
Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We welcome you to join us on a transformative journey.

Seeking God, we strive to know God and love God.

Serving others, we follow our Servant Savior
to help bring fullness of life to others.

Sharing Christ's love with all we proclaim the
unconditional love of Christ filled with joy and hope.

*If you are a Miami student, we invite you to make this your
church home away from home during your time at Miami.*

Liturgist: Nancy Parkinson

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons.
Gather us and let the star call us to new ways
of healing and hope,
restoration and renewal,
as we discover again Christ's call to discipleship. Amen.

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Habitat for Humanity Prue Dana

PRELUDE "O Morning Star, arr. Wilbur Held
How Fair and Bright"

CHORAL INTROIT "I Come with Joy" American folk melody
arr. Austin C. Lovelace

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather wondering,
'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

All: **We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking,
'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'
**We will find the Child where the needy
are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know,
'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'
**We will find our hope where fear
is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.
We gather in such a place to worship the Lord!**

*HYMN "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs. 1, 2, & 5) #151

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Strangers, foreigners, outsiders, aliens –
names we give those whose ways unsettle us,
or those we fear for changes they may bring.
**O Lord, help us remember
that your people
were strangers, foreigners, outsiders
in Egypt, Canaan, and Babylon.**

Strangers, foreigners, outsiders, aliens –
too often we ignore their wisdom
or discount their understandings.
**O Lord, help us remember
that the magi were outsiders
who came to honor Jesus
because of their insights.**

Strangers, foreigners, outsiders, aliens –
we define them as "other"
so we can keep our distance,
so we can withhold our empathy.
**O Lord, help us remember
there are no strangers, foreigners, or outsiders,
for you have made us all,
and through faith we are all one. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God brings together people of different nations,
different languages, different classes,
different ages, different viewpoints
and replaces division with forgiveness,
and conflict with love.
God forgives and loves you that you
might be one with all.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak with authority in our lives, Christ.

**Speak to us, and to what is in us,
so that we might be whole.**

**Speak to us, with love,
with hope and with strength,
so that we might hear you,
and know, deep inside,
that we are your people,
and that you are our God. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Matthew 2:1-12

pg. 1-2

Holy wisdom, holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Whatever Is Foreseen in Joy"

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CHOIR ANTHEM

"One Bread, One Body"

John Foley
arr. Mark Hayes

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (on insert)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"In the Bleak Midwinter" setting, Wilbur Held

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#136

*BLESSING

**May the Spirit of God be a guiding star before us,
a glorious song above us,
a gentle path below us,
an inspiring voice behind us
wherever we may journey with the Light. Amen.**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"Will You Come and Follow Me"
traditional Scottish melody
Text: John Bell & Graham Meule

*POSTLUDE

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"
arr. Benjamin M. Culli

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Mark Your Calendar: The Annual
Congregational Meeting of Oxford
Presbyterian Church will take place on
Sunday, January 21st following worship.



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.**

Mission Partners Prayer List:

Presbytery of the Miami Valley:

First Presbyterian Church, Middletown

Sister Churches: The First Church of Zlatoust, Russia and The Seventh Church of Barranquilla, Colombia

Congregational Prayer Concerns: Betty Barnhart, 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, call Pat Roberts, 513-255-0549 or email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org

Fellowship hour following worship hosted by Candace Crist and Jo Reinhart.

UPCOMING DATES:

Journey Through the Bible

We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started... and know the place for the first time. – T.S. Eliot

What a blessing to come to the end of 2017 and the conclusion of our twelve-month reading plan through the entire Bible! Our exploration of scripture led us through many inspiring and comforting Bible passages. We also encountered complex and challenges portions of scripture. We engaged the themes of Poverty & Economics as well as Race & Ethnicity in the Bible and in our times.

Yet the journey certainly isn't over. While Scripture hasn't changed, our times keep changing. We have so much more to explore in God's always unfolding story of love and salvation. Join the conversation in the sanctuary after worship on January 7th as we discern the next steps of our congregational journey in Adult Christian Education.

Church Service at The Knolls

If you are unable to attend some of our church services on Sunday mornings, we have another option for you. Becky Quay shows recent church services on DVD in the Country Kitchen at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. In January, it will be shown on the 9th & 23rd. If you would like to join us, but need a ride, just give Becky a call at 523-5747.

The Tuesday Afternoon Circle meets January 16 at 1:30 p.m. in The Knolls Country Kitchen. Study Leader is Pat Gifford. Please call Lynn Cronk 524-8574 by Friday January 12th for reservations for the optional \$8 noon lunch at The Knolls. Visitors, guests, and new members are always welcome.

Habitat for Humanity

Presbyterian Saturday for Habitat, Carter Circle is January 13. We are committed for 5 volunteers and lunch for 20. Those who work should come to the site at 8:30 a.m. Depending on the weather, we will work until 3:30 p.m. Work will break at noon for lunch. Can you help? Please contact Prue Dana pdana@woh.rr.com

Making a Real Difference:

A Report on the Deacon's Food Drive

We are overflowing with gratitude at what our amazing God has done through the Oxford Presbyterian Church for local families in need. Our congregation is blessed to be able to share Christ's love with the less fortunate in Oxford. The Advent Food Drive that just concluded collected 330 pounds of food and \$1,450. Throughout 2017, a total of 1008 pounds of nonperishable food was taken to the Oxford Choice Pantry and \$5,044 in monetary donations was collected. Thank you for your partnership in providing hunger relief in our community!

The Directories are here!! Those of you who had your pictures taken may see Pat Gifford in the Molyneaux after worship this Sunday, January 7 and next Sunday, January 14 to pick up your copy. Directories will be delivered to those at the Knolls who can't make it to church.

Calendar

Sunday, January 7

9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Worship
10:20 Sunday School
11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux
11:30 Adult Christian Education (Sanctuary)

**Monday, January 8
Annual Reports Due**

7:00 Art Class (Seminary)

Tuesday, January 9

10:00 DVD Church Showing (The Knolls)
5:30 Worship and Music (2nd Pastor's Office)
6:30 Trustees (CE Office)

Wednesday, January 10

6:00 Stewardship and Finance (Molyneaux)
6:30 Christian Education (Audio-Visual)

Thursday, January 11

6:30 APNC (Molyneaux)
7:00 Youth Group (Youth Room – 2nd Floor)
7:30 Chancel Choir (Geneva Room)

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

8:30 am - OPC Habitat
3:30pm Carter Circle
10:00 A.A. (Molyneaux)

Sunday, January 14

9:00 MEF (Christian Education Office)
9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Worship
10:20 Sunday School
11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux

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Pastor: Rev. Lawrence H. Bartel **Music Director:** Kent Peterson
Organist: Lynn Jacobs **Clerk of Session:** Julia R. Fisher

Epiphany Sunday



Sunday, January 7, 2018



**Oxford
Presbyterian
Church** U.S.A.

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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on