

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

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Tidings



grateful
thankful
blessed

November 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 Fallis

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

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!

Poinsettias may be ordered in memory or in honor of a loved one.
Each poinsettia is \$6.00. **Order Deadline: Monday, November 25**

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

_____ X \$6.00 = _____

Please make checks payable to Otterbein UMC with
“poinsettia” written on the memo line.
Tear off this form and place in offering plate or return to church office.

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite	Florence Green	Bob Jones	Richard Stroop
Ruth Batten	Betty Griffith	Dot Jones	Martha Taylor
Millie Bruce	Jodi Griffith	Steve Joseph	Craig Thompson
Pat Brunk	Mindi Griffith	Evelyn Keane	Charlie Tibbits
Rev. & Mrs. Carson	Ray & Audrey	Janet Liskey	Emily Tran
Linda Conrad	Griffith	Pem Liskey	Betty Karol Wilson
Cliff Davis	Isabel Guarchaj	Greta Marks	Mckenzie Woods
Allen Dellinger	Doris Hanger	James Neff	Richard Worden
Ann Dellinger	Julie Haushalter	Paul Reed	Dennis Wright
Jo Ellen Dickenson	Norma Heath	Jack Ridder	Anita Yount
Kermit Early	Barbara Henry	Mary Ellen	
Lisa Ferenc	Silas Herndon	Rohrbaugh	
Abby Fisher	Bennie & Gloria	Anna Joseph Sheets	
Elaine Ford	Hildebrand	Linda Stephens	
Judy Grandle	John Hoffnagle	Jane Stover	

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the December issue is **Monday, November 18 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 18th.
- **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, September 3, 2019 to discuss issues related to the upkeep of the church buildings and property.

1. **Storage Building**—The storage building has been delivered and the equipment (snow thrower, lawnmower) from the front porch has been stored.
2. **Roofing and Mortar Issues**—Largent Roofing has been working on sanctuary roof issues recently. Inside ceiling repairs cannot be done until roof repairs are completed. Also, a lot of mortar between the stones is loose or has completely fallen out. A mason will have to be contacted to do this work. Any suggestions of a mason to do the work are welcomed.
3. **Leased Parking Lot**—The parking lot lease with Rosetta Stone has been renewed for the paved lot on West Market and South High Streets.
4. **Kitchen Refrigerator**—The large refrigerator in the kitchen has been running continually. Harrisonburg Refrigeration worked on issues related to this problem. It was discovered that the coil has some pin hole leaks and a new coil is needed. A new coil has been ordered. A new refrigerator unit similar to the one we have is \$4,050 plus instillation and runs on propane. A decision was made not to order a new unit since the nearest service for such a unit is Charlottesville and the use of propane in the church was questioned.
5. **Playground**—The children's fenced playground area has been clean up, deteriorated picnic table removed, and area mulched. Many thanks to L.J. Joiner for working on this.

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.



If you have noticed on the piano side of the sanctuary, one of our signs recently has highlighted our vision statement: “Vitality, Focus, Collaborate.” Through the next several months, you will hear some enhanced discussion about the topic of collaboration. If you review the minutes of the Administrative Council or attend their meetings (which are open to everyone), you will discover that we are having long conversations about what it means to work intently and in depth with other local congregations. This work builds on past efforts, but also moves us into new territory which will at times seem overwhelming. As I think about the challenges of doing this, I have to remind myself that it is really not all that different than being a member of a church, it is just on a different scale.

When you join a congregation, you move your personal faith into a more public sphere. In our tradition, you make a pledge to support others with your prayers, presence, gifts, and service. That means you cannot engage the Christian faith alone, which is often the more comfortable way. When you are alone, no one challenges you to do more, think differently, or asks you to help out when others need help. As we move into a more collaborative partnership with other congregations the same applies. We will no longer be able to just take care of our own needs, but will be asked to support others in ways that might seem different.

On the other hand, when we work together, we also get

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the benefit of being supported when things are not well in our own lives. Being a member of a congregation also reaps the reward of being cared for when things are tough, being loved on those days when life is difficult, having someone to celebrate with when joy swells in your heart. In my opinion, these are benefits that greatly outweigh the perceived comfort of being alone. Being in a partnership with other congregations does much the same. A greater pool of talent to draw from to do the challenging work of the kingdom, a streamlining of ministries to be more efficient, a diversity of perspectives to face an ever difficult environment in which we do ministry. This connectional work is vital to our moving forward into a new world that will have its share of difficult moments. I hope you will keep the work of the church in your prayers as we re-imagine what it means to be the connected body of Christ.

Adam

Bible Study

Our Advent Study will begin on November 26th and run through December 17th, meeting each Tuesday at both 10 am and 6 pm. This Advent we will spend time reading scriptures that look at the return of Christ. Advent is a season of preparation, not only for celebrating the birth of Christ, but also looking ahead to Christ's return.



Advent Devotional Guide

If you signed up to write a devotion for our Advent Guide, remember that **submissions are due by Monday November 11**. If you get yours done early, go on and send it to the office...it's never too early! Submissions can be emailed to oumcadm@hotmail.com or delivered to the church office.

Otterbein's Week to Host Open Doors November 4-11

We will be housing up to 40 guests.

How You Can Help:

- Mary Earman is already lining up volunteers to cook and prepare meals. Call her if you can help (833-5213).
- Volunteers will be needed to set up cots, etc. in Memorial Hall on **Monday, November 4** at **1:00 pm**.
- Volunteers will be needed to load supplies into the van to be taken to the next site on **Monday, November 11** at **7:15 am**.
- We will need **2 volunteers each night** to stay overnight (7 pm—7 am) on **Monday, November 4** and **Tuesday, November 5**. The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints will take care of the other nights. Open Doors provides a paid Shelter Manager who stays awake all night and is trained to help in emergencies.
- **Hospitality Helpers** to talk with guests during and after supper on **Monday, November 4** and **Tuesday, November 5**.

Please contact Linda Conrad if you can help (564-3798 or lst62conrad@yahoo.com). **Thanks!** This is a wonderful ministry for the community that we need to continue to support.



Warmth, shelter and support for our homeless

Staff-Parish News

Here at Otterbein, we are so blessed to have such a wonderful, dedicated staff. We appreciate each of them and the work they do in support of the mission of Otterbein United Methodist Church.



Those on paid staff are more formally recognized every 5th anniversary. The following recognitions were given through the Staff-Parish Relations Committee on behalf of the entire OUMC congregation:

- **Dawn Hunter** has been our church treasurer for 5 years. Dawn was given a note of thanks and a gift card in appreciation for the work she does.
- As our choir director and organist, **Sandy Schaefer** has been with us for 15 years. Those of you who are regular attendees at Otterbein UMC know how much Sandy contributes to the Worship Service each week. Sandy received a note of appreciation as well as a gift card at a recent worship service.
- **Rev. Adam Blagg** has been our Senior Pastor for five years. He both supports and encourages us as a congregation and as individuals in so many ways. We thank Adam for helping us to be more effective Christians in this world. At a recent worship service, Adam was presented a note of appreciation, movie tickets, and a certificate to Vito's Italian Kitchen so that he and Christy can have a special "date night."

Health & Wellness Seasons

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

As a child growing up in New Jersey, I was always aware of the changing seasons. I liked each season for a different reason. Summer was great because of no school and family vacations. Fall was my favorite because it was my birthday and I loved the colors of the leaves as they became bright and brilliant. Winter brought with it hot chocolate and Christmas and snow days. Spring was a relief when the weather became warm again and the end of school was near.

The older I get, the more I am aware of the changing seasons of life. There are seasons filled with joy and love and life-giving connection. Other seasons are marked by productivity and overwhelming busyness. Some seasons bring with them sleepless nights and lots of worrying. Other seasons are filled with sickness or loss or debilitating grief. And for many, there are long seasons of loneliness and heartache.

I don't know what season of life you find yourself in today, but wherever you are, I pray that you would remember God. Remember His promise to never leave you or forsake you. God is with you in the good seasons and in the bad seasons and everything in between. The Lord loves you and is always faithful to you, no matter what is going on in your life. God sees. God knows. God cares.

As you walk through this current season of your life, may you lean hard into God's loving embrace. May you let Him guide you and catch you and love you. May you remember that God is in every season. He is the one person that we can always count on. May you hold fast to this truth today.

Your sister in Christ,
Faith



UMW News

The District “Looking Ahead Together” is **Saturday, November 9 from 9 am - 11 am** at **Luray UMC**. The agenda includes a

“Racial Justice” presentation, instructions for newly elected officers, and a preview of future events. The Luray UMW is providing breakfast.

The UMW will meet **Tuesday, November 12 at 11:15 am** in **Room 204** for the “World Thank Offering” and “Pledge Service”. An Executive Committee Meeting will follow the meeting to go over the budget and events for 2020.

Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook is sponsoring a **Christmas Luncheon** for the District UMW either **December 2 or December 4 at Noon**. The cost is \$15.50 and reservations are required. Refer to the UMW Bulletin Board for additional info.

Tuesday, December 10 is the **Christmas Luncheon** at **Noon** at the home of **Jo Ann Liskey**.

Update

On Tuesday, October 8, the UMW held its Harvest Luncheon in Memorial Hall with guest speaker Barbara Phillips, Vice President of the District UMW, giving a presentation on the UMW’s 150 years of mission service. The Circle celebrated lunch, a birthday cake, ice cream, and singing *Happy Birthday, UMW*. Officers were elected for 2020.

Three members attended the District Annual Meeting at Keezletown UMC on October 10. Our circle received the “Six Star Unit Award” for achieving Six Channels of Mission Giving and the “Living Into Our Purpose Gold Unit Award” for completing 20 or more of the goals set by the Virginia Conference. We completed 26. Judy Monger, Portia Pruitt, and Hazel Willi received Reading Certificates for completing Plan 1 of the UMW Reading Program.

The UMW wants to thank everyone who took part in the Children’s Sabbath Sunday on October 20.

Jo Ann Liskey plans to attend the Conference UMW Annual Meeting on October 25-26 at Reveille UMC in Richmond.

Kingsway Apple Tree Gifts

Every year in November, we work with Kingsway Outreach to help children of prison inmates have a Merry Christmas by providing gifts. Without our help, these children may not get any gifts for Christmas.

Look for the Apple Tree in the vestibule outside of the Sanctuary, choose an apple or two that you would like to purchase, and **bring the gift(s) back to the church by December 1st, unwrapped**. Please include the apple and \$3 for shipping. We can make a big difference in the lives of these children with a gift at Christmas! Imagine the child’s joy upon opening your gift!

We are also collecting #2 yellow pencils, 5x8 lined notepads, 6-ounce plastic tubes of toothpaste, and chapstick for gifts for the inmates. These items need to be exactly as listed to assure every inmate gets the same thing.

Kingsway Outreach really appreciates our participation in this project!



**American
Red Cross**

**Thanks to everyone who gave
blood at our October Blood Drive!**

College Chorale Alumni Update

Joey Mazarra received his Masters of Music from Cincinnati Conservatory after completing JMU. He has been actively singing opera at the Central City Opera in Denver and as a Herndon Foundation Emerging Artist at Virginia Opera. Recently, Joey received the high honor of being accepted into the United States Army Field Band as a member of the Soldiers' Chorus. After basic training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma (to begin in January) he will be based at Fort Meade, MD, outside Washington, D.C.



Mattia D'Affuso is beginning his 5th year as a real estate agent with TTR Sotheby's International Realty serving DC, Virginia, and Maryland. After graduating from JMU with his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Literature, Mattia pursued his Master's of Music in Vocal Performance and Education at the University of

Tennessee. Before his career in real estate, Mattia taught voice and piano privately.

Ben Swanson is in his third year as music teacher at Colonial Beach Elementary School in Colonial Beach, VA. In addition to teaching general music classes for PreK-7, he also directs the band and produces a spring musical each year. Ben is also in his second year serving as pianist and music director at Colonial Beach Baptist Church. In September 2018, Ben founded a 501(c)3 non-profit adult community choir, Connexion Chamber Choir. The choir is 32 members strong and sings a variety of accompanied and unaccompanied music.

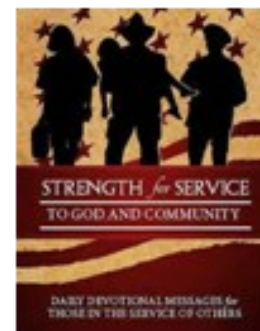


Pancake Brunch Successful!



The answer to the above question, "Who wants pancakes?", apparently was *EVERYONE!* The Otterbein Men served over 80 people at the Brunch on Sunday, October 13 after worship. As a result of very generous donations, many Devotional Guides will be purchased and given to the Veterans Center in Martinsburg, WV and to others in need.

Many thanks to those who gave of their time, resources, and energy for this meal. Special thanks go to many of our youth who served the meal – Jonathan and Elisabeth Williams, Christian and Chelsea Joiner, and Kira, Lena, and Micah Blagg. We appreciate the wonderful help they provided.



There will be no breakfast meeting in November, but on **Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 am** we will meet in **Memorial Hall** at Otterbein UMC for a short meeting and to prepare for the **Christmas Family Brunch on Sunday, December 8th** following worship service. Look for more details to follow.

Check the website below for additional information.



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>

Reflection on Spiritual Disciplines: Confession

As a spiritual discipline, Confession is one which always makes me think of something that we do not do. My mind immediately goes to the traditional Catholic practice of confessing personal sins to a priest. Whereas this is an adequate description of the practice and could easily be a part of the Discipline, it is not the only means by which to attain the desired results. We as a church have a long practice of corporate confession. Each Sunday we gather at the table for Holy Communion, we pray together a prayer of confession. One of my fellow pastors would always remind me when we were planning ecumenical services that those two acts, confession and communion, needed to happen in concert. Coming to the table without confessing our sins just did not work right.

Confession is not intended to cause guilt or erode our self-esteem, but it does function as a check on our ego and self-interest. Many aspects of our lives seem to ask us to be in control, to take responsibility and be the main actor to achieve certain results. Confession gives us the opportunity to come to grips with our own failings and remind us that our sins stand between us and the glory of God. As we confess corporately we also acknowledge the pardon that exists through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus forgave those who sinned against him while he was in ministry, while he was dying on the cross, and after his resurrection as he met with his disciples. That same forgiveness is given freely to us as well. Our traditional response, "In the name of Jesus Christ you are

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Forgiven," reminds us of the saving work of Christ on the cross. We also witness that forgiveness and grace as we partake of the bread and wine at the table of the Lord, reminding us of the power of grace made evident on a continuing basis.

Our Wesleyan roots also have a wonderful example of confession in the form of covenant fellowship groups. Wesley began his reform work with small groups of people who came together to provide accountability. Their time together involved study but also the question, "How is it with your soul?" guided a time of confession and accountability. This type of honest and open work on issues in one's own faith journey seems in short supply in our fast-paced, hyper-individualistic world. Being held accountable and holding others accountable is hard work, but it gets to the root of confession and Christian discipleship.

Besides these brief examples, there is also a need for us to acknowledge the power of my initial thoughts. Personal confession on a regular basis is a good start for a vibrant Christian life. We might not need to embark upon a practice similar to the Catholic church, but taking time to confess our sins before God on a regular basis grounds us in the understanding of who we are and who God wants us to be. I hope you take some time to consider all the ways you have engaged in the practice of confession and the ways you are still challenged to engage more fully in this spiritual discipline.

Prepared by Rev. Adam Blagg
Discipleship Ministry Team