

# 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.*

**\*Please rise in body or in spirit** Liturgist: Robert Smith

(Image on cover: Sculpture of Bronze Serpent on Mount Nebo in Jordan created by Italian artist Giovanni Fantoni)

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### CHIMES

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*  
arr. Edwin T. Childs

### CHORAL INTROIT

*"You Are My All in All"*  
Dennis L. Jerrigan

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**All: Here is the journey,  
that moves beyond where we are now.**

One: Come, trust the God who calls us on the journey.  
Come, trust in the steadfast love of the Lord.  
**This is Lent. This is the journey.**

**Here is the journey,  
for all who long to travel.**  
Come, for the Spirit makes known love's path.  
**This is Lent. This is the journey.**

**Here is the journey,  
for all those who want to know truth.**  
Come, this is God's way of salvation.  
**This is Lent. This is the journey.**

**Here is the journey  
that takes us further than we have been before.**  
Come, for Jesus leads the humble  
to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully  
**This is Lent. This is the journey.**

**\*HYMN** – *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"* #65

### LENTEN CENTERING FOR PRAYER

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Inspired by Numbers 21:4-9)

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge,  
we come to you this morning the way the  
Israelites did, full of complaints and dissatisfaction.  
Nothing is enough;  
we do not recognize your blessing at  
work in our day to day lives.

**Forgive us when we become so comfortable  
that we moan and groan about  
the most insignificant details of our lives.**

In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites,  
to consider the bigger picture of oppression,  
injustice, and inequality around us.

**Forgive us when we close our eyes for  
fear of what you might show us;  
keep sending loving and compassionate leaders  
to open our eyes until we see what you see in  
our world. Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In letting go of grievances and accusations,  
In honesty confessing the power of a scarcity mentality,  
we receive the Lord's gift of abundant life  
and the body of Christ becomes whole.

**By God's mercy, may we travel in peace;  
by Christ's mercy, may we receive new life;  
by the Spirit's mercy, may we live in hope.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### \*SHARING THE PEACE

### A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O God of truth and life,  
open our eyes – open our hearts now.  
Remind us of your love as we read the scriptures,  
that we may be strengthened and renewed by your  
Word. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word  
**And the Word was with God.**

A reading from Numbers 21:4-9

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Pastor Lawrence

## WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

**\*HYMN** – *"Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"* #11

**\*A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH** (Parts 1, 4, 5) pg. 37

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *"Wondrous Love"*  
American folk hymn / arr. Robert Benson

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*HYMN** – *"You Shall Go Out with Joy"* #80

### \*BLESSING

Our hearts are full of joy for ...  
**God so loves the world!**

May God our Maker  
**send us back into the world with  
creative energies refreshed.**

May Christ the Light  
**illuminate our darkest moments.**

And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love  
**guide us until we worship together again.  
This day and forevermore. Amen!**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** *"Jesus, Remember Me"*  
Jacques Berthier

**\*POSTLUDE** *"Glory Be to Jesus"* arr. Robert Lau

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.**

**Greeters:** Jill Grajewski and Rachel Lathery

**Acolyte:** Lydia Bartel

**The flowers** are given by Debbie Davidson in Glory to God and in thanks for another year on earth.

Mission Partners Prayer List:

**Presbytery of the Miami Valley:** Faith Presbyterian Church  
**Sister Churches:** The First Church of Zlatoust, Russia and  
The Seventh Church of Barranquilla, Colombia

**Congregational Prayer Concerns:** Betty Barnhart, John Curry, Tracy DeGood, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Bill King, Breanna Kinneman, Jan Reinhart, Becky Rudolph, Charles Skipper, Sarah Soika, Joan Teckman, Dave Wilson, Stacey Winn, Jean Woodruff

Email prayer requests call Pat Roberts, 513-255-0549  
or email the church office, [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org)

Fellowship hour following worship hosted by Nancy Sturgeon and Debbie Davidson on behalf of OPW.

## UPCOMING DATES:

**Special Congregational Meeting:** This very brief congregational meeting to vote on the correction to Pastor Lawrence's terms of call will take place immediately after worship service TODAY. An Excel spreadsheet formula error and Board of Pensions calculation error generated a series of incorrect figures in the Pastor's compensation that were not noticed until after it was approved by the congregation in January.

**Church Services 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 March, the dates are March 13 and 27. If you would like to join us, but need a ride, just give Becky a call at 523-5747.

**Tuesday Afternoon Circle:** The Tuesday Afternoon Circle will meet March 20. We will meet for lunch at the Knolls followed by our study at 1:30 in the County Kitchen area of the Assisted Living area. If you would like to join us for lunch, reservations are due Friday, March 16. Visitors are always welcome.

**The Deacon's Lenten Food Drive:** Please leave the donated items for the Oxford Choice Pantry in the Narthex, (the front entrance to the Sanctuary) from February 18 - March 24. Monetary donations can be made during offering by writing a check with "Deacon's Food Drive" in the note field or placing cash in a pew envelope with the "Deacon's Food Drive" on the front.

**Items needed: "Big Three":** Spaghetti, Tuna & Peanut Butter

**Other Items:** Canned meals (Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, Chef Boyardee). Varieties of cereal, canned fruit and vegetables

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

### All the Families of the Earth

Inspired by God's called to Abraham and Sarah to leave their home and begin a journey in which "all the families of the Earth shall be blessed", this Lenten Study Group is learning about the historical context and present day relationships between the children of Abraham and Sarah.

On Saturday, March 17, you are invited to join the study group on a journey to the Plum Street Temple in Cincinnati for a Bar Mitzvah Service. We will gather at the Memorial Church facility to carpool and leave at 9:15 a.m. After observing the Bar Mitzvah, we will have the wonderful opportunity to engage in a conversation with the Rabbi.

To plan transportation needs, please contact Pastor Lawrence if you are interested in this journey. *Please feel free to bring a friend...* OPC membership is certainly not a prerequisite!

**Lenten Materials:** Lenten Calendars and devotionals for adults and children are available in the Molyneaux Lounge.

## Deacon's Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 27 ~ 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. ~ Seminary

### Appointments Recommended

**To Donate Blood:** You are encouraged to sign up online at [www.Donortime.com](http://www.Donortime.com) / use **Sponsor Code 321**. Choose "Donor Login", you will be given instructions on what to do.

**If you would like us to sign you up, please contact the church office at 513.523.6364, give your name, date of birth, phone number, and preferred appointment time.**

**Questions about donor eligibility contact:  
CBC at: 1-800-388-4483 or 777-4428.**

**Mission Trip:** We are in need of **one male chaperone** for the 2018 Sr. High Mission Trip to Charleston, SC, June 17 – June 22. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to Mitch Hardy ASAP!

**Sunday School: Preschool teacher needed for April and May** - If interested, please contact Jenn Walter at 513-593-4883 or [jenniferwalter37@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferwalter37@yahoo.com).

### Calendar

#### Sunday, March 11

9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 Worship  
10:20 Sunday School  
11:10 Congregational Meeting (following service)  
11:30 Fellowship in the Molyneaux

#### Monday, March 12

7:00 Art Class (Seminary)

#### Tuesday, March 13

10:00 Church Showing (The Knolls)  
6:00 Mission & Outreach (Geneva Room)  
6:30 Trustees (2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor's Office)  
7:00 Session (Molyneaux)

#### Wednesday, March 14

6:30 Stewardship & Finance (Molyneaux)

#### Thursday, March 15

7:00 Youth Group (Youth Room)  
7:30 Chancel Choir (Geneva Room)

#### Friday, March 16

#### Saturday, March 17

10:00 A.A. (Molyneaux)  
10:00 Lenten Study Group – All the Families Plum Street Temple: Bar Mitzvah followed by conversation with the Rabbi.  
4:00 Memorial Service – Roberta Crain (Reception following service - Seminary)

#### Sunday, March 18

9:00 Chancel Choir  
10:00 Worship  
10:20 Sunday School  
11:10 Fellowship in the Molyneaux

# Fourth Sunday of Lent



Sunday, March 11, 2018



Oxford  
Presbyterian  
Church U.S.A.

101 North Main Street | Oxford, Ohio 45056  
513-523-6364 | [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org)

[oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://oxfordpresbychurch.org)

Find us on 

**Pastor:** Lawrence H. Bartel  
**Organist:** Lynn Jacobs

**Music Director:** Kent Peterson  
**Clerk of Session:** Julia R. Fisher