

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.

Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available
from ushers.

(Image: Dove ascending from the Jordan River at the traditional
site of Jesus' baptism. Photo by Greg Hughes.)

* **Please rise in body or spirit**

Dave Kraushar, liturgist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT for MINISTRY – All Church Retreat John Bailer

PRELUDE – *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* arr. Wilbur Held

* **CALL to WORSHIP** (Inspired by Isaiah 43)

One: Now thus says the LORD, the One who created you:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
All: I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters,
**I will be with you, and through the rivers,
They shall not overwhelm you;**

**Alleluia! God is our salvation!
From generation to generation,
We worship the one who calls us
Beloved in the waters of baptism!**

* **HYMN** – *"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"* #475

* **A TIME with ALL DISCIPLES**

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT
Invitation

Confession of Sin and Profession of Faith
And so I ask you,
Will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?
We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

**Reject the evil powers of this world,
And repent of our sin.**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets
To the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us
To resist evil, injustice,
And oppression in whatever forms
They present themselves.**

Will you proclaim the good news
And live as disciples of Jesus Christ,
Members of his body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,
Put our whole trust in his grace,
And promise to serve him as our Lord,
In union with the church which Christ has opened
To people of all ages, nations, and races.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water
The Spirit of the Lord is with us.
Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.
O God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus
Christ will never die...
... Speak to us once more your great good news of life,
And pour into us afresh your love, stronger than death,
Until we can all rise, and each in our own voice proclaim,
I am a child of God.

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!
Come upon these waters.**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.
**Let these waters remind us of your
Righteousness and justice.**

Let these waters renew in us
The resurrection power of Jesus.
**Let these waters fill us with hope
For your now and coming reign.**

Most Holy God!
Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!
Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters,
Spirit of holiness!
Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!
All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

*All are invited to come to the baptismal font, dip your
hands into the water, and renew your baptismal vows with
joy and thanksgiving. You are welcome take a stone to
remind you of this reaffirmation of your baptismal
covenant.*

* **SHARING THE PEACE**

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 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON – *"When Jesus Stepped Forward"* Pastor Lawrence

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* **HYMN** – *"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"* #488

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 Appalachian, 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** – *"He Came Down"* #137

* **BLESSING**

As you leave this place,
May you go knowing that from generation to generation,
**We are claimed and loved by God
In the waters of baptism.**

Jesus knows you by name and sends you out, saying,
**"Go be the person I've called you to be,
Love generously, serve the world,
And walk with me every step of the way."
Alleluia! Amen!**

POSTLUDE – *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*
arr. Janet Linker

WE DEPART to SERVE

The flowers on the communion table are given by Cornelia Browne. Good health to all.

Congregational Concerns

Jim Baer, Fred & Mary Jane Brower, Steve Dana, Sandy Douglass, Amber McClelland, Peggi Stitt. Email congregational concerns to the church office (office@oxfordpresbychurch.org).

MINISTRY NEWS

Campus Ministry – Food for Thought

Food For Thought, our campus ministry small group, will meet on Sunday, January 12, directly following worship. We will gather in the Molyneaux Room for fellowship after church and then walk uptown for lunch (Pastor Marc’s treat), fellowship and topic discussion with Pastor Marc.

Adult Christian Education – Small Group Bible Study

All are invited to join us in the Memorial church meeting room following worship service. The book, *Believe and Live*, guides our study and discussion of John's Gospel. This small group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays.

Adult Christian Education – “The Chosen” Discussion

Oxford Presbyterian Church invites you to join us once again for our discussion series on the popular program, “The Chosen,” presented by the Christian Education Committee. This 5-week series meets on Thursday evenings in the Molyneaux Room at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 16. We will watch an episode of the program each week followed by a guided discussion. Scan the QR code to access the reading list.

This intergenerational program is appropriate for adults and youth ages 12 and up. For more information, please contact the church office.



All Church Retreat

The process of listening and discerning how to live a life of meaning and purpose is important for each of us and is a core value of our congregation. It is a common challenge for us as individuals, and this is a common thread throughout all of our ministries.

You are all invited to join us on January 18 for an all-church retreat. The theme of our retreat is calling - both individual and congregational. In anticipation of the Lenten season, we also will discuss spiritual practices to assist us in starting or continuing to discern our individual calls. The retreat will be held from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary church.

An RSVP is requested to help us with room set-up and to ensure sufficient snacks and beverages. In addition, please contact the church office (office@oxfordpresbychurch.org) to let us know if you have any childcare needs and to let us know you’re coming. If you forget to reply, don’t worry - still come. You are welcome!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held after worship on Sunday, January 19. At this meeting, we will receive the 2024 annual report, review the 2025 ministry budget, and approve the pastors’ terms of call.

We will give thanks to God for a faithful, wise, and vital congregation as we follow the Holy Spirit into this new year.

Tuesday Afternoon Circle (TAC)

The Tuesday Afternoon Circle will meet on January 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Knolls. The optional lunch will be at 12 p.m., also in the Boardroom. Please remember to call Lynn with your reservations for lunch by January 14. Visitors and guests are always welcome to join this group.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of MINISTRY

12	Campus Ministry – Food for Thought	11:30 a.m. (Lunch location to be determined)
12	Adult Christian Ed – Bible Study of John	11:30 a.m. (Memorial church – meeting room)
14	Worship and Music Meeting	5:30 p.m. (Memorial church – meeting room)
14	Trustees Meeting	6:30 p.m. (Memorial church – Molyneaux Room)
15	Christian Education Meeting	6:30 p.m. (Memorial church – meeting room)
15	Deacons Meeting	7:00 p.m. (Memorial church – Molyneaux Room)
16	Adult Christian Ed – The Chosen	6:30 p.m. (Memorial church – Molyneaux Room)
16	Chancel Choir rehearsal	7:30 p.m. (Memorial church – Geneva room)
18	All Church Retreat	9:00 a.m. (Seminary church – community room)
19	Congregational Meeting	Immediately following worship service (Memorial Sanctuary)

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 12, 2025



Oxford Presbyterian Church
U.S.A.

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oxfordpresbychurch.org

Find us on &