

**CELEBRATION at the MANGER**

*Isaiah 9:6*

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Rev. Lawrence Bartel*

**PRELUDE**

*"Good King Wenceslas"*

*Jens Bartel, piano  
Isabella Walter, trumpet*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: People of God, come, for the light of joy beckons us together.

**All: Come, let us follow this light into Advent, into the wonder and heart of God's love.**

Come, great spirit of Joy, and fill our hearts and minds today.

**Come, miraculous laughter, and help us to rejoice.**

Come, enlivening comforter, and give us the courage to proclaim and celebrate all that sparks the divine flame within us.

**Come, wondrous light, and lead us on this path toward new life.**

People of God, come, for the light of joy beckons us together, asking, who are you, what is your great joy?

**Come, let us follow this light in our worship.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of faith, hope, joy, and love. On this third Sunday of Advent, we re-ignite the candles named Faith and Hope. Today we light the candle named Joy.

**We wait -**

**We wait -**

**not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because the Lord is not already and always here.**

We wait with Elizabeth and Zachariah -

We wait with Mary and Joseph -

because to wait is to expect something more.

**To wait is to expect that the story of Emmanuel will enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.**

As we light the candle of joy, we remember the stories of God's joy in all creation.

**We give thanks for the messengers - the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones - present in every age, who bring us the good news of God's restoring love; and we shout with joy, trusting that God is with us and before us, and that joy will be born anew in us.**

(As the candles of Faith, Hope and Joy are lit, and the congregation sings vs. 3 of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #85.

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish the darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.)*

**Scene 1: Introduction**

Narrator Kylee Fears  
Prophets Elias Jones, Gabriel Jones, Oliver Rice

**CAROL**

*"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

*Choir  
Evan Danielson, piano*

Narrator Zeke Groom  
Mary Abigail Curry  
Angel Emma Lake  
Joseph Eric Staley

**CAROL**

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

*Choir  
Evan Danielson, piano  
Kylee Fears, bass  
Oliver Rice, violin*

**Scene 2: Bethlehem**

Narrator Isabella Walter  
Emperor Bryson Fears  
Innkeeper1 Spencer Lykins  
Innkeeper2 Noel Albarran



**CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING**

*Rev. Lawrence Bartel*

May starlight guide our steps towards this place of wonder.  
May angels sing their news as we travel to the stable.  
May promise fill these days as we watch at the edge of the manger  
and may faith tell us, Emmanuel will be with us soon.

**POSTLUDE**

*"Carol of the Bells"*

*Zeke Groom, piano*

**USHERS**

*Cora Friede  
Austin Lake*

*Bryce James  
Rori Lykins*

*Craig James  
Amanda Rudolph*

*Evan James*

**CHOIR**

*Amy Bartel  
Gretchen Jones  
Aaron Wanko*

*Lydia Bartel  
Matt Lykins*

*Lawrence Bartel  
Mike Rudolph*

*Katya Fisher  
Lillian Shelley*

Many thanks to the MANY volunteers who helped with this program!  
Special thanks to Mitch Hardy, Music Director, and Gretchen Jones, Choir Director. The youth dedicate this presentation of the Christmas story to Lynn Cronk for her many years of excellent leadership of the Christian Education ministry at Oxford Presbyterian Church.



Join your church family for these worship opportunities during this sacred season:

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24 – 10:00 a.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas  
December 31 – 10:00 a.m.



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Celebration at the Manger**  
Sunday, December 17, 2017

**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)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 17 OPC Children / Youth Celebration at the Manger Presentation

9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 Worship  
10:20 Sunday school  
11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux  
11:30 CATM Cast Party (Seminary)  
11:30 Journey Through the Bible:  
Bible Study and Discussion  
(Sanctuary)

### Monday, December 18

11:30 CCNS Christmas Program  
(Sanctuary)  
7:00 Art Class (Seminary)

### Tuesday, December 19

11:30 CCNS Christmas Program  
(Sanctuary)  
7:00 Session (Bartel Residence)

### Wednesday, December 20 Newsletter Deadline

### Thursday, December 21

6:30 Caroling with the Congregation  
7:30 Chancel Choir (Geneva Room)

### Friday, December 22

### Saturday, December 23

10:00 A.A. (Molyneaux)

### Sunday, December 24

9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 Worship  
10:20 Sunday school – only nursery,  
Preschool, K-2 classes available  
11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux  
**7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service**

## 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  
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www.oxfordpresbychurch.org

December 17 - December 24, 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:** Karen Shearer and Prue Dana

**Acolyte:** Bella Walter

**Advent Wreath Candle Lighters:**  
Elena, Juan Carlos, Noel and Lola Albarran  
Nick, Gwen, Kylee and Bryson Fears

Mission Partners Prayer List:

**Presbytery of the Miami Valley:**  
Bath Presbyterian Church, Dayton  
**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, [connelljm17@yahoo.com](mailto:connelljm17@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.



Join all ages for an intergenerational activity on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Meet in the Molyneaux Lounge to begin the concert tour to sing along with our shut-in members at The Knolls and Woodland Manor. An after party will be held at Ellen Buerk's home, 520 N. Patterson Ave., at 8:30 p.m. with soup to consume. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and take in the fellowship time with others to enjoy this warm holiday tradition.

### Flower Calendar 2018

A new calendar for Altar Flowers for 2018 has been placed near the water fountain next to the Molyneaux Lounge and is ready for entries. Thank you for a great 2017 year. People were so generous to help when we needed altar flowers.

### 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 service.



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.



### Christmas Eve

Come join us Sunday, December 24. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to both special services – Worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning and then a **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.**

### 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 service.

### 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 26 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. If anyone needs a ride, please call Becky Quay at 523-5747.

### 2017 Pledging Reminder



For the past several weeks we have been focused on pledging for the coming year. We have had an encouraging response to date and are currently building a budget to reflect projected income for 2018. At this time, we also need to address pledging for the current year. We are within the final month of 2017 and are operating on a budget built on the basis of last year's pledging. Just a reminder, if you are able, please complete those pledged 2017 donations by the end of December.

### The Deacon's Advent Food Drive



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.

Oxford Choice Food Pantry needs canned fruit, canned vegetables; spaghetti sauce, cereal, and peanut butter. **One specific item is meals in a can (e.g. Chef Boy-Ar-Dee-type food like ravioli and others, including Kroger brand).** We always put them in the bags and for some reason have not been getting as many as in past years in food drives. Toilet paper, personal care items like body wash, deodorant, shampoo and hair conditioner. **New: 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.**

### Journey Through the Bible

Last week's Questions and Answers

- What reason does Jonah give for fleeing to Tarshish rather than going to Nineveh as God had commanded him? (Jonah explains he knew God was gracious and therefore he feared that God would forgive the people of Nineveh if they repented. - Jonah 3:10-4:2)
- In his revelatory vision, what creature does John see fighting against Michael and the angels? (A red dragon - Rev. 12)

Next week's Questions

- In Micah we read what God considers good - what the Lord requires of us - is essentially three things. What are the?
- According to John's vision in Revelation, people will be forced to bear a number if they wish to participate in trade and commerce. What is that number?

**Deadline for Newsletter Articles is Wednesday, December 20**



**Please submit all articles to Nancy Moeckel: [moeckenj@miamioh.edu](mailto:moeckenj@miamioh.edu)**