

	<i>Leacock Communicator</i> <i>Leacock Presbyterian Church</i> www.leacockpres.org 717-687-6619 <i>Volume 67, Number 4</i> <i>September/October 2026</i>
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ATTENTION:

With the rising cost of postage and the availability of alternate delivery options, the Session and Trustees have decided to change Leacock's newsletter access. There are several options from which you may choose.

Option #1: Reading the newsletter as currently posted on the church website: www.leacockpres.org.

Option #2: Picking up a printed copy of the newsletter at church

Option #3: Receiving the newsletter as an email attachment. If so, you will need to confirm your email address with the church office.

Those without internet access or those unable to pick up a copy at church will continue to receive the newsletter by first-class mail.

Please respond with your choice by Sunday, October 4, 2026 to:

dianneyuninger@comcast.net

leacock.secretary@gmail.com

Or fill out the survey sheet at the back of the sanctuary and place it in the labeled basket.

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.”**

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

“Perspective”

**“Fix your eyes on the unseen for what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal.”
2 Corinthians 4:18**



Looking down the street, what do you see?

“O God, a thousand years in your sight are as a day gone by and a day as a thousand years. . . for quickly they pass and we fly away.” Psalm 90:4 and 10b

Your pastor recently attended a large family gathering in Northern California to celebrate the 90th birthday of a beloved first cousin. Approximately 250 friends, professional colleagues and family members were in attendance with family participating from Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Colorado, Arizona, and California. It was a treasured occasion with intergenerational connections of numerous kinds and various events over a span of several days.

As to perspective, the state where I was—California—is a large territory of nearly 164,000 square miles with 40 million residents. By size it's about the same as Japan and third largest behind Alaska and Texas. If California were a country, its economy along with its population would be the fourth largest nation in the world, IMAGINE!

When we think of churches, whether a church is mega or small, the call and the work of the people of faith matter the same. With the help of the Rev. Lorenzo Small, Sr. who pastors a small congregation in Battle Creek, Michigan, I share the following thoughts.

A recent CNN article touted the success of a mega church in Atlanta. The premise of the article was that this pastor has figured out how to reach young people by the thousands, while highlighting the continued failure of the mainline church in America. The article names the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as one of those failing denominations.

Let it be emphasized that disciples of Jesus celebrate wherever God is at work. When people are being reached with Good News and receive the mercy of God, their lives are transformed regardless of the size of a church or the denomination.

Any notion that God is only at work in mega churches, or that churches not following a particular strategy are doomed to fail is untenable.

I'm writing to encourage Leacock Church that significant ministry can continue here.

If that needs to take on different forms, fine, discover them. If changes from the past are needed, dropping programs and outreach previously considered vibrant but are no longer sustainable, then do so. Appreciation amidst that grief can provide motivation to embrace new opportunities.

Pastors who serve in places where the membership is low, or where a called pastor is not possible, can still provide meaningful outreach. There may be opportunities to link arms with other churches or ministries to form new bonds of strength, vibrancy, and meaningful purpose.

Lest we become discouraged and, like the unprofitable servant in the Gospel account of Matthew 25:14–30 give up, let us rather take seriously the talents we have been given and discover ways to use them, whether one, several, or many and not to bury the one or ones we do have out of fear, lack of trust, or a poverty of faith.

God gives us opportunities to be effective in small places as well as large ones. Keep in mind that in our consumer culture, many attendees in large settings come and go to receive the benefits of those ministries without offering themselves in service in return.

The danger we face is that markers of success in our culture's persistence on large can easily lead us to dismiss small efforts.

“And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” Matthew 25:14–30 ESV

Are we taking seriously what God has given us, if only one talent? If not, we become like the unprofitable servant.

Our congregation is predominantly older and white. What if over time our profile began to attract more of those struggling with housing, the homeless, those Latino, African American, or any of a variety of immigrant groups in our area. What if younger people started coming without a parent. What if they came

when looking around and failing to see others that look like them. What if we shared space with a split off group of the Amish, or other groups. Would these be welcomed? Would they be embraced?

What if folks came to us simply because they were being accepted as they are and helped with their need. What if they come because we take seriously what God has given us to share.

We are a church along the highway where many people pass every day. Could we be a way station, a place of refuge. What if we partnered with our denomination's 1,001 Worshiping Communities Dinner Church movement and became a satellite location with leadership of its own, in other words, not those of you already carrying all you can handle? Could we let our space be used for a future open table where an Agape Feast happens weekly on a week day with study, prayer, and worship offered along with a meal. Simply come from your busy day, from your job, work clothes accepted. Come as you are.

A realistic question is who would lead or coordinate all of this. The answer simply might be: open your door to others. Let them provide their own leadership, just make the space available.

So keep perspective: the power of God's Spirit at work in and through us is significant even if the outcomes seem small. Small, faithful efforts are of value to God and still reach people in need.

While we can learn from churches with larger capacities, effectiveness is not always measured in numbers. We must never believe that our ministry relies solely on human efforts and strategies rather than a consistent reliance on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Spending time with this parable shows that the reward rendered was the same for the servant with two talents as the servant with five talents. Why? Because what is being measured was not the quantity of the outcomes but the servants' faithfulness with what their master had given.

God has given us space. God has given us gifts. God will give us hope.

So keep perspective. The measurement of success in Christ's church is faithfulness, whether we have one or five talents.

Blessings and Peace,

Jim



This year's **Trunk or Treat** is scheduled for Friday, Oct 23, 2026 at 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The location is Paradise Community Park. Community groups and Churches are invited to participate.

SPECIAL INVITATION:

In the concluding season of my interim with you, I wish to provide the opportunity for you to share any personal concerns you have or suggestions for the leadership of the church. I will welcome the opportunity to respond. All personal matters will be held in confidence.

You may reach me by email at shuler6@gmail.com or get in touch by phone at **717-586-2017**. If you have thoughts or insights to pass along to the church leadership, please share them also.



September Prayer Families

September 6
John Jr. & Kristine Shirk

September 13
Danielle, Kyle & Jayde Short

September 20
George & Karen Shue

September 27
Dick & Debbie Sindall

October Prayer Families

October 4
Lori A. Smith

October 11
Betty Sowers

October 18
Matthew Sowers

October 25
June E. Stannard

September Lectionary

September 6, 2026 15th Sunday of Pentecost Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	September 13, 2026 16th Sunday of Pentecost Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	September 20, 2026 17th Sunday of Pentecost Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
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September 27, 2026
18th Sunday of Pentecost
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October Lectionary

October 4, 2026 19th Sunday of Pentecost Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	October 11, 2026 20th Sunday of Pentecost Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	October 18, 2026 21st Sunday of Pentecost Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
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October 25, 2026
22nd Sunday of Pentecost
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Trustee Notes

The Trustees have been busy this year. From elevators to kitchen hoods, roof shingles to parking lots, and everything in between. We've accomplished a lot, but there is always more to do.

Our **Church Work Day** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 3** at 9 a.m. Weather permitting, outside tasks can be done. If not, inside tasks can be done. Those lists will be available towards the end of September. Please plan accordingly.

Thanks from the Trustees!
Mike Ruhl, Trustee President



Thanks to my friends at Leacock for the thoughtful cards I received this past Easter.

Thanks to Rev. Shuler for his visit and to Debbie Sindall who brought the Easter flowers.

My Martha Washington geranium - the Easter flower from 2025 is blooming again!

Betty Denlinger

Thank you for the cards, kind messages, thoughts and prayers. It is so very much appreciated.

Sandy Schoettle



From your Worship Committee

We have two more opportunities to gather for worship at Old Leacock this season:

September 6 - Labor Day Sunday

September 13 - Old Leacock Day

We will celebrate Old Leacock Day with Communion and our annual picnic.



October brings fall colors and the celebration of World Communion Sunday on October 4 as we join our brothers and sisters around the world in observing this sacrament.

Deacons



Celebrate birthdays with our At-Home members:

November 22 – Betty Denlinger
4 Conestoga Dr. Apt. 120
Lititz, PA 17543

Flower deliveries:

September – Carol Berkhimer
October – Carol Berkhimer/Debbie Sindall
November – Debbie Sindall
December – Charlene Boas



The **Prayer Shawl** knitters will resume meeting at **9:30 on October 5th**. Our normal schedule is the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, but is somewhat flexible to accommodate holidays and knitter schedules. We'd love to welcome some new members!

The Deacons supported The Factory Ministries with a donation for their summer programs with youth.

The Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on September 30th. Anyone interested in joining should contact Karen Homsher. We're always glad to have 1 or 2 more!

Our next Deacons' meeting is **October 25th**.



Mission Committee



Our next free **Community Meal** will be held on **Thursday, September 24th** in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30 to 6:30. The menu will include Lasagna, Garlic and Plain Bread, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup, and Desserts. Sign-up sheets for food donations and helpers to make, serve, and clean up the meal will be in the narthex approximately 2 Sundays before the meal is to be served.

The October meal will take place on **Thursday October 22nd** and also will be served in the same place at the same time. The menu will be Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas, Rolls, Applesauce, and Desserts.

Again the sign-up sheets will be in the narthex approximately 2 Sundays before the meal is to be served. Everyone is welcome to help or just attend these meals.

The month of September is our second **Clothing Drive** for the year. Any clothes you choose to donate, Church World Service will give to people in need. All you need to do is to clean out a few closets and a couple of drawers, or any large trunks that you have just lying around and any clothes that you have not worn in the last 2 years (as long as they are in good, clean condition), just fold them and put them in a bag or box and drop them off in the narthex. You may do this anytime between **Sunday, August 30th through Sunday September 27th**. No clothes will be accepted after Sunday, September 27th. The Mission Committee will deliver them to the warehouse where they are distributed to those who are in need.

The third Sunday in October is traditionally our **CROP Walk Sunday**. This year that falls on Sunday **October 18th**. It will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Paradise Park. We need Sponsors. We need Walkers. And we need Cheerleaders - people to cheer our walkers on to go "that extra mile"! I heard a doctor once say that walking was the most complete exercise. So come and do your heart a favor (and also help to feed the hungry!) Join us on October 18th and make a difference!

God's Peace,
The Mission Committee



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

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September/October

Articles for the November Newsletter
Are due by Wednesday, October 21, 2026

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor