



# Leacock Communicator

## Leacock Presbyterian Church

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April 2024

### A Word from the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

Now that we have celebrated Easter Sunday, which in Western Christianity initiates Easter Week—called “Bright Week” in Eastern Christianity—we begin a season called Eastertide.

In the days ahead we journey forty days to the celebration of the Ascension and ten days following that, Pentecost. As Ash Wednesday and Easter came early this year, so Pentecost does as well on May 19th.

Our monthly newsletter continues to heighten our awareness of who we are and what our church is doing. Undergirding all we do is the prayer, the hope that we are making a difference as we seek to be faithful disciples.

In fact one of the main practices, or disciplines, that undergirds what we do is prayer. I offer us a fresh look at “The Serenity Prayer.”



Often referred to by its first line (“God grant me the serenity. . .”), this beautiful prayer pleads for peace, comfort, courage and wisdom. It is one of the world’s most famous prayers and was made popular by Alcoholics Anonymous during the 20th Century.

The Serenity Prayer is a firm favorite with this group, so much so that it has become known as the “AA Prayer.” As well as reading and meditating on the full version of the Serenity Prayer included herein, we can discover who wrote these inspiring words and what the prayer means for our lives today.

“The Serenity Prayer”

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that Christ will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him  
forever and ever in the next. AMEN

This prayer is attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971) although others are considered to have contributed to it. Niebuhr was an American Reformed theologian, ethicist, commentator on politics and public affairs, and professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York, for more than 30 years. For several decades, Niebuhr was one of America's leading public intellectuals of the 20th century and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964. He wrote and spoke frequently about the intersection of religion, politics, and public policy. His most influential books include *Moral Man* and *Immoral Society* and *The Nature and Destiny of Man*.

About the prayer. . .

The prayer appears in print form in 1950, although Reinhold's wife recounts that it may have been in existence as early as 1934. The first four lines of the prayer are an adaption of the original text; the next section appears to have been added later by an unknown author.

There are a number of three-fold prayers in the Christianity. For example, the Lord's Prayer ends with the declaration "For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory," and the "Gloria Patri" (in Latin "Glory to the Father with the added recognition of Son and Holy Spirit").

The second part of the Serenity Prayer asks for contentment in day-to-day life. It is a prayer for the acceptance of hardships and a prayer of trust in God that God will bring peace and happiness. The meditation ends by looking forward to life everlasting beyond the grave, echoing the Christian belief in the hope of eternity (Ephesians 1:18).

So let this prayer guide and comfort you in Eastertide and beyond.

In Peace,

*Jim*

## April Lectionary

<b>April 7</b> <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>  Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	<b>April 14</b> <b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>  Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	<b>April 21</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>  Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
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<b>April 28</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
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Acts 8:26-40 Psalms 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
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<b>Our Mission Statement</b>
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<p><b>“Building on our heritage, led by the Spirit, committed to Christ, we welcome our neighbors to share in this family of God.”</b></p>
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## Prayers of the Church

**April 7**  
**David & Karen Homsher**

**April 14**  
**Milton Hostetter**

**April 21**  
**Eric, Paula & Chad Hughes**

**April 28**  
**Robin Katz**

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### *Thank You!*

Dear Church family,

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers with the passing of Chuck's mother. The flowers and cards were so very nice and appreciated. Also, thanks for the surprise visitors at her viewing and funeral service. It was very thoughtful of you all to take the time to go to the service. A special thanks to Pastor Jim for taking the time to go to the service, too.

It touched all of our hearts so much. She was a very special and caring mother, and she will be greatly missed. Thanks again, and God Bless.

The Ankney family

## Trustee Notes

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

The process for installing the new HVAC unit is underway. Work should be completed by mid-April.

The work on the West Sanctuary door is complete. One main door opens with the option of a second door.

The Narthex ramp is also completed. Thanks to the trustees who helped with this project!

**Spring Workday** is set for Saturday, April 27. There will be a list of things to do in the narthex in case you can't attend. You can complete these at your convenience.

Thank you all for making our church a wonderful place to worship!

Trustee President



## Session Snippets

The Session and Trustees held their biannual meeting in March, enjoyed each other's company, and accomplished much. Trustee President Mike Ruhl reported Leacock has received a \$7916.78 bequest from the estate of Miriam Latshaw which will be placed in the Endowment Fund.

The west door has been replaced and bids received for replacing the HVAC unit behind the elevator with the cost coming from the Usner bequest. The remaining \$127,000 in this bequest will be deposited in the Endowment Fund.

The Boards discussed the current set up of church accounts and appointed a committee to study this and develop a plan to present at a specially called Session/Trustee meeting.

At their portion of the meeting, the Session conducted routine business.



# Worship Committee

## Eastertide Worship

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***  
***He Is Risen!***  
***He Is Risen Indeed!***

Our Easter Alleluias continue this Eastertide as we gather for worship each Sunday morning. Both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir continue to bless us with their musical offerings.

Rev. Shuler will be spending Sunday April 28 with his mother in Virginia celebrating her 100th birthday, and we welcome Rev. Dick Sindall as our guest minister.



## Summer Schedule

We will be worshipping at Old Leacock at 9:30 a.m. the **first Sunday of June, July, and August**. The Worship Committee and Session believe this change will provide more folks with the opportunity to worship at our “Mother Church” and experience the beauty of nature surrounding us with open windows and open doors.

There will be **no 8:00 a.m. worship** this summer.

(And yes, there will be a port-a-potty available.)

### **CCL**

Fellowship in the Narthex will continue through May. The CCL committee is looking for volunteers to set up fellowship on any Sunday in April and May. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex, and/or please see Angela to pick a weekend. Thank You!

## Mission Committee

This is April and you all know what that means! It's spring and time to start your spring house cleaning. And while you are cleaning things out, don't forget to check on those clothes. Anything that is decent...clean and not torn (no underwear please) just bring all your things to the church narthex and deposit them there. We will see that they get to the **Lancaster Clothing Bank** where they will be available for others to choose. We will be collecting the entire month of April..from Monday April 1st to Tuesday April 30th. We cannot accept anything after the last day of April. However, we will have another clothing drive in the fall. So mark your calendars now to help you remember. We appreciate your help!

Our **Community Meal** this month is back to its regular 4th Thursday of the month, which is **April 25th**, from 5:30 to 6:30 in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. The menu will be Lasagna, Garlic and plain bread, Tossed Salad, Applesauce and Desserts from Weis Markets. There will be sign up sheets in the narthex for people who can make a pan of lasagna as well as some other things.

The Mission Committee deeply appreciates the willingness and energy that this congregation has shown for the Community Meal. Believe me, Bonnie, Alba, and I could not do this without the support of this congregation. You are helping this church to show God's love. Thank you for being such great workers.

Lois, Bonnie, and Alba

## Deacons



**Birthdays:** April 14 - Alba Buck celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!  
April 15 - Millie Young  
April 27 - Nell Irvin (Pastor Jim's mother)  
Corrington Place  
990 Holston Rd.  
Wytheville, VA 24382

The **Prayer Shawl Knitters** will meet on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Recently we were able to donate a number of shawls and lap robes to a personal care home, kindly delivered by Marsha Ault. Please contact Karen Homsher if you know of someone in the church or community who could be blessed with a prayer shawl.

Altar flower deliveries for April—Barb Andrews and Sue Funk

Thanks to all of you who reach out to our **At-home Members** with holiday and birthday cards. They and their families express much appreciation for these remembrances, and they are a wonderful witness to the caring nature of our church family.

Our next regular meeting is May 19.

## **Joke of the Month**

**A wise pastor named Jim walked into a barber shop for a haircut. Even though the pastor didn't have a lot of hair, the barber figured out a few techniques to keep himself busy, including chatting with the customer ...**

**So the barber asked Jim what he did for a living, and when Jim replied "I'm a pastor" the barber continued, "Well I don't go to church, there's too much bad in the world. How do you deal with it?" The pastor said "I have faith in God."**

**The barber said "How do you know there's a God? I don't believe there is one." The pastor replied "What makes you think there's no God?" The barber said "Well if there were a God, why would so many bad things happen to good people?" The pastor gave it some thought, but didn't reply.**

**When the haircut was over, the pastor tipped the barber well, and went outside. As he was leaving, he saw an unkempt, homeless man sitting on a park bench. He tapped the man on the shoulder and asked "May I buy you a haircut?" The man said "Sure" and followed the pastor back to the barbershop.**

**As they stepped in the door, the pastor said to the barber "So I guess there's no such thing as barbers either?" ... The barber was confused and said "What are you talking about?" The pastor replied "Well if there were such a thing as barbers, this man wouldn't have been outside unkempt and needing a haircut!"**

**The barber replied "Well it's not that I don't exist, it's that he never came to see me!"**

**(And if the moral eludes you here, keep this simpler one in mind:  
Even if you don't have a lot of hair, it's worth stopping in to church!)**

## **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You**



Little do most of us know about the behind the scenes work that keeps Leacock functioning and our church welcoming. At the risk of missing someone, we proclaim a hearty and heart-filled THANK YOU.

To Trustees David Homsher and Mike Ruhl for fixing the ramp going from the Narthex to the Sanctuary. Hours of patient removing carpet, gluing, scraping, and replacing carpet over several weeks have resulted in a sturdier, safer walkway.

To Bonnie Rice (and Jim) for her care of our Memorial Garden. As you walk to our fellowship time, stop to look at the flowers and the cross, breathe deeply, and take in the miracle of our faith.

To Brit Kilboure for his faithful Communion set-up and clean-up.

To Ed Margerum for his ushering prowess, greeting worshippers with a smile and a bulletin and herding his volunteers to their proper doorways. But there is more — he also keeps the candles on the Communion table filled with oil, lights them, and checks the pastor's microphone.

To Karen Homsher, Bell Choir Director Extraordinaire. Her professionalism and calmness make Sunday anthems look seamless, but the hours she spends choosing music, assigning bell parts, coordinating dates, and worrying about bell player sudden illnesses are all hidden parts of her responsibility. (Did you know that the Bell Choir needs every player, every time they play?)

To Angela Killian for her coffee-tea making and snack providing at our weekly Fellowship Time. Often she sets up on Saturday so we can enjoy greeting each other after worship.

To Mike Hartmann for his recording of our services, editing them, and posting them on-line.

There are so many others of you, also, who make Leacock what we are. Let us rejoice and worship together in this sacred place.

### **Ushers**

**April - Bob and Margy Hershey**

**May - Mike and Alba Ruhl**

**June - Joe and Elaine Gouba**



Leacock Presbyterian Church  
3181 Lincoln Hwy. East  
Paradise, PA 17562  
Phone 717 687-6619

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Articles for the May Newsletter  
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The Leacock Communicator

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor