
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: Grady Holmes

(Image on cover: An image from Kim Logsdon on the Easter theme "Practicing Resurrection")

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION – "Pick Three" Carla Blackmar Rice
Peacemaking Committee

PRELUDE "Day of Arising" setting, James Biery

CHORAL INTROIT "An Easter Canon"
Johannes Ockeghem / arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

All: We have come to stand on holy ground!

One: We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming. (We name local spring flowers or budding trees.)

All: We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

One: We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters. (We name local creeks, rivers and bodies of water.)

**All: We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit!
We have come to experience the Lord of Creation in this sacred space.**

***HYMN** – "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" #250

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of Resurrection, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand.

We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat – to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created.

We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the good earth under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots.

Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us. Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who called this place home, and to honor their care for the land.

Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place – to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife.

Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. Amen

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends in faith and action.

There is nowhere that we can run to escape God's love and compassion. In the generous gift of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, we have been forgiven.

As children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after the Risen Lord, in this place.

Alleluia! 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

Resurrecting Lord, you conquered death and opened the gates of life everlasting. In the power of the Holy Spirit, raise us with Christ, open our ears and loosen our tongues that we, too, may proclaim your love, healing, and peace to the nations. Amen

SCRIPTURE

A reading from 1 John 3:16-24

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Practicing Resurrection: The Answer to Every Question" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – "Now the Green Blade Rises" #247

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation
Questions of the New Members
Welcome and Reception

One: Let us, the members of Oxford Presbyterian Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Amen!

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"
John Purifoy

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMISSIONING FOR MOSAIC OF PEACE PILGRIMS

Questions of the Pilgrims
Prayer

Lord of Abundant Life, if only there were a guarantee, if only there were reasonable explanations, if only there were reliable statistics, perhaps we could trust your resurrection power.

God of Grace and Lord of Love, we are tired of the violence, we are weary of wars, the pain we cause, the power we misuse, the divisions we feel, the despair we tolerate.

We want to risk resurrection. We want to come out of the prison of our limited knowledge. We want to emerge from the tombs that hold us back from new life.

Make us an Easter people, we pray. We seek the courage to be people of your peace. We seek the hope that will sustain us in the desert times until the tree of life blossoms and bears its fruit of justice and joy. Amen.

***HYMN** – "Lord, When I Came into This Life" #691

*BLESSING

In the name of Jesus, who was from a place called Nazareth, we faithfully recommit to ourselves this sacred place.

Go forth to connect more deeply and follow more faithfully – in this global work to which God has called us.
Alleluia! Amen!

***CHORAL RESPONSE** "You Shall Go Out with Joy"
Stuart Dauermann

***POSTLUDE** "Alleluia! Christ is Arisen"
setting, Michael Bedford

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: Mickey Simonds and Becky Quay

Acolyte: Elias Jones

The flowers on the communion table are given by Marge and Robert Smith in appreciation of God's flowers from their garden.

Mission Partners Prayer List:

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

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, Judy Cross, John Curry, Tracy DeGood, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, 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

Fellowship hour following worship hosted by Candace Crist on behalf of Christian Education.

MINISTRY NEWS:

We joyfully welcome those joining Oxford Presbyterian Church as new members: Eugene & Janet Krebs, Virginia Scott, Noble Toney, Tom & Nancy Wilson, Abby VanGorder

Church Service at The Knolls: Recent service shown on DVD in the Country Kitchen at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24. If you would like to join us, but need a ride, just give Becky a call at 523-5747.

Tuesday Evening Circle: The Evening Circle will meet May 1. Our hostess is Janet Holmes. Debbie Davidson will give the devotion. Jean O'Connell will present the program.

OPC Chancel Choir: The OPC Choir is welcoming new members to join us on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Geneva Room. Sunday morning rehearsals start at 9:00 a.m. Interested students, please email Kent Peterson at dickwp@aol.com or just show up. All are welcome!

Kroger Rewards Program: Those who wish to sign up for the Kroger reward can find instructions on the website under "About Us" and the "Leadership". Instructions are included on the bottom of that page. If you are already a member, your proceeds roll over on a yearly basis. We appreciate your contributions and all they provide.

Church Women United 2018: May Friendship Day will be celebrated Sunday, May 6, 3 to 4: 30 p.m. at the Interfaith Center and the Haven at College at 16 South Campus. Janae Arno, Student Care Manager will be our speaker. The theme is *Reaching for Wholeness*. We will learn about ways we can support this program that is a national provider of substance use treatment and support services for college age young adults. All are welcome.

Habitat: Can you help? Presbyterians are scheduled next to work on the Habitat House Saturday May 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are committed to 5 adults and making lunch for 20. See Prue Dana after the service to sign up.

Special Guest for Next 4 Months: Mr. Tim Bredemeier, a senior at Kings High School, will be developing a profile of the heritage of the Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Church as the focus of his Eagle Scout project. During the first phase of this project Tim will be interviewing church members who were members of the Seminary congregation and who are willing to share their stories and memories which he may videotape. In addition, Tim's activities may involve creation of visual historic displays and/or publications which will enhance an understanding of our Seminary heritage. It is hoped that his project completion date will coincide with the grand reopening of the Seminary building later this summer.

Tim will be working under the guidance of a support team consisting of Arly Allen, Chuck Crain, Scott Parkinson, Bill King and Mary Jane Roberts. You may be contacted by Tim or a member of his support team over the next few weeks to share your stories and memories. If you have any questions or contributions you might make, please feel free to contact someone on his support team. Thank you in advance for sharing your stories of our rich heritage that will inspire our ministry for years to come.

* * * * *

Hello friends!

My name is Ashley Boyle, I'm a sophomore architecture major at Miami, and on most Sundays, I sing in the front row of the choir. While at Miami, I have been awarded a grant to pursue research about religious architecture in northern Spain. To complete this research, I'll be hiking El Camino de Santiago this summer. While I was awarded this grant for academic reasons, I am also interested in the pilgrimage aspect of El Camino. I would love to include my church family in this journey. *Since the Camino is about 500 hundred miles, I hope to raise \$500 for emergencies or any other contingencies. The average day of hiking is about 18 miles. I respectfully invite you to consider sponsoring me for a day or two or even more!* My hopes for telling the congregation about this pilgrimage opportunity are not only to ask for your prayer, support and encouragement, but also to use this as an experience to connect more deeply to the church.

Peace and blessings,
Ashley Boyle

Sunday, April 22

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

Monday, April 23

Tuesday, April 24
10:00 Church Showing (Knolls)
12:00 Staff Meeting (Molyneaux)

Wednesday, April 25

6:00 League of Women Voters (Molyneaux)

Thursday, April 26

6:30 APNC (Molyneaux)
7:00 Youth (Youth Room)
7:30 Chancel Choir (Geneva Room)

Friday, April 27

Saturday, April 28

10:00 A.A. (Molyneaux)

Sunday, April 29

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

Pastor: Lawrence H. Bartel

Clerk of Session: Julia R. Fisher

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Sunday, April 22, 2018



Oxford
Presbyterian
Church U.S.A.

101 North Main Street | Oxford, Ohio 45056
513-523-6364 | office@oxfordpresbychurch.org

oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on 