



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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March 2024

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Members and Friends,

Our Lenten journey continues! This monthly newsletter heightens our awareness of who we are and what our church can mean to those around us as well as those within. I hope this message finds you well.

On Sunday mornings we continue to explore the theme “The Depths of Love: God Draws Near.” From the ways God’s Spirit was present with Jesus at the beginning of his ministry to his final days, we will explore aspects of his journey each week to gain insight for our own journeys.

With the Spirit’s compelling, we seek to embrace the ups and downs of our lives and those of the church. The same Spirit that took Jesus to the water’s edge for his baptism, drove him into the wilderness, then directed him outward to a challenging public ministry is the same Spirit that leads us.

The season of Lent can also be a time of renewal and commitment. Throughout the journey of forty days we can re-examine what is most important in our lives.

“Depths of Love” reminds me of an article entitled “The Urgency of Loving Others.” This article offers a look into the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who died in a concentration camp—executed, along with other conspirators, because of their failed plan to assassinate Adolf Hitler. Sadly he was only 39 years old, but his ideas and theology continue to shape both the church and the world in profound ways.

In the article there are parallels between Bonhoeffer’s era and our current times. With a presidential election year before us, we find ourselves at a crossroads where our choices, both individually and collectively, will shape the course of history. Will we learn from the past, embracing the way of love and empathy championed by Bonhoeffer, or will we repeat the mistakes of dehumanization and division?

As we recognize our own humanity, we must continue to strive for justice, embrace our neighbors, and build bridges of understanding even when faced with challenges. I invite you to read the full article, which can be found here: <https://faithlead.org/blog/the-urgency-of-loving-others/>

As we navigate the complexities of our world today and these times in the life of the church, let us carry with us the timeless wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose legacy serves as a beacon of hope and a call to action. If you get a chance to review the article, I look forward to hearing your thoughts and the ways it resonates with our shared values.

Join us Sunday mornings and always when we gather! Within this newsletter you also receive information on the Sunday evening Lenten Study including Soup and Bread. My plans are to Zoom our time together for those who cannot come but would like to benefit.

Whether we lift up your concerns for prayer and support, explore new meanings of scripture, or kick around ideas for meaningful, transformative living, we are here for YOU!

God's Peace,

Jim

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, March 30 at the Paradise Township building.

The Factory Ministries will hold their **30 Year Anniversary Gala** on Thursday, April 25 at the Doubletree. Look for further details in the April Newsletter!

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.”**

March Lectionary

| | | |
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| March 3 Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22 | March 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21 | March 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33 |
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| March 24 Passion/Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47) | March 28 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 | March 29 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22:1-31 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42 |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">March 31 Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8</p> |
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Prayers of the Church



March Prayer Families

March 3
Austin, Kristin,
Finley & Kasen Hayes

March 11
Bob & Margaret Hershey

March 18
Geraldine Hess

March 25
Gwen Hess

Trustee Notes

Giving Statements are available to be picked up in the Board Room. Let the church office know if you would like it mailed to you.

Thank you for February Special Offering towards the HVAC unit. We hope to have this project underway ASAP.

Also, the Narthex ramp is underway. It should be complete sometime in March.

Spring workday is set for April 27.

Thank you for your support! Tell a Trustee if you see something that needs our attention.

Trustee President



Looking Ahead to Summer

Yes, yes, we know — it is only March and those chilly winds continue to blow amidst snow flurries and cold rain. BUT before we know it, summer will be here with its sunshine and warmth.

The Worship Committee and the Session want to try something new this year. Instead of having two months of 8:00 a.m. worship at Old Leacock, we have scheduled **9:30 worship at Old Leacock for the first Sunday of June, July, and August.**

This change will give more folks the opportunity to worship at the old church with open doors, open windows, and nature surrounding us. (And yes, there will be a port-a-potty available)

Dear Friends,

Our thanks to the Deacons for the lovely poinsettia delivered by Jim during one of his visits, and the beautiful altar flowers.

We appreciate the cards and concern we are receiving. Your prayers are much appreciated.

Peace, Ron & Sue Funk

Thank You

OUR LENTEN STUDY - The Seven “I Am” Statements of Jesus

THE LENTEN SEASON began Wednesday, February 14th with ashes offered on the parking lot from 11am through the afternoon and culminating with an indoor service at 7:00pm. This was both for you and the community as well as ashes offered following Sunday morning worship on the 18th.

This season we will again intertwine Sunday morning worship with an Evening Study entitled:

“The ‘I Am’ Sayings of Jesus”

Join us Upcoming Sundays: March 3, 10, and 17 - 5:30 to 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall beginning with Soup and Bread and study time following.



During his ministry on earth, Jesus said many things that challenged His listeners. In the book of John, there are seven times in which Jesus says “I am. . .” Each statement gives us a glimpse into God’s character and what both God and Jesus are like. One important point: it’s imperative to study these “I am” statements in their context so that we form an accurate understanding of what Jesus was really saying.

The second gathering on March 3rd will likely have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter. Soup and Bread will continue to be offered at 5:30pm on Sunday evenings March 10 and 17 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 dive into scripture to strengthen your journey in the Christian faith.

For those unable to attend, we will plan to Zoom the study portion.

Lenten Worship

As we travel together on our Lenten journey, we need to take time to reflect on where we are going and why. From the solemn reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday, we have moved to a deeper contemplation of God's great love for us, God's mercy, God's grace — all expressed through the life and death of Jesus.

Each Sunday morning we have the opportunity to meet together to praise, to meditate, to consider, to reflect, to hear God's Word to us and for us. Then Sunday evenings our Lenten Study has been delving into the "Great I Am's" of Jesus.

Yet as we draw closer to Holy Week, the most sacred time of our liturgical year, we need to acknowledge our frailty, our vulnerability, our utter dependence on God's love and grace. How can we participate more fully in Christ's redemptive act?

Thursday March 28, Maundy Thursday, we are invited and encouraged to gather at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to worship, to reflect, to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we bear witness to Jesus' Great Commandment: Love one another.

Good Friday the church will be open from noon until 1:00 p.m. for us to drop in (or stay the whole hour) for a time of music and the Word. May our Lenten journey be one of renewal and rediscovery as together we recommit ourselves as disciples of Jesus.

Easter Dawn Service

With Easter being so early this year, our Easter Dawn Service will be held at 7:00 a.m., the time of sunrise, at Old Leacock. Come gather around the fire in the courtyard, light a candle, and sing "Alleluia! He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!"

CCL Committee



All are welcome to attend ***Easter Morning Breakfast*** after the sunrise service and before the 9:30 am service. The time frame is 8:00 to 9:00 am - in the Fellowship hall.

The CCL Committee will provide meats and main dishes, juice and coffee. Those planning to come, please bring a dessert like fruit or coffee cake to share.



Our Lenten Schedule

Lenten Bible Study

February 25, March 3, 10, and 17

5:30 Fellowship

Soup and Bread Supper followed by our study

Maundy Thursday - March 28 7:00 p.m.

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

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Service of the Resurrection - March 31

9:30 a.m.

Mission Committee

Due to our Maunday Thursday Church Service on March 28th, the March **Community Meal** will be held on the *third* Thursday, **March 21st** at the same time, 5:30 to 6:30. The menu will be Chicken and Waffles, Broccoli/cauliflower, applesauce, cranberry sauce and desserts. The sign up sheets will be in the narthex on Sunday March 10th for help with the preparing, serving, and clean up for the meal.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will continue until Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please use the envelopes in the pews marked for the One Great Hour of Sharing or use a plain white envelope and simply mark it "One Great Hour of Sharing."

The April **Community Meal** will be held on the regular 4th Thursday of April which is **April 25th**.

The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, March 7th at 6:30 in the library.

New members are welcome and appreciated. Any questions please contact either Lois Eshleman or Bonnie Rice.

Joke of the Month

There was a Scottish painter named Jack who was very interested in making a pound where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a little bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

Eventually the Presbyterian Church decided to do a restoration job on one of its biggest churches. Jack put in a bid and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles and putting up the planks, and buying the paint and...yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with the turpentine.

Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn.

Now, Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty Voice spoke, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Deacons



April Birthdays Ruth Anne Appel March 4
Alba Buck April 14
Mildred Young April 15

Please consider reaching out to our At-Home members with Easter greetings. The At-home Member list is in this newsletter and there are copies at the back of the sanctuary.

The Deacons will meet on **March 10**, immediately following worship.

The Prayer Shawl Knitters plan to meet at 9:30 on **March 4 and 18**.

Plants for the At-home members will be available on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

Easter plants for the sanctuary can be ordered using the order form below. Additional forms can be found in the narthex..

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

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Articles for the April Newsletter
Will be due Monday, March 25, 2024

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor