

“Who is Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) and what’s going on here?”

CPC is located at 1720A University Avenue in Oxford, Mississippi 38655. Our phone number is 662-234-3399 and our website is www.christpresoxford.org. Our elders are Johnny Barrett, Franck Dayan, Toby Griggs, Doug Sanford, Lee Tyner, Jeff Hooker (assistant pastor), and Curt Presley (pastor). Our deacons are Peyton Atchley, Andy Edwards, Kevin Gardner, Colbert Jones, Joey Jones, Brian Simmons, Shannon Singletary, and John Thomas. Our youth minister is Kyle Routh, our coordinator of women’s and children’s ministries is Susan Tyner, our international intern is Melvin Manickavasagam, and our office administrator is Katrina Colston.

CPC Statement of Identity

By the grace, work, and power of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Christ Presbyterian Church is an in-town community of believers committed to glorifying and enjoying God according to the Scriptures through Christ-centered worship, the making of disciples, and acts of love and mercy.

Denominational Affiliation

CPC is a part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Please visit the PCA website at www.pcanet.org and our own church website to learn more about us.

PCA/CPC Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Saviour of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?"

Family Worship and Discipleship

We desire for CPC ministries to complement, not replace, the equipping ministry that takes place in the home. To that end, we encourage CPC members to worship – study God’s Word, pray, sing - as individuals and as families. We cannot overemphasize the importance of individual and family worship and discipleship.

Sunday Morning Worship

In general, we desire for all CPC worshippers to come *prepared* and ready to *participate* in our worship services. Sunday morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m. We celebrate the Lord’s Supper every first Sunday morning (and, as given below, every third Sunday evening). It is our general practice to preach through books of the Bible. Occasionally, topical sermons will be preached. We encourage our families here to make corporate worship a priority (see Hebrews 10:24-25).

Sunday Evening Schedule

First Sunday:	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Worship
Second Sunday:	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Shepherding Groups Kids' Café
Third Sunday:	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Worship; Lord's Supper
Fourth Sunday:	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Shepherding Groups Kids' Café
Fifth Sunday:	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meal Congregational Meeting

NOTE: Nursery is provided on Sunday nights (including during Sunday night worship) for families with small children. We believe that evening worship provides good opportunities for parents further to train children to participate in corporate worship. Parents should feel free to take children in and out as necessary during these times to discuss issues or administer discipline.

Children's Christian Education¹

Children's Sunday School Children's and youth Sunday school classes are held from 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning. We encourage parents to take advantage of these additional opportunities for your children to study and apply the Scriptures. For those who have had children baptized in a PCA church, attending Sunday school (for you and your child) can be another way for you faithfully to keep the promise you made at your child's baptism "... to set before him/her a godly example, ... [to] teach him/her the doctrines of our holy religion, and [to] strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him/her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Children's Church We desire for our covenant children to worship with the whole Body as soon as they are able to do so. For some, that takes longer than for others. In an effort to help our families here, CPC offers an optional Children's Church for children ages 3 and 4 (as of September 1). This includes a children's church curriculum and is staffed by different teachers each Sunday. Children attending Children's Church are dismissed from Sunday morning worship before the corporate prayer.

Sunday Evening Kids' Café Kids' Cafe takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for children ages pre-K through 6th grade. This ministry includes supper (prepared at the church) and other various activities. A nursery is available for younger children.

Memory Work Memorization of Scripture and the Catechisms is encouraged. Each Sunday, and at Kidz Café, there are folks sitting at a memory work table near the back of the church building ready to hear folks recite recently memorized Scripture and catechisms! This is open to adults as well!

¹ We generally see *all* "Christian education", indeed *all* ministry at CPC, as directed toward equipping saints of all ages for the work of ministry (Eph 4) in accordance with the Great Commission (Matt 28) and Great Commandments (Matt 22). For the sake of clarity, we have divided up the ministries in this handout.

Vacation Bible School One week each Summer, we hold a Vacation Bible School here at the church. This is a great opportunity to introduce unchurched kids (and their parents) to the gospel.

Children's Choir CPC generally has two or three children's choir programs per year for kids ages 3-6th grade. Practice is on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Supper is provided.

Adult Christian Education

Adult Sunday School Generally, we have two or three adult Sunday school classes each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Our current model of Adult Sunday School is based on the quarter system. Every fall and spring quarter, we offer an OT and a NT study. We do this so that class participants can work through every book of the Bible over a fixed period of time. Every winter quarter, we offer classes on specific issues of theologies (e.g., the doctrine of Scripture, etc.). In the summer, we offer 3 or 4 shorter studies that address topical life issues like Christian marriage, evangelism, finances, parenting, etc.

We would like to expand the number and subject matter of our classes as teachers and additional space becomes available. Each of the classes offered provide additional opportunities to study the Scriptures which alone are "God-breathed and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16-17).

Women's Bible Study Each fall and spring on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., women from the Oxford community gather to fellowship, study Scripture, and pray. This is a *great* way to meet new people and build relationships centered on God's Word, and it is a great way to introduce people to the Bible. Both the morning and the evening studies are held at the church (nursery provided for morning study). Copies of the curriculum are made available to each participant.

Men's Prayer Luncheon For men who desire mid-week encouragement, CPC hosts a prayer luncheon at the church every Wednesday from 12-1 where men come together for fellowship and prayer in small groups.

Men's Bible Study On Friday mornings, several men's Bible studies meet at the church. From 6:00-6:30 a.m., the men visit and eat breakfast. From 6:30-7:30 a.m., the men divide up into small groups to study Scripture and pray together. Study booklets are provided for each participant.

Bible Conference Each year, CPC hosts a weekend "Bible Conference". During these weekends, we enjoy being fed from God's Word through the ministry of gifted teachers and preachers.

Youth Ministry

As a general rule, youth ministry at CPC (1) is intended to be Word-centered; (2) is not intended to replace but to supplement or come alongside parents in the raising and training of covenant children (thus our focus on family worship and discipleship); (3) is part of an overall discipleship process at CPC; and (4) is based on a broad Biblical picture of discipleship (see footnote 1).

As with other age groups, Sunday school is offered for youth from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. On second and fourth Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m., the youth meet for fellowship at various church members' houses. At other times during the week, there are smaller breakfast Bible studies for youth who want to dig deeper into God's Word.

On Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m., the junior and senior high youth meet for supper, fellowship, and Bible study. These evenings are focused on **outreach** to the Oxford and Lafayette county community. We encourage CPC youth to invite young people who do not have a church home and to understand that ministry, indeed the entire Christian life, has an outward as well as an inward focus. We also desire for our youth to engage in ministry work projects from time to time so that they can put feet on their love for Christ and others.

Missions

Missions supported Seeking to witness in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth” (see Acts 1:8), CPC supports a number of missions and missionaries both locally and around the world. Currently, we support: Les and Ginger Newsom (Reformed University Fellowship at Ole Miss); Way and Amy Rutherford (Reformed University Fellowship at University of Louisville); Sal Pelicano (Beginning Again in Christ prison ministry); Steve and Sheryl Froelich (New Life Church in Ithaca, NY); Don and Fran McNeill (Uganda); Tony and Tracy Boyd (Australia); Ed and Emily Hartman (Romania); David and Stacy Bergmark (Sweden); Roger and Abi Lowther (Japan); Allen and Sandi Smith (Peru); Wycliffe Bible Translators; Streets Ministries (Memphis); Uganda Bible Institute; Third Millennium Ministries (international seminary training); Richard Pratt; Nelly Vos (France); Suzy Triplett (Thailand); Jim and Karan Romaine (New York City).

Mission Trips/Mission Work CPC has sent mission teams to sites within and without Mississippi. This past summer, a team went to Uganda seeking to dig water wells for the Uganda Bible Institute.

Mercy Ministry Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 5:45 p.m., CPC’s Benevolence Committee meets with people in the Oxford/Lafayette County area who have various needs. CPC also is involved with the Oxford Pantry and “More than a Meal” which provides food and other assistance to people in the area.

English Language Learners’ (ELL) Luncheon and English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes God has given us relationships with several members of the international community here in Oxford and at Ole Miss. Among other things, we enjoy fellowship together through ELL luncheons and our ESL classes which meet on Thursday nights and Friday mornings.

Missions Conference CPC has a Missions Conference once a year during which we consider, in a unique way, Christ’s call to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:18).

Shepherding and Fellowship

Shepherding Groups Shepherding groups meet on the second and fourth Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m. These groups give us time and opportunity to cultivate relationships, to build community in smaller group settings, and to foster a climate in and out of which we can hold one another accountable and look after one another. To use the language of the last PCA membership vow, these groups help CPC members “submit [our]selves to the government and discipline of the church ...” Currently, there are six shepherding groups at CPC, each of which includes at least one elder and his wife, and one deacon and his wife. These groups generally include times of eating/fellowship, sharing news/prayer requests, and prayer. While all CPC members are members of a shepherding group, these groups are open to visitors as well.²

² Church *visitors* cannot, however, receive the shepherding/oversight benefits afforded church *members* because church visitors have not vowed to submit themselves to the government and discipline of the church.

Sunday Evening Youth Fellowship As noted, CPC youth enjoy their own fellowship times from 5:30-7:00 on 2nd and 4th Sunday nights. As is true of adult shepherding groups, these are times for Junior and Senior High students to meet together for eating/fellowship, sharing, and prayer.

Corporate Fellowship Meals/Congregational Meetings On fifth Sunday evenings, we have fellowship dinners/congregational meetings to help people get to know one another in informal settings, to keep people up to date on what is going on here, and to give people opportunities to ask questions and give input/feedback.

Summer Wednesdays at CPC In June and July, we get together on Wednesday nights for supper and corporate prayer. There is no nursery on these nights because we want everyone, no matter how old or young, to be together as we eat and pray.

Other Fellowship Opportunities People who get here by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings enjoy coffee together. At the beginning of each school year, we host a Welcome Back Ice Cream Social for returning college students. At the end of each school year, we invite college students to a Bye Bye Crawfish Boil. On October 31st of each year, we celebrate Reformation Day with a cookout and games for children. We also have other get-togethers throughout the year.

CPC “Nuts and Bolts”

Elders and Deacons As briefly noted on page 1 of this pamphlet, in the PCA, there are two kinds of church officers, elders and deacons. These officers meet at regular times throughout the year. We encourage member interaction with officers about issues important to the members. Once a year, the officers and youth minister go on a retreat for a couple of days to pray, plan, and focus on the flock and ministry at CPC.

E and B Committees As stated on the back of our worship bulletin, “[t]he ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church of Oxford is organized and planned in such a manner as to utilize church members and their gifts in some meaningful part of ministry. It is our desire that all members find meaningful involvement in one of six areas of ministry.” These areas of ministry are divided as follows: (1) Exaltation: worship and music; (2) Evangelism: missions and outreach; (3) Education: Christian education at all levels; (4) Enfolding: fellowship groups, member care and involvement, as well as visitor care; (5) Building: building and grounds; (6) Benevolence: ministry to people in need; both within and without the CPC body; and (7) Business: business, finance, and personnel. According to Scripture, every believer has at least one gift and every gift is a gift to the church. The E and B committees provide additional ways for folks to use their gifts.

Inquirer’s and Communicant’s Classes Every Spring and Fall, CPC holds an Inquirer’s Class for people interested in joining CPC or learning more about CPC and/or the Presbyterian Church in America. A Communicant’s Class also is held each Spring for young people who are interested in learning how and what it means to be a member of CPC and the PCA.

9/2/10