
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: Janet Ziegler

(Image on cover: "Peace" by John Stuart, a Scottish pastor serving Erin Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY – Membership, Evangelism and Fellowship

PRELUDE "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"
arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

All: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

Prepare the way for the Lord:
A just and peaceful path!

Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:
For the glory of God!

***HYMN** – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #82

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh God, you call us to turn our lives around, and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon.
Holy One, Have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community to prepare the way for your Reign, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.
Christ, have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.
Holy One, have mercy. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The promise of the season of Advent is the promise of Emmanuel, God with Us.

Jesus, savior from our sinful choices, is present with us in the painstaking work of the Reign of God forgiving our weakness, rebuilding our relationships, restoring our joy.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

*SHARING THE PEACE

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent is the time of waiting and anticipation as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives once more. Like a family prepares a home for the arrival of a baby, we prepare our hearts for the arrival of God's own beloved Child.

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth appeared in the wilderness proclaiming, "One who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but that One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**John prepared the way in the wilderness.
We prepare the way in our hearts.**

On this second Sunday of Advent, we re-ignite the candle named Hope. Today, we light the candle named Peace. May this light shine to remind us that God is the Hope and Peace that can never be extinguished. Amen.

(As the candles of Hope and Peace are lit, and the congregation sings vs. 2 of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #85.

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish the darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.*

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, and the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

A reading from Matthew 3:1-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HOMILY – "Hide the Marshmallow" Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***HYMN** – "There's a Star in the East" #135

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "The Yearning"
Craig Courtney

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN** – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 3) #119

*BLESSING

**Go forth in peace,
alert for the signs of the reign of God:
Wait in hope, turn toward love, practice peace,
Have confidence in the Good God.
Alleluia! Amen.**

***POSTLUDE** "Lift Up Your Heads"
arr. David Cherwien

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Please sign the friendship pads found at the end of the pew and pass them to our neighbors.**

Greeters: Dale and Ginny Layton

Acolytes: Elias and Gabriel Jones

Wreath Candle Lighters:
Aaron Garner, Caleb Orr, Kate Trybus, Ellie Wilmes

Congregational Concerns: Betty Barnhart, John Curry, Bob Douglass, Nancy Gates, Genee Hesse, Chris & Hank Krueger, Ruth Miller, Jan Reinhart, Becky Rudolph, Sarah Soika, Joan Teckman, Stacey Winn, Joe Wespiser, John & Jean Woodruff.

Email prayer request to Janet Holmes, holmest2@frontier.com, or email the church office, office@oxfordpresbychurch.org.

Cookie Walk and Craft Sale: Sweets for the Sweet! Post sales of cookies and SERV items are available after church in the Molyneaux Lounge before heading to the Seminary for fellowship. All Proceeds Benefit the Missions of the church

Fellowship Hour hosted by Mickey Simonds and Ellen Buerk on behalf of the Deacons. **Please join us in the Community Room of the Seminary following worship.**

MINISTRY NEWS

"Called to Life!" Congregational Retreat: Join us immediately following worship service for a two hour congregational retreat from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Seminary. All are ENCOURAGED to participate in this retreat whether or not you were able to participate in the small groups this fall.

NEW! Children's Activity Bags are available for little ones to use during worship. The bags are located just inside the narthex doors.

Advent Devotionals: Advent began Sunday, December 1. This rich and meaningful season prepares us for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Devotionals are available in the Molyneaux lounge.

Safe Haven Farms: Come help us decorate Safe Haven Farms Community Center. Today - Sunday, December 8 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will meet in the alley behind the Memorial Church at 1:30 p.m. to carpool or you may go directly there. **The address is 5970 No Mans Road in Middletown, OH.** You do not need to bring anything except a joyful heart and a willingness to bring a festive feeling to these farmers.

Youth Group: Scavenger Hunt Night at Youth Group! Meet in the upstairs youth room for dinner starts at 6:30 P.M. Bring a friend...hope to see you there!

Service of Comfort: Join us Wednesday, December 11, for our annual Service of Comfort in the Sanctuary of the Memorial Church at 3:00 p.m. All are invited!

Mitten Tree: This year the Mitten Tree is sprouting shoes! Yes, mittens and shoes growing on the same tree! **Suggested donations are \$40-50 for mittens and \$12.50 for shoes.** Just take the mitten, shoe, or both from the tree and bring them into the Molyneaux where you may leave the item with your donation.

Church Services at The Knolls: Join us December 10 & 17 at The Knolls at 10:00 A.M. in the Activity Room, as we view a recent Presbyterian Church service on DVD. Pastor Marc will be joining us on December 17 and his visit will include communion.

Celebration at the Manger: Join us for an annual Oxford tradition! Celebrate the story of the Nativity with our children and youth on Sunday, December 15 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Hope to see you there!

OPW Christmas Tea: The OPW Tea will be held on Sunday, December 15, in the Molyneaux lounge at 2:30 p.m. There will be a rousing Carol Sing with Jean Derickson at the piano and Karen Simpson will share a favorite Christmas Story. Make it a Jolly Holiday with tea, cookies and friendship!

CCNS Christmas Presentation: You're invited to the CCNS Christmas Program on Thursday, December 19 and Friday, December 20, 2019. The classes will be performing Christmas songs in the Sanctuary at 11:30 before dismissal.

Let's Go Caroling! Hear those sleigh bells ringing? If not, they will be soon! **Save the date of Friday evening December 20** when MEF will coordinate our annual Christmas Caroling. We will gather at the Seminary Church around 5:30 p.m. and head out in groups to sing and bring cheer to those members who can't make it to church. We will return to the Seminary for a light dinner. ALL are welcome!! We will be joining forces with our youth as caroling is the first activity of their Lock-In!!!

Youth Lock-In! Bowling, Christmas Caroling, and Food! Middle School and Senior Highs are invited to our annual overnight lock-in on Friday, December 20th. We will be meeting in the Seminary Building at 5:30 p.m. More details forthcoming.

It's A Wonderful Life! Join us for a special Seminary Cinema screening of the classic holiday film in the Seminary Building on Sunday, December 22nd. Pre-film discussion with Matt Benzing begins at 3:30 p.m. Film starts at 4:00 p.m. Bring your children and grandchildren...hope to see you there!

Save the Date: Celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas season with your church family at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24** at the Christmas Eve Service.



For Your Offering: OPC invites you to choose the most convenient giving avenue so that we may all fully participate in our ministry and mission. Offerings of *checks* and *cash* are

always welcome in the offering plate. To give *online* both conveniently and securely, scan the QR code on the pew card (example left) with your phone and follow the brief prompt. You may also access the same online giving opportunity from your computer at <https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/Give>. To give via *text message*, text opc1825 and your designated amount to 73256. For example, text "opc1825 25" to 73256 for an offering of \$25 and follow the prompt. Questions? Contact office - office@oxfordpresbychurch.org

2020 Stewardship Campaign: As of December 3 we have received a total of 112 pledges, totaling \$352,000. We are just about to the \$360,000 mark! Thank you! If you haven't pledged yet and plan to, please do, we need this projection to plan the 2020 ministry budget. Your Gifts Matter!

Kiwanis Bell Ringers: There is still a need for Bell Ringers during the Christmas Season in support of the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle drive. Numerous 1-hour shifts remain available. Simply go to www.oxfordkiwanis.org, click on volunteer opportunities, and sign up for a vacant shift or shifts. All proceeds are directed to the Oxford Family Resource Center.

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

Lawrence Bartel, Pastor
Marc van Bulck, Associate Pastor
Kent Peterson, Music Director ~ Lynn Jacobs, Organist

Second Sunday of Advent



Sunday, December 8, 2019



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

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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on