

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Theme: God Provides



“Then the angel said, “Your name will not be Jacob anymore. Instead, it will be Israel, for you have wrestled with God and with people. And you have won.” Then Jacob said, “I have seen God face to face, yet I am still alive!” Genesis 32:28-30

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?

People: God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.

Leader: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ.

People: Our worship will strengthen us for this purpose today.

*Hymn: #772 “Live into Hope”

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

O God, Ever Patient One, You have long put up with human struggle— with deception and doubt, with envy and competition. Yet, You set us aside to be examples and leaders of a higher calling. Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good. Teach us through our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by your grace, enable us to overcome them.

Lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will and establish us on the rock of your purposes. Be to each of us the secret stay and inner guide of our lives. May your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds, through the Christ we pray, Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In granting us mercy, O God, You challenge us to think of all those things we tend to ignore.

People: In gifting us grace, You provide us one more day, one more week to embody the peace that the world seeks.

Leader: In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transformed and made new.

People: Thanks be to God. AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 29-32 (*selections*)

Sermon: **“Deception, Competition, Jealousy, and Survival”**

Hymn: #819 “Be Still, My Soul”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through rescue and guidance that preserves life and strengthens community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—Your people, shaped by mercy and redemption. Receive our gifts as signs of our trust in Your way of life

over the ways of death, of courage over control, of transparency over deception, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the ways You intend the human community to function and find hope. AMEN

Announcements and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People including An Alternate Version of the Lord's Prayer

“O Author of Perfect Love, we turn again to You. Guide us and help us to embody the essence of Your being so that Your Will is done on earth as in heaven. Give us today exactly what we need. Fill us with hope and trust. Help us to forgive others including ourselves and to look on others as You look on us. Empower us to resist temptation. When tempted, through wisdom and restraint lead us to choose the high road of peace. Deliver us from fear and resignation, for what You uphold is life-giving and safe. And Your love remains forever and always, Amen and Amen.”

*Hymn: #69 “Here I Am, Lord”

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: Beloved, God calls us to use our opportunities wisely in service of the greater good for this world.

People: May God lead us to notice the ways to accomplish this and the perseverance to keep showing up as God's own.

ALL: We leave empowered to set the world aright through simple daily actions and the commitment to remain faithful. AMEN

Postlude

(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Dianne Yuninger, Organist

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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