Leacock Communicator
Leacock Presbyterian Church

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A Word from the Pastor



"A Rich Heritage...a Rich Path Forward"

As I journey toward a time of rest, sabbatical and my next call, you are embracing your full time installed pastor, the Rev. Walter Kondratowski. He along with his wife Kristin, and their children—*Teresa, Maria, Sophia, Lucia, and Josiah*—already contribute richly to the fabric of this community and have for a number of years. Their ministries have included youth work, mission trips, musical and technical assistance to congregations and four years ago establishing 'Our Table', a 1001 Worshiping Community funded initially through the PCUSA at First Presbyterian, Strasburg then hosted by St. Michael's Lutheran and now returned to First Presbyterian. Their impact includes Kristin's ministry at 1st Strasburg as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

We lift up our prayers for each of them as Walter adds the work and witness of Leacock Church to this ministry.

As I wrap up at Leacock, I am working with Walter on a graceful transition. This means preparing the way for him to receive a proper and honest handover. It involves providing useful information on procedures, relationships, records and opportunities for ministry within the congregation and community. It means orienting him to the facilities as a steward of the property along with the elders, deacons, and trustees.

Also, it is important on my part to leave the church premises in good shape—the pastor's study and the spaces I've used and the general environment. Every church has ongoing matters and projects—a new copier coming, a newsletter distribution list to revamp, a perspectives assessment to summarize, a

church treasurer to hire, recovery in treatment for Sandy our secretary and the special events of the Advent and Christmas Season.

Attention to both the spiritual and administrative side of the transition is key. Since October, the theme of worship and preaching has been—Lessons in Leadership: Power, Listening, Courage, Calling, Genuine Care, Commitment and Grace. Each of these qualities are ones I embrace and Walter will do the same.

As I say goodbye to members, take Walter around on visits, hand over documents, keys, and more, I pray mightily for each of you as he takes on this new assignment. I pray for each of you, especially the leaders, as you continue your assigned duties. Continue to embrace them regularly and faithfully. Enormous appreciation for all you've done and will continue to do.

This means allowing the work we started to continue growing even after I've moved on AND to modify as needed. It means openness to creative, new ministries and potential partnerships. It means I leave peacefully, respecting the energy and winds of the Spirit that will come your way.

And so, with gratitude and thanksgiving, I leave you prepared to receive your new pastor.

In the words of Paul recorded in Ephesians 1:16, "I will not stop giving thanks for you and remembering you in my prayers."



Blessings and Peace,

JIM

P.S. Enjoy the lyrics and YouTube link of a song that captures the spirit of who we are as the church.

“We Are the Church”
By Richard K. Avery Donald S. Marsh
Port Jervis, NY
Hope Publishing 1972

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=jvtu2YGcNho&ra=m
Mission Hills UMC, San Diego, CA - 2:43

LYRICS: “We Are the Church”
Chorus:
I am the church
You are the church
We are the church together
All who follow Jesus
All around the world
Yes we're the church together

Verse 1
The church is not a building
The church is not a steeple
The church is not a resting place
The church is the people

Verse 2
We're many kinds of people
With many kinds of faces
All colors and all ages too
From all times and places

Verse 3
Sometimes the church is marching
Sometimes it's bravely burning
Sometimes it's riding sometimes hiding
Always it's learning

Verse 4
And when the people gather
There's singing and there's praying
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes
All of it saying,
Chorus: I am the church, we are the church, we are the church together. . .

Verse 5
At Pentecost some people
Received the Holy Spirit
And told the Good News
Through the world
To all who would hear it

Chorus:
I am the church
You are the church
We are the church together
All who follow Jesus
All around the world
Yes we're the church together

Please join us in celebration of Jim's retirement, and in appreciation of his years of service to Leacock and the community.

When? Tuesday, December 15, 5 - 7 pm

Where? Factory Ministries
3293 Lincoln Hwy E
Paradise, PA

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to the church secretary at leacock.secretary@gmail.com, or to Angela at 301-452-2215.

Hope to see you there!



November Lectionary

Sunday, November 1	*Sunday, November 8*	*Sunday, November 15*
Joshua 3:7–17 Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13 Matthew 23:1–12	Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 Psalm 78:1–7 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Matthew 25:1–13	Judges 4:1–7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Matthew 25:14–30

November 22 *Reign of Christ / Christ the King*	*November 29* *First Sunday of Advent*
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 Psalm 100 *or* Psalm 95:1–7a Ephesians 1:15–23 Matthew 25:31–46	Isaiah 64:1–9 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 Mark 13:24–37

December Lectionary

December 6 *Second Sunday of Advent*	*December 13* *Third Sunday of Advent*	*December 20* *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 40:1–11 Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 2 Peter 3:8–15a Mark 1:1–8	Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 Psalm 126 *or* Luke 1:46b–55 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28	2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 Luke 1:46b–55 *or* Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 Romans 16:25–27

December 24 *Nativity of the Lord* *(Christmas Eve)*	*December 25* *Nativity of the Lord* *(Christmas Day)*	*December 27* *First Sunday of Christmas*
Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]	1Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12] John 1:1–14 	Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:22–40

November Prayer Families

November 1
Diep Ngoc & Anh Tran

November 8
Tracy Wettig

November 15
Joseph & Sharon Lee Williams

November 22
David & Bethany-Swanson Yuninger

November 29
Harold & Dianne Yuninger

December Prayer Families

December 6
Mark & Barbara Andrews

December 13
Chad & Nina Ankney

December 20
Charles, Kathy & Kristen Ankney

December 27
Ruth Anne Appel

A Note from the Worship Committee

With the Winter Solstice come shorter days, longer nights, and the possibility of adverse weather conditions. We always want you to be safe and strongly urge no travel on icy, snowy Sunday mornings.

The following Session policy was adopted several years ago:

When unsafe conditions exist, Sunday morning worship will be cancelled. The decision to close will be made by the available members from the following: Pastor, Clerk of Session, Trustee President. The decision will be communicated by 7:00 a.m. to mass media, the church website, and the church answering machine.

Additionally, the pastor will send a group email if services are canceled.

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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."

We will be making **Peanut Butter Bonbons** again this year on **December 7th at 9:00 am**.
There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to order bonbons for Christmas. You will be able to pick them up here at the church, We will have milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or mixed at a cost of $9.00 per container.



The **TOYS FOR TOTS** box is in Narthex. Pickup will be December 4. The need is the same as last year. Gifts for boys and girls in the ages of 9 to 12 years old can be jewelry, games, watches, personal care items.

The Marines of Lancaster County thank you!

Worship



“Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.”

And with that first candle we light November 29, we enter the Advent season, a time of waiting and expectation. Join us for worship as we welcome our new pastor Rev. Walter Kondratowski and together travel toward Bethlehem.

Sunday December 20
Communion

December 24
7:00 pm - Christmas Eve
Family Service in Paradise
With candle lighting

11:00 pm - Christmas Eve
Lessons and Carols at Old Leacock
With candle lighting.

Sunday December 27
Worship 9:30 am

Deacons

There are no Deacon birthdays until January when Bill Berkhimer will celebrate his birthday on January 9. However, our At-home members would enjoy getting Thanksgiving and/or Christmas cards. We receive many comments of appreciation for cards and notes.

Because of holiday schedules, the Prayer Shawl Knitters will meet on November 16 and December 14.

The Deacons will be providing grocery gift cards for 2 families this holiday season.

Please see the information /order form below for ordering Christmas poinsettias. They will be displayed in the church on Sunday, December 20

Flower deliveries: November - Debbie Sindall December - Charlene Boas

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



You may purchase a Christmas Poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary in memory/honor of someone. Please complete and return this form and payment to the church office by **Sunday, December 6**

The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the December 20 Sunday Bulletin.

I/We_____wish to order____ Christmas Poinsettia(s)

in memory of_____

or in honor of_____

Size: ☐ **6"** 5-7 bloom poinsettia **$8.00** ☐**5"** 4-6 bloom poinsettia **$5.55.**

Color: ☐**Red** ☐**White** ☐**Pink** ☐**Marble** ☐**Jingle Bells**

Mission Committee



The **Christmas Community Meal** will be held on the 2nd Thursday evening of the month which is **December 10th**. The time will remain the same, from 5:30-6:30 PM in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. The menu will be Baked Ham, Macaroni/Cheese, Green Beans, Rolls, Applesauce, and Desserts. The sign up sheets will be in the Narthex on Sunday, November 29 and December 6 who those who wish to help or wish to contribute food for this meal. Everyone is welcome to join us. What a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season!

Just a reminder that the January Community Meal will return to its normal schedule-the 4th Thursday of the month which is January 28 from 5:30-6:30.

From December 1 through December 31 is the time that we, as a church, receive our yearly **Christmas Joy Offering**. 50% of our gift helps current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. The other 50% goes to prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. There are envelopes marked "Christmas Joy Offering" in the pews. Just fill the envelope as you feel you can and return it to the office or put it in the offering plate by December 31st. Just make sure it is labeled for the Christmas Joy Offering.

January is the month for our **Blanket Offering**. This will be collected from Sunday January 10 through January 24th. Envelopes will be in the pews at that time for your use. Church World Service sponsors this offering. It helps to provide warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbors near and far. It is a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive here in the United States to try to build a new future. And it provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Please give as you feel you can.

Just a reminder that Sunday February 14th is not only Valentines Day but also "Souper" Bowl Sunday. More about that later.

Your Mission Committee appreciates all your help,
Lois, Bonnie, & Alba

Leacock's Congregational Meeting

Reflecting on the First Thessalonians message given by Reverend James Shuler on Sunday October 31, The 'We' are a "We" church was emphasized. We are committed to work together as the household of faith in this community. We have a heritage to honor, and we do so with our commitment to move into a new season, a new territory, with the promise of bearing much fruit.

The following members have committed to the Elder, Deacon, Trustee Boards for 2027.
As our Congregation transitions with the installation of a new board, members please continue to support each other. Be open to learning with fellowship, and may God guide our commitment and our hearts. Praise be to God for this blessing.

LEACOCK 2027 SLATE OF OFFICERS 2026 Voted November 15, to be installed.
Classes of 2027 and 2028

Class of 2027 (2nd year of term)	**Class 2028** (New Elect or 1st year term)
Session	
Lois Eshleman (27)	
Bonnie Rice (27)	
Mark Andrews (27)	
Elaine Gouba (27)	
Alba Ruhl (27)	**Dianne Yuninger (28)**
	Steve Boas (28)
	Jenny Keenan (28)
Trustees	
David Homsher (27)	
Carol Shearer (27)	
Chuck Ankney (27)	**Mike Ruhl (28)**
	Jim Brackbill (28)
Deacons	
Sue Funk (27)	
Carol Berkhimer (27)	
Barb Andrews (27)	
Charlene Boas (27)	**Karen Homsher (28)**
	Mary Alice High (28)
	Deb Sindall (28)
	Deb Mitchell (28)
***Only attending Leacock members may vote.**	
The 2026 Nomination Committee thanks all for the congregation's support through this important time of church election of officers. Elder Chairpersons: Elaine Gouba, Alba Buck, and Carol Berkhimer, Kathy Ankney, Margy Hershey.	

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