

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

GATHERING

Announcements and Greeting

Prelude: "Lo, How a Rose" Gordon Young

Invocation

**Call To Worship*

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for your many blessings.

People: Comfort, O comfort your people, O Lord.

Leader: When life swirls around us, help us to feel your presence.

People: Fill us with a peace unimaginable.

Leader: The Lord has come; the Lord will come again.

People: The Lord is near. Let us rejoice!

*Hymn: #83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (see download)

Bell Choir

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, we know our concerns. We bring to you our troubles. But when our hearts ache, when our hearts break, we can miss our joys. Then we miss your light; then we are not grateful. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to see past shadows. Make us strong so that we may rejoice, always. 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

Anthem: "Hail To The Lord's Anointed" Arr. Kinyon
Bell Choir

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #97 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" (see download)

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:2-7

Sermon: **Past All Understanding**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Deacon Mary Alice High

Elder Mark Andrews

*Affirmation of Faith - Apostles Creed

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

The Peace of Christ

*Hymn: #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (see download)

*Benediction

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude: "From Heaven Above" Gordon Young

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. Robert W. Birch, Minister

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

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.

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of our father
Warren, H. Brackbill
Given by Jim & Sue Brackbill**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

PRAYER FAMILY THIS WEEK: Dean R. Jr. & Robbin Englehart



Don't forget to order your **Poinsettia Plants** by this coming Tuesday. Forms are in the back of the Sanctuary. Completed forms and payment can be put in the secretary's box outside the office door.

ADVENT CALENDAR

December 19 - Christmas Sunday with Communion

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Services

7:00 p.m. - Family Oriented Service in the Paradise Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. - Lessons and Carols at Old Leacock

January 2 - Epiphany Sunday

Where Do We Go From Here?

For five months I have been writing outlining the process your Session is following as we move into this time of transition. As of the publication of this newsletter, we are in the final stages of conversation with the person we believe God is calling to be our interim pastor. As soon as terms of call are finalized and the Presbytery of Donegal gives us permission to move forward, we will let you know who this is.

Once in place, the interim pastor will fulfill all pastoral duties in addition to guiding the Session and congregation through a Mission Study and the formation of a Pastoral Nominating Committee whose task will be to examine candidates and discern who Leacock's next installed minister will be.

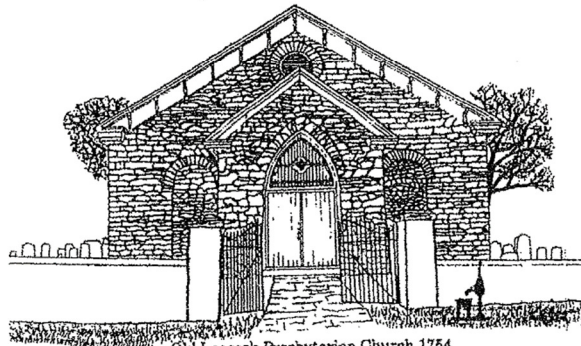
I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank the Session for their hard, hard work these past five months. With no fanfare and little publicity, your elders have met at least eight times in addition to their regular monthly meetings. Gathered around the table in the Board Room or seated in Timlow Library, they spoke with Presbytery executives, wrote a job description, examined and ranked applications, conducted interviews, and made the final decision.

All of these tasks were accomplished with no complaining and in a spirit of camaraderie and unity. (We even had moments of laughter as we straightened crooked baseball trophies and shared community stories.) All praise be to God who is with us still as we journey forward.

Dianne Yuninger
Clerk of Session

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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