

*GATHERING*

Announcements and Greeting

*Prelude:* "Let All Mortal Flesh" Gordon Young

*Invocation*

*The Lighting of the Advent Candle*

*\*Call To Worship*

Leader: Advent is a time of preparing.

**People: Let us prepare a way for the Lord into our hearts.**

Leader: Advent is a time of repenting.

**People: Let us turn from all that doesn't gladden God's heart.**

Leader: Advent is a time of knowing the Lord.

**People: Let us be willing to be led by a little child.**

*\*Hymn:* #129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

**Merciful God, it is your will to heal us, so that we might become what you created us to be. This is why you sent your Son. We claim him as Lord. But often we follow other lords, in our pride, in our fear, in our anger. Then, we still hurt. Help us, Lord, to repent. Help us to turn. Help our turning to bear good fruit. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

**\*Choral Response:** In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God: do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. (p.654)

*PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD*

*Anthem:* "Who Would Think That What Was Needed" John Bell  
Chancel Choir (GTG #138)

*Children's Sermon*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

*First Scripture Reading:* Isaiah 11:1-10 (p.602)

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

*Second Scripture Reading:* Matthew 3:1-12 (p.2)

*Sermon:*

**Like a Little Child**

*RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD*

*\*Affirmation of Faith* – Apostles Creed (p.17)

The Peace of Christ

*Offering of Tithes and Gifts*

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter" William Held

*Doxology* (p.606)

*\*Hymn* #123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*\*Benediction*

Silent Prayer (be seated)

**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)

Postlude "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night Lyndell Leatherman

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 our father, Warren H. Brackbill  
Given by Jim & Sue Brackbill

Last week: The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of my husband,  
Eugene Sowers who passed away 4 years ago  
Given by Betty Sowers

*The rose in the sanctuary flowers is in celebration of the birth of Ryder Michael Funk*

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.

**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

This Sunday: Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill

Next Sunday, December 15: Emily Birch & Linda Erikson

## PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

PRAYER FAMILY THIS WEEK: **Dean & Robbin Englehart**

<u>TODAY</u>	9:30 a.m.	Worship Paradise
	10:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	5:30 p.m.	Evening Worship
<u>MONDAY</u>	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship Mtg.
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
<u>THURSDAY</u>	5:30 p.m.	Community Meal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Christmas Caring Tree** Gift Collection ends today. If you have not done so, please take a tag and help make a child happy or help support a young mother struggling to make ends meet.

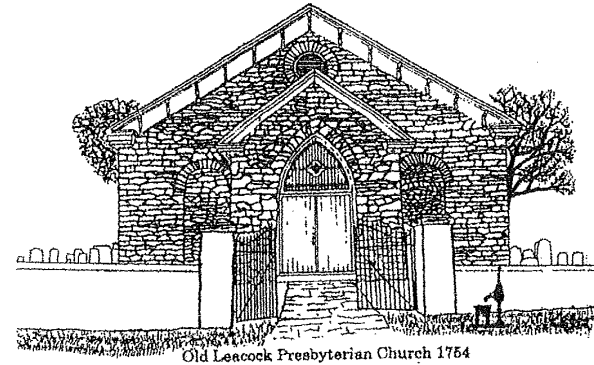
December is **Christmas Joy Offering**. Special giving envelopes are in the pews for the month. As we celebrate this Advent and Christmas season, let us also celebrate the gift and example Christ has given us with our generosity of spirit.

Our next **Community Meal** is this Thursday, **December 12** from 5:30 to 6:30 in our handicapped accessible Smith Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets for helpers and donations of food needed are in the narthex. Your help is deeply appreciated!

**Christmas Caroling** is next Sunday! Following church service, we meet for a light lunch then carpool to visit our at-home members. We'll be spreading Christmas cheer by singing carols and delivering a small gift. Please plan to join us. Christmas carols sound so much better with more voices!

# 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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