

**BACON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A family of faith since 1922**

166 59th Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14304-3812

716-283-5744

Church office hours - Mon., Wed., Fri.
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

February 22, 2026 – First Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Large Print bulletin available

Please silence all cell phones before worship.

* Please stand if you are able.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Liturgy used with permission from Presbyterian Outlook
written by Rev Shea Watts

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

PRELUDE “Eternal and Everlasting King” Ruth Elaine Schram

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

L: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: And also with you.

L: Let us now offer each other a sign of peace in genuine fellowship and reconciliation in community with one another.

First Sunday in Lent

Meditation:

We have come together this morning for renewal—in worship and as a community of faith. We've greeted one another, laughed and hugged. But now the time of reflection and stillness is upon us. It is the first Sunday in Lent—the season for journeys of the heart. Close your eyes. Be still. Listen. We are entering a holy time. The Lenten candles have been lit, but over the next six weeks the light will slowly fade into darkness. For we are retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal and suffering and death. We do this not to be morbid, but because in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, God is revealed—in the amazing transformation of death into life, in endings transformed into beginnings, and in dead-ends that become a source for new possibilities.

This is the sacred center of our faith—the truth made manifest in Jesus Christ—that God is in each and every one of us, quietly transforming us and the world. In his pain and suffering, Jesus speaks to every pain and loss you have endured and offers you the promise of transformation. It's an old story, but it still has the power to reveal, to heal, and to redeem. Jesus is at the heart of our faith, in the depth of our souls. He is waiting for us, inviting us to leave ordinary time and follow along with him on the journey that brought him to the Cross. Listen in silence, for Jesus is calling you.

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray:

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

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*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!

All: Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

#41 “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!” Verses 1 & 4

CALL TO CONFESION

PRAYER OF CONFESION (Unison)

Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen

Moment of silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Genesis 2:15-17

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Introduction

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

The reading continues: Genesis 3:1-7

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” **4** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, **5** for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she

also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God!

HYMN #188 seated “Jesus Loves Me” verse 1

Jesus Loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus Loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN’S TIME and LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC “Come, All Christians, Be Committed” Mark Hayess

SECOND READING Matthew 4:1-11

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

R: **Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON

“Lead us not into Temptation”

Pastor Lisa Giacomazza

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Converse” Nigel Williams

***DOXOLOGY #606 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

praise God all creatures here below;

praise God above ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

(*some say “him”)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION and THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and love’s expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ’s body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From A Brief Statement of Faith)

Let us say together what we believe...

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

***ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***BENEDICTION HYMN #775 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" all verses**

***CHARGE**

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE "Bicinium on "Nun danket all und bringet Ehr" Karen Beaumont**

Liturgist –*Bill Springer*

Mar. 1 – Lee Weinsheimer

Mar. 8 – Jim Copia

Mar. 15 – Lee Weinsheimer

Mar. 22 – Bill Springer

Mar. 29 - (Palm Sunday)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Annual Congregational Meeting for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and the 2026 budget and any other matter that may properly come before the body. Please stay for the meeting. **Annual Reports are available in the Narthex.**

Special Envelopes for 2026

Per Capita

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount varies with the needs of the Presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by this church at the spring meeting pf presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is \$50.

Sessional Fund - February 1, 2026

On Communion Sunday the members are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the Sessional Fund, to carry on the work of the Session and to take care of the distressed of the congregation. Amounts placed in this envelope will be set aside for that purpose. If unavoidably absent on Communion Sunday, this envelope may be deposited in the offering plate on any convenient Sunday.

The **Lion's Club** is collecting your used eyeglasses, eyeglass cases and old hearing aids. There is a collection box on the table in the Narthex.

If you would like to order **flowers for the retable**, please call Ron Clements at 716-283-9411. You may want to honor someone's memory with flowers in remembrance of a birthday or place a rose when a child is born.

Country Meat Sticks for Sale

The Fall Festival committee has some flavored meat sticks left. They are only \$1.50 each or 2 for \$3.00. Flavors include: Sweet Annie Brown, Hot Cajun, Sweet Fire, Original Smoked Hickory, Old #9, Sweet Barbeque. See Cheryl McInerney or Bill Springer.

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Opportunities at Bacon

There will be someone in the office to answer calls
Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Attendance: February 15, 2026

Weather: Nice

Adults.....	24
Youth.....	9
Sermon – Hand delivered.....	1
Sermon – mailed.....	3
Sermon – emailed.....	7
Facebook plays.....	
You Tube views.....	

Sun. February 29, 2026

Worship service, Sunday School ...	10:30 am
Egg Hunt	
Crochet, knitting, crafting group.....	2 pm
AA meeting.....	7:30 pm

Our on-line worship can be found on the Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church You Tube channel. You will find a link on our webpage at www.baconmemorial.org. You can download a copy of the bulletin from our webpage so you can follow along with us! If you would like a printed copy of the sermon, you may download from the website or you may call the church at 716-283-5744 and we can send you a written copy of the sermon by email or mail weekly.

But if we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

What's Happening at Bacon February / March 2026

Feb. 22 Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Annual Meeting.....following worship
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm

Mar. 1 Worship, Communion, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Mission and Outreach meeting – following worship
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm

Mar. 4 NAP dinner at Bacon Memorial5 pm

Mar. 8 Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Town Hall meeting.....following worship
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm

Mar. 11 Session meeting – by zoom.....7:00 pm

Mar. 15 Worship, Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Third Sunday Lunch.....noon
Maureen's recital.....3:00 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm

Mar. 17 Worship & Music meeting – by Zoom.....7:00 pm

Mar. 20 Deadline for March Bacon Visitor announcements

Mar. 21 Presbyterian Men9:00 am

Mar. 22 Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm

Mar. 29 Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Palm Sunday – Egg Hunt
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm