

First Sunday in Lent
Theme: Steadfast Love

Sunday, March 9, 2025



"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2

GATHERING

Prelude: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" H. H. Lemmel

Greeting and Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

People: God, we join you in the wilderness, because we are so often in one, too.

Leader: Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation.

People: We see the challenge before him; we know all too well the challenges before us.

Leader: Help us find our security in you, Jesus, who does not waver from your true identity, your true mission.

People: Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that our wilderness is the dangerous temptation to prioritize selfish gain or hoard power or determine that only we are right.

Leader: God, meet us in our wilderness, rescue us, and lead us to our true mission.

People: We trust God's faithful reply—those who love me, I will deliver; those who know my name, I will protect. Those who call on me, I will answer.

Leader: So God will be with us in our wilderness times and beyond.

People: Thanks be to God! AMEN

Hymn: #620 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

God, our refuge, You are the shore in sight, the hands that reach out, the ground upon which we rest. We confess that when we read about the temptations of Jesus we too often excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not You—You who passed the test because you are God.

So often we have no expectation that we can withstand temptation and evil as you did. So be our strength, we pray. You are the life we long for, you are the refusal to give up, you are the haven of rest upon which we rely. Remind us of your very words: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Empower us to take your yoke upon ourselves. Enable us to continue to learn from you. Convince us that you are gentle and lowly in heart, that we will find rest for your souls in You. For your yoke is easy, and your burden is light. AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Meditation: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" P. Smith, arr. D. Wyrzten

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 God shall keep you.
Luke 4:1-13 The temptation of Jesus

Sermon: "Living as God Wants"

Hymn: #735 "I Need Thee Every Hour"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer our gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #166 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Beloved, you—you—who live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty— find in God your refuge and fortress.

People: We go now, in the blessing of the Triune God who shelters us and rescues us, that we all might be a shelter and a rescue for and with one another. AMEN

Postlude: “Jesus, What A Friend for Sinners”
R. Prichard, arr. C. Curry

(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

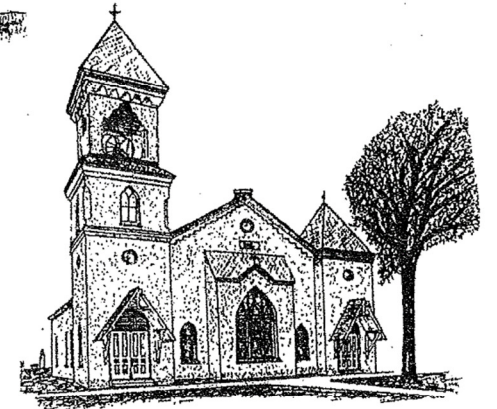
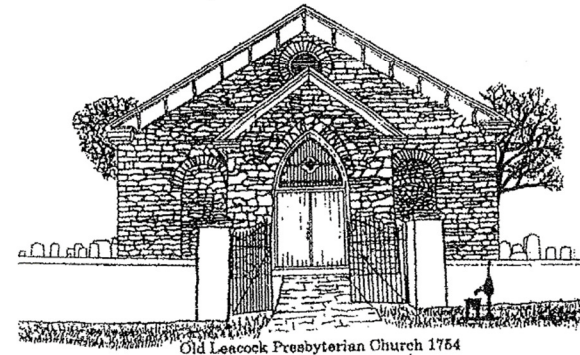
Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Family this week: Harold & Dianne Yuninger

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of both our parents
Given by Bob & Margy Hershey**

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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