

**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

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent

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

Large Print bulletin available - ask an usher

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 “Almighty, Powerful God” 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.

We Extinguish the Second Candle

Meditation:

On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school—the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else. We come here seeking a shift—from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being. I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent. Remember the parable of the sower. The sower throws the seed . . . and where it lands determines if it will grow or not grow. Think of it this way: think of the season of Lent as the sower, the time when seeds of faith are thrown with special intensity, as a time a time when God calls to us in a low, urgent voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to? What is God calling you to do?

(Silent time)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injury done to the Earth and its ecosystems.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray:

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills -- from where will my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #829 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” verses 1 & 2**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life's journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well this Lent desperate and thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17** New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Introduction

4 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

The reading continues...Romans 4:13-17

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 “Be Thou My Vision” Mark Hayes

SECOND READING John 3:1-17 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended

into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

R: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON

“A Letter from Paul...”

Pastor Lisa Giacomazza

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please share your joys and concerns.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Cwm Rhondda” 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)**

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ’s ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the destitute. Amen.

EUCCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, this is the table of our Lord Jesus. In this Lenten season, we come not because we are worthy, but because we are hungry— hungry for grace, for mercy, for a love that does not let us go. Here, Christ meets us in our wandering and

welcomes us with open arms. Come, all who seek the way of life. Come, for the feast is ready.

Pastor: In Lent, we tell the truth about ourselves— our brokenness, our fears, our failures, and the ways we fall short of God’s hope for us. Trusting in God’s endless compassion, let us confess our sin.

ALL: Merciful God, in this season of repentance, we come to you with honest hearts. We confess that we have turned from your ways, avoided your call, and resisted your grace. We have allowed fear to silence us, pride to harden us, and worry to distract us from your presence. Forgive us, O God. Turn us again toward your love. Plant in us the seeds of compassion, courage, and faith, that we may bear fruit for your kingdom. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. May this grace shape our lives and guide our steps. People: Thanks be to God.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy God, in the wilderness you fed your people with manna, and in every generation you have sustained your children with grace. In this Lenten season, you call us to return to you— to trust your mercy, to walk in your ways, to open our hearts to your renewing Spirit.

We thank you for Jesus Christ, who came to live among us, to heal the broken, to welcome the lost, and to show us the depth of your love.

WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, he gathered with his friends, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: “Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.” After supper he took the cup, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Remembering his life, death, and resurrection, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude and hope.

Epiclesis (Prayer for the Spirit)

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be his body in the world— broken and shared, poured out in love, sowing seeds of mercy wherever you send us. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Pastor: Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body. When we break the bread, we share in the body of Christ. When we bless the cup, we share in the life of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is ready.

(Distribute the elements. The elements will be passed to you in your seat.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALL: Gracious God, you have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us with your presence. As we continue our Lenten journey, strengthen us for the road ahead. Give us courage to love boldly, faith to trust your leading, and hope that endures through every wilderness. Send us out to be your people— grateful, generous, and full of grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***BENEDICTION HYMN #190 "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory" all verses**

***CHARGE**

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE “O Come unto the Lord”** Chai Hoon Park

Liturgist –*Lee Weinsheimer*

Mar. 8 – Jim Copia

Mar. 15 – Lee Weinsheimer

Mar. 22 – Bill Springer

Mar. 29 - (Palm Sunday)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAP Dinner Wednesday, March 4th – at Bacon Memorial. We will be hosting this month’s dinner at Bacon at 5pm. We will need a little help setting up and clean up. See Cheryl to let us know how you can help.

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.

Special Envelopes for 2026

Per Capita

January 4, 2026

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 of the presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is \$40.

Deacons Fund

March 1, 2026,

On Communion Sunday the members are asked to make a voluntary contribution to aid the distressed and afflicted of our Church community. Your gift will be set aside for this purpose. If unavoidably absent from Communion this envelope may be deposited in the offering plate on any convenient Sunday.

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. See Cheryl McInerney or Bill Springer.

Operation Christmas Child Market Place.

You can buy an item to be put in the shoe boxes.

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 22, 2026

Weather: Crisp

Adults.....	23
Youth.....	7
Sermon – Hand delivered.....	0
Sermon – mailed.....	4
Sermon – emailed.....	7
Facebook plays.....	
You Tube views.....	

Sun. March 8, 2026

Worship service, Sunday School	10:30 am
Town Hall meeting.....	following worship
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
March 2026**

- Mar. 1** Worship, Communion, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Mission and Outreach meetingfollowing worship
Special Session meeting.....1 pm
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