



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

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February 2024

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



It's interesting that our liturgical calendar describes the winter months as "Ordinary Time." Extremely cold temperatures—ordinary. Blustery winds and drifting snow—ordinary. Cloudy days with sleet and ice—ordinary. Bright, glaring sun and the lengthening of days—ordinary.

Do you ever feel as though life is not ordinary, that time is moving too fast? We made it through Christmas and now weeks away is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Lately, I've felt overwhelmed by a never-ending list of things to do while realizing last year's list was never completed. For any of us, that can leave the feeling of being stuck, frustrated and even disconnected from what truly matters.

I'm reaching out today because I believe God is calling us to see how we can re-align ourselves, focusing on those things that would best claim our time and attention. How to trim down and refine our living to better match our purpose in this world. If you feel the same way, keep reading.

In today's fast-paced world, amidst the noise and chaos in our lives, it can be challenging to discern God's voice.

Upcoming Sunday worship and our Evening Lenten Study will focus on the "I Am" statements of Jesus.

There are seven of them recorded in the Gospel of John: "I am the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the Way, Truth, and the Life, the Vine.

Combining these texts along with reflection, music, and art, I hope to create a meaningful Lenten Series of worship and study that center us for living in these days.

Remember, God is always near even in the midst of the chaos. With society and distractions vying for our attention, it's more important than ever to gather for worship, to maintain our connection to a community of support, to open our eyes to the Savior who gives true life.

Each week we would love to have more in worship than are coming, so we encourage you—GATHER!

This will be our “*Way Forward*” into the season before us. May the Lord bless you and keep you in both busy and slow days!

Jim



Call for the Annual Meeting

The Session calls for the Annual Meeting of the congregation Sunday, February 18 following worship for the purpose of receiving Annual Reports, electing the 2024 Church Nominating Committee, and conducting any other business of the congregation.


February Lectionary

February 4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	February 11 Transfiguration of the Lord 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	February 14 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
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February 18 First Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15	February 25 Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38
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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.”**

<p style="text-align: center;">February Prayer Families</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 4 Elaine & Joe Gouba</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 11 Stephanie & Sean, Seth & Sean Gray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 18 Ehren & Lauren Graybill</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 25 Michael & Kelly Owen & Nora Hartmann</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trustee Notes</p> <p>The February Trustee Special Offering will go towards a new HVAC unit for the hallway near the elevator and the Choir Room.</p> <p>It had been repaired and the Trustees were then told that it was worn out and needed to be replaced.</p> <p>The cost will be around \$10,000.</p> <p>Thank you all for your support! Tell a Trustee if you see something that needs our attention.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thank you, Trustee President</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Flowers for the Church</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 2em; margin-left: 10px;">Altar Flowers</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to order Sanctuary flowers in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion, Sunday February 18 is available.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please call the church office: 7171-687-6619</p>
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Session Snippets

Your Session weathered the cold, wind, and snows of January by meeting via Zoom. Technology can be good!

The following actions were taken:

- Communion dates were set for the rest of 2024: April 14, May 10, June 23, August 4, September 8, October 6, and November 24.
- Lenten Plans were approved to include Ash Wednesday Worship, a four-week Lenten Study preceded by a soup and bread meal, Maundy Thursday Communion at 7:00 pm., Good Friday music and meditation from noon to 1:00, Easter Dawn at Old Leacock at 7:00 a.m.
- Vacation Sunday was approved for Rev. Shuler April 28.
- Rev. Richard Sindall, H.R., was approved as pulpit supply for April 28.
- Community Hymn Sings were scheduled for June 2, July 7, August 4, and September 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Old Leacock.
- Summer Worship schedule change was approved for the regular 9:30 a.m. service of worship to be held at Old Leacock the first Sunday of June, July, and August and again September 8 for Old Leacock Day, eliminating the 8:00 a.m. service.
- The March Community Meal was rescheduled for March 21.
- Margy Hershey and Elaine Gouba were appointed to the 2024 Church Nominating Committee.

Notes from the Deacons

Hearing in worship: We have 2 Telex hearing assistance devices available for congregational use. These would be helpful for people who do not have hearing aids but could benefit from the sound being channeled directly through an earbud. Questions about their use may be directed to Ed Margerum or Brit Kilbourne.

Altar Flowers: February—Karen Homsher/Barb Andrews
March—Sue Funk



Prayer Shawl Knitters
will meet on February 19, March 4 and March 18

EASTER PLANTS 2024

Easter plants may be purchased to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday in memory of someone deceased or in honor of someone living. Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by March 22. The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please let us know if you would like to donate your plant(s) to be taken to an at-home member.

I/We _____ wish to order

__ Hyacinths \$7.00

__ Daffodils \$7.00

__ Tulips \$7.00

Martha Washington

__ Geraniums \$8.50

Easter Lilies \$8.50

All plants are in 6-inch pots

In Memory of _____ or

In Honor of _____

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT NO LATER THAN Friday, March 22

Worship Committee

It's hard to believe that in a few short days we will move from Ordinary Time to Lent. With Easter quite early this year (March 31), half of February and all of March will see us bathed in the purple of Lent.



Lenten Worship opportunities begin February 14 with Ash Wednesday, a time for penance and reflection on our mortality — “from dust we have come, to dust we shall return.”

A Drive-in Ashes Station will be set up in Leacock’s parking lot beginning at noon for community and church members to stop in and observe the ritual of ashes.

Then at 7:00 p.m. we will hold our annual in-person Ash Wednesday Worship, again with the administering of ashes.

Christ’s Great “I Ams” will provide the focus of our Lenten Worship and Sunday evening study February 25, March 3, March 10, and March 17. A light meal of soup and bread, beginning at 5:30, will precede this study.

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. February 14

Lenten Bible Study

February 25, March 3, 10, and 17

5:30 Fellowship

Soup and Bread Supper followed by our study

Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. March 28

Communion

Good Friday - March 29

Music and Meditation from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday - March 30

A time for personal introspection

Easter Dawn - March 31

7:00 a.m. at Old Leacock

Service of the Resurrection - March 31

9:30 a.m.

Thank You!

Thank you, everyone, for the enjoyable birthday and Christmas cards. I am enjoying the Christmas poinsettia brought by Debbie Sindall who visits often. Thanks to Pastor Jim for his visit.

Betty Denlinger

Dear Deacons,

You have been an amazing team of support in 2023 - from cards, to flowers, to shoofly and whoppie pies, text messages, phone calls, funeral reception. I cannot fully express my thanks.

Now I deeply thank you for honoring Skip and his life of worship and service at Leacock with the donation made to the Memorial Fund.

From all of us - Marie, Chip, Garrick, Celeste & Alanna. Thank you, love and peace.

Dear Leacock Friends:

We call you friends because you certainly are that. The attention you gave us during the holidays was terrific. One day we received 4 cards and three of them were from Leacock. We got a Poinsettia from the Deacons. We had visits from members of the congregation. We got candy and cookies. We don't get out much and the attentions you gave us were very much appreciated.

Thank you, Leacock friends! Love, Janet and David Birch

Dear Church Family,

Ron and I would like to thank everyone for their concern, prayers, calls, cards, and Jim for all his visits and texts. Your support is really appreciated. Ron is still doing PT and OT into February. He is doing better than expected, but has a long recovery. His next surgery has been scheduled for February 23rd, so all prayers are appreciated.

Ron and Sue Funk



March 4

**Ruth Anne Appel
69 Hickory Lane
Leola, PA 17540**

Mission Committee



Our February free **Community Meal** will be held on **Thursday February 22, 2024** in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6:30. The meal will be Bar-B-Que, Macaroni/Cheese, Broccoli/Cauliflower, Applesauce and desserts. As usual the sign up sheets will be in the narthex so that you may sign up for food donations and also for times you will be available to help.

Sunday, February 11th is our annual **"SOUPER" Bowl Sunday**. You are not required to play football to be included in this! There will be a large pot in each of the vestibules for you to donate some money (whatever you feel you can) or you can also bring some canned food and just set it beside the kettles. The food and monetary donations will be delivered to the Paradise area food bank to help those in our community who are in need. Please mark your calendar as this is the only Sunday for this donation to take place.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th which means that Sunday, February 18th is the first Sunday of our **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This offering lasts for 6 weeks and will conclude on Easter Sunday, March 31st. You will find envelopes in the pews or feel free to just use a plain white envelope and mark it "OGHS" and put it in the offering plate.

The OGHS was founded in 1946 by Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill to raise one million dollars in one hour for world relief. Today the offering is divided among its three programs; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self development of people, and Presbyterian Hunger Program. For over 70 years, OGHS has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with others around the world, in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression. This ecumenical endeavor now involves nine denominations and Church World Service. With everyone working together perhaps we can make this world a better place. Please give as you feel you can and God bless you all.

Thank you for all your help,
Bonnie, Lois, and Alba

Ushers

February - Chuck and Kathy Ankney

March - Dave and Carol Berkhimer

April - Bob and Margy Hershey

May - Mike and Alba Ruhl

June - Joe and Elaine Gouba

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Articles for the March Newsletter
Are due by Tuesday, February 20, 2024

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor