

*GATHERING*

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Mark Lochstampfor

Invocation

*The Lighting of the Advent Candle* - Leacock Bell Choir

After the candle is lit, the congregation will sing Hymn #654

*\*Call to Worship*

Leader: In the presence of darkness, what should we do?

**People: Let us not worry; let us trust in the Lord.**

Leader: For the light shines in the darkness,

**People: And the darkness will never overcome it.**

Leader: The true light has come into the world.

**People: Let us rejoice in the Lord.**

*Hymn:* "Hail, to the Lord's Anointed" (see bulletin insert) Bell Choir

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

**God of mercy, you have told us what we are to do. In the Lord who has come and will come again, you have shown us what to do. But we do not do what you want. Where we should be gentle, we are mean. Where we should be glad, we worry. Where we should share, we care only for ourselves. Help us, Lord. Free us from our darkness. Shine your light in us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

\*Gloria Patri

*PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD*

Anthem: "People, Look East" (arr. by Linda Lamb) Bell Choir

Children's Sermon

(Following the Children's Sermon, children leave for Sunday School)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn: #96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 3:7-18 (p.56)

Sermon: **The Power of Joy**

*RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD*

\*Apostles Creed (p. 17)

The Peace of Christ

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book

Offertory "Once in Royal David's City"

arr. Wayne Wold

\*Doxology (page 606)

\*Hymn: #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

\*Benediction

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Robert Lau

The End of Worship

The Beginning of Service

\*Those who wish may stand

As you leave worship, greet all with the Peace of Christ

Rev. Robert W. Birch, Minister

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of James Weaver

Given by his family

VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! During the offertory the Friendship Book will be passed from the end of the pew. Please sign it and indicate other information as appropriate. Pass the book back down the pew and notice the names of the other worshippers. Greet one another warmly after the service.

**WORSHIP HOUR INFORMATION:**

It is an ancient Scottish custom for the pulpit Bible to be brought into the sanctuary and placed by a layperson before the service begins.

8:00 a.m. Tom Burkins 10:30 a.m. Edwin Margerum

**IN THE NURSERY** (babies through 4 yrs.)

8:00 – On call list 10:30 – Stephanie Gray & Ehren Graybill

**IN THE NURSERY** (babies through 4 yrs.) next Sunday, December 20

9:30 –Carol & Dave Berkhimer

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Beane who passed away Thursday December 10, 2015

**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:**

**PRAYER PERSON THIS WEEK:** Richard Miller

In the hospital: John Koshuta in Lancaster General Rm. #5820  
Helen Kreider in Lancaster General Rm. #4013

**TODAY:**

8:00 a.m. Service of Worship

9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Service of Worship

Children (kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade) leave for Sunday School following the Children's Sermon.

11:30 a.m. Christmas Caroling

7:00 p.m. Youth Group

**MONDAY:**

7:00 a.m. PW Walk

7:30 a.m. PW Sunrise Bible Study & Breakfast

**TUESDAY:**

7:00 p.m. PW Bible Study

**WEDNESDAY:**

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

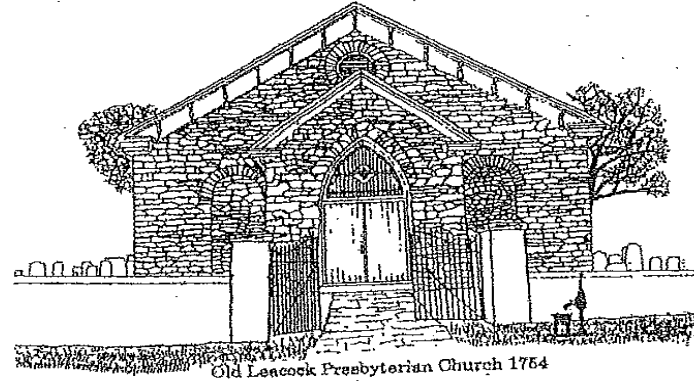
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

**THURSDAY:**

5:30 p.m. Session Meeting

# Leacock Presbyterian Church

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



CELEBRATING  
275 YEARS



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Paradise, PA 17562

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[www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**This Sunday** continues our annual Christmas Joy Offering to help support church workers who are having financial difficulties and also to help support Christian colleges with ethnic and racial programs. The envelopes will be in the pews for your use or you could use a plain white envelope and just mark it for this offering. At this special time of giving, may we all find the joy in helping others.

**Christmas Caroling:** Caroling will take place after church today to our at-home members. A light luncheon will be served for people going caroling. Then the Carolers will carpool to visit our members, sing and deliver Christmas cookies. All are welcome! Come join and spread the Christmas cheer.

**Christmas Poinsettia** Today is the last Sunday to order your Christmas Poinsettias. An order form is enclosed in this bulletin. Please return your order and payment by tomorrow Monday December 14.

**Caring Tree** Thank you all for your warm Christmas spirit. We were able to give 40 gifts to children of the Factory and 23 gift cards to the young mothers from the Bridge of Hope program. Leacock congregation continues to spread love to our community. Merry Christmas to all!

**Next Sunday** is *Christmas Sunday*. Worship will be at 9:30 next Sunday, December 20, as we celebrate with the Chancel Choir and Christmas meditations.

The **Offering Envelopes** are on the table in the Narthex. Please take yours.

### **Small Group Interest**

There is a signup sheet in the Narthex where you can indicate that you are – or may be – interested in being part of a Small Group. Please share as much info as you can. Questions? Contact Karen Homsher (687-6469)

12/13/2015