

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

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Tidings



December 2019

The Tidings
Otterbein United Methodist
Church

176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747

Fax - (540) 433-4018

oumcharrisonburg.org

Prayer Ministry - (540) 434-7745

Tidings articles are due by the
15th of each month.

You may either bring articles to
the church office or email them
to 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 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

Rev. Faith Fowler

Associate Pastor of Health &
Wellness

faithfowler@vaumc.org

Sandy Schaefer

Music Director / Organist

oumcmusic@hotmail.com

Melissa Miller

Office Manager

oumcdm@hotmail.com

Judy Falls

Custodian

Dawn Hunter

Treasurer

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

Ruth Batten

Millie Bruce

Pat Brunk

Rev. & Mrs. Carson

Cliff Davis

Allen Dellinger

Ann Dellinger

Jo Ellen Dickenson

Ted Enosaki

Lisa Ferenc

Elaine Ford

Judy Grandle

Florence Green

Betty Griffith

Jodi Griffith

Mindi Griffith

Ray & Audrey

Griffith

Doris Hanger

Norma Heath

Barbara Henry

Silas Herndon

Bennie & Gloria

Hildebrand

John Hoffnagle

Bob Jones

Dot Jones

Steve Joseph

Evelyn Keane

Janet Liskey

Judy Liskey

Pem Liskey

Greta Marks

Jack Ridder

Mary Ellen

Rohrbaugh

Anna Joseph Sheets

Linda Stephens

Jane Stover

Richard Stroop

Juanita Taylor

Martha Taylor

Craig Thompson

Charlie Tibbits

Emily Tran

Mckenzie Woods

Richard Worden

Dennis Wright

Anita Yount

Kim Zigler

Stewardship Campaign

There is still time to turn in your 2020 Pledge Card
and Discipleship Questionnaire! Please be sure to do
so by December 31—the pledge information will help
us finalize our 2020 Budget. Thank you!



For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the January issue is **Monday, December 9 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 by the 9th.
- **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 Tuesday, November 12, 2019 to discuss issues related to the upkeep of the church buildings and property.

Tree Removal—Trees in the lower parking lot were scheduled to be removed on Saturday, November 16. Parking lot funds will be used to pay for this service.

Roof Repair—Repairs to the roof above the Sanctuary have been completed by Largent. No leaks have been noticed since the repair. Mortar repair/replacement will be completed by Bill Holden; plaster in the Sanctuary to be repaired following that.

Fall Cash Day—Cash day donations will go towards the purchase of repair/replacement fixtures/bulbs to brighten the Sanctuary. Problems continue in the efforts to find replacement bulbs that will fit/work in our current Sanctuary light fixtures.

Church Van Repairs—Repairs to the air conditioner on the church van have been completed and the van has been state inspected.

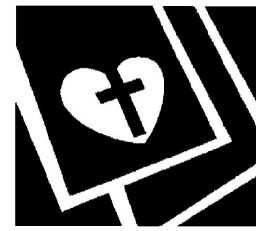
Playground Work—Mulch has been replaced, the cover over the structure has been replaced, and the fence and gate repaired by L.J. Joiner. *Thanks, L.J.!*

Kitchen Items—The kitchen fire suppression system and fire extinguishers have passed annual inspection. The evaporator coil in the large refrigerator has been replaced. There was some discussion concerning replacing this very old refrigerator, but no action taken.

Landscaping—Fall trimming is due. Liz Lawson will call to get an estimate and schedule the work.

Parking Lot Paving—It was noted that the lower parking lot needs to be repaved (cracks and sunken areas). While this is not the time of year to have this work done, it was suggested that the work be scheduled now to be completed in the early spring.

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Advent is a time of preparation that readies us for the celebration of the birth of Christ, as well as his return. It is the start of a new liturgical year and brings us to the first traditional celebration - Christmas! It is a busy time for all of us. Christmas concerts, meals with families, lots of shopping, a variety of Christmas parties, and all of the other events that keep us occupied. Because of this fast-paced season, it is important to make sure we take the time to pause for a moment or two and center ourselves on Advent. It is a good reminder as to why we are so busy, that the real meaning behind our crazy schedules is the celebration of Christ's birth. So how do we prepare for a celebration?

I would suggest taking a little time each day to engage in a routine that is life-giving, that reduces the natural stress of the season, and centers our thoughts and practices on Christ. Our Advent devotional would be a great way to start. The daily routine, even if it is added to an already established devotional practice, is a good reminder of the season we are in and why it is important. You also have the opportunity to engage on a daily basis with a service of prayer. **RISE** is hosting a **daily advent prayer service** (Monday thru Friday) at **8 am**. This provides an opportunity to engage with others in a corporate discipline that has a distinctly individual focus. Attending once a week during Advent would add to the focus of the season. During the Advent season we will also make a deeper connection between Bible Study and Sunday Worship. Our Bible Study will be using the lectionary scripture as the focus of our discussion, which should be a great connection between worship and the discipline of study.

Whatever you decide, I think it is vital to be intentional during the season of Advent, it is easy to be overwhelmed by all of the noise of the season. Allow your focus to remain intact and remember this is a time of preparation for Christ's return and celebration of this birth. Happy Advent!

Adam



UMW News

The UMW will meet **Tuesday, December 10 at 12 noon** at the home of **Jo Ann Liskey** for their covered dish Christmas Luncheon. The van will leave the church at 11:20 am.

Open Door Fellowship

The Open Door Fellowship will meet Tuesday, December 3 at 11:30 am at Skyline Buffet in Harrisonburg Crossing for their Christmas Luncheon. Remember to bring a pen to sign Christmas Cards for church shut-ins. Guests are invited.



January Tidings Deadline:
Monday, December 9 by 3 pm

Because of Christmas, we've had to adjust our regular newsletter submission, printing, and stuffing schedule.
Thanks for your cooperation!

Advent Devotional Guides are Here!

The 2019 Advent Devotional Guide is comprised of submissions by members and friends of Otterbein. Guides are available in the breezeway and sanctuary entrances at the church or can be requested by contacting the church office. If you'd like to be added to the email list to receive each devotion daily, please contact the church office (oumcadm@hotmail.com).

The Advent Mission Focus is the Charterhouse School in Edinburg, VA. They are sponsored by United Methodist Family Services and is a place for students with special needs to get out of their comfort zones and start to get out into the world. If you'd like to donate, please make your check payable to Otterbein UMC and designate "UMFS—Charterhouse School" in the memo line.

Advent Devotional Guide 2019

Otterbein United Methodist Church



Advent Mission Focus:
UMFS Charterhouse School in Edinburg, VA
CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL
Charterhouse School in Edinburg, VA, is sponsored by United Methodist Family Services and is a place for students with special needs to get out of their comfort zones and start to get out into the world. They serve students ages 6 - 22 and are able to serve the needs of Autism, neurological differences, emotional, learning, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, as well as other needs. (0000000000) If you would like to make a donation to the school, please make your check payable to Otterbein United Methodist Church and designate "UMFS - Charterhouse School" in the memo line.



Christmas Caroling
December 22 at 2:00 pm

All members of the Otterbein family are invited to join us for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 22nd beginning at 2:00 pm. We will meet in the church parking lot at 2 pm and travel to the homes of Otterbein church members who are unable to worship with us on Sundays. This is a meaningful time of fellowship as we bless others with the true meaning of Christmas through song. We need singers of all ages and abilities - come one, come all for an afternoon of fun and Christmas joy!
Questions? Contact Sandy Schaefer.

Carols of



Christmas

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Otterbein United Methodist Church

10:30 am Worship Service

Please join us for a service of Lessons and Carols
featuring the Otterbein Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.

Christmas Brunch to Support College Choir Scholarships



The **Christmas Family Brunch** is planned for **Sunday, December 8** in Memorial Hall following The Christmas Cantata, "Carols of Christmas," presented during morning Worship. All donations will support the **College Choir Scholarship Fund**. The buffet meal will feature good food and fellowship for everyone! Enjoy scrambled egg casserole with sausage, sweet rolls and hot biscuits with toppings, sausage gravy, applesauce, and a variety of drinks.



The Otterbein United Methodist Men will meet on **Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 am in Memorial Hall**. Following a short business meeting, the men will set up the dining area and prepare casseroles and other items for the Family Brunch. If you have not signed up to donate a food item or supplies for the Brunch, please contact **Bill Pollard** to see how you can help. ALL help is needed and appreciated for this to be a successful activity!



Want to know more?

Contact President Art Mitchell, Vice President Kevin Andrade, Secretary Bill Pollard or check our website:
<https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>



Health & Wellness Taught by God

The General Rule of Discipleship for the United Methodist Church is as follows:

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we enter into Advent, the beginning of the Christian year, I invite you to reflect on your life with God this past year through the lens of this general rule of discipleship. How did you do at being a witness to Jesus Christ in the world? Did you follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? What were your strengths and victories? What were your weaknesses and shortcomings? I encourage you to write your reflections and prayerfully seek the Lord as you do. Be still and receive the grace and mercy of God into your life. Be still and experience His delight in you and the forgiveness He offers you. Be still and ask God to give you a fresh vision for this next year of your life with Him. Be still and ask Him to show you how to live out this general rule of discipleship in the year to come. Be still and know that He is God.

As you do these things, I invite you to consider Isaiah 54:13 which says, ***“Then all your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.”*** I encourage you to take hold of this promise that because you are a child of God, you will be taught by God and receive His peace. I invite you to let God teach you, let God disciple you, let God be your mentor. As you study and meditate on the Scriptures, as you go to church and hear the Word proclaimed, as you connect with other Christians seeking to be like Jesus, and as you spend time in prayer and devotion, God will disciple *you*. God you guide *you* in the way that you should go and teach you how to live out your discipleship toward others. The gift of this exchange will be great peace.

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This Advent season, may you seek the Lord and reflect on your journey over the past year. May you examine your life of discipleship in the light of God's love. May you be taught by God and receive His peace. And as you do these things, may you experience sweet fellowship with Jesus, who is Immanuel, God with us.

Your sister in Christ,
Faith



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY
EndHunger.org

A big *Thank You* to Ed & Vicki Gaines, Chad & Kaylee Hiner, Richard & Becky Smith, and Carla Nemoytin, this year's gleaning teams! Our teams gleaned 2,537 pounds of produce from the Harrisonburg Farmers Market for the season. This yielded 7,611 servings of produce!! Chad and Carla have become a team since Kaylee left for college in August. We are hoping to add one more team for next year's season, which will run from the middle of May to the first several weeks in November. Only 2-2.5 hours of service every few weeks will help guarantee fresh fruits and vegetables to those who would otherwise not have access to them. We have a flexible schedule that accommodates vacations, football games, and last-minute changes. Please prayerfully consider joining the Otterbein Gleaners.