

Welcome, we’re glad you joined us!

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.



Connect with us by signing the friendship pads  
found at the end of the pew and passing them to  
your neighbors. Visitors, please scan the QR code.

(Image on cover created by Carmelle Beaugelin of Sanctified Art)

\* Please rise in body or spirit

Liturgist: Debbie DeGennaro

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – “All Earth Is Hopeful” arr. David Cherwien

\* CALL to WORSHIP (Inspired by Mark 1:4-11)

One: In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee  
And was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water,  
He saw the heavens torn apart  
And the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

And a voice came from heaven,  
"You are my Son, the Beloved;  
With you I am well pleased."

All: God was speaking in those days, through prophets,  
Preachers, and voices from the sky. Glory!  
God is still speaking today, through Christ in us,  
The hope of glory.  
And so in these days, we will not fail to rise up,  
And shine, and say:  
I am a child of God.

\* HYMN – “Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing” (vs. 1 & 3) #475

\* PRAYER of CONFESSION

Jesus our Christ,  
We confess that too often we live  
As though we are fearful, not faithful.  
When we encounter the waters of  
Chaos and confusion,  
We don’t easily pass through them,  
We obsess about the height of the water  
Instead of your abundant life on the other side.

You promised to walk through the rivers with us.  
Help us believe.  
And help our unbelief.

Forgive us once more, O Lord, amen.

\* ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Thus says the Lord who created you and formed us in  
God’s image:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
And when you pass through the rivers,  
They will not sweep over you.”

This is the good news!

Truly, each one is Christ’s beloved.  
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

Sacrament of Baptism – Nico, Emilio, & Adela Morales  
Children of Katie Day Good and Alejandro Morales  
Sponsors: Noel Albarrán, Carla Blackmar Rice, Elena  
Albarrán

Invitation  
Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to  
Celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.  
There is one body and one Spirit.  
There is one hope in God’s call to us.  
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
One God and Creator of us all.

Presentation

Questions for the Family and Congregation

Congregational Covenant  
Do we promise, through prayer and example,  
To support and encourage Nico, Emilio, and Adela  
To follow in the way of Jesus Christ?  
We as a community of faith promise to care for Nico,  
Emilio, and Adela by our acts and by our way of life.  
We join with others who will teach them  
The joy of God’s world.  
We join with those who will love them  
And care for them.  
We are glad to share ourselves with them  
As they grow in faith, wisdom and love.  
We are by this affirmation united with them  
As children of God and  
Members of the body of Christ.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

HYMN – “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Child of blessing, child of promise,  
Baptized with Spirit’s sign,  
with this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Saving God, source of our calling,  
Your Word is full of power and glory.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so  
That we may receive your grace  
And live as your beloved children;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE by HEART – Mark 1:4-11 Pastor Lawrence &  
Prince Oduro

Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – “The Gladdest Thing of All” Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* HYMN – “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry” #488

\* THE APOSTLES’ CREED pg. 35

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER  
(Lord’s Prayer on pg. 35 of Glory to God saying sins...sin)

MUSIC for OUR OFFERING – “Down to the River to Pray”  
traditional spiritual, arr. Sheldon Curry

(Scan the QR code to the right or go to  
<https://onrealm.org/oxfordpresbychurch/-/give/now>  
to give online)



\* DOXOLOGY – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #606

\* PRAYER of DEDICATION

\* HYMN – “Out of Deep, Unordered Water” (vs. 1 & 3) #484

\* BLESSING

As you leave this place,  
May you go knowing that from generation to generation,  
We have been claimed and loved.  
From generation to generation,  
Jesus our Savior, is our loving and faithful guide.  
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow  
Knows you by name, loves you,  
And calls you forth, saying,  
“Go be the person I’ve called you to be,  
Love generously, serve the world,  
And come back soon.”  
Alleluia! Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

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The flowers on the communion table are given by Cornelia Browne. "There are only 2 ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle".... Albert Einstein.

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**Congregational Concerns:** Jim Baer, Fred and Mary Jane Brower, Jean Derickson, Sandy Douglass, Genee Hesse, Amber Stitt, Peggi Stitt (Email congregational concerns to the church office: [office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org))

MINISTRY NEWS

**Adult Christian Education - "The Chosen" Discussion Series**  
Oxford Presbyterian Church invites you to join us for a discussion series on the popular program, "The Chosen" presented by the Christian Education committee. This 5-week series will meet on Thursday evenings in the new Molyneaux Lounge at 6:30 p.m. We will watch an episode of the program each week followed by a guided discussion. Use the link (<https://oxfordpresbychurch.org/the-chosen-discussion-series/>) to access the suggested readings ahead of the watch night.

This intergenerational program is open to adults, children, youth ages 12 and up and includes warm beverages. For more information, please [contact the church office](#).

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**Tuesday Afternoon Circle**  
The **Tuesday Afternoon Circle (TAC)** will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Pavilion at the Knolls on January 16. All women are welcome! Contact the [church office](#), 513.523.6364, with your questions.

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**Congregational Retreat**  
Our church has been listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit for God's call in our ministry for the coming years. Join us for our Congregational Retreat on Saturday, January 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Seminary Community Room. We will be discerning our priorities for our mutual mission, ways to deepen our discipleship, and opportunities for greater impact.

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**Annual Meeting of Congregation**  
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 21st. Join us as we give thanks for our response to Christ's call as a covenant community throughout 2023.

Printed copies of the 2023 Annual Report are available online and in the narthex, and office hallway. Please contact our church office for copies of the 2024 annual budget as well as the forthcoming 2023 financial statements.

**Chancel Flower Request**  
Chancel flowers are needed for January 21 and 28. Please contact the church office at 513-523-6364.

The cost of the flowers is \$25. Payment can be mailed to Nick F. at the church, 101 N. Main St., Oxford, OH.

Thank you for your support.

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**OASH (part of the Eradicating Systemic Poverty Team)**  
Oxford Area Solutions for Housing (OASH) presents a community planning meeting addressing: Homelessness in Oxford--Planning for Response and Prevention. Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, January 22 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Seminary Church. Pizza and beverages provided.

No special skills are required! If you have questions or would like to join us, please respond to [oash@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:oash@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

All are welcome!

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WEEKLY MINISTRY CALENDAR		
15 <sup>th</sup>	OPC Offices Closed	In Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday Afternoon Circle Meeting	1:00pm (Knolls of Oxford Pavilion)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Art Class - Jean Vance	6:00pm (Seminary Church – Community Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Session	7:00pm (Memorial Church)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Deacons Training	5:30pm (Memorial Church – Molyneaux Lounge – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Deacons Meeting	7:00pm (Memorial Church – Molyneaux Lounge – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Christian Ed – Discussion Series: "The Chosen"	6:30pm (Memorial Church – Molyneaux Lounge – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Congregational Retreat	9:00am (Seminary Church – Community Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Congregational Meeting	Immediately following worship service

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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**

Baptism of the Lord Sunday



January 14, 2024



Oxford Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

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[oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://oxfordpresbychurch.org)

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