

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

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Tidings



January 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 oumcdadm@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

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

oumcdadm@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

Baby Colton

Phyllis Albrite

Tammy Brown

Linda Byers

Mildred Byrd

Rev. & Mrs. Carson

Donna Clatterbuck

Allen Dellinger

Lisa Ferenc

Arnold Fishback

Joann Gordon

Judy Grandle

Florence Green

Betty Griffith

Doris Hanger

Barbara Henry

Silas Herndon

John Hoffnagle

Emily Joiner

Dot Jones

Steve Joseph

Evelyn Keane

Janet Liskey

Judy Liskey

Greta Marks

Evelyn Myers

Gary Nesselrodt

Margaret Pence

Jack Ridder

Anna Joseph Sheets

Sylvia Shull

Linda Stephens

Jane Stover

Richard Stroop

Eric Stum

Martha Taylor

Charlie Tibbits

Emily Tran

Mckenzie Woods

Dennis Wright

Anita Yount

Inclement Weather Policy

In case of inclement weather, the church
office will follow the status of
Harrisonburg City Schools. When the
schools close for bad weather, the office
will be closed and activities will be cancelled.
If the schools are delayed 1 or 2 hours, the
office will open at 9 am and activities will
proceed as planned. Tune in to WHSV-TV
and WSVA Radio for information about
worship service cancellations.

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the February issue is **Tuesday, January 15** by **3 pm**. 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 oumcdadm@hotmail.com by the 15th.
- **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.
- **Stamps for Mission**
Continue to save your used postage stamps and deposit them in the stamp box in the breezeway.



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!

Commission on a Way Forward

On Sunday, February 3rd, and again on February 10th, there will be presentations and discussions on "The Commission on a Way Forward" and the General Conference discussion on human sexuality. Both meetings will be held beginning at 4 pm at Asbury UMC and Adam Blagg will be co-hosting the meetings with Pastor Steve Hay of Asbury. The meetings will be in Room 300, also called Slaven Hall.

On February 3rd, the presentation will focus on the options and the decisions before the General Conference and some of the potential consequences of the plans. There will be opportunities for questions and discussions. This first meeting will focus more on the institutional questions.

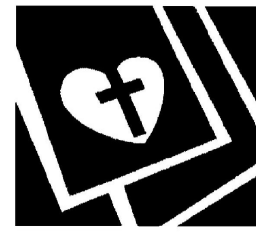
On February 10th, the presentation will be about the theological issues raised by the topic of human sexuality. The values informing the three plans will be lifted up and brief reflections on Biblical/theological approaches will be offered. Again there will be opportunities for questions and discussions around the tables. This second meeting will focus more on the personal questions.

All are invited to join in both meetings on the first two Sundays of February at 4 pm in Room 300 at Asbury United Methodist Church (205 South Main Street, Harrisonburg).



Commission on a Way Forward
Council of Bishops

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year!

2019 will mark the 125th Anniversary of Otterbein. This is an important year to commemorate what Otterbein has meant to our community and to all who have worshipped here over the years. It should also remind us of the continuity of the greater Church over a long span of time. Even with 125 years behind us, we are still quite a young church when compared to others. Several other churches in our community have been around longer; Keezletown UMC celebrated 225 years in 2016, for example. If you go looking for older churches, you can find St. John's Episcopal Church in Hampton, gathering in community since 1610, or maybe Old Ship Church in Massachusetts, built in 1681 and still in use today. Of course, in the United States, we can only go so far back until we run out of Christian history. If you happen to wander to the Holy Land, you could visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the Church of the Nativity; both were constructed in the 4th century. So, as with many things, age is relative.

No matter whether this year marks 125 or 250 or 2, it is always important for us to note that we do continue in a long tradition that stems from Jesus Christ. We might not always look the same when compared to our past or our neighbors, but we do hold to a common belief that the reason we gather is to worship God, acknowledge Christ as our Savior and move our lives in a direction that reflects those beliefs to those we encounter. We also acknowledge that we have not always done that well through our shared history, but at the same time, we continue to strive for a better expression in the days to come. So, as we celebrate this anniversary year, we also acknowledge that we still have work to do. I am glad that we have been called to do that work together. In *Tidings* during 2019, you will get a chance to revisit some memories of where we have been over the past 125 years, as well as look towards the work we are doing now. I hope you take the opportunity to engage in both.

Adam



UMW News

The UMW will meet
Tuesday, January 8, at 11:15 am
in Room 204.

Thursday, January 31 is UMW Day
at the General Assembly in Richmond.



January Outreach Project: Food Drive for the Soup Kitchen

January is the time when we have an opportunity to help our own Otterbein Soup Kitchen. We serve 40-60 people each Monday of the year. We could use donations of **large size (1 gallon, #10)**

cans of food that we use on a regular basis. They are available at Red Front, Costco, Food Lion, and Walmart. The items needed include **peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, tropical fruit salad, applesauce, peas, green beans, baked beans, spaghetti sauce, coffee, pudding** (chocolate and vanilla), **mixed greens, corn, and little potatoes**. If you are not able to get to the store to purchase an item, you may make a monetary donation to the Soup Kitchen, which will be used to buy milk and meat. Please be sure to designate "Soup Kitchen" on the memo line of your check.



Thanks so much for your generosity for this important outreach of our church!



Remote Area Medical Clinic

March 2-3, 2019



Something new and different is coming to Harrisonburg! On March 2 and 3, the Rockingham County Fairgrounds will be bustling with activity as Harrisonburg/Rockingham County hosts its first Remote Area Medical Clinic (RAM Clinic) to offer free medical, dental, and vision services to those who are unable to afford them otherwise. RAM is a non-profit organization that has been able, through the help of volunteers, to offer medical care to hundreds of thousands of people over the past 33 years. They offer clinics in large and small communities in both the US and abroad.

Over 500 volunteers will be needed to help make the March Clinic a success and organizers are expecting several hundred patients throughout the two-day clinic. There are lots of volunteer opportunities available, ranging from nursing and dental/optometry assistants to interpreters to parking attendants and patient escorts. If you would like to help at the March event, it's necessary to register directly through the RAM website (<https://www.ramusa.org/>).

Another need for the clinic that Otterbein is planning to help provide is bagged lunches and snacks for the patients and their families attending the clinic. Patients begin arriving very early in the morning to be sure to get tickets to be seen and the entire process of making it through registration and being seen by doctors can take hours. We all know how we get when we're hungry, so this is a small, but very important, way we can make the experience much better for those attending. Be sure to stay tuned for ways that you can help with this project.

If you would like to learn more about the RAM organization and their clinics, please visit their website: <https://www.ramusa.org/>. The BBC attended a RAM Clinic in Smyth County, VA, in May 2018 and has made a documentary about the care provided at the clinic, which can also be found at their website (<https://www.ramusa.org/ram-in-the-news/>).



Otterbein's 125th Anniversary Celebration

A variety of special activities are being planned to commemorate 125 years of Otterbein's history. These memorable events will be held the weekend of **Saturday, Sept. 21st and Sunday Sept 22nd**, so mark these dates on your new 2019 calendar. Watch for details and monthly *Tidings* articles as we approach this milestone celebration.

Rev. Robert Bridgers, who served as pastor from 1959-1970, wrote the first *Tidings* newsletter and included a monthly column titled "A Bit Of History." In a nod to him, facts and interesting items that occurred throughout the years will be shared each month leading up to the Anniversary Celebration in September.

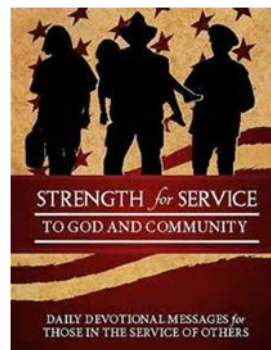
The following are some of the *Bits of History* for January (gleaned from: *History of Otterbein United Methodist Church* by Paul G. Kline):

- **January 1896**—With the first church building (a brick church) still under construction, worship services were held in a Sunday School classroom that had been completed.
- **January 1907**—Membership of the United Brethren Church of Harrisonburg (the early name of the church) was 270.
- **January 6, 1918**—The granite and limestone church where Otterbein stands today was completed at a cost of \$75,000.
- **January 19, 1948**—Twenty young adults met to establish the first mixed adult class, named "The Young Adult Class". It was intended to serve young men and women, single or married, until they became 35 years of age.
- **January 8, 1954**—A communion set of bread trays and wine trays as well as wine glass racks for the backs of each pew were given by Leona Blosser as a memorial for her husband, Emanuel Blosser. The congregation decided to serve communion in the pews where previously it was served at the altar rail.
- **January 31, 1980**—The final item of business at the Trustee's meeting was to officially name a new addition the "W.I. Good Wing".

Our regular breakfast/prayer meetings for the next couple of months will be **Saturday, January 26**, and **Saturday, February 23**. Both of these meetings will begin at 7:30 am at Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton. Our Otterbein Men's group is looking forward to another productive year serving our Lord through a number of service projects for Otterbein and the community. Check the website below for meeting and event dates in 2019.



Response to our Christmas Brunch in December was **FANTASTIC!** Donations totaled \$2,000.00 for the Otterbein College Choir Scholarship Fund! Many thanks to everyone who supported us with their prayers and who donated time, supplies, food, and money to this effort.



During 2019, the Otterbein United Methodist Men plan to continue our project to provide devotional guides (*Strength for Service to God and Community – Daily Devotional Messages for Those in the Service of Others*) to service personnel. If you would like to know more about our efforts or wish to make a donation towards this cause, please contact President Art Mitchell or Vice President Kevin Andrade.

For additional information, please check our website:

<https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

Thank you to everyone who supported our Kingsway Apple Tree Project. We delivered 90 gifts to Kingsway Ministries and they were very appreciative of our generosity. The children who received them were truly blessed!





transforming the lives of
impoveryshed children

Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Otterbein is a Ministry Partner with HCW (Helping Children Worldwide). This not only means that we give donations from the church budget, but that church members also contribute personally by sponsoring a child. We plan to feature a child each month so the Otterbein Church Family can understand the impact that sponsorship has on a child's life. Sponsorship not only includes giving a child access to education, but guarantees a meal a day and access to free medical care. Individuals, as well as groups, are encouraged to prayerfully consider sponsorship. If you would like more information on how you can change the lives of one of God's children, please contact Vicki Gaines.

JENEBA MACAVORAY

Sponsored by Bill & Susan Pollard

Jeneba Macavoray is a 14 year old female born on November 11, 2004 in Sierra Leone. She is currently being cared for by her grandmother as a result of both of her parents being deceased. Jeneba lost her mother at the time of her delivery, and in 2010, she lost her father to an illness of Typhoid Fever. Following the death of her father in 2010, Jeneba's grandmother applied for the Child Rescue Centre (CRC) scholarship program and was successfully selected.

Jeneba has no biological siblings except for cousins. Her grandmother works as a trader as a way to generate income to care for Jeneba and sustain her home. However, at the present moment, Jeneba's grandmother is not working due to being ill. This is where the amazing sponsors come into play because the monthly or annual sponsorships made ensures that despite her grandmother no longer earning any income, Jeneba still receives the necessary support to thrive and live a happy life.

continued next page...

Jeneba currently attends a school in Bo, and is in grade 9. Very soon, she will be taking the Basic Examination Certificate Examination (BECE) which will determine whether she gets promoted to grade 10. Jeneba aspires to become a medical doctor and plans to pursue medicine upon her admission to the University.

During the day, Jeneba assists her grandmother with various chores around the house, and at night, she utilizes the LUCI light to study due to lack of electricity. The LUCI light is a solar powered inflatable lamp which HCW provided to all the CRC students at the past Christmas party.

Jeneba's grandmother is very grateful to the CRC for its relentless effort in supporting her upbringing.

