

**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

April 26, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Large Print bulletin available – on the table

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. Dr. Aaron Shepherd

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

PRELUDE “God Is Calling through the Whisper” Wilber Kee

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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** (adapted from *Glory to God* #93)

L: Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

A: Behold! The Savior of the world is risen!

L: Fling wide the portals of your hearts:

A: Let us feel the presence of the God's grace and love!

L: O Holy spirit, lead us on in worship;

A: Call us each by name, that we may give God glory!

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #738 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" vs.1-3**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like ornery sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our phones, our plans, our pride.

Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your Beloved Community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies and the glory of abiding with you forevermore.

Amen.

Moment of silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The proof God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ came to us; Christ died for us; and Christ rose from the dead so that the gates of hell and heaven may be thrown open wide and all of creation renewed. So believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new, abundant life.

A: Alleluia! Amen!

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE)

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?" Arr. Marty Parks

SECOND READING John 10:1-10 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. **2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” **6** Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. **7** So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

R: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON

“Who Do You Follow?”

Mary Kraus

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - Prayers of the people

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” William Batchelder Bradbury

***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)**

Shepherding God, you lead us, guard us, prepare us and preserve us. We have responded by giving back to you what has come from your hand. Bless these gifts, and multiply them in the life of your church, so that the gates of salvation may be flung wide, and all your Beloved Community

***ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***BENEDICTION HYMN #740 “Lead Me, Guide Me”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE “O God, You Are My God” David Strasser (Beaker)**

Liturgist – Cheryl McInerney

May 3 – Lee Weinsheimer

May 10 –

May 17 – Bill Springer

May 24 –

May 31 -

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Mary Kaus for filling in today.
We appreciate your time and talents to lead us in worship.

May 6, 2026 - NAP Dinner - 5 pm at Riverside.

May 17, 2026 – Fall Festival meeting. Come for lunch, stay for the meeting. More heads means fewer headaches. We need your ideas and input.

Operation Christmas Child Market Place. You can “buy” an item to be put in the shoe boxes.
Target item for April – stuffies.

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.

There are **Prayer Shawls** and throws available for someone ill, homebound or just not feeling well. One does not need to be a church member to receive a shawl. See Cheryl.

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

Last Sunday April 19, 2026 –

Weather: Cold

Adults.....	22
Youth.....	4
Sermon – Hand delivered.....	0
Sermon – mailed.....	5
Sermon – emailed.....	6
Facebook plays.....	
You Tube views.....	

Next Sunday – May 3, 2026

Worship service, Sunday School	10:30 am
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
April 2026**

- Apr. 26** Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm
- May 3** Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Mission meetingfollowing worship
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm
- May 6** NAP dinner at Riverside.....5 pm
- May 10** Worship, Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Crochet, knitting group.....2:00 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm
- May 12** Session meeting – In person at Bacon7:00 pm
- May 16** Presbyterian Men – Bocce at Hyde Park10:00 am
- May 17** Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am
Fall Festival meeting.....noon
Crochet, knitting group..... 2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm
- May 19** Worship & Music meeting – by Zoom...7:30 pm
- May 20** Deadline for June Bacon Visitor announcements
- May 24** Worship, Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm
AA meeting.....7:30 pm