

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Gaudette Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Including Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Theme: The Days Are Surely Coming: Expectant Joy**



**“The days are surely coming when all promises of the Holy One will be fulfilled.” Jeremiah 33:14**

***GATHERING***

*Prelude:* “Angels From the Realms of Glory” Mary McDonald

Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader: Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

**People: As the morning dawns, we watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

Leader: You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

**People: We watch and wait in the fierce joy of what the coming Messiah will bring.**

Leader: Beloved, listen. God is calling us. To be freed and to free our neighbors. To be healed and to heal our community.

**People: To testify to the light among us. Therefore, we watch and wait in fierce joy as we testify to the light among us.**

Leader: So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

**People: In the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah, we gather to watch, to wait, and to worship AMEN**

\*Hymn: #82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (with Bell Choir)

\*Prayer of the Day and Confession

**Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who You are. We live within the joy of Your love for us. Yet we confess that our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. We confess also that we often place our hope in people and things that can’t fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. Instead, may our joy be deeply rooted in our identity as Your beloved children. Bring us impossible joy and the confidence to travel on as we give You thanks. Awaken us to action. Stir us to courage, so that all may see Your light and be a light to others. AMEN**

***PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD***

Anthem: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
13<sup>th</sup> Century Chant, arr. J. Krug  
Bell Choir

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10 and Luke 2:36–38

Sermon: **“Impossible Circumstances, Impossible Joy”**

Hymn: #94 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

***RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD***

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we offer our gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use our offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. AMEN**

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Silent Prayer (*be seated*)

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

*Postlude:* “While By My Sheep” Gordon Young  
(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

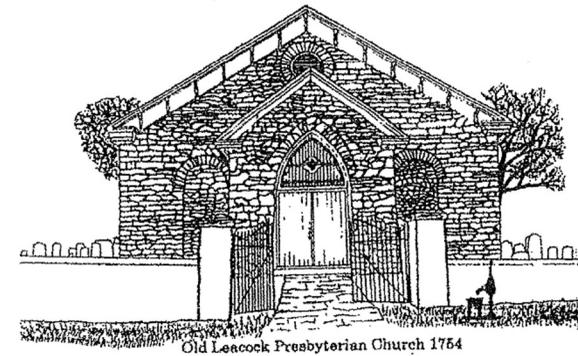
**Prayers of the Congregation**

**The Prayer Family this week is: Robert & Margaret Hershey**

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of our father,  
Warren H. Brackbill  
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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