

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, February 8, 2026

Theme: Bridging to the Future



“Lift up your eyes and look around; see what is to come.”  
Isaiah 60:4

## GATHERING

*Prelude:* “Amazing Grace” (My Chains are Gone) Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship

Leader: Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

**People: God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

Leader: When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

**People: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

Leader: No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

**People: God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

**People: We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! AMEN.**

\*Hymn: #673 “Jesus, Light of Joy” (*With Bell Choir*)

\*Prayer of the Day and Confession

**God of all creation, we ask for Your Spirit to unite us where we face disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries. We plead for Your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth and, in silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims. (Silence)**

**For that we make honest and humble confession for ourselves, our brothers and sisters, our friends and neighbors including those who oppose what is right. When we fail to get it right, redirect us. We pray for all leaders and followers, workers and those who can't work or don't work. And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts. (Silence)**

**Gracious God, who called every being into life, who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, continue to grant us the variety of talents we need to shape the life You call us to embrace. In this world as it is, in all the ways we lack understanding, give us discernment and wisdom, strength and resilience. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

**People: Christ continues to lay down his life for us, so that we might have life. Christ continues to show us the way, so that we might live into the truth and the life we are able to claim. Christ continues to love us, so that we might love God and our neighbors as ourselves. We claim our forgiveness in gratitude.**

Leader: God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so Your uniting Spirit continues to help us accomplish all that is needed to live in peace.

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

*Anthem:* Aria (Winter Song) C. Dobrinski  
*Bell Choir*

Scripture: Psalm 27: 1, 4-5 and Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: “Withdrawing to Move Forward”

\*Hymn: #300 “We Are One in the Spirit”  
(They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, shine upon us with unwavering hope. You call us to seek Your**

face and trust in Your presence more than in our own strength. Receive our gifts whenever we give them, given not in reluctance but in joyful confidence. Even if in small steps, use our offerings to build a world where Your light leads, Your justice reigns, and Your people—unafraid—become living testimonies of Your goodness. In the name of Christ, our Rock and Redeemer, we pray. AMEN

Announcements

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn: #79 “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

\*Charge and Benediction

Leader: God is our light, our hope, our All in All: Blessed be God, now and forever!

**People: Christ is our home, our life, our joy: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

Leader: Our worship concludes; our service continues.

**People: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

Silent Prayer (*be seated*)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. AMEN

*Postlude:*

“To God Be the Glory”

Victor Johnson

(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship  
The Beginning of Service

\*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor  
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

**Prayers of the Congregation**

The Prayer Family this week is: **Eric, Paula & Chad Hughes**

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of  
my cousin Allen B. Yuninger  
Given by Jim & Sue Brackbill**

# Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in  
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



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