



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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www.leacockpres.org

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May 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

As we approach the fast changing season of spring, we have been greeted by an abundance of spring flowers, especially this year, the vibrantly yellow daffodils along with their radiant white neighbors. In traveling recently to the Pacific Northwest, I saw vast areas of brilliant bluebells blanketing the hillsides. Even as this is taking place, iris bulbs are shooting upward as they have been for a number of weeks here in the East. Soon enough, the transition to summer will bring about the beauty they offer.

Suzanne Griffiths of Cheshire County, England wrote:

A splurge of purple, teeming mass and blooming tangle, dances its way through decaying leaves emerging as joyous, self-effacing crocus bobbing heads rhythmically to welcome in the Spring.

During Lent, we studied a number of seasonal hymns and their stories. I offer the following one to inspire us. Some of you may know it.

A standard gospel song which has appeared in many Protestant hymnals, "**The Lily of the Valley**" ("**I've Found a Friend in Jesus**") is a Christian hymn written by William Charles Fry (1837–1882) in London for the Salvation Army. Ira D. Sankey arranged the words to the music of "The Little Old Log Cabin In The Lane" composed by Will Hays for a secular minstrel show.

Here are some of the key phrases: "I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me; He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul."

"The lily of the valley and in Him alone I see; all I need to cleanse and make me fully whole. In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay; He tells me every care on Him to roll."

"He will never never leave me nor yet forsake me here; while I live by faith and do His blessed will. With a wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear; with His manna He my hungry souls will fill."



“He’s the lily of the valley, He’s the bright and morning star.
He’s the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.”

Charles W. Fry wrote this song when he and his family, members of the fledging, new Salvation Army, were in crisis. He saw abuse hurled at the Salvation Army when they established their ministry in 1878 in Salisbury, where the Fry family lived. Mr. Fry, who was a bricklayer, and his three sons offered to serve as bodyguards for the Salvation Army workers. The next day the four men arrived with their “weapons”. These weapons consisted of two cornets, a trombone and a small tuba. In between fighting off the troublemakers, the Fry men played, and their music attracted a crowd for the Salvation Army preachers.

Fry took the term “Lily of the Valley” from the **Song of Solomon 2:1—“I am the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley ...”**. He used this verse of Scripture to represent the message of the preacher William Booth to the people during the protests of 1881.

As a church, we have the opportunity to look at each season, each cycle in the church’s ministry and programming, to see where the brilliance is, to look for what’s emerging. To look even among that which is passing away and decaying for signs of new life.

Whatever challenges Leacock Church faces in the future, whatever the obstacles or resistance, whether or not support comes for new emerging ministries or simply the possibility of remaining a small, vibrant community of faith, remember: Jesus is our “Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star.” The One who said in Matthew 18:8, “Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

And I add these words:

Splurges of green, teeming masses of grass, each blade shooting up from cold, dormant earth emerging joyously with the rhythms of Spring and Summer dancing together toward celebration of all things vital—LIFE.

Let us remain joyful and hopeful toward the rhythms of ministry that open before us. In the meantime, enjoy your yard mowing, gardening, and all other harbingers of summer.

Blessings and Peace,
Jim

May Lectionary

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| <p>May 7 Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14</p> | <p>May 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21</p> | <p>May 18 Ascension of the Lord</p> <p>Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53</p> |
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| <p>May 21 Seventh Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11</p> | <p>May 28 Day of Pentecost</p> <p>Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39</p> |
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Our Mission Statement

“Building on our heritage, led by the Spirit, committed to Christ

We welcome our neighbors to share in this family of God.”

May Prayer Families

May 7
Chad & Nina Ankney

May 14
Charles , Kathey & Kristen
Ankney

May 21
Ruth Anne Appel

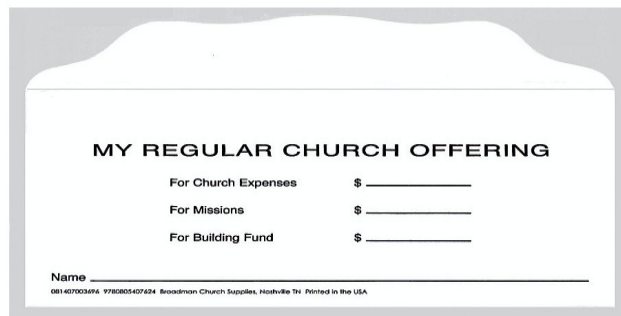
May 28
Lauren J. Appel



Trustee Notes

The Trustees are probably going to go to this offering envelope which will be in the pews every Sunday. The boxed envelopes are getting so expensive and less people use them, it is like throwing money away. We can save hundreds if we switch. I feel you can put your envelope number on this new envelope or in the space for your name. There will still be a giving statement at the end of the year. Please give the trustees your feedback. We should order these envelopes within the next 30 days, so please let us know. Thank you.

Dave Berkhimer



MY REGULAR CHURCH OFFERING

For Church Expenses \$ _____

For Missions \$ _____

For Building Fund \$ _____

Name _____

0814070034916 9780805407424 Broadman Church Supplies, Nashville TN Printed in the USA

Church and Community Life

The CCL committee continues to provide meals for the Factory Ministries once a month, and will continue fellowship treats in the narthex for the congregation through May. We are looking into planning and supporting summertime activities, if there is sufficient interest from the congregation. Stay tuned for a survey in the Bulletin regarding same.

Mission Committee

The next free Community Meal will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 5:30 in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. The menu will be Lasagna, garlic bread, tossed salad, fruit cup, and desserts. Come and join our community in breaking bread and getting to know one another.

Pentecost is May 28th. This is a Christian holy day which takes place on the 50th day (the 7th Sunday) after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in Acts 2: 1-31.(Leacock will celebrate Pentecost on May 21 this year.)



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

By participating in this offering you are helping to nurture the faith of those who are the church to come. Giving to the Pentecost offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of this offering remains for us to use for youth in our community. The other 60% is used to support at-risk children, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbytery Mission Agency.

The Pentecost envelopes will be in the pews on Sunday May 21st, May 28th, and June 4th for your convenience or feel free to simply put your donation in a plain white envelope and mark it "Pentecost." You may either drop it off in the office or place it in the offering plate.

Thank you for your help!

The Mission Committee

Worship Committee News

Pentecost



Come, Holy Spirit, Come

We will celebrate Pentecost, the birth day of the Church, May 21 with red ribbons, doves, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Although the Liturgical calendar marks this year's Pentecost date as May 28, we will be a week early to accommodate our pastor's family reunion plans.

Join us and wear red as together we rejoice in the fulfillment of Christ's promise to not leave us comfortless.

Hymn Sing Sunday

What is your favorite hymn?

What hymn(s) have you missed singing?

Your chance to choose our worship music is set for **May 28** when the entire service will be a hymn sing comprised of your selections.

We will take requests on that morning, but having some already chosen hymns will help streamline the process (and make finding the music easier for all). Request sheets may be found at the back of the sanctuary and placed in the basket when completed.

If a hymn is not in our hymnal and we have the request in time, we may be able to copy the words to include it in the service.

Remember Old Leacock 8:00 a.m. services begin July 2 and will run through September 3.

Notes from the Deacons

We continue to value the input of the congregation as a source of information concerning the needs of our church family and Paradise community. Please contact Karen Homsher or any of the Deacons if you know of someone in need of meals, visits, or a prayer shawl. Our other Deacons are Mary Alice High, Bob Hershey, Charlene Boas, Ed Margerum, Debbie Sindall, Barb Andrews, and Sue Funk.

We will be meeting this month after worship on Sunday the 21st. Deacons, please look at the draft pages for our updated handbook and make note of questions, omissions, and/or corrections. It will help make our meeting SHORTER!

Our birthday celebrant this month is **Gerry Hess** on **May 23**. Her address is 600 Roosevelt Rd. Apt. 1209, Lancaster, PA 17603.

We often receive remarks of appreciation for this congregation's generosity and faithfulness in sending notes and cards.



Flower deliveries: May—Debbie Sindall/Karen Homsher;

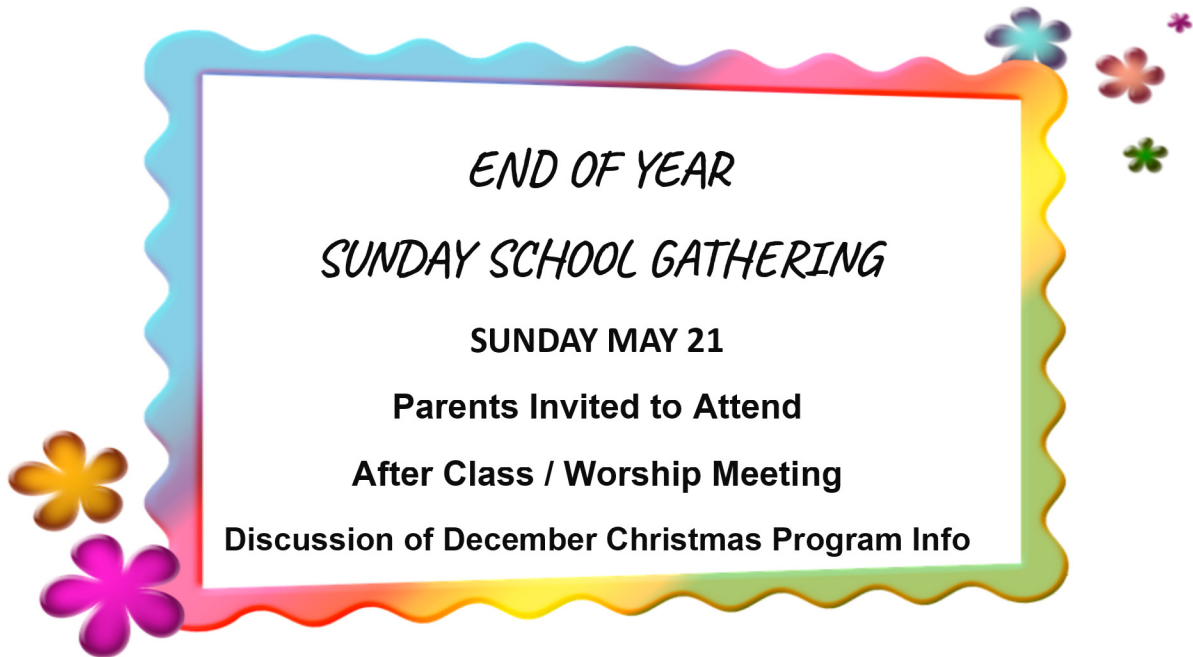
June—Debbie Sindall



If you wish to purchase flowers for the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion, **Sunday, June 25** is open.

Christian Education

Thank you to all who attended the Lenten Series. Thank you to all SS parents and children who participated in Leacock's Sunday School this year. Thank you to Leacock's members and Rev. Shuler for all your participation, support, and help.



From Your PNC

Abbreviations, abbreviations, abbreviations!

Your PNC is learning many of them as we have begun our work together to find and call Leacock's next pastor.

PNC - Pastor Nominating Committee
MIF - Mission Information Form
PIF - Pastor Information Form
CLC - Church Leadership Connection

The committee (Mark Andrews, Chuck Ankney, Carol Berkhimer, Mary Alice High, Karen Homsher, Jenny Keenan, and Dianne Yuninger) has been faithfully gathering once a week since March 27 and writing answers to the narrative questions which paint a picture of who we are as a church and the kind of pastor we as a church wish to call.

Once these questions have been answered and other part of the MIF have been completed, the Session must approve it before we submit it to the Presbytery Commission on Ministry for approval. If all goes well, then this form can be posted on the Church Leadership Connection site for prospective candidates to read.

We covet your prayers as we work on your behalf.



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| <p><i>Ushers: May - Joe Gouba</i> <i> June - Mike and Alba Ruhl</i></p> |
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Articles for the June Newsletter
Will be due Tuesday, May 23, 2023

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor

The Leacock Communicator
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