

# ADVENT FOOD DRIVE



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The Deacons request your donations of food and money for the Advent Food Drive. Food and Monetary donations may continuously be given throughout Advent.

Please leave bags of food in the Narthex and if you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make a check out to the Oxford Presbyterian Church with Advent Food Drive in the note field or if cash, mark pew envelope Advent Food Drive. The Deacon's will use the money to purchase food for the Oxford Choice Food Pantry.

## MOST-NEEDED ITEMS:

Canned Fruit ~ Canned Vegetables  
Spaghetti Sauce ~ Cereal ~ Peanut Butter Meals  
in a can (e.g. Chef Boyardee - ravioli and others,  
including Kroger brand)



Toilet paper ~ Personal Care Items  
body wash, deodorant, shampoo and hair conditioner

WE ARE COLLECTING PLASTIC BAGS FOR USE IN THE OXFORD CHOICE FOOD PANTRY. PLEASE LEAVE BAGS IN THE FOOD PANTRY BOX IN THE HALLWAY PAST THE OFFICES.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Oxford Presbyterian Church

101 N. Main St. | Oxford, OH 45056 | 513.523.6364  
[office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org) | [www.oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://www.oxfordpresbychurch.org)

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Oxford Presbyterian Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 10, 2017

Liturgist: Leanne & Eric Staley

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

O Lord God of hope,  
You call to us from the wild places,  
You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts.

We come in answer to your call.  
We come to pray, to praise,  
To learn of your love for all creation.

Reveal your glory that we may see it together -  
Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time. Amen.

(Note on image: Inspired by today's Advent theme of Hope, photographer Steve Gifford affirms that "a bright red cardinal in the whiteness of winter gives me hope that spring is on the way!")

**CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "All Through the Night" Welsh traditional, arr. Jane Frasier

**CHORAL INTROIT** "He Came Down" Cameroon song

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by Isaiah 40: 1-11)

One: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

**Right: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God  
from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.**

One: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

**Left: Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of love.**

**All: The grass withers and the flower fades;  
But the word of our God will stand forever!**

**\*HYMN** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #127  
(Congregation join the choir on refrain and vs. 2, 4)

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The Lord God is love;  
the wise and compassionate parent  
that holds the world tenderly in a warm embrace.  
God desires that we love each other  
as a mother loves her child, as a father embraces his own.

**All too often we fail in our efforts  
to live as Jesus Christ would have us live.  
We push away – turning cold shoulders to God and each other.**

**We express anger and resentment  
instead of compassion and grace.  
We seek revenge instead of reconciliation.  
In these moments we ask the Holy Spirit  
to forgive us and set us upon the path of hope. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**When we turn to God with faithful hearts,  
the Lord hears and responds.  
Our failings and shortcomings are forgiven.**

**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

**God gives what is good and spreads the  
path of righteousness before us.  
Walk in confidence forgiven and forgiving in Christ's name.  
Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Advent is the time of waiting and anticipation as we prepare  
to welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives once more.  
Like a family prepares a home for the arrival of a baby,  
we prepare our hearts for the arrival of God's own beloved child.

John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness proclaiming,  
"One who is more powerful than I is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water,  
but that One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**John prepared the way in the wilderness.  
We prepare the way in our hearts.**

On this second Sunday of Advent, we re-ignite the candle named Faith.  
Today we light the candle named Hope.  
May this light shine to remind us that God is the Faith and Hope  
that can never be extinguished. Amen.

(As the candles of Faith and Hope are lit, and the congregation sings vs. 2 of  
"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #85.

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish the darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.*

Children in Preschool through Grade 8 are dismissed to class following the  
children's message.)

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Speak to us, Lord.  
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,  
the hoping, the longing, the sorrow,  
the sighing, and the rejoicing.  
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,  
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

A reading from Mark 1:1-8 pg. (32-33)

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*"Prophets of Wonder"*

**WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**\*HYMN** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* #82

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** (sins...sin)

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *"Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee"* John B. Dykes  
arr. Bob McNally, Jr.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* #121

**\*BLESSING**

One: Go from this place in the spirit of Christ's peace.  
**Right: Through deserts or valleys,  
we take Christ's message of peace to the world.**

One: Go from this place in the spirit of God's hope.  
**Left: Over high mountains or level plains,  
We spread the transformative hope of God.**

One: A voice says, "Cry out!" What shall we cry?  
**All: God's hope goes with us!  
Christ's peace will guide us! Amen.**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** *"People Look East"* French folk melody

**\*POSTLUDE** *"Nu Är Det Jul Igen"* Swedish traditional  
arr. Spike Maiden Muller

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

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**Special Thanks to Oxford Brass  
for your musical contribution to our worship service.**

First Trumpet: Gregg Wentzell  
Second Trumpet: Dylan Gardner  
French Horn: Lori Dickerson  
Trombone: Kalinde Webb  
Tuba: Bill Fisher

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 MEF Meeting (CE Office)
- 10:00 Worship
- 10:15 Celebration at the Manger Rehearsal (Geneva Room)
- 10:20 Sunday school
- 11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux
- 11:30 Journey Through the Bible: Bible Study and Discussion (Sanctuary)
- 2:30 OPW Christmas Tea (Molyneaux)

### Monday, December 11

- 7:00 Art Class (Seminary)

### Tuesday, December 12

- 10:00 DVD Church Showing (Knolls)
- 7:00 Trustees (Molyneaux)

### Wednesday, December 13

### Thursday, December 14

- 12:30 P.E.O. (Seminary)
- 6:00 Piano Recital (Sanctuary / Molyneaux)
- 6:30 APNC Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor's Office)
- 7:00 Youth Group (Youth Room)
- 7:30 Chancel Choir (Geneva Room)

### Friday, December 15

- 5:30 Piano Recital (Sanctuary / Molyneaux)

### Saturday, December 16

- 10:00 A.A. (Molyneaux)
- 1:00 Celebration at the Manger Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 17

- 9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 Worship (Celebration at the Manger)
- 10:20 Sunday school
- 11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux
- 11:30 Journey Through the Bible: Bible Study and Discussion (Sanctuary)

## OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Lawrence H. Bartel  
**Music Director:** Kent Peterson  
**Organist:** Lynn Jacobs  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Dr. Joseph R. Hookey  
**Parish Associate:** Rev. Diane Ziegler  
**Clerk of Session:** Julia R. Fisher  
**Administrative Assistant:**  
Bridgite Dickerson:  
office@oxfordpresbychurch.org  
**Financial Secretary:** Mary Martin  
finance@oxfordpresbychurch.org  
**Director/Teacher C.C.N.S.:** Sarah Mapel:  
ccnsoxfordpreschool@gmail.com  
**Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Moeckel:  
moeckenj@miamioh.edu

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### OFFICERS OF OPC SESSION

**Class of 2017:** Gwen Fears, Kim Logsdon, Mary Jane Roberts, Robert Smith, Janet Ziegler  
**Class of 2018:** Carol Klumb, Amy McGoldrick, Katie Payne, Deb Sayers, David Wilson  
**Class of 2019:** Jenny Bailer, Lynn Cronk, Greg Hughes, Nancy Moeckel, Johanna Reinhart

### DEACONS

**Class of 2017:** Danny Cross, Connie Everhart, Matt Lykins, Rori Lykins, Jean O'Connell  
**Class of 2018:** Lee Fisher, Virginia Layton, Joni Marcum, Karen Shearer

**Class of 2019:** Carol Burkhalter, Debbie Davidson, Janet Holmes, Pat Roberts, Diane Young

### TRUSTEES

**Class of 2017:** Rick Bailey, Lisa Brunckhorst  
**Class of 2018:** Nick Fears, Tom Holmes  
**Class of 2019:** Keith Payne, Joe Simpson

## Oxford Presbyterian Church

Telephone: 513-523-6364

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Email: office@oxfordpresbychurch.org  
www.oxfordpresbychurch.org

### December 10 - December 17, 2017

Large-print bulletins and hearing assistance units are available from the ushers. **Please sign the friendship pads found at the end of the pew and pass them to your neighbors.**

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We're so glad you're here! As fellow seekers, we welcome all who wish to learn and grow with us. *Serving others*...Following our Servant Savior, we give our time, talent and resources to help bring fullness of life to others. *Sharing Christ's love with all*...Through our words and actions, we proclaim the unconditional love of Christ. Filled with joy and hope, we build relationships across any boundaries that separate us."

**WELCOME MIAMI STUDENTS!** We're so glad you're here! We invite you to make this church your church home away from home during your time at Miami.

**Greeters:** Arly Allen and Johanna Reinhart

**Advent Wreath Candle Lighters:**  
Jeremy, Gretchen, Elias,  
Gabriel and Amabel Jones

**The flowers** on the left side of the communion table are given by Scott and Nancy Parkinson in loving memory of their fathers, John D. Parkinson and James M. Gray.

**The flowers** on the right side of the communion table are given by the children of Louise Griffing in honor Louise's birthday today.

Mission Partners Prayer List:

### Presbytery of the Miami Valley:

St. Luke United Presbyterian Church  
**Sister Churches:** The First Church of Zlatoust, Russia and The Seventh Church of Barranquilla, Colombia

### Congregational Prayer Concerns:

Betty Barnhart, Pris Berry, Tracy DeGood, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Tom Holmes, Breanna Kinneman, Betty Reinhart, Jan Reinhart, Marilyn Rettig, Sarah Soika, Dave Wilson, Stacey Winn

Email prayer requests to Jean O'Connell, [occonnelljm17@yahoo.com](mailto:occonnelljm17@yahoo.com), call Pat Roberts, 513-255-0549 or email the church office, [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org)

Fellowship hour following worship hosted by the Deacons.

### Thank You!

No wonder "uppity women" in the past have been told to go back to baking cookies! It's one of the many things women do well, especially Oxford Presbyterian Women. Our women know how to advertise 'em, bake 'em, take 'em to the sale, buy 'em for the holidays and make money for missions, bless 'em!

Thank you, friends, for helping raise more than \$1,100 on sweet treats and Christmas crafts and decor. You are awesome!

Cookie Walk Co-Chairs,  
Karen Shearer and Carol Burkhalter



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### **SUNDAY SCHOOL: Prior to the Children's Message,**

Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex next to the Activity Bibles. Following the Children's Message, our teachers are waiting to welcome our students. Members of the Christian Education Committee will be available to escort students to their perspective rooms following the children's story.

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Nursery: Infants through age 2,  
Nursery 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Preschool: Ages 3-5, Preschool area,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Grades K through 2: K-1 Room,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Grades 3-5: Art Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Grades 6-8: Geneva Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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### **The Christmas Tea**

**Join the Oxford Presbyterian Women this afternoon at 2:30 pm** in the Molyneaux Lounge for their Christmas Tea. The program is a Carol Sing with Jean Derickson at the piano and Karen Simpson reading a story. Cookies will be served. The hostesses are the Coordinating Team. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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### **Church Service at The Knolls**



If you've missed any of our recent church services, join us in The Knolls Country Kitchen on Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. If anyone needs a ride, please call Becky Quay at 523-5747.

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### **Mitten Tree**

The Mitten Tree is bursting with mittens for children of all ages. If you are able, please take a mitten from the tree, write out your check for \$40-\$50 payable to OPC, place it in the envelope, and bring it all to the Molyneaux after services on December 10 and December 17.



Cash is also accepted, as well as donations of any amount. These donations are given to the Family Resource Center where needy children will be sure to receive a gift at Christmas. Gifts are purchased by the parents of these children while under the supervision of Resource Center Volunteers. Parents are thrilled to be able to make choices for their children that would otherwise be impossible. Let us help light up yet another face this Christmas! See Karen Shearer for answers to any questions.

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### **Alternative Christmas Gifts**

What Christmas gift do you get the person who already has everything? A gift that will help the person who has nearly nothing! Donate to the Bethesda Christian Community Center in your friends or family member's name. Your donation will help furnish the newly completed Center so that their mission can continue and expand to provide services for the displaced women and children in Barranquilla, Colombia. Beautiful handmade cards are available for Alternate Giving Donations in the Molyneaux each Sunday in December following the services.



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### **Salvation Army Bell Ringers**

Shifts available on December 16, 22, 23. Simply go to [www.oxfordkiwanis.org](http://www.oxfordkiwanis.org), click on volunteer opportunities, and sign up for a vacant shift or shifts.

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### **Celebration at the Manger**



The children and youth of OPC will be presenting their annual Christmas program, *Celebration at the Manger*, on Sunday, December 17, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please come and enjoy the performance celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

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### **Our Church Website is "Re-formed"**



It has been re-designed to be mobile device friendly with many engaging

pictures that tell our story. The front steps of the site - the home page - is designed to be inviting to newcomers, with dynamic images and quick pictorial links to featured pages.

Intuitive headings such as Learning & Growing, Mission & Outreach, and News & Events make it easier to find what you are looking for. A new Resource section has been added that provides easy access to useful information such as Facility Usage, Weddings, and Memorial Garden.

This "re-formed" website has been a team effort - and you can all be part of this team as well! After you have looked over our new site, please share any suggestions for content updates using the suggestion link in at the bottom of each page.

One thing hasn't changed - the address - [Oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://Oxfordpresbychurch.org)

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### **Journey Through the Bible**

Last week's Questions and Answers

- In Amos, God says that the Lord wants nothing to do with Israel's festivals, assemblies, offerings and worship because the people are lacking two highly important things. What are these two things? (Justice and Righteousness. - Amos 5:21-24)
- What does John see when the Lamb opens the seventh seal? (Seven angles with seven trumpets standing before the Lord. - Rev. 8:1-2)

Next week's Questions

- What reason does Jonah give for fleeing to Tarshish rather than going to Nineveh as God had commanded him?
  - In his revelatory vision, what creature does John see fighting against Michael and the angels?
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### **Advent Calendars & Devotionals**

As this rich and meaningful season prepares us for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the good news of great joy. Yet for too many in our culture, Advent is forgotten in our rush to attend festive parties and purchase special gifts.

Outside the church office, you'll find three unique printed Advent Devotionals including [Moving Toward the Manger](#) reflections on the writings of Frederick Buechner and Advent Calendars.

Or if you prefer to follow an online devotional, then Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has a resource for you. As part of the PC(USA), Pittsburgh Theological Seminary offers a daily Advent devotional through this link - [http://www.pts.edu/devotional\\_1](http://www.pts.edu/devotional_1)

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