

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: Capernaum looking toward the first century synagogue)

\*Please stand in body or spirit

Liturgist: Terry Smentana

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT for MINISTRY – Caring for Creation  
Carla Blackmar Rice

PRELUDE – "When Morning Gilds the Skies"  
arr. Anna Laura Page

\* CALL to WORSHIP

One: God created all races and nations of the world  
And willed that we thrive together in abundant living.  
All: We are one family in Jesus Christ.

As we struggle for wholeness one relationship at a time,  
Jesus struggles with us.

As we strive for peace one day at a time,  
Jesus strives with us.

As we offer our gifts in worship,  
Jesus blesses us.

Friends in faith, let us rejoice -  
For we have gathered from north and south,  
east and west to worship the Living God!

\* HYMN – "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #268

\* PRAYER of CONFESSION (Inspired by Mark 1:21-28)

Friends in Christ,  
What hopes do you bring to worship?  
We bring hope for health and wholeness.

In today's gospel,  
A person with an "unclean spirit" interrupts Jesus  
And Jesus sets the person free.  
We yearn to know Christ's powerful love  
And to know that wholeness is possible.

So come, let us enter this time of confession  
With our whole selves. Let us pray.  
Holy and righteous God,  
Who commands all spirits,  
Who comforts those in distress,  
And casts out destructive forces,  
Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Amen.

\* ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS & GREETING of PEACE

In the midst of struggle, dis-ease and affliction,  
We know that we are made in God's image  
And Jesus sees us as whole and good.  
So may we celebrate the Lord in our midst  
Through opportunities of healing and wholeness.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!

A TIME with YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

UNISON PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding.  
Bring to our yearning hearts and minds  
The truth of your Word: in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE by HEART – Mark 1:21-28 Mike Rudolph

Holy wisdom, holy Word.  
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – "Just Then" Pastor Lawrence

23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man  
with an unclean spirit,  
24 and he cried out,  
"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?  
Have you come to destroy us?  
I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying,  
"Be quiet and come out of him!"

27 They were all amazed,  
and they kept on asking one another,  
"What is this? A new teaching—with authority!  
He commands even the unclean spirits,  
and they obey him.

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* HYMN – "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord" #43

\* THE NICENE CREED pg. 34

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 – "Make a Joyful Noise" GF Handel

(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 – "Give Thanks, O Christian People" #644

\* BLESSING

As you leave this place,  
may you go to a world fully known and loved by God.  
Where there is fear,  
We will remember the authority of Christ Jesus.  
Where there is need of love,  
We will give it.  
Where there is pain,  
We will bring peace.  
For we are loved by the One who saves  
So that our lives may be a blessing to others.  
Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE – Toccata Postlude on Beethoven Themes  
Christopher Uehlein

WE DEPART TO SERVE

\*\*\*\*\*  
The flowers on the communion table are given in memory of  
Cathy's birthday. Catherine Lee Rentsch Fey would have been 78  
on January 27, 2024. In loving memory by her family.

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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 Ed - "The Chosen" Discussion Series

All are welcome to join us for "The Chosen" discussion. This series  
meets on Thursday evenings in the Molyneaux Lounge at 6:30  
pm. 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.

MINISTRY NEWS (continued)

Next Community Blood Drive

Community Room of the Oxford Presbyterian Church Seminary  
(on the corner of Church and Poplar)

Friday, February 2, 2024  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (note new time)



Appointments Preferred

Scan QR code to the right or call 937.461.3220

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Mark Your Calendar – Ash Wednesday

February 14 will be here before you know it. That brings us Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday. Once again, we will share a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese, and fruit. The meal will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Seminary Church, followed by our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:15 p.m.

Presently we need 4 volunteers to make a crock-pot full of soup. Please let Karen Shearer know if you can do this. Others may bring bread, cheese, or fruit.

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Tuesday Evening Circle (TEC)

The Tuesday Evening Circle will meet on February 6th at 6:45 pm in the home of Stephanie Hartman. We will be discussing Lesson Five, A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus in our Horizons Bible Study, Sacred Encounters.

Guests and new members are always welcome to come to our Circle for Bible study and Friendship!

Call the church office for details - 513-523-6364.

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

Please return this portion of your bulletin to the church office

OPC Community Meal - Wednesday, January 31

Seminary Church – Community Room  
104 E. Church St. (On the corner of Church and Poplar)

Contact Bill Fisher through the office.

Volunteers needed to:

Setup 4:30 pm \_\_\_\_\_ Serve 5:30-6:30 pm \_\_\_\_\_

Clean-up 6:30-7:30 pm \_\_\_\_\_

I can bring: Chili \_\_\_\_\_ Bread \_\_\_\_\_ Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Honored Women

Once again, the Presbyterian women are seeking nominations from our congregation for the Honored Woman Award. This award recognizes that person who has given faithfully and selflessly to the betterment, growth, and outreach of Oxford Presbyterian Church. Please nominate by means of a letter indicating contributions made to the church. Letters must be received by March 3, 2024, to Honored Women Committee ([office@oxfordpresbychurch.org](mailto:office@oxfordpresbychurch.org)) or placed in the Honored Women Mailbox at church. If you have questions, please direct them to Lynn Cronk.

Thank you for your participation in this project that gives Honorary Life Membership to those that honor faithful service to Presbyterian Women and to the church. More than a thousand women (and a few men) receive this honor annually.

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WEEKLY MINISTRY CALENDAR

28 <sup>th</sup>	Bell Choir Rehearsal	11:30am (Memorial Church – Geneva Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
31 <sup>st</sup>	OPC Community Meal	5:30pm (Seminary Church – Community Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Personnel Committee Meeting	6:30pm (Memorial Church – Molyneaux Lounge – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Called to Life Meeting	4:00pm (Memorial Church – Meeting Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting	5:30pm (Memorial Church – Meeting Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
1 <sup>st</sup>	Adult Christian Ed – Discussion Series: “The Chosen”	6:30pm (Memorial Church – Molyneaux Lounge – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
1 <sup>st</sup>	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm (Memorial Church – Geneva Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Scripture by Heart Meeting	8:30am (Memorial Church – Meeting Room (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Community Blood Drive	9:00am (Seminary Church – Community Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bell Choir Rehearsal	11:30am (Memorial Church – Geneva Room – 1 <sup>st</sup> floor)

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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

Fourth Sunday  
of Epiphany



January 28, 2024



Oxford  
Presbyterian  
Church U.S.A.

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