

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: Elena Albarran**

(Note on Image: An Icon depicting the Acts of the Apostles by Jacques Guillet SJ)

WE GATHER in GOD'S NAME

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"The Gift of Love"
arr. Barbara Harbach

CHORAL INTROIT

"Will You Come and Follow Me?"
John L. Bell & Graham Maule

*CALL to WORSHIP

One: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

All: **We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?
We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

Our congregation and Sunday School, our campus and community, is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.
We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!
We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

*HYMN – *"This Is the Day"* #391
"Jesus Loves Me!" #188

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,
You who taught thousands
And yet were willing to learn from the least of these,
We confess that we pretend to know
When in truth we still wonder.

Forgive our pretense,
That we may open ourselves to
unexpected teachers,
To fresh ideas,
To one another,
To you.

Vulnerable Christ,
You who lived in generous love,
We confess that we have closed ourselves off,
That we have seen so much suffering
That we stop looking
Rather than see and respond to those in need.

Forgive our neglect
That we may care for one another
And follow in the example you set for us.
In your name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ,
know that you are forgiven always
and freed to begin anew
through God's everlasting mercy and love.
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

O God, the Three in One,
you draw us into your community of love
with people across the ages and around the world.
By the same Spirit that binds us together,
speak to us that what we read and ponder may
enliven us and inspire us to trust and follow you;
through Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

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 – *"The World Around Us"* Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*HYMN – *"Be Thou My Vision"* #450

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Coming Home"
William J. Kirkpatrick and Mary MacDonald

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN – *"Woke Up This Morning"* #2082

*BLESSING

Disciples of our Christian faith,
go now in great expectancy,
knowing that teachers can be found
in every corner of creation.

And now in the wholeness
and the salvation of God, we go forth.
We go out and laugh with our friends,
to reconcile with those who have hurt us,
to receive all as we would receive
Jesus Christ himself.
Now and forevermore. Alleluia! Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"Go Now in Love and Peace"
Patrick M. Liebergen

*POSTLUDE

Toccat Postlude on Beethoven Themes
arr. Christopher Uehlein

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.**

Acolyte: Noel Albarran

The flowers on the communion table are given by Amy McGoldrick with Thanksgiving for her church family.

Mission Partners Prayer List:

Presbytery of the Miami Valley: First Presbyterian Church, Bellefontaine

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

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, John Curry, Tracy DeGood, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Breanna Kinneman, Ruth Miller, Jan Reinhart, Becky Rudolph, Charles Skipper, Sarah Soika, Joan Teckman, Dave Wilson, Stacey Winn, John and Jean Woodruff
Email prayer requests to Janet Holmes, holmest2@frontier.com, call Pat Roberts, 513-255-0549 or email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

Join us in the Courtyard following service for our Welcome Back Picnic – All are welcome!!!

MINISTRY NEWS:

Welcome Back Picnic: Welcome Back!! Miami Students, summer vacationers, new and continuing members of the congregation....EVERYONE is WELCOME!! Please join us for a celebration picnic after worship in the courtyard. LaRosa's finest pizza, salad, and cookies will highlight this time of food and fellowship. All are welcome!!

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 September, the dates are 11 and 25. If you would like to join us, but need a ride, just give Becky a call at 523-5747.

The Tuesday Afternoon Circle will meet on September 18th in the Country Kitchen at 1:30. God's **Promise, I Am with You** is the lesson book for 2017-2018. Books are available for \$10, see either Prue Dana or Lynn Cronk. The First Lesson is *God with Us Wherever We Are and* will be led by Lynn Cronk. Becky Quay will read the Mission Yearbook and Karen Shearer will conduct the Least Coin. Visitors and New Members are invited to join this Circle for their first meeting of the new school year. An optional lunch for \$8 is available at noon in the café preceding the meeting. If you wish lunch, please contact Rosemary Fisher by Friday September 15th. Please join us on the 18th for lunch and Bible Study. If you are not able to make lunch you can just attend the biblical study which has a scripture from Psalms each month plus another biblical scripture.

Adult Christian Education:

- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" - Informational meeting on Thursday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Molyneaux Lounge. This will be an 8-week series (weekly commitment) beginning end of September through Thanksgiving. Led by Billie Maynard. Anyone in the choir who wants to be part of the study but can't make the informational meeting, please email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org if you are interested.

***** (tear here) *****

Tear this portion of your bulletin and place in the offering plate or Administrative Assistant mailbox.

Presbytery Stated Meeting at OPC - Tuesday, September 11

Presbytery meal: if you plan to join us, please sign-up in the Molyneaux Lounge, September 2nd and 9th. Or fill out this portion of your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Yes, I/we will be staying for the meal.

Name(s): _____

The CROP Hunger Walk: Sunday, September 23, 12:30 p.m. beginning and ending at the Uptown Parks. Join Greek and non-Greek student and community people in this Walk to end hunger. The signup and pledge envelopes are available after church and at the walk. Please see Prue Dana to sign up.

Welcome, Miami Students! Our church is offering Bed and Breakfast accommodations for Family weekend September 28-29, 2018 and for graduation 2019. Call the church office, 513-523-6364, for details.

Memorial Service: A Service of Witness to the Resurrection of Tom Wilson will be held on Saturday, September 15 at 11:00 a.m. at OPC.

Mark Your Calendar: Oxford Presbyterian Church Mission and Outreach Committee, with CE, MEF, Music and Worship and Session are hosting a **Rise Against Hunger Event** on October 21, 2018. There is an excellent video about Rise Against Hunger on the website. Please sign up for this event at <http://events.stophungernow.org/OxfordPres2018>.

MINISTRY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 9

- 8:45am Confirmation Youth and Parent Breakfast Meeting (8th-9th Grade) (Art Classroom)
- 9:00am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00am Lectionary Bible Study (Preschool Room)
- 10:00am Worship
- 10:20am Sunday School
- 11:10am Welcome Back Picnic (Courtyard)

Tuesday, September 11

Presbytery Meeting – All Day Event (Memorial Church / Seminary)

- 10:00am DVD Showing (Knolls)

Wednesday, September 12

- 6:30pm CE (Youth Rom)
- 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance (2nd Pastor's Office)

Thursday, September 13

- 7:00pm Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Info. Meeting (Molyneaux)
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Geneva)

Friday, September 14

- 7:00pm Harmonic Brass Concert (Memorial Church Sanctuary)

Saturday, September 15

- 10:00am A.A. (AV Room)
- 11:00am Memorial Service – Tom Wilson (Memorial Sanctuary) (Reception – Seminary)

Sunday, September 16

- 9:00am Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00am Worship
- 10:20am Sunday School
- 11:10am Fellowship in the Molyneaux
- 11:30am Confirmation Youth and Parent Informational Meeting (8th-9th Grade)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Sunday, September 9, 2018



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on