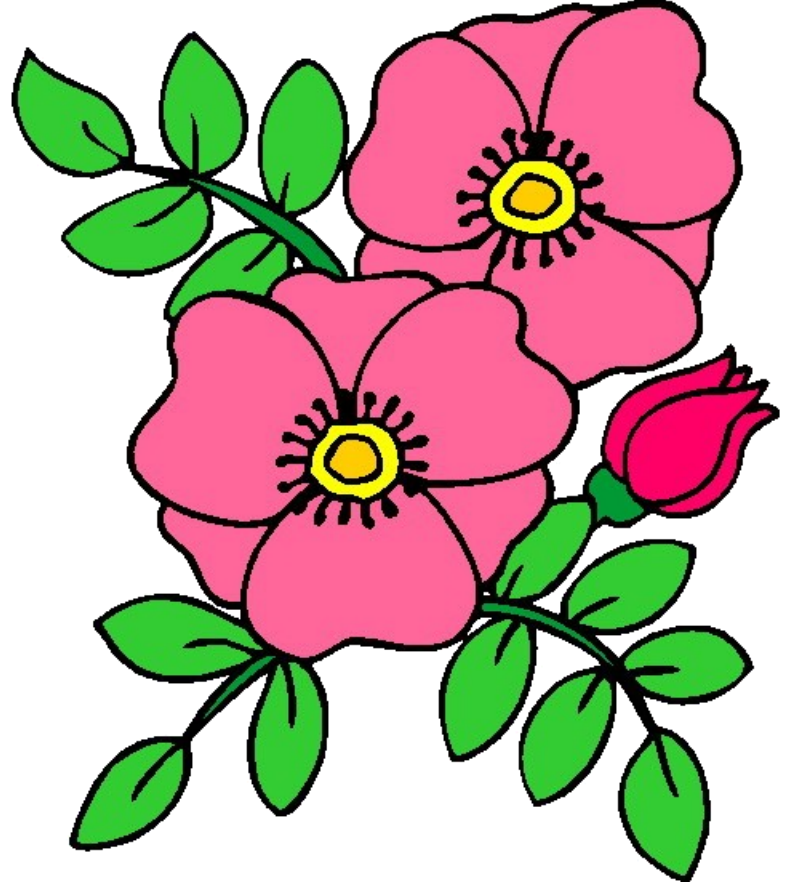


OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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Tidings



May 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
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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

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite	Judy Grandle	Silas Herndon	Janet Liskey	Linda Stephens
Greg Bailey	Florence Green	John Hoffnagle	Judy Liskey	Jane Stover
Audrey Beirele	Lynn & Betty	Aliesha Howse	Greta Marks	Richard Stroop
Linda Byers	Griffith	Charlene	Gertraud Martin	Eric Stum
Rev. & Mrs. Carson	Ray & Audrey Griffith	Hunley	Evelyn Myers	Martha Taylor
Linda Conrad	Doris Hanger	Emily Joiner	Margaret Pence	Charlie Tibbits
Allen Dellinger	Rick & Julie	Dot Jones	Woody Sanders	Emily Tran
Lisa Ferenc	Haushalter	Steve Joseph	Justin Senger	Mckenzie
Arnold Fishback	Barbara Henry	Evelyn Keane	Anna Joseph	Woods
		Bishop Lewis	Sheets	Dennis Wright

Outreach project for May and June

This time, we will be helping a local group, Mercy House, just up the street from our church. Mercy House provides food, clothes, and shelter to homeless families with dependent children while providing services to help overcome the barriers leading to homelessness. We will be helping them stock their apartment needs wish list. These items will be given to families when they get their apartment at Mercy House. *All items need to be new.*

- New pillows
- New blankets
- New bedding sets (Full or twin)
- Diapers in size 4 or 5
- Baby wipes
- Dish liquid
- Kitchen towel/washcloth sets
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue
- Laundry detergent
- Full-size shampoo
- Deodorant
- Bathroom rugs/shower curtains
- New mops, brooms, buckets
- Hand sanitizer

We will collect these items in the bin located in the breezeway entrance. Our items will be able to help families with children who are trying to get their lives back on track.

Thank you for participating in this Outreach project! If you have any questions, contact Susan Pollard @ (540) 828-4562.

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the June issue is Wednesday, May 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 oumcdm@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.

Trustees Report to the Congregation

MANY THANKS to all who supported the Church Work Day in April. Many hands assisted with projects both inside and outside the church. Work included mulching, cleanup of weeds and trash around the church property, cleaning woodwork in the Sanctuary, and giving the folding chairs in Memorial Hall a much-needed cleaning. The Trustees appreciate the time and energy spent to improve the appearance of Otterbein during Spring workday.

Spring Cash Day

In preparation for our 125th Anniversary Celebration at Otterbein in September, several areas of the church are in need of attention. This includes the updating of external doors and repair work in the sanctuary. Your extra mile giving for Spring Cash Day will support these projects and is greatly appreciated!



Isaiah 43:19 gives us familiar words as God speaks through the prophet promising to do a new thing: *“See I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* It should remind us of John the Baptist and a time of preparation; the imagery is similar, but it should also remind us of the season of Easter. New life, new things happening, new birth in Christ...all of these joyous occurrences where the Messiah is transforming creation, bringing water and life and roads where there were none. What a glorious sentiment to embrace during this joyous season of the Church.

Annual Conference Offering

Each year, churches throughout the VA Conference are encouraged to help raise money for specific mission projects designated by the Bishop.

This year's Annual Conference mission offering goal is \$150,000 and will include:



- **\$40,000**—Africa University Student Scholarships
- **\$40,000**—Cambodia Pastors Leadership Training
- **\$20,000**—Mozambique Lay Leadership Training
- **\$20,000**—Brazil "Shade and Fresh Water" Children's Program
- **\$30,000**—Just Neighbors Matching Funds Grant for Immigrant Legal Counsel in four districts

If you would like to donate to this mission project, please make your check payable to Otterbein UMC, designate "Conference Offering" on the memo line, and place in the offering plate by **Sunday, June 9**.

It should stand as a challenge to us as well. We read in the New Testament that as Christ comes forth from the tomb, his final action on earth is to reveal himself fully to the disciples and empower them to continue his work. We are tasked, imperfect as we might be, to live into the Isaiah message by doing that work. We are much less equipped than Jesus to do this, but nevertheless, when we gather as the Church, we are called to participate in this work. Our world is full of deserts, crooked roads, rocky Wildernesses, and thirsty people; our task as Christians is to figure out what specific task the Holy Spirit is leading us to tackle. During the month of May we will take time on Sunday morning to explore this in more depth. Easter is about renewal and new life; our challenge is to find the place where we are called to participate in that work. It is an exciting time to be a part of the church as we work at this together.

Adam



UMW News

On April 9, the UMW met in Memorial Hall with guest speaker Louise Jennings from Kingsway Prison Ministry giving an

interesting presentation. Asbury UMW, John Wesley UMW, and several other guests were present.

Thursday, May 9: District Executive Meeting for Unit Presidents at 6:30 pm at Mountain Valley UMC. The District UMW Officers will provide dinner for the presidents.

Tuesday, May 14: Our monthly meeting at 11:15 am in Room 204. This is our "Candle Burning" meeting.

Saturday, June 1: UMW Day at Ferrum College

Tuesdays, June 4 & 11: We will meet to assemble and pack Kits for Conference at 11:15 am in Room 204. The Kits are requested by June 2, but we will receive them through Sunday, June 9.

RISE Love Packs

Love Packs is a ministry of RISE Faith Community that helps provide food for families at Spotswood and Mountain View Elementary Schools. Each Friday, the families receive a bag with breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the family and snacks for each child to help them through the weekend.

Otterbein has volunteered to provide snacks for the month of May. Hopefully by the time of newsletter publication, we have received the snacks we need to cover the first week or two. It's not too late to help, though! Be sure to check out the bulletin board in the education hallway to pick up a tag (or two!), purchase the requested items, and return them to the church ASAP.

RAM Clinic Update



Many of you will remember hearing about the RAM Clinic that was held at the Rockingham County Fair Grounds on March 2-3. Otterbein assisted by donating 276 granola bars, 250 ham & cheese breakfast sandwiches, and 3 nights lodging. Thank you!

Below is a portion of the thank you letter we received from the RAM Harrisonburg Clinic Host Group:

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our first Remote Area Medical clinic offered in Harrisonburg, Virginia! We were able to serve 601 individuals with 856 services totaling \$304,882 in free medical, dental and vision care over the weekend of March 2-3, 2019 at the Rockingham County Fair Grounds.

Over 800 volunteers showed up to register patients; cook and serve volunteer meals; provide interpretation and translation services; treat hypertension and high blood sugar, provide mammograms, pap smears and immunizations; screen for HIV and Hepatitis C; conduct full dental exams including hygiene, fillings and extractions; and provide full vision exams including patients leaving with their brand new glasses made on site. A wealth of community resources were on site as well as lots of support from our sponsors and donors...Below, you can see patients waiting in the cold dark and freezing rain to get in to the clinic. Unfortunately, these services are greatly in need in our area and some patients were turned away once we met capacity as our ability to provide care was maxed out.



Heifer Project Report



In February and March, the Outreach Ministry Team collected donations for Heifer International. Each Sunday, we highlighted a different person who had received an animal from Heifer and told how that animal had changed their life by giving them more nutritious food, a sustainable income, and money to pay for their children's schooling. The total of our donations was \$3,000! With this money, Otterbein UMC was able to give:

- 1 heifer
- 1 water buffalo
- 1 llama
- 6 goats
- 1 sheep
- 2 pigs
- 2 trios of rabbits
- 3 honeybee hives
- 5 flocks of sheep
- 1 share of a knitter's basket
- 1 gift of clean water
- 1 set of tree seedlings
- 1 flock of hope (chicks, ducks, and goslings)

There were enough undesignated donations that we were able to make any partial shares of animals that had been donated into full shares.

We are amazed at the generosity of our congregation! Thank you to everyone who opened your heart to the needs of people around the world! We are able to change people's lives a few at a time.



It's time to eat! Time for the Annual Otterbein United Methodist Men's **Spaghetti Supper** on **Saturday, April 27** beginning at **4:30 pm** in **Memorial Hall**. The menu will include delicious spaghetti with meat sauce, tasty garlic

bread, crispy salad with choice of dressing, and a variety of yummy homemade cakes for dessert. All donations will go to support the **College Chorale Scholarship Fund**.



The Otterbein UMM participate in the national **DVDs4VETS** program. The goal of this non-profit organization is to provide entertainment to Veterans across the country who are unable to obtain movies on their own. Donors support the work of this group by giving new and pre-owned DVDs and Blu-ray movies. New, portable DVD players are also greatly appreciated. Recently, more than 60 DVDs were donated to the Volunteer Services Office-Veterans Outreach and Training Center in Richmond, Virginia. Most of this donation was made by a member of our congregation! You can help, too!! If you would like to make a donation for this project, please contact one of our officers. Contact information is found in the box below.

Our **Prayer Breakfast dates** for the next several months are **May 25, June 22, and July 27**. All meetings are Saturdays beginning at **7:30 am** and will be held at **Thomas House Restaurant** in Dayton. Breakfast is followed by a short business meeting, concluding with a time of devotions and prayer. Check the website below for additional meeting and event dates in 2019.



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 and Wellness Centering Prayer and the Practice of Letting Go

Throughout my life, my dad has often told me that life includes a series of losses. When I was younger, I didn't agree, and I certainly didn't understand the wisdom that he was trying to teach me. Now that I am older, I see clearly this reality and have benefitted from the practice of surrender and learning to let go. Recently, I have come across a new spiritual discipline called Centering Prayer, which has been very helpful to me as I continue to learn how to live with and move through life's losses.

"Centering prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer – verbal, mental, or affective prayer – into a receptive prayer of resting in God."

One of the things I appreciate most about Centering Prayer is the opportunity to practice releasing thoughts that come into my mind without ruminating on them. This practice of letting go of thoughts in my mind has helped me to experience greater peace and serenity, and has been very comforting to me even in the midst of loss.

I invite you to practice Centering Prayer for yourself. You may practice this discipline for one minute, five minutes, ten minutes, or longer. Setting a timer is often helpful so that you are not distracted by the amount of time left. Begin by choosing a word that is a symbol of your intention to open yourself to God. My word is Peace. When you begin, say your word silently in your mind and then simply be still. Whenever a thought comes into your mind, simply notice it and, without judgment, let it go. Then silently say your word as a way to refocus your intention. You might find your mind wondering constantly, but please do not judge yourself. Simply see it as another opportunity to practice letting go so that you may be available to God's action within you.

The Four Guidelines to Centering Prayer

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.
3. When engaged with your thoughts (this includes body sensations, feelings, images, and reflections) return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.
4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, my prayer for you is that as you journey through this life, you would do so with an awareness of God's presence with you...especially in your losses. I pray that as you practice letting go of what has been lost, you would make room for the hope and love that is God.

Your sister in Christ,
Faith

The United Methodist Women Celebrate 150 Years



This year, the UMW is celebrating its 150th birthday and 150 years of mission giving to support United Methodist Women-related national mission institutions and US ministries.

Internationally, UMW annually support some 150 programs carried out by up to 116 organizations in more than 110 countries. Mission giving also provides scholarships to more than 73 students enrolled in institutions of higher education in 18 countries.

The UMW supports eight regional missionaries whose work reaches 49 countries and the Caribbean, and focuses on gender justice, economics empowerment, women in jail, and leadership development for women and youth.

Totals of UMW Annual Giving to support missions:

Otterbein UMW (2018)	\$3,118.00
Harrisonburg District UMW (2018)	\$36,580.00
Virginia Conference UMW (2017)	\$696,624.86
United States UMW (2017)	\$28,815,356.87

UMW giving changes lives for women, children, youth, and families down the street and around the world.

If you are interested in missions and joining our UMW, come to a meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:15 am in Room 204 or contact Wilma Mitchell at 433-9545.

Planning your summer vacation? Don't forget to take a good book along! This July and August, instead of taking the entire summer off from Bible Study, we will be offering a chance to join a Summer Book Club. Be on the lookout for a variety of books, times, and venues for gathering during the summer to discuss a book with your friends. Keep an eye on the bulletin and email (and *Tidings*) for further details.

Kits for Conference

We are beginning to collect Kits for Conference and will continue through **Sunday, June 9**. The **Health Kits** and **School Kits** are the two kits needed at this time. Directions for those kits may be found in this issue of the *Tidings* and various locations around the church.

Please read and follow the instructions. Here are some important things to remember:

Health Kits

- Now requires 10 bandages (3/4 by 3 inches)
- Combs must have at least 6 inches of teeth (no pocket combs or picks); rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable, but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- No personal advertising on toothbrushes, etc.
- Enclose \$1 for toothpaste & \$1 for postage

School Kits

- Now require 3 one-subject notebooks and 1 pack of loose-leaf paper (100-200 pages)
- Round-tip blunt scissors only
- 1 inch or longer pencil sharpener
- Items are now placed in a 2-gallon re-sealable plastic bag, which can be found at Kroger, Red Front, and Walmart
- Enclose \$1 for shipping

Contents of the kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols.

If you would rather make a monetary donation, make your check payable to Otterbein UMC, designate "Kits for Conference" in the memo line, and place in the offering plate by **Sunday, June 9**. The **deadline for kits is Sunday, June 9**. However, we would like to have the majority by **Sunday, June 2**. The UMW will meet Tuesday, June 4 and Tuesday, June 11 to assemble and pack the kits. The kits will be dedicated Sunday, June 16. Questions? Contact Wilma at 433-9545.



**HELPING
CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE**

transforming the lives of
impoveryshed children

Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Fanta Susan Mahulor is sponsored by Open Door Fellowship. Fanta is able to fulfill her career ambition because of the support of our Otterbein members. There are options offered when making a choice of who you would like to sponsor, which include, but are not limited to, gender and age. If considering sponsorship, you may contact Vicki Gaines, who can answer any questions you may have.

Fanta Susan Mahulor

Date of Birth: May 15, 2000
Place of Birth: Bo, Sierra Leone
Religion: Muslim
Current Class: SS 2
School: Hope Royal College

Fanta was enrolled in the Child Rescue Centre (CRC) child sponsorship program in 2013 following the death of her parents. She currently resides with her aunt and is the 2nd of 4 children (2 girls & 2 boys). Her favorite subject in school is Commerce, her favorite color is pink, and her favorite food is rice and groundnut soup. She loves to read and assist around the house. Upon completing her education, she hopes to become a Bank Manager. Fanta is very grateful to her sponsor and the CRC for their support and concern for her wellbeing, as well as that of her siblings.



Otterbein's 125th Anniversary Celebration

By now you should have received a **Save-the-Date** postcard announcing **Otterbein's 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Put it

in a prominent place as a reminder of the **September 21 and 22** events.

There are **opportunities for YOU to assist**:

- The Anniversary Planning Committee is searching for **pictures of the sanctuary prior to and during the "overflow" area construction (circa 1964)**.
- Whether you are a youth, a long-time member, or have been associated with our church for only a short time, we ask that you **share a short story or anecdote about your memories and experiences at Otterbein**. Deliver handwritten or typed submissions, or send an email (oumcadm@hotmail.com), to Melissa in the church office.

BITS OF HISTORY for May:

May 1, 1950: Harrisonburg High School held commencement services at the church.

May 1958: Three-hundred-thirty new EUB hymnals arrived. A special fund drive had been held to purchase the hymnals, two loose-leaf hymnals for use by the choir director and organist, and a leather bound hymnal for the pulpit. Total cost was \$590.

May 24, 1970: As no seminary student from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio was available for the coming year, the church was able to secure Samuel Espinoza, an Eastern Mennonite Seminary student. He would serve full-time in the summer, and part-time during the school session.

Continued next page

May 14, 1972: A dedication service for the newly renovated Memorial Hall was led by the Revs. Murphy and Espinoza.

May 10, 1975: The United Methodist Women began holding fund-raising yard sales.

May 11, 1975: Following a tower chimes restoration project, a re-dedication concert was held.

May 1982: The church softball team, Otterbein Angels, began another year of church league play.

(Sources: *History of Otterbein United Methodist Church*, by Paul G. Kline; church bulletins)

Reflection on Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude

What is solitude? Solitude is not just being alone or being silent. It is having time to refresh our spirit, help us find who we truly are, and build our relationship with God.

In today's hustle and bustle and being connected 24/7, it seems having solitude is almost impossible. People have to make the choice to disconnect and find quiet space to accomplish this. Matthew 6:6 states "*But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*" Jesus often went off by himself to pray in solitude.

Plan and make time in your day to take a few minutes to find solitude. Talk to God, listen to God, and refresh your mind and soul. Several times a year, take a couple hours or a couple days to embrace solitude. Look at your life more in depth. Where are you in life? Where do you want to go? Are you listening to God and his plan for you? What changes do you want to make? Practicing solitude is a way to recharge your body and spirit.

Prepared by Beverley Nelson
Discipleship Ministry Team