It takes Earth about 365.25 days to complete one entire revolution around the Sun, which gives us one year.

So my questions are: "What's our tilt for the new year?" "What will hold us in place?" "How close are we to completing a 'full revolution' which is to say, fulfilling our goals?"

As February arrives, I begin my second year as your interim pastor. Our "orbit" to this point has been a process of discovery and delight, of trial and error, of evaluating and planning, of dreaming and scheming. It has involved the committed and diligent work of your leaders.

There are yet a number of steps, one of which is the the activation of the Pastor Nominating Committee—we have one! Our Presbytery's commission to assist congregations in transition is required to provide an orientation. We are working to schedule that with the required folks.

In the meantime, we will continue to assess the resources of the church at all levels—leadership, finances, our committee goals, and our education, fellowship and mission opportunities. This month we will learn about a new one before us—assisting a refugee family to be housed at Christ's Home. In all these things, your leaders and I will keep you informed.

So be patient, stay faithful, remain hopeful. Let both the "arc" and "pull" of love, mercy, and kindness keep us in a rewarding orbit.

In gratitude, Jim

February Lectionary

<p>February 5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12] Psalm 112:1–9 [10] 1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16] Matthew 5:13–20</p>	<p>February 12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20 Psalm 119:1–8 1 Corinthians 3:1–9 Matthew 5:21–37</p>	<p>February 19 Transfiguration of the Lord Exodus 24:12–18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16–21 Matthew 17:1–9</p>
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<p>February 22 Ash Wednesday 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>February 26 First Sunday in Lent Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12–19 Matthew 4:1–11</p>
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Worship News

Communion will be celebrated February 19

The Holy Season of Lent begins February 22 with Ash Wednesday.

Again this year we will offer a Drive Thru Distribution of Ashes beginning at 11:00 a.m. We will also have an Ash Wednesday worship service including the administration of ashes at 6:30 p.m.

Our annual Lenten Study will begin Sunday evening March 5 at 5:30 p.m. with a simple meal of soup and bread preceding our time of fellowship and study. Rev. Shuler has titled this year’s study “The Bible As Song.”

We will intertwine Sunday morning worship with an Evening Study series entitled: “The Bible in Song” featuring the hymn stories of Lenten songs, meditation on their lyrics and scriptural base along with audiovisual presentations of them. Soup and Bread will be offered at 5:30pm on Sunday evenings March 5, 12, 19, and 26 with study and discussion following from 6-7pm.

PLAN NOW to be part of this moving and meaningful series. Our Christian Education and Worship Committees will coordinate the evening meals. Gather with us to learn about the origin of Lent and the disciplines that strengthen our journey in the Christian faith.

**February
Prayer Families**

**February 5
Virginia Stauffer**

**February 12
Joanne Stoltzfus**

**February 19
Diep Ngoc & Anh Tran**

**February 26
Dorothy Wegst**

Flowers for the Church



If you wish to purchase flowers for the sanctuary, **February 12** and **February 19** are available.

The cost is \$40 for the two vases. You may take both or one home and have one given to an at-home member by the Deacons, or if you prefer, both can be given to at-home members.

Please call the church office at 717-687-6619.

Trustee Notes

February Special Offering will go towards the front pillars of the parking lot. One is in need of repair and both need new lights. Also, we need new wiring from the west pillar to the east pillar. We still haven't got a quote but will pass that on later in the church bulletin.

Also, we are going to see about refurbishing the three chairs in the pulpit at Old Leacock and will use other funds for that. 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

Wanted Indoor Sexton

Danielle is going back to school to further her education in the nursing field and will not be able to continue as our indoor sexton.

If you are interested or know someone that is please call David Berkhimer at 717-442-8319, ASAP.

Your support is always a big help to keep the church properties in good shape. The Trustees thank you.

Session Snippets

The Session met January 19 to reorganize as we work with fewer Ruling Elders, having downsized from twelve to eight.

Committee assignments are as follows:

Mission

Lois Eshleman
Bonnie Rice

Christian Education

Elaine Gouba

Stewardship

Mark Andrews
Steven Boas

Church and Community Life

Angela Killian

Worship

Dianne Yuninger
Brit Killian

Having fewer elders means that you may be asked to be on one of these committees to help plan and carry to fruition the activities that make Leacock our church.

In other business, elders approved 2023 dates including Communion Sundays, set the Annual meeting for February 19 following worship, and concurred with Trustee recommendations regarding refurbishing the pulpit chairs at Old Leacock.



Our Lenten Calendar

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

Drive Through Ashes offered in the parking lot for you and the community from 11:00 a.m. through the afternoon and culminating with In-person worship 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

March 5, 12, 19, 26 - Lenten Study

Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m.

April 2 - Palm Sunday

Worship 9:30 a.m.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday

Worship and Communion 7:00 p.m.

April 7 - Good Friday

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

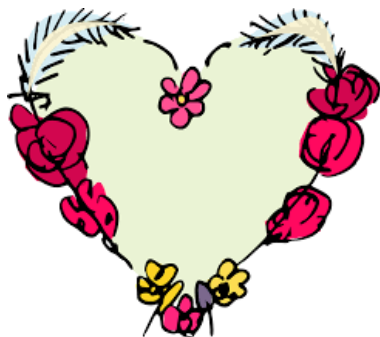
April 9 - Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

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

Deacons



In the absence of February—and March--birthdays you may want to surprise our At-home Members with a Valentine.

New year reminders for our Leacock Family:

- Honor someone by dedicating the altar flowers on available Sundays. Call the church office for more information.
- The Prayer Shawl knitters continue to meet in the Library on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Iffy weather? Call Karen Homsher at 717-687-6469. New members VERY WELCOME! We offer free on-the-job training.
- Our Leacock Church Memorial Fund continues to be a good way to honor those who enter the church triumphant. Contact Dianne Yuningger for more information.
- We have worship aids available for those who are having difficulty hearing or seeing. See Ed Margerum for a large-print hymnal or Bible, or audio assistance device.
- If you know of someone in need of support from the Deacons please contact Karen Homsher. We do not always learn of situations in time to respond in the most timely manner.



Altar flowers:

February – Barb Andrews

March – Sue Funk

Mission Committee

The Blanket offering is done for 2023. However if you "forgot" to donate, you still may do so. Just put your donation in a plain white envelope and mark it "Blanket" and either put it in the offering plate or in the church office.

"Souper" (super) Bowl Sunday is February 12th. Please bring either canned food items or a monetary donation. There will be a kettle in both the west and east vestibule for monetary donations. The canned foods may be placed beside the kettles. This will benefit the Paradise area food bank.

Our next **Community Meal** will be **Thursday, February 23rd** at 5:30 in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. The menu is Bar-B-Que, mac/cheese, cooked carrots, pickles, fruit cup and desserts. Everyone is welcome!

Get ready! In April we will once again be collecting good, clean, gently used clothing for the Lancaster clothing bank. Please, no underwear unless it is new and still in its packaging. Thank you for all your help.

Annual Meeting

The Session calls for the Annual Meeting of Leacock Presbyterian Church February 19 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive Annual Reports, elect two lay persons to the 2023 Nominating Committee, elect an elder to fill an unexpired term, and conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Christian Education News

Sunday School class will meet on these **Spring Scheduled Sundays:**
2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21

Invite a friend or family to join us.

The 2023 Lenten Study is not only for Adult learning and fellowship, but also includes the Children's Sunday School families, grandparents, and their children. Come, join in and make it a family event. It is a soup meal and fellowship time. See our Lenten Calendar for the Sunday dates. Please plan to attend.

Plans for a Christmas pageant next year are in the works. If you would have fun helping with this, please share with Barb Andrews or Elaine Gouba. The Worship Committee will schedule it during Advent for all to enjoy. And, there are costumes for young and old. We are looking forward to adults and children participating.

Pastor Shuler suggested this video series explaining why Youth Christian Ed is important. The [Four Trends Affecting the Future of Kids' Discipleship](#) is a link Pastor Shuler has the sign-in for and has offered to share it with our congregation. It discusses current aspects of children, their families' Christian education situation, and our nation's cultural changes. If you are interested, please mention it to Pastor Shuler.

He also suggested these games to challenge and of interest for anyone to enjoy:

Christianity Trivia

<https://www.christianity.com/trivia/bibleball/>

Online Bible games

<https://biblegamescentral.com/best-bible-games>



Understanding Per Capita

The money contributed helps build up the Body of Christ

“Per capita provides the wherewithal for the ecclesiastical democracy of the priesthood of all believers to run smoothly. It fuels the machinery of doing church the Presbyterian way, which is quite different from independent congregational and bishop-based systems. It can also be embraced as one way in which we work toward building a beloved community.

“A recent experience reminded me again of the importance of per capita. This past summer, we had our backyard regraded. The melting snows of Minnesota winters had begun finding their way down a slope and into the basement. We had to redo everything in the yard. As I watched workers build rain channels and install rock, I thought of my assignment to write about why I support per capita and how having a Sunday in January dedicated to per capita awareness is a wonderful educational moment for our congregations. Gardens, like churches, need infrastructure.

“For many years, we had simply planted bulbs, tended vegetables and weeded flower beds. It was only when we had to start the garden from scratch that we became aware of how a healthy garden depends on infrastructure. We had never been particularly concerned with soil composition and drainage. We assumed and took for granted that the garden would be there year after year.

“Congregations can be like that. We worship, teach church school and sing in the choir. We marry and bury. We advocate for justice.

“But without the support that undergirds the way we do church, the plants in our congregational gardens would find it difficult to thrive.

“We are not often aware of the value of per capita, but it is there all the time — especially when we need it.”

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Andersen
Senior pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Leacock's 2023 Per Capita is **\$37.00 per member**. Please use the envelope provided in your offering envelope box to give to this important denominational expense. The money is divided between Donegal Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity, and the General Assembly.

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