

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Theme: The Stewardship of Potential: Pearl of Great Price



"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls and on finding one, sells all that he had and bought it."  
Matthew 13:45-46

### GATHERING

Prelude: "Thanks Be to Thee" Handel

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

\*Call to Worship Psalm 105:1-5, 45b

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

**People: We will sing to God, we will sing God's praises and tell of God's wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**People: We will seek the LORD and God's strength; we will seek God's presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles and judgments God has uttered,

**People: We will praise the LORD alone!**

\*Hymn: #610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (see download)

\*Prayer of the Day

**Mighty God, we bring ourselves just as we are, perhaps tired and weary, perhaps anxious, worried, or confused, yet some of us content and at peace. Give us the direction and fortitude we need for the living of these days. Sometimes we slink back into our day-to-day lives, hoping our time in worship**

or the gifts we bring meet the expectations of our discipleship. Yet we often find You have called us to more – to speak for you, to make our testimony part of our worship as well as in the public arena which terrifies us. Then scripture reminds us that you will provide us with the words. Give us the faith and courage to speak of your love, mercy, and compassion. In Jesus' name, we pray.  
AMEN

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

Sermon: "The Search Is On"

\*Hymn: #609 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (sing twice)  
(see download)

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious and holy God, accept what we offer today: our checks and cash, our faltering steps, our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, our risking, our lives. As precious treasure found in the field, bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back, that new life may be ours, to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. AMEN**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

All Worshipers

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

(Tune: St. Peter, In Christ There Is No East or West) (see download)

1: How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

2: It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast; 'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.

3: O Lord, our pearl of greatest price, the One we long have sought, help us to give all willingly to have and hold in joy.

4: O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, our Prophet, Priest, and King, our Lord, our Life, our Way, our Light, go with us to the end.

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude "Carry His Love With You" Adam Mason

The End of Worship  
The Beginning of Service

\*Those who are able, please stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor  
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

### Prayers of the Congregation

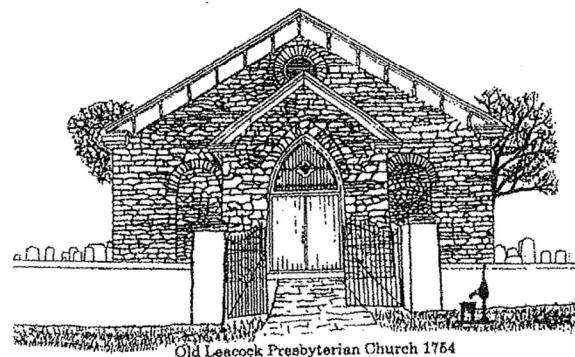
**Prayer Family this week: James & Delores Brackbill**

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of Eugene Sowers who would have celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this month.  
Given by his family.**

**If you wish to purchase flowers for the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion, next Sunday, August 27 is open.**

# 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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