

**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 15, 2026 – Fourth 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 Tracy Davenport

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

PRELUDE “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus” Marianne Kim

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 Fourth Candle

Meditation:

It's Sunday morning. Last week, with all its demands, is over. The coming week, with yet another round of challenges and demands, is not quite here. I invite you to close your eyes and be in the moment. No matter where you are in your thoughts and feelings—relieved about what you have accomplished, anxious about what's left undone, concerned about people or projects—no matter where you are in your journey this day—I encourage

you to set all that aside and consider where you are right now. Whatever is true for you right now, in this moment, whether it be joy or sadness, gratitude or anxiety, let it come forward. When it is fully present, then listen . . . for God is present in these moments, too. God meets you where you are and calls you forward, moment by moment, guiding you slowly but surely toward transformation.

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain caused by the lack of basic needs—lack of food, of shelter, of education, of healthcare, of love.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray: (Unison)

All: Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord: Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them.

People: Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

People: The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow. The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #438 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” verses 1-3**

438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt.
MUSIC: Thomas Hastings, 1830, alt.

TOPLADY
7.7.7.7.7

FORGIVENESS



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we admit that we keep wanting more, even though we're already surrounded by blessings. We want everything right away, forgetting the worth of patience and steady effort. We get so caught up in our own successes that we overlook people who are struggling.

Forgive us. Wash away our entitlement, our worry, and our pride. Open our eyes to see the world the way you see it, so we can live with gratitude, courage, and compassion—following the example we see in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Introduction

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

16 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of

the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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 “I Love to Tell the Story with Jesus Loves Me” arr. Mary Parks

SECOND READING John 9 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
9 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud,

spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

“That which is Meant for you Will not Miss You...”

Pastor Lisa Giacomazza

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Offertory on “Monkland” David Lasky

***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)**

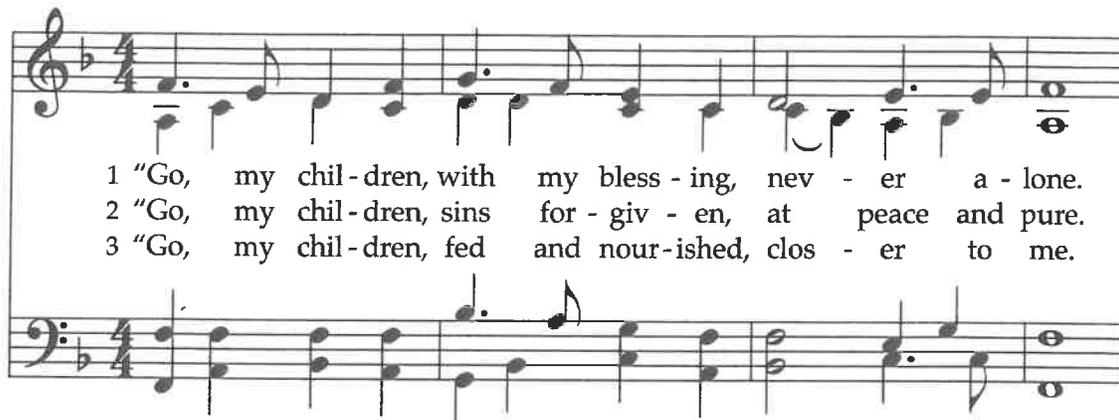
What language can we borrow to thank you, dearest Friend? Accept the gifts we give today to be for your glory and the good of your people, because of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

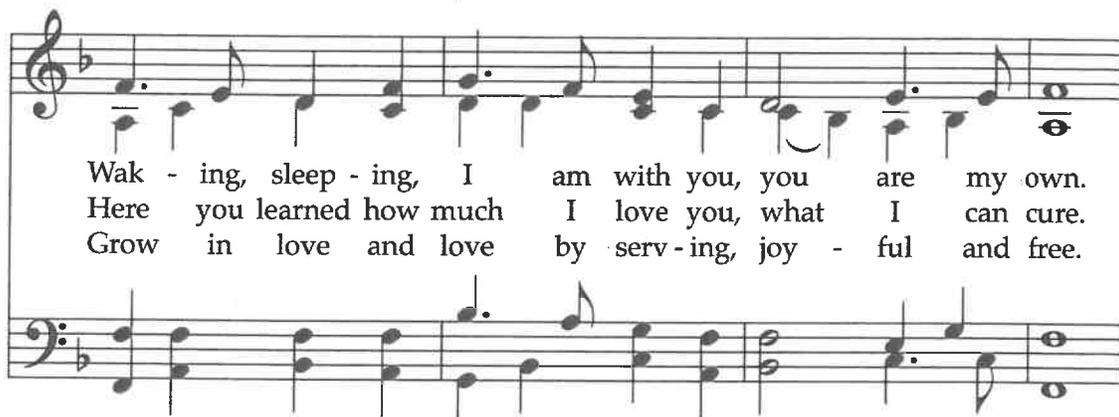
WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***BENEDICTION HYMN #547 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” all vs**

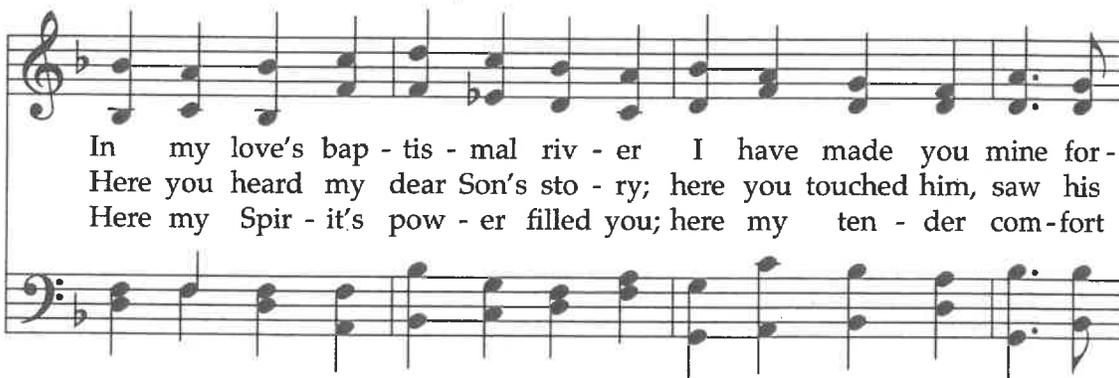
Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



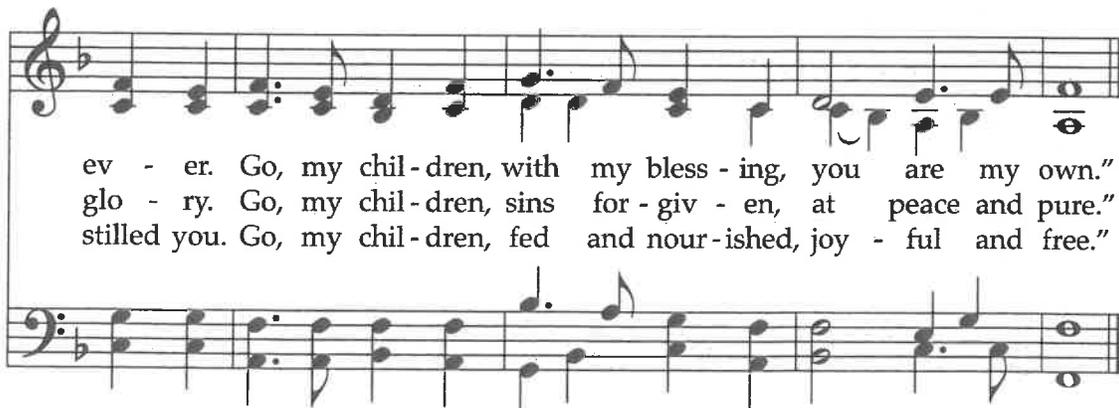
1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

***CHARGE**

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE “Woman in the Night” Alfred V. Fedak**

Liturgist – *Lee Weinsheimer*

Mar. 22 – Bill Springer

April 12 – Bill Wilson

Mar. 29 - Jim Copia (Palm Sunday)

April 19 -

April 5 – Bill Springer (Easter)

April 26 -

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers

We will offer Easter plants this year for \$10 each. They will adorn the sanctuary until Easter Sunday when you will be able to take your plant home with you. We will offer a limited variety of mums, tulips, hyacinths, or lilies. Plants will be in worship on Palm Sunday through Easter. If you do not wish to take your plant home, we will deliver it to someone in the church for you (or you can do so yourself for a great opportunity to share God’s love and beauty!) You can donate online – just indicate Easter Flower in the comment or note on your check. Thank you!

Please place your order no later than Sunday, March 22, 2026

Operation Christmas Child Market Place.

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

Target item for March – quality crafts

March 29, 2026 – Egg Hunt

The Christian Ed. Committee is looking for donations of coins, small toys or wrapped candy to be put in the plastic eggs. Donations may be left in the church office with a note. See flyer for more details

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 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.

April 15, 2026 - NAP Dinner Wednesday, at TBA

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. 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: March 8, 2026

Weather: Nice

Adults.....	10
Youth.....	9
Sermon – Hand delivered.....	0
Sermon – mailed.....	4
Sermon – emailed.....	6
Facebook plays.....	
You Tube views.....	

Next Sun. March 22, 2026

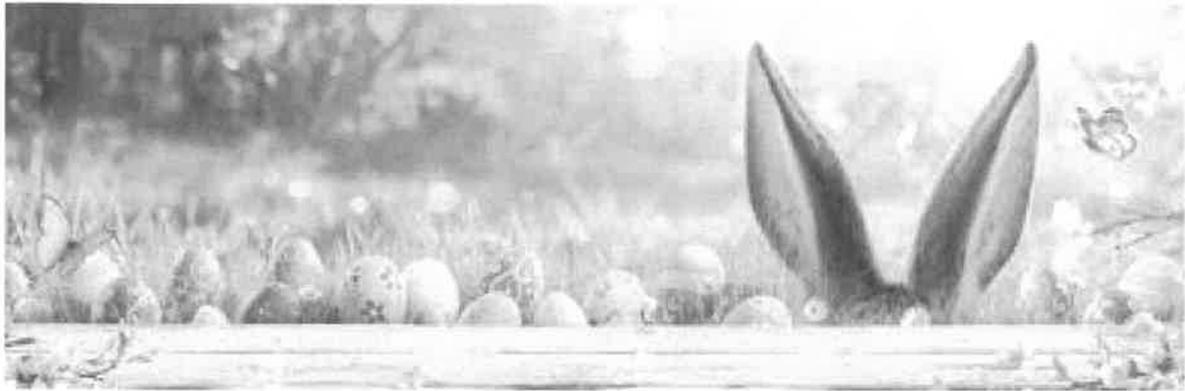
Worship service, Sunday School	10:30 am
Crochet, knitting, crafting group.....	2:00 pm
AA meeting.....	7:30 pm

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



Community Indoor Easter Egg Hunt & Family Ice Cream Social

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Noon – 2:00 pm

at

Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church

166 59th Street, Niagara Falls

Registration starts at 11:30 am, hunts will begin at Noon

Children will be separated by age

Come meet the Easter Bunny!

For more info or to pre-register

(child and parent name, address, email and phone)

secretary@baconmemorial.org

716-283-5744