

FROM PASTOR MARC'S DESK...

It's hard to believe that it's been almost three months already!

\From trips to Kofenya with college students, to overnight lock-ins with the youth at the Seminary Building, to dog walks at Hueston Woods, and to being able to help lead worship with Pastor Lawrence, the past few months for me have been a joyous introduction to the Oxford community and all of its warmth and hospitality.

As we continue to get to know one another, I thought it might be helpful to offer you just a brief snapshot of what I've been up to over the last few months as we also look ahead together to the coming year. On the Family Ministry side of things, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our Director of Youth Ministries, Jake Smithers, as I serve as his staff supervisor. Jake is a remarkable young man with a great heart and a clear passion for service to the Church. I have enjoyed getting to know him and look forward to working with him more as he seeks to serve the ministry of our young people here at OPC. Jake and I will also be working together with MEF and the Christian Education committee to strive to enhance the role of our young people in worship and in the life of the church.

\Speaking of Christian Education, I am dearly grateful to Jenn Walter, Candace Crist, Jenny Bailer, Sarah Mapel, and the entire Christian Education committee as they have welcomed me to their team. As you read in Pastor Lawrence's article this month, Adult Christian Education is hard at work putting together a series on Spiritual Practices during the season of Lent...and the response has been truly remarkable. This is a unique opportunity to deepen our spiritual journey inward together during this intentional liturgical season.

On the Campus side of things, it has been such a delight to get to know Carol Klumb. Carol and I are hard at work as we speak putting together various learning and fellowship events and opportunities for our college student community here at OPC for the Spring. In addition, I was honored and humbled to be invited to serve as an advisor on the executive board of the P.C.S. (Progressive Christian Students) organization at Miami University. In this role, I will be joining this group of Miami students on-campus once a week as they dialogue informally together about their faith, their development of their spiritual journey, and how we as Christians create welcoming spaces of hospitality, generosity, and inclusion on-campus and beyond.

This is just a small snapshot of what has been marking my calendar over the last few months. Speaking of marking calendars, don't forget to mark yours! Oxford Presbyterian Church has tentatively scheduled my formal installation service as the new Associate Pastor for Family and Campus Ministries in the Memorial Building on the afternoon of Sunday, March 31st. We will be welcoming guests and worship leaders from our Miami Valley Presbytery as well as some of my dear friends in ministry who will be joining us in worship. I hope you will, too. Stay tuned for more details about this over the coming weeks...

I could not be more thrilled to serve with all of you here in the Miami community at Oxford Presbyterian Church. This is a very special church with a remarkable history and a joyous community of friends. May God bless and receive our gifts and our lives this year together.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Marc