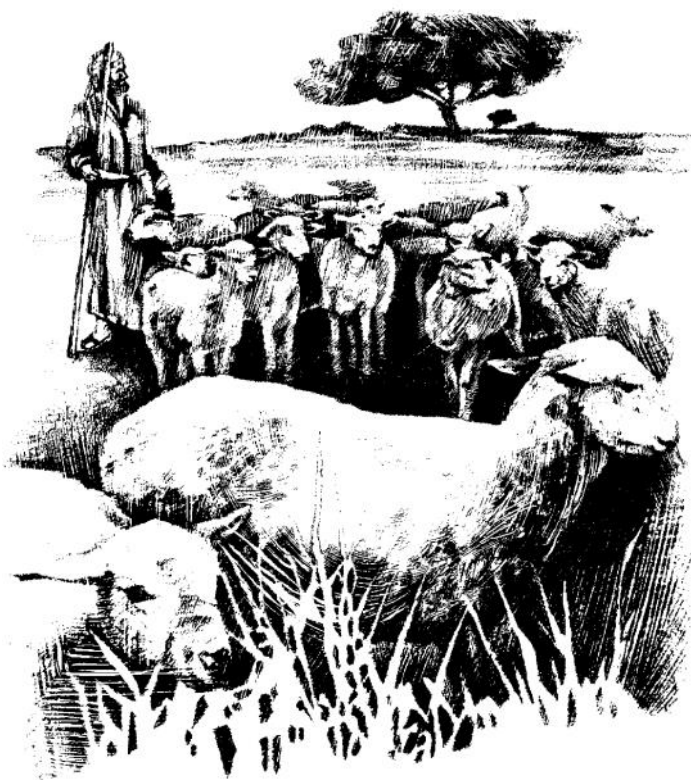


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

John 10:16

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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: Sheep May Safely Graze Bach

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* **INTROIT:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee # 611 (purple) - Verses 1 and 2

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures.
We are refreshed beside still waters.

**People: We have been given everything we have.
 God offers us everything we need.**

Liturgist: When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us.
We are comforted and reassured.

**People: God leads us in the right paths.
 Our cups are filled to overflowing.**

Liturgist: God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed.
We are invited to partake of the truth God offers.

**People: We have received plenty that we might share.
 We are called to be God's helpers.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Good Shepherd, we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world. We have ventured into dead-end streets that looked more inviting than the narrow ways marked out by the signposts of your love. We have trusted other voices and turned away from your truth. We have accepted your gifts without acknowledgment. We have failed to use our overflowing cups to fill the cups of sisters and brothers who need what we could offer. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to your fold. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Hear the good news. By the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are restored to wholeness. God's love will abide with us as long as we share it with others. Our souls will be fed when we focus on feeding others. We will be empowered by prayer and generosity.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing # 610 (purple)

FIRST READING

Psalm 80:1-7

Liturgist

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- ² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ⁴ O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved

APC SINGERS: The Lord's My Shepherd Psalm 23

SECOND READING

John 10:11-18

Pastor

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON**“Belonging”***Pastor*

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

* **HYMN:** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us # 187 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From A Brief Statement of Faith

(in unison)

We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,

(continued on next page)

eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

Bring your good deeds as an offering to God. Present to the Good Shepherd your firm commitment to care for others in the spirit of Christ. We cannot simply dedicate our money, hiring others to carry out the mission of the church on our behalf. We, ourselves, are called to give leadership and comfort. The giving that God expects includes our time and talents as well as treasure.

OFFERTORY: You Raise Me Up Graham

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

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the One who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: We are invited to make God's house our home.
We are sent out into God's world to serve.

**People: God has been with us through life's most foreboding valleys.
We have been equipped to help others on their journeys.**

Pastor: When we ask God for what we need, God provides.
When we are obedient, we know God abides in us.

**People: God leads us by still waters and restores our souls.
God knows us better than we know ourselves.**

Pastor: God's love in Jesus Christ has blessed us.
We have received the gift of God's own Spirit.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy will pursue us through life.
We will dwell in the house of our Good Shepherd.**

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: Allegro Veracini

Today's Worship Team

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

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

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — April 21, 2024

- If anyone would like to become a member of Amherst Presbyterian Church, we will soon be holding a Membership Class. Please contact Pastor Amir or the church office for more information or to let us know you're interested.
- The Sewing Group is on break for a little while. We will let you know when their meetings resume (possibly in June).
- Please pick up your quarterly giving statements from the table in the Narthex. Call or email the church office with any questions or concerns.
- The next joint meeting of all Elders and Deacons will be after the worship service on Sunday, June 9. Church members and staff are also encouraged to attend.
- This summer we'd like to have another adventure together on the Spirit of Buffalo. Sail boat tours are available from mid-May through the end of September. Please contact the church office to let us know which month and week are best for you.
- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex until May 19 for the PCUSA's Pentecost Special Offering. Your gifts nurture the faith of those who are the church to come by supporting programs for children, youth, and young adults.

Next week — **Sunday, April 28** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Psalm 80:1-7** and **John 10:11-18**.

Questions for your meditation:

What thoughts, ideas, feelings or images come to your mind when you consider Jesus as our “Good Shepherd”?

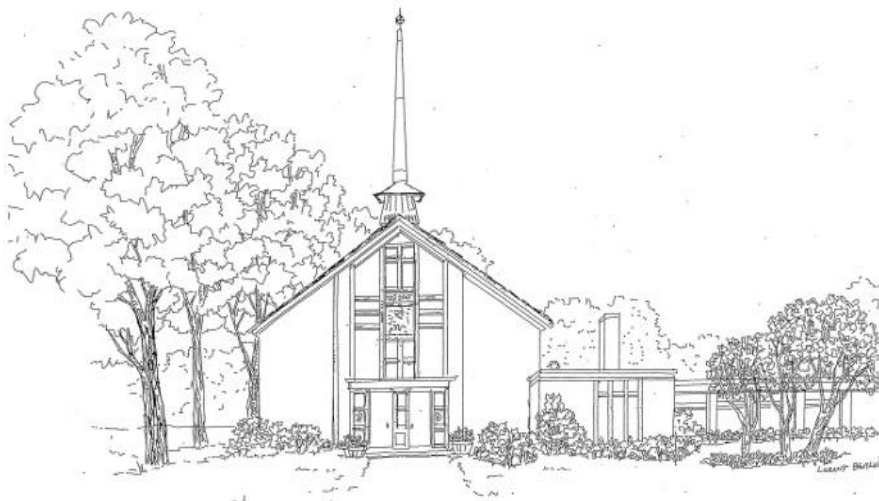
Where do you feel like you belong? What or who makes you feel this way?

What might need to change about our church or our community to make others feel like they belong?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

151 S. Youngs Road

Williamsville, NY 14221-7023



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Phone: 716-633-4656 / **Email:** AmherstPC@verizon.net

Office hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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