

OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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# Tidings



# February 2020

**The Tidings**  
**Otterbein United Methodist**  
**Church**

176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747

Fax - (540) 433-4018

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

Prayer Ministry - (540) 434-7745

*Tidings* articles are due by the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

You may either bring articles to  
the church office or email them  
to [oumcdm@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcdm@hotmail.com)

**Saturday Night Alive**

5:30 pm

Informal Worship Service

**Sunday Schedule**

9:30 am Sunday School

for all ages

10:30 am Worship Service

Please check the calendar for  
times of regular and special  
events.

**Weekday Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm



Have you checked out our Facebook Page? You can find us at [facebook.com/OUMCHarrisonburg](https://www.facebook.com/OUMCHarrisonburg) or through the link on our website. Please check out our page and share with your friends!

**Our Staff**

**Rev. Adam Blagg**

Senior Pastor

[oumcpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcpastor@hotmail.com)

**Rev. Faith Fowler**

Associate Pastor of Health &  
Wellness

[faithfowler@vaumc.org](mailto:faithfowler@vaumc.org)

**Sandy Schaefer**

Music Director / Organist

[oumcmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcmusic@hotmail.com)

**Melissa Miller**

Office Manager

[oumcdm@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcdm@hotmail.com)

**Judy Falls**

Custodian

**Dawn Hunter**

Treasurer

[oumctreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:oumctreasurer@hotmail.com)

Office: 540-434-7747

x200 for Melissa

x201 for Adam

x203 for Dawn

x204 for Sandy

x207 for Judy

x210 for Faith

***Otterbein in Prayer***

Phyllis Albrite	Mindi Griffith	Dot Jones	Linda Stephens
Millie Bruce	Ray & Audrey	Evelyn Keane	Jane Stover
Pat Brunk	Griffith	Glen Langston	Juanita Taylor
Rev. & Mrs. Carson	Doris Hanger	Janet Liskey	Martha Taylor
Cliff Davis	Rev. Isaac Harper	Judy Liskey	Craig Thompson
Allen Dellinger	Norma Heath	Brenda Logan	Charlie Tibbitts
Lisa Ferenc	Barbara Henry	Greta Marks	Mckenzie Woods
Elaine Ford	Bennie & Gloria	Wendy	Richard Worden
Judy Grandle	Hildebrand	McDonaldson	Dennis Wright
Florence Green	John Hoffnagle	Mary Ellen	Anita Yount
Betty Griffith	Bob Jones	Rohrbaugh	

**Volunteers Needed!**

Our newly branded coffee adventure will reopen on March 17<sup>th</sup> as Just Java! We are seeking volunteers to assist with staffing the shop. The perfect volunteer would be able to work a weekly four-hour shift, commit to a 3 month time period, and be willing to learn the ins and outs of being an coffee expert. Please let Adam, Carla, or Vicki know of your interest. Training begins the first of March.



***For Your Information***

- **Tidings** deadline for the **March** issue is **Monday, February 17** by **9 am**. All groups, classes, and individuals are welcome to submit articles for the *Tidings*. Plan your activities and bring the written details to the church office or email to the office at [oumcdm@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcdm@hotmail.com) by the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Prayer Line Ministry:** Call **434-7745** anytime (day or night) to hear a prayer to encourage and give you support. To leave a prayer request: listen to the prayer, then follow the prompts to leave your request or words of praise.

## Trustees Report to the Congregation

The Trustees last met on Thursday, January 16, 2020 to discuss issues related to the upkeep of the church buildings and property.

1. **Future plans for Church Heating System**—Recently, there have been frequent leaks in the piping (heating system) with pipes rusting from the inside out. The Trustees are considering hot air systems for replacement of the church's heating system.
2. **Tree Removal**—Trees in the Elizabeth Street parking lot were removed on November 23. Parking lot funds were used to pay for this service.
3. **Mortar Repairs**—Mortar repairs to the stonework on the outside of the church will begin when weather permits in the Spring.
4. **Sanctuary Lights**—Cash day donations have been applied towards the purchase of repair/replacement fixtures/bulbs for the Sanctuary. Some of this work was completed before Christmas. Efforts continue to find replacement bulbs for the inside lights shining on the large stained-glass windows. The goal is more energy efficient lighting that will brighten the Sanctuary.
5. **Paving**—The lower parking lot (Elizabeth Street) needs to be paved. The process has begun to secure estimates and schedule the work so that this project can be completed in the Spring.
6. **Fall Landscaping**—The landscaping around the church has been trimmed by Fine Earth, Inc.
7. **New Shelving**—Two new large shelving units have been purchased for a storage room in the basement. These shelves will provide storage for cake supplies and soup kitchen use.

The next scheduled meeting of the Trustees will be Tuesday, February 16, 2020.

The current Trustees are John Liskey Sr. (chair), Connie Liskey (vice-chair), Bill Pollard (Secretary), Diane Ritchie, Liz Lawson, Richard Smith, L.J. Joiner, Kevin Andrade, and Chad Hiner. Kevin and Chad are new Trustees for 2020. The Trustees welcome your questions or comments concerning these items or any other church maintenance issues.



2020 is shaping up to be an exciting time in the life of the church and many things will be happening. You, the reader of this article, are in some way connected to Otterbein. You might be a life-long member of the church, or maybe you have recently come to know Otterbein, or maybe you call another place home but still desire the connection the *Tidings* provides. Whatever the case may be, I value your voice and, by extension, so does the Administrative Council. I will be the first to admit that at times, I feel that you, dear reader, do not value your voice as much as I do. Let me explain.

One of the biggest items of feedback that is brought up during conversations with leadership is that the larger congregation seems to not provide input on decisions that are being made within the structure of Otterbein. The most recent example that I will use is the conversation around land use and, specifically, affordable housing. Over the course of the past six months, at the request of the Administrative Council, I have addressed the work of the Land Use Visioning Team during worship on Sunday morning, through a presentation in October after a community meal, and all of our Administrative Council minutes have been available for anyone to access. There have also been several requests for feedback. Excluding the public questions at the October presentation, I have had zero inquiries about this topic. I would like to think that our communication has been so clear that no one has any questions or concerns, but that seems a bit presumptuous on my part. I have a few suggestions on how to show that you are more connected to what is happening in the church.

Before I go into my suggestions, I do want to clarify the role and current function of the Administrative Council. Three years ago, the Administrative Council was streamlined and reorganized by action of the Charge Conference. We moved from a group that primarily reported on the work of the church to a group that directed the church in a forward direction. This means that all of the reports presented to the Ad Council are done in advance and only reports that require action are addressed during the meeting. The remainder of our time is spent looking at the direction the church is heading. In 2018, this meant keeping informed of the work of the Commission on the Way Forward; in

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early 2019, this meant establishing a team to look at the future use of our property in Harrisonburg, as well as discussing the need for collaborative work with other local churches. Even though the members of the Ad Council are few, their work has been effective in helping the entire church look forward.

So how can you stay more connected to what is going on? Three ways! **First**, show up at Ad Council meetings. We meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm and rarely go longer than one hour. Meetings are open to anyone and we vote so rarely that you will never feel singled out by not being a voting member. Or **second**, add your name to our Ad Council email list. You'll receive the Council pre-read packet and minutes of the meeting. This will keep you informed of all that is discussed as well as what has been happening in other areas in the life of the church. As of now, less than 10 people receive this information! Be informed and stay connected. **Third**, give your feedback on topics we are talking about. Once you are informed, it is important that you find your agency to be a part of the process. Voting at a meeting is sometimes the least important part of any decision-making process. Hearing the views and opinions of the entire body is important. I or any member of the Administrative Council would love to hear what you have to say and let that information be a part of the decision making process.

I hope to see a dramatic increase in those of you actively informed and involved in the administrative work of the church.

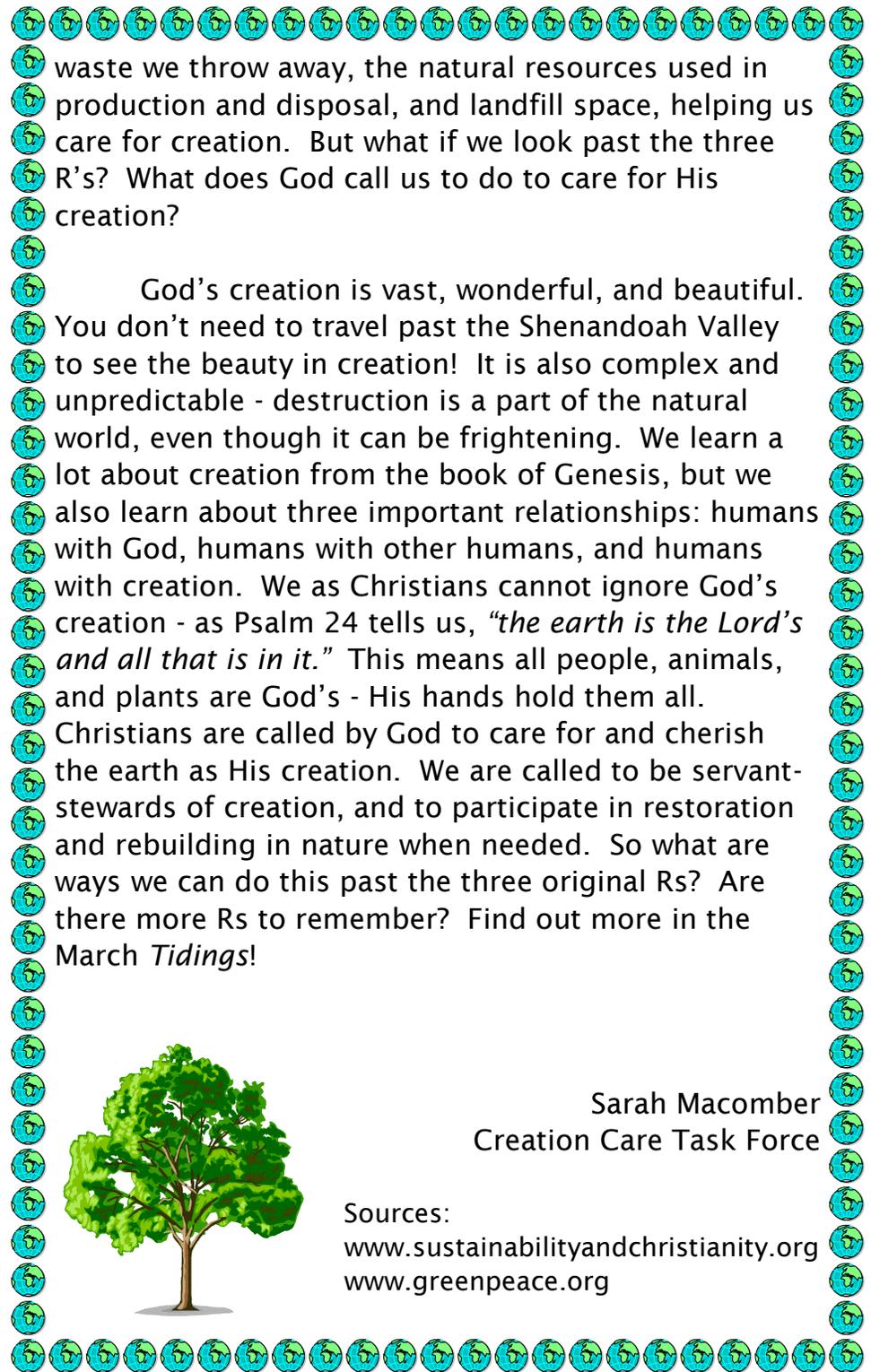
*Adam*

## Coming Soon to Otterbein!

Representatives from Helping Children Worldwide (HCW) will be coming to Otterbein to explain new strategies and

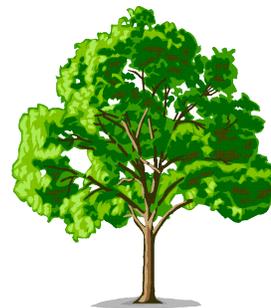
opportunities for our congregation to be engaged in the quest to bring a better life to the "poorest of the poor" in Sierra Leone.

Watch for the announcement!



waste we throw away, the natural resources used in production and disposal, and landfill space, helping us care for creation. But what if we look past the three R's? What does God call us to do to care for His creation?

God's creation is vast, wonderful, and beautiful. You don't need to travel past the Shenandoah Valley to see the beauty in creation! It is also complex and unpredictable - destruction is a part of the natural world, even though it can be frightening. We learn a lot about creation from the book of Genesis, but we also learn about three important relationships: humans with God, humans with other humans, and humans with creation. We as Christians cannot ignore God's creation - as Psalm 24 tells us, "*the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.*" This means all people, animals, and plants are God's - His hands hold them all. Christians are called by God to care for and cherish the earth as His creation. We are called to be servant-stewards of creation, and to participate in restoration and rebuilding in nature when needed. So what are ways we can do this past the three original Rs? Are there more Rs to remember? Find out more in the *March Tidings!*



Sarah Macomber  
Creation Care Task Force

Sources:  
[www.sustainabilityandchristianity.org](http://www.sustainabilityandchristianity.org)  
[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

# Creation Care Task Force

## The Rs of Creation Care

Many people are aware of the “Three Rs” - and I don’t mean reading, writing, and ‘rithmetic! We are taught three other Rs, as well: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. These three words are part of what is called the “waste hierarchy.” Reduce refers to using less, reuse is finding new ways to use things we already have, and recycling refers to helping turn what we can’t use into something new. The word “hierarchy” comes into play because we should attempt to do these in differing degrees, as seen by the infographic below:

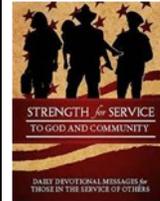


\* Recycle includes composting

In this hierarchy, by **reducing** the amount of things you buy, you then reduce the amount of things you have to find a way to reuse, recycle, or dispose of. By **reusing** the things you already have, you send less things to recycling or disposal, and by **recycling** you send less to disposal. Essentially, using this hierarchy helps to cut down on the amount of

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## Donations from Pancake Brunch Provide Devotional Books to Veterans



With generous donations received from our October Pancake Brunch, fifty-two copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community Daily*

Devotional Guides were purchased and hand delivered in January to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Pictured (L to R) are Carter Ritchie, Martinsburg VA Medical Center Voluntary Service Specialist Terri Martin, Martinsburg VA Medical Center Chaplin Service Chief T. Joseph Hardy, and Bill Pollard. A big **thank you** to those who supported this effort in any way!



Our regular breakfast/prayer meetings for the next couple of months will be **Saturday, February 22** and **Saturday, March 28**. These times of food, fellowship, and prayer begin at 7:30 am at Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton. Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us.

Our next meal event will be served up in April. Our **Spaghetti Supper** will be held in Memorial Hall on **Saturday, April 25**. Come, enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship, too!

For additional information please check our website:  
<https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>



## UMW News

The UMW will meet **Tuesday, February 11** at **11:15 am** in **Room 204**. Barbara German will speak to us about her January 30<sup>th</sup> trip to Richmond for UM Day at the

General Assembly. Anyone interested is welcome to come and hear her presentation.

The \$4 Annual Membership Dues are payable on or before the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

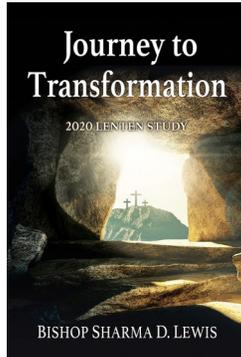
## Health & Wellness

***"Shout for joy, you heavens! Earth rejoice!  
Mountains break into joyful shouts! For the Lord has comforted  
his people, and will have compassion on his afflicted ones."***

**Isaiah 49:13**

This Scripture speaks of a promise – a promise to a people who are discouraged and despairing. When we are in the midst of illness and hardship, when there are world catastrophes and injustices, when our circumstances leave us feeling alone and afraid, it is so hard to hope and to rejoice. Yet, this is the invitation of God for you and for me. We are invited to remember the faithfulness of God in the past and trust that GOD SEES all those who are afflicted in the present, and will have compassion on each one. We are invited to believe God – one day at a time – and keep following Jesus. As we stay connected to Jesus and follow closely in his footsteps, His presence heals us, comforts us, guides us, and empowers us to be our best selves. This practice creates true health and wellness for our souls. As you consider this upcoming Lenten season, I invite you to participate in a small group devotional study that will help you to grow in your faith and be transformed by the love of God.

In her book, *Journey to Transformation*, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis (Virginia Conference UMC) shares her individual journey and invites readers to observe Lent by introspection, repentance, forgiveness, renewal, prayer, fasting, and Biblical Study. *Journey to Transformation* is divided into four sections: Lenten Devotional, Prayer, Reflection, and My Action. Since Lent is a time for self-examination and renewal, Bishop Lewis offers a "My Action" section each day to allow readers to continue to put into practice what they have read and reflected upon, and creates opportunities to be transformed. Since Sundays are not counted during the Lenten Season, this study will allow individuals and groups to further engage in introspection. On



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Sundays, "My Personal Reflections Notes" will ask you to reflect and journal on the past week's study with the following questions: (a) *What day stood out during this Lenten journey?* (b) *What did you learn about yourself and your relationship with Jesus Christ?* and (c) under the heading of My Action - *What day brought you great joy or difficulty? Why?* Finally, readers are invited to journal their own thoughts in spaces provided.

The **Journey to Transformation Small Group** will read this book and gather for discussion and sharing. We will meet for 7 weeks on **Thursdays at Otterbein from 10 – 11 am, beginning February 27 and ending April 9**. During each gathering we will discuss what we are learning and share our experiences of our journeys to transformation. Please see or call Pastor Faith to sign up.

May you be open to the new ways that God is inviting you to be transformed and may you say YES to His invitations.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Faith

To all who purchased a coconut cake for their holiday celebrations and those who volunteered their time to prepare the cakes, a big THANK YOU! We added over \$1,070 to our mission fund!!

Baking has begun for our next campaign, which will include selling cakes to family and friends to help celebrate Easter! Details to follow...

Vicki & Carla

