

**First Sunday After Christmas**

**December 31, 2017**

***GATHERING***

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: Variations on “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen” Robert Lau

*\*Call To Worship*

Leader: Great and glorious God, we gather to worship you.

**People: We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty.**

Leader: Great is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

Generous and merciful God, we come to worship you.

**People: We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion.**

Leader: Gracious is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

Welcoming and empowering God, we worship you.

**People: We lift our eyes to you, and we celebrate your faithfulness.**

Leader: Holy is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

**People: We lift our eyes, in worship and praise of our God. Amen.**

*\*Hymn:* #145 “What Child Is This”

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

**Holy One, you call us to be faithful stewards of all your gifts, to serve each other in compassion, and to tend your world with humility. Forgive us when we stumble with needless pride, or when we are not guided by mercy. Turn our hearts, we pray, and grant us energy, intelligence, imagination, and love for service. Remind us that we are accountable to each other, and dependent on your grace in all things, through the abundant forgiveness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

**\*Response:** (tune: refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”)

Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

***PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD***

*Children’s Sermon*

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

*First Scripture Reading:* Judges 4:1-7 (p.210)

*\*Hymn:* #526 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

*Second Scripture Reading* Matthew 25:14-30 (p.27)

*Sermon:* **Enter into Joy**

***RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD***

*\* Affirmation of Faith* — from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. We believe that the risen Christ is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we say about God, ourselves, and the world.

The Peace of Christ

*Offering of Tithes and Gifts*

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book

Offertory: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” Wilbur Held

Doxology (page 606)

*\*Hymn:* #134 “Joy to the World”

*\*Benediction:*

**Choral Response:** “Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.” (p.748)

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude “While By My Sheep” Gordon Young

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 Honor of Loretta McClarigan and everyone who helped make our Christmas Bazaar a great success.

Given by your Leacock Church 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.

**IN THE NURSERY** (babies through 4 yrs.): **NURSERY PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.** Please see an usher if you would like to take your children to the nursery.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER & HELPER**

Today: No Sunday School

Next Sunday, January 7: Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill

**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:**

**PRAYER PERSON THIS WEEK: Nelson Koshuta**

We welcome **Rev. Esta Jarrett** as our guest minister today. She is the daughter of Evelyn (Brackbill) and Gus Jarrett and granddaughter of Jane and Herman Brackbill.

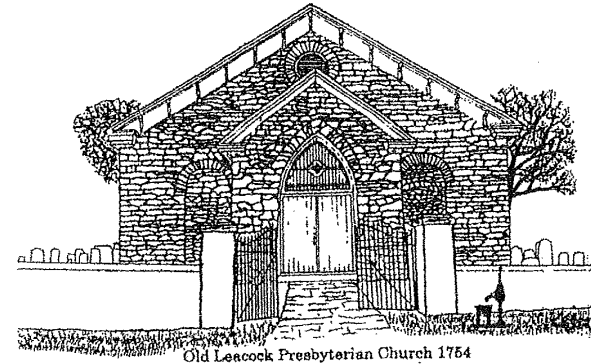
<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	9:30 a.m.	Service of Worship
<b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>	7:00 p.m.	Christian Ed. Committee Meeting
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b>	7:00 p.m.	Mission Committee Meeting

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today is the last Sunday for giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering.** The special envelopes are in the pews for your use. Simply put them in the offering plate with your regular offering. Thank you!

# Leacock Presbyterian Church

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



Old Leacock Presbyterian Church 1754



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