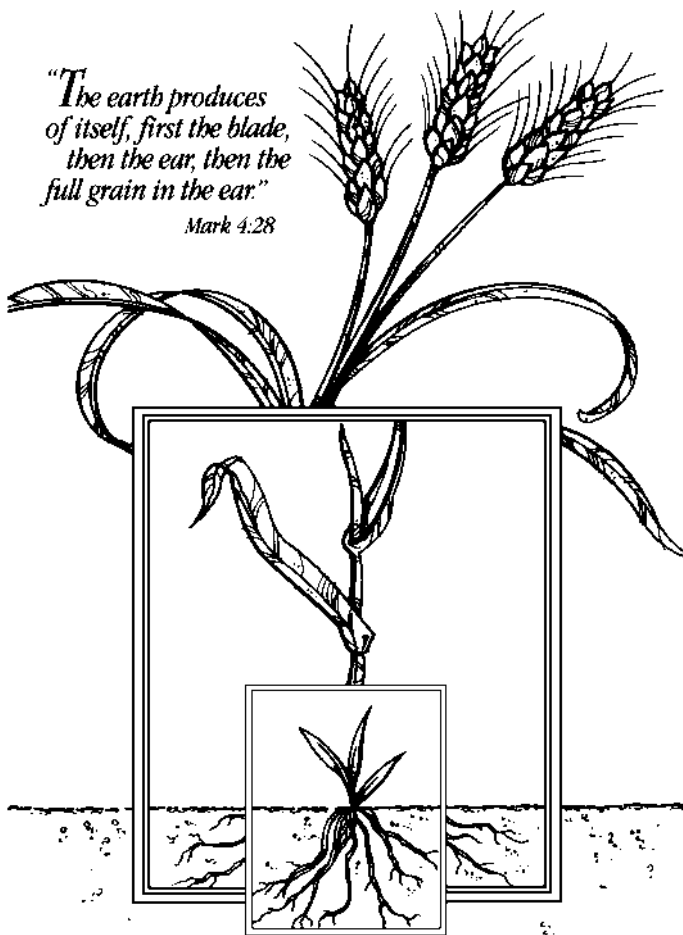


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.

*"The earth produces
of itself, first the blade,
then the ear, then the
full grain in the ear."*

Mark 4:28



4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024 at 10:30 AM

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

AMHERST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Presbyterian Church in the USA
All Are Welcome

* We invite you to please stand, as you are able, for items preceded by an asterisk.

PRELUDE: Faith of Our Fathers Henry

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: This Is My Father's World # 370 (purple)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: It is good to give thanks to God!
Come to make music to our Creator.

**People: God knows our troubles and remembers our need.
Our petitions are answered and our hearts' desires fulfilled.**

Liturgist: Declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
Seek God's help in the sanctuary.

**People: We know that God will help the anointed ones.
Our pride is in God alone.**

Liturgist: Listen for the voice of God, speaking to us again.
How great is our God, our rock and defender!

**People: God will respond when we call.
We will bear fruit for God as long as life endures.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

God of all truth, who can stand before you? We judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts. We see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within. We measure importance by paychecks, but you find value among those we deem lowly and insignificant. You offer us the deep and profound joy of living in your realm. We forget your promises and turn to pursuits that separate us from you and destroy community. We seek forgiveness and a new direction for our lives. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

All of us must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, today and every day. When we come with true penitence, we can win a victory over sin. Christ died for us, that we might no longer live only for ourselves. In Christ, we no longer regard others from a human point of view. We are a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come. We can live confidently, urged on by the love of Christ, to joyous, daring service.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

Pastor: "The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you..."

People: "...and also with you."

* HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling # 366 (purple)

FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Liturgist

⁶ So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

⁸ Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

SECOND READING

Mark 4:26-34

Pastor

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would

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sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Pastor: The Word of God, to all people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Interdependence”

Pastor

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION ~ *Please observe this time of silence.*

* **HYMN:** Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 39 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From The Belhar Confession

(in unison)

We believe:

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
- that God’s lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(in unison)

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.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

God remembers our offerings of genuine thankfulness and regards with favor the sacrifices we make to extend God's realm. We give, not out of compulsion, but with joy. Whatever our age or circumstances, we have something to give. Let us give thanks as we present our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY: God of Our Fathers Roberts *Jim Price, Trumpet*

* **DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow # 606

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

(in unison)

All that we have is yours, O God. What we present for the church's use is no sacrifice. We are privileged to share good news in word and deed. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasure we invest. We would no longer live just for ourselves but for the realization of your reign among us. Let all things become new as we give our best. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Share your mustard-seed faith with the world.
 God will make of it more than you can imagine.

People: **We will dare to speak of God's love.**
 We will seek to live out the love of Christ.

Pastor: In Christ, we are a new creation.
 Our dried-up faith has received new life.

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People: **The mighty have been toppled from power.
The humble and lowly have been lifted up.**

Pastor: Walk by faith, not by sight.
God will add to your understanding day by day.

People: **We will seek to view others as God sees them.
We will claim them as sisters and brothers.**

ALL: **Amen.**

* **HYMN:** Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

POSTLUDE: What a Wonderful World Thiele/Weiss *Jim Price*

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Dr. Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Leslie Palermo
Vocalists:	The APC Singers
Trumpeter:	Jim Price

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Mark 4:26–34**.

Questions for your meditation:

What thoughts, ideas, images or feelings arose as you read this passage?

What examples of our interdependence can you share? Interdependence with other people? Interdependence with nature?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — June 16, 2024

- Today's flowers are given by Linda Stotsky, in loving memory of her father, and for all fathers on Father's Day.
- This is your last chance to send information to the church office about graduating students in your family. We will include a feature about them in this week's newsletter and next week's bulletin. Please provide the student's name, school, achievement level, and post-graduation plans.
- Everyone (including your family, friends, and neighbors) is invited, to join us for an evening sail aboard the Spirit of Buffalo on Sunday, June 23, from 6 to 8 PM. You can purchase your tickets online through their website at SpiritOfBuffalo.com or call the church office if you don't have internet access. Tickets are \$42 for adults, \$22 for children (ages 2-12), and free for kids under 2. We hope you can join us for a fun and relaxing evening out together!
- Although our annual basket raffle isn't until later this year (November), it's never too early to start thinking about basket ideas and gathering items together. Also, new for this year, we'll be adding a Jewelry Sale to our Basket Raffle event!

Next week — ***Sunday, June 23***

10:30 AM - Worship Service

6:00 PM - Spirit of Buffalo sailboat ride

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:

Tom & May Chou, Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton,
John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

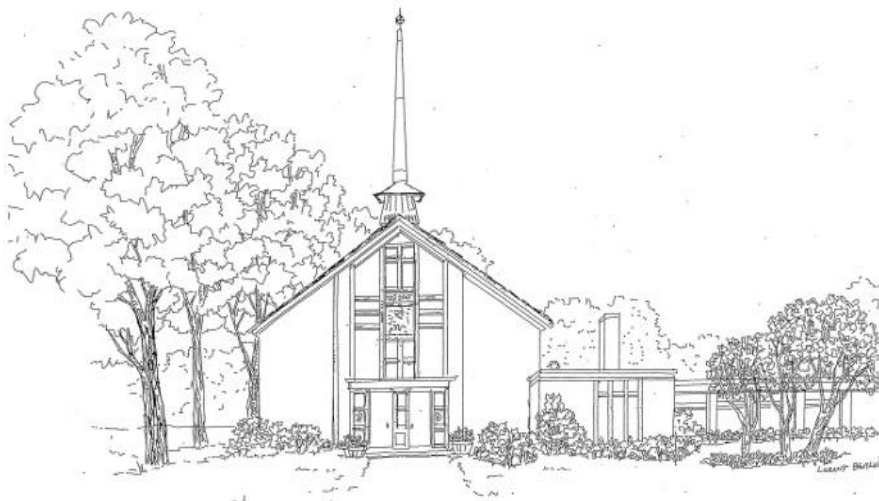


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Rev. Amir's Cell: 773-961-6977 / **Email:** APCpastor@verizon.net

Rev. Amir's hours: 9:00am—12:30pm, Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, and by appointment
(scheduling your visit is recommended)

Church website: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

Facebook: Amherst Presbyterian Church—closed group; ask to be invited