
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: Matt Lykins

(Note on Image – as we move from the season of Advent into the season of Christmas, we continue to feature the photography from our mission journeys to Russia and Colombia. As we ponder the continuing story of Mary and Joseph as their young boy, Jesus, continues to grow, we remember families all around the world who bear the image of God and that we are all bound together as God's one family on earth.)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose is Growing"
setting Robert Benson

CHORAL INTROIT

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
late medieval melody, words by Joseph Simpson Cook

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 148

One: Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise him in the heights!

**All: Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

Praise him sun and moon and shining stars!

Heavens above and waters below.

Kings, and peoples, and rulers of the earth.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.**

Let us worship God!

***HYMN** – *"God the Sculptor of the Mountains"*

#5

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of wonder, you surround us with signs
of your glory and surprise us with your presence,
yet we often miss the marvels you place before us.
Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways
you make yourself known, that we might be
witnesses to your good news and proclaim your
extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ God saved us,
not because of any good works that we have done,
but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES & LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

With hope, peace, joy, and love,
the Light of Christ has come into the world.

Now, the moment presses forward.

**The weight of longed-for grace
bears down upon a weary world.**

**The whole creation has been groaning
together in labor pains until now.**

How beautiful is this child who heralds grace,
mercy, and peace into the world!

**Let us open ourselves to the mystery of God's love made
flesh. May Christ be born again among us.**

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**By the breath of your Spirit inspire us,
that in the hearing of your Word
we may be filled with new understanding
and fresh desire to please you in all we do,
for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Luke 2:41-52

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – *"Catching Up to the Divine"*

Pastor Marc

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – *"Once in Royal David's City"*

#140

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head"

American folk melody, arr. Kevin Robison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Colossians 3:14

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union
with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
that we may be Christ for others.
In his name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** – *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

#119

*BLESSING

Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

May the Christ inhabit you,

the Creator uphold you,

and the Spirit sustain you,

now and forever.

Amen! Thanks be to God!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"Amen"

traditional African-American

*POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

arr. Norman Dello Joio

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 our neighbors.**

Greeters: Steve and Carol Flee

Acolyte: Eric Staley

The flowers on the communion table are given by Jim and Billie Maynard celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary, December 27.

Mission Partners Prayer List:

Presbytery of the Miami Valley:

The Presbyterian Church, Hamilton

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, Sarah Soika, Joan Teckman, Dave Wilson, Stacey Winn, John and Jean Woodruff

Email prayer request to Janet Holmes, holmest2@frontier.com, call Pat Roberts, 513-255-0549 or email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

Fellowship hour following worship hosted by the Deacons.

MINISTRY NEWS

Tuesday Evening Circle: The Evening Circle is meeting January 8 at the home of Jane Baer, 131 E. Spring St., 523-5127. Sue Wilson is doing the program and Karen Simpson will do the devotion. Seeing Jane in her home is always a meaningful experience.

Anyone needing a ride should contact Karen Simpson, 523-8363, k.simpson2007@yahoo.com.

Tuesday Afternoon Circle: The Tuesday Afternoon Circle will meet on January 15 in the Country Kitchen at 1:30 p.m. Reservations for the optional noon lunch are due to Lynn Cronk by Friday, January 11. Pat Gifford will be leading the lesson; Karen Shearer will conduct the Least Coin and Lynn Cronk the Mission Yearbook. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

Lesson Four is "God with Us When We Seek God". The Opening Psalm states, "...for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you."

Backpack Food Program: Many children who receive free and reduced-price school meals are left without the nutrition they need on the weekends and holiday breaks.

The Backpack Program, a partnership between St. Mary's and the Shared Harvest Food Bank, aims to reduce this nutrition gap by discreetly supplying 175 students from Kramer, Bogan and Marshall schools with a bag of food each Friday throughout the school year.

The cost to sponsor one student for a year is \$50, though any amount is welcome. Checks can be made to Oxford Presbyterian Church with "Backpack Food" in the memo line.

This is a Mission and Outreach Committee collaboration with St. Mary's as we address local food insecurity. Any questions, please contact St. Mary's at 523-2153.



Spirit of Scotland 2020: The Spirit of Scotland, an eight-day guided tour exploring our sacred heritage, led by Pastor Lawrence in coordination with Rev. James Wallace (Church of Scotland). Ecumenical and welcoming, interested friends and neighboring congregations are invited to join us in May 2020 for this exciting spiritual journey.

A brochure and complete itinerary will be available in January.

Tour Information Meetings: Sunday, January 13, at 11:30 a.m., and Thursday, January 24, at 6:30 PM, in The Seminary.

Inquiries can be addressed to the following:

Rev. Lawrence Bartel, pastorlawrence@oxfordpresbychurch.org, (315) 369-5225; Ellen Buerk, ebuerk@hotmail.com, or Will Hazleton, hazletwa@miamioh.edu, (513) 461-1812

Offering Envelopes: The numbered offering envelopes are in the Narthex. Please pick them up if you requested them.

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Oxford Presbyterian Church
for a full ministry calendar, please visit:
<https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/calendar/>

Lawrence H. Bartel, Pastor
Marcel van Bulck, Associate Pastor

First Sunday after Christmas



Sunday, December 30, 2018



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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on