
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.

Will Rand, Guest Pianist

Liturgist: Katie Payne

(Image on cover: A pilgrim in the Labyrinth at Columba's Bay on the Isle of Iona, Scotland)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Christian Education

PRELUDE "Reflections on God to Enfold You"
John Bell

CHORAL INTROIT "Lamb of God"
German Chorale, arr. F. Melius Christiansen

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by Psalm 63 and Isaiah 55)

One: Come into the sanctuary and look around.
Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.
All of us – rich and poor, employed and unemployed
and desperately hanging on.

All: Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.

We believe God's steadfast love is better than life,
so let our lips praise God as long as we live.

We also often doubt God's love.

**We often doubt that God will really
provide when it matters.**

But this is what matters today:

God said, "Come all who are thirsty, come to the water,
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat."

**All of us – rich and poor,
employed and unemployed
and desperately hanging on.**

**So with faith – both bold and timid –
let us worship God!**

***HYMN** – "Listen, God Is Calling" #456

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In these days of information overload,
let us look and listen deeply for the call
of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Enlightening Spirit, when we are blinded to your truth
in the midst of screens that never turn off
and voices that never stop speaking,
have mercy on us O Lord.
Clear our eyes and open our ears to your wisdom.

Challenging Spirit, when witnessing to your truth
seems to take more courage than we have,
have mercy on us O Lord.
Grant us strength, resilience and determination.

Surprising Spirit, when we settle for half-truths
that tear families, communities and nations apart,
have mercy on us, O Lord.
**Show us your way of life in all its abundance
as you invite us to build your Beloved Community.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Come, all who are thirsty, come to the water.
Drink and have your fill.
Live with mercy and you shall receive mercy.
God's well of steadfast love will never run dry.

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

**Shine upon us, God of glory,
And by your Spirit reveal to us
The grace and truth of Jesus Christ,
Your Word made flesh. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

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

A reading from Isaiah 55:1-9

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 – "Here and Ho" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine" #839

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Father, Forgive Us"
Craig Courtney

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

*BLESSING (Isaiah 55:12-13)

**Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"
SOUTHWELL, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*POSTLUDE

"Troubled Water"
Margaret Bonds

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: Jack and Pat Gifford

Acolyte: Autumn Saylor

The flowers on the communion table are given by Cy and Diane
Young in celebration of their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, Jean Butterfield,
John Curry, Tracy DeGood, Mel and Jean Derickson, 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 hosted by Karen Shearer on behalf of the Oxford
Presbyterian Women.

Special Thanks to Will Rand, a first-year student at St. Olaf
College. Will is providing the special music today. Will is majoring
in piano performance and has minors in conducting and
composition. He also plays French horn in a St. Olaf College
orchestra. We are grateful for his participation and his willingness
to share his talents with us. We are also grateful to his
grandparents, Bill and Ginny Scott (Chancel Choir members) for
their efforts in making arrangements for this meaningful worship
experience.

MINISTRY NEWS



The Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice:

All week, a large canvas labyrinth will be available in the Seminary Church for prayerful walking and meditation.

Experience this spiritual practice on your own or in a group. If you or a group would like to reserve a time to walk the labyrinth, please contact our church office. *Wednesday morning, March 27 from 9-11 a.m. the labyrinth will be open for anyone who would like to stop by the Seminary Church to engage this ancient and yet contemporary Christian spiritual practice.*

OPC Lenten Study 2019: Please join us **TODAY, from 11:30-1:00 at the Seminary. Topic of Discussion: "Walking the Labyrinth", facilitated by Pat Gifford.** Experience meditation in motion! Learn a bit about the origins of the labyrinth and methods often used for meditating while walking. We'll try different methods and then discuss our experiences.



Last Week for Early Bird Registration:

If you ever dreamed of walking the historic streets of Edinburgh and Stirling, sauntering across the holy isle of Iona, witnessing the majestic beauty of the Scottish Highlands, or

exploring St. Andrews' ancient university and golf course, the "Spirit of Scotland" is for you. The tour leader is Pastor Lawrence in coordination with Rev. James Wallace (Church of Scotland). Ecumenical and welcoming, interested friends and neighboring congregations are invited to join us for this exciting spiritual journey, from May 25 to June 2, 2020.

A brochure, with the dates, itinerary, costs, booking form, and credit card payment information, is available on the OPC homepage: <https://oxfordpresbychurch.org>. Click on "Spirit of Scotland" under News, Events, and Calendar. **Early Bird Deposits (with discount) are due March 31, 2019**, and we are encouraged by the enthusiastic response to date. Printed information is also available outside the church office.

Inquiries can be addressed to the following: Pastor Lawrence Bartel, pastorlawrence@oxfordpresbychurch.org, (315) 369-5225; Ellen Buerk, ebuerk@hotmail.com, or Will Hazleton, hazletwa@miamioh.edu, (513) 461-1812. We are available to meet with interested participants, answer questions, or supply additional information. Please join us for this incredible journey of the heart, mind, and spirit in exploring our sacred heritage.

Easter Special Music Fund and Spring Flower Fundraiser:

This year Spring flowers will be placed at the front of the church on Easter Sunday. Cost is \$16.00. **Orders are due by April 15.** Order forms are available outside the church office.

Presbyterian Youth Spring Retreat: Youth from grades 7-12 can attend. This is being held at Kirkmont Center on April 5th - 7th, and it's free to go! If you're interested, pick up a permission form at the church office. **Permission forms are due March 30.** If you have any questions contact our Youth Director, Jake Smithers at Youth@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

Deacons' Lenten Food Drive: The Oxford Choice Pantry will be relocating their facility to Merry Day Park and rebranding as Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPSS). Our church has a goal of contributing \$10,000 dollars towards this facility. As has been our annual tradition, the Deacon's Lenten Food Drive will run until Sunday, April 14th.

This year the money donated for the Deacon's Lenten Food Drive will be applied towards our Church's \$10,000 goal to support TOPSS. Donations can be placed in the offering plates with the note "Lenten Food Drive" on the memo line of the check or on the outside of the envelope if the donation is cash. Thank you for your support of this worthy and necessary effort. Canned good and boxed pasta will also be gladly accepted, please place these in the basket located in the back of Church.

Installation Service for the Rev. Marc van Bulck:

The installation of Rev. Marc van Bulck to Oxford Presbyterian Church as the new Associate Pastor for Family and Campus Ministries will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, March 31st in the Memorial Building Sanctuary at 4:00 P.M.

O.P.W. Spring Friendship Breakfast: You are invited to the Oxford Presbyterian Women's Spring Friendship Breakfast, Saturday, April 6, 10:00 a.m., at the Seminary (*Please note this changed date. *) We're have a Pot-Luck breakfast buffet. Please bring an item to share (coffee cake, do-nuts, bagels, egg casserole, quiche, grits, etc.). Coffee, juice and fruit will be provided. Bring a friend!

College Student Dinners and Discussions! As the Spring semester comes to a close, all college students are invited to join us for two dinners coming up (Sunday, April 7 and Sunday, May 5). We will gather for a warm, delicious meal, and a casual, conversational topic discussion led by Pastor Marc. More details (when/where) will be announced soon, so mark your calendars!

Presbyterian Youth Triennium: We are going to Purdue University to attend Triennium this summer, July 16th - July 20th! This is for incoming freshman to graduated seniors. The price to attend is \$100. If you're interested in going, register at https://triennium-medical.pcusa.org/participant_information/. **Registration due by April 14th.**

Maundy Thursday: April 18, 2019 at The Knolls. We will begin with a light supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by our worship service at 6:15 p.m. Contact the church office, 513-523-6364 or office@oxfordpresbychurch.org, to make your reservation. **Meal reservation at a cost of \$10.00 per person due by April 15. No reservations required to attend the Worship Service only.**

Become A Member of Our OPC Family! We welcome all interested people to explore membership at the Oxford Presbyterian Church!! To find out more about the Presbyterian Church and specifically the Oxford congregation, please let Pastor Marc, Pastor Lawrence and/or Bridgite know that you are interested, and join us for a New Members Experience in Marc's office on May 5th, 12th, and 19th at 9:00 A.M.

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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**

Third Sunday in Lent



Sunday, March 24, 2019



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

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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on