

## Special Music Fund and Poinsettias



The Worship and Music Committee of Session hopes to make each of the worship services as meaningful as possible. Congregational participation is a crucial ingredient in that effort. One example of participation is seen in the enthusiastic response to the opportunities to honor or memorialize others with the purchase of flowers to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary throughout the year, particularly at Christmas and Easter. It has been suggested that opportunity be given to honor or memorialize others with a gift to the Special Music Fund in lieu of, or in addition to the purchase of flowers. The Special Music Fund is for the express purpose of providing a small

honorarium for guest soloists or instrumentalists or musical events not included in the regular worship and music budget. Contributions to this special fund will be welcome at any time, but members and friends of the church are invited to make contributions during the Christmas and Easter seasons. One may designate a person or persons to be memorialized or honored. Such gifts will be noted in the church bulletin.

Please use the form below to order a flower or contribute to the special music fund. The number of poinsettias will be limited to the first 40. Checks should be marked for flowers or the Special Music Fund. **The cost of the poinsettias this year will be \$16.50**

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### ORDER FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia (Cost \$16.50)      \_\_\_\_\_ Special Music Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate Poinsettia to Deacons

**Dedication to be put in bulletin:**

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Paid by check (no.) \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Last day to order is Wednesday, December 6, 2017**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Oxford Presbyterian Church**

101 N. Main St. | Oxford, OH 45056 | 513.523.6364

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As we begin our journey to Christmas, we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah who cried to God to tear open the heavens and come into the lives of the people.

Isaiah called the people to be refashioned like clay by the Lord, the potter.

**This Advent, we call out to the Lord.  
This Advent, we open ourselves to be  
remade in the image of God's incarnated love.**

We who are open with anticipation  
feel faith rise up within us.  
And so we light this first candle  
and name it Faith.

(The candle of Faith is lit, and the congregation sings vs. 1 of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #85.  
*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish the darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.*  
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, 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 13:24-37

pg. 46

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

#### SERMON

*"Words within the WORD"*

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

**\*HYMN** *"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"* #107  
(vs. 1 & 4)

#### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (on insert)

#### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *"Waiting for the Promise"* Lloyd Larson

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND "OFFERING OF LETTERS" DEDICATION

**\*HYMN** *"Love Has Come"* #110

#### \*BLESSING

Go from this place alert and awake to our call  
**As people of faith returning to our mission fields  
in the north and south, east and west.**

Go from this place alert and awake in the spirit of the Lord's light.  
**We scatter now as faithful servants to spread  
God's love to the ends of the earth.**

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

**\*POSTLUDE** *"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"* arr. Thomas Chesterton

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION

Come, all who walk through the darkness seeking hope and peace.  
Here is a place where you are welcome.  
This is a table where you can rest in the heart of love

*Leader* *All*



The Lord be with you. \_\_\_\_\_ And al - so with

*Leader* *All*



you. \_\_\_\_\_ Lift up your hearts. \_\_\_\_\_ We lift them

*Leader*



up to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Let us give thanks to the Lord our

*All*



God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. \_\_\_\_\_

### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lord, we gather here in defiance  
of all the world wants to proclaim in this season.  
Surrounded by noise and busy-ness,  
by pressures to conform and perform,  
we defiantly proclaim this simple message:  
God so loves the world,  
and has done so from the beginning,  
and will do so long after our time is done.  
Christ's love is unconditional and everlasting.  
It permeates all our being and lasts long  
beyond fleeting moments of celebration.

And so in this Advent season,  
when we anticipate all it can mean  
that God came to dwell within our world  
and our hearts,  
we join our hearts with all who have gone before,  
and proclaim:



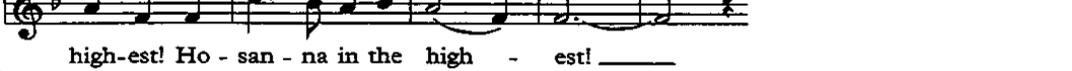
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of power and



might. \_\_\_\_\_ Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -



- ry. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the



high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_

An elderly couple named Elizabeth and Zechariah  
opened their hearts to your song.  
They heard the promise that she would give birth;  
They heard the promise that this child  
would prepare the way for the one  
who would transform the world.

In the stillness of this Advent season  
we wait and prepare,  
as our hearts echo an ancient cry:  
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

We prepare for Emmanuel, God with us.  
We remember how this child of Mary and Joseph  
was born in a humble stable.  
We remember a special meal shared with friends.  
Gathering them together,  
**Emmanuel spoke with boundless love.**

In the blessing of the bread,  
**Emmanuel asked them to share the bread of life.**

In the blessing of the cup,  
**Emmanuel asked them to share the cup of promise.**

Then, Emmanuel asked us always to remember.  
**We remember your life, your words, your love.**

As we share this bread and cup,  
strengthen our hope in the promises of this season,  
and give us courage to live in the way of hope and  
peace as we lift up the prayers of our hearts today.  
*(Joys and concerns are shared here.)*

We lift up all these prayers in name of the Prince of Peace  
who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

As you pass the elements to your neighbor please say:  
**The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.**  
(Please hold the element so we can receive it together  
as a symbol of our oneness in Christ.)

**THE SHARING OF THE CUP**

As you pass the elements to your neighbor please say:  
**The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.**  
(Please hold the element so we can receive it together  
as a symbol of our oneness in Christ.)

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(photo by Steve Gifford)

The photo above is of a Whooping Crane taken in Gibson County, Indiana. Whooping Cranes are the tallest birds in North America and also one of the rarest. They are stunning to see in the wild with their snowy white plumage, striking red cap and bugling call that can be heard over a mile away! Whooping Cranes are also extremely faithful. Once two cranes form a pair, they remain together for life.

The Whooping Crane in this picture is a very special example of this faithfulness. In the early spring of 2014, after working alongside his mate building one of only a few known Whooping Crane nests in the history of Indiana, this crane's mate was killed by a bobcat and the nest destroyed. For the next few months I frequently visited the area the crane was located and often saw and heard him calling sadly for his mate. When summer came, rather than returning north as the rest of the cranes do, he stayed in Indiana by himself mourning the loss of his mate. It wasn't until two years later that the faithful crane finally resumed his normal migration pattern with the other cranes, flying north for the summer and south for the winter. Faithful to his mate though, he is still single today.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 3

- 9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 Worship
- 10:15 Celebration at the Manger Rehearsal (Geneva Room)
- 10:20 Sunday school
- 11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux
- 11:30 Advent Workshop (Seminary)
- 1:30 Safe Haven Farm (Decorating)

### Monday, December 4

- 7:00 Art Class (Seminary)

### Tuesday, December 5

- 6:00 Facilities Planning Team (Molyneaux)

### Wednesday, December 6

- 12:00 CCNS Board Meeting
- 7:30 Mustard Seed Investment Group  
Host: the Simpson's

### Thursday, December 7

- 4:00 Service of Comfort (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 Stewardship & Finance (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 8

### Saturday, December 9

- 10:00 A.A. (Molyneaux)
- 12:30 Piano Recital (Sanctuary / Molyneaux)

### 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
- 2:30 OPW Christmas Tea (Molyneaux)

## 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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December 3 - December 10, 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:** Judy Herold  
and Sandy Douglass

**Advent Wreath Candle Lighters:**  
Scott, Jenn, Chase, Eli, Bella Walter

Mission Partners Prayer List:  
**Presbytery of the Miami Valley:**  
First Presbyterian Church, Eaton  
**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, [oconnelljm17@yahoo.com](mailto:oconnelljm17@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.

**Oxford Presbyterian Church  
Invites YOU to ...**



**Lunch ~ Crafts  
Advent Materials**

**Seminary Building  
today following worship**

**11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

**Pizza, salad and beverage  
provided.**

*The Loose Ends Knitting Group will  
be on sight for those interested in  
knitting or receiving instruction*

*All are welcome!*

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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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**Decorate Safe Haven Farm**



A happy group of OPC elves are going to Safe Haven Farms on Sunday, December 3 to decorate their center for the Christmas season. This

home is for autistic young adults who reside and take care of the beautiful farmland. We will meet in the alley behind the church at 1:30 p.m. and can carpool or drive separately to Middletown. Directions will be available. The decorations to be hung and the trees to decorate are ready on site. So bring yourself and your holiday spirit to help make their Hatton Center a warm, festive place for the Christmas season. Questions? Ask Karen Shearer.

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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 3
- ◆ December 10
- ◆ 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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**Salvation Army Bellringers**

There is a need for "Bell Ringers" during the Christmas season in support of the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle drive. Numerous 1 hour shifts remain available beginning December 9 through December 23. Simply go to [www.oxfordkiwanis.org](http://www.oxfordkiwanis.org), click on volunteer opportunities, and sign up for a vacant shift or shifts. All proceeds are directed the Oxford Family Resource Center.



**The Christmas Tea**

You're invited to join the OPW on Sunday, December 10 at 2:30 p.m. 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 welcomed to attend. Questions? Contact Karen Simpson at 523-8363, or [k.simpson2007@yahoo.com](mailto:k.simpson2007@yahoo.com)

**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!



Marge Smith at 523-3895.

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**Journey Through the Bible**

Last week's Questions and Answers

- Where was John when he received the message from Revelation? (The island of Patmos. - Rev. 1:9)
- Which Psalm affirms that the Lord cares about us, wherever we are? (Psalm 139)

Next week's Questions

- 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?
  - What does John see when the Lamb opens the seventh seal?
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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 friend's 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 will be available for Alternate Giving Donations at the Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2 and in the Molyneaux on December Sundays following the church services.

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