

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

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# Tidings



# June 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  
15<sup>th</sup> 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

*Report from Open*  
*Doors*



*Volunteer Statistics*

- 13,000+ HOURS
- 1,400+ VOLUNTEERS
- 13,696 MEALS SERVED
- OVER 50 VOLUNTEER GROUPS

*Shelter Statistics* (2018 - 2019 SEASON)

- 183 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS
- 44 AVERAGE GUESTS PER NIGHT
- 83 FROM SHENANDOAH VALLEY
- 73.2% MALE, 26.8% FEMALE
- 49 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- 37 CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
- 17 VETERANS

*Donor Information*

- 87% OF OPERATING BUDGET COMES FROM DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISERS
- OVER 250 INDIVIDUALS DONATED
- BUSINESSES, FAITH COMMUNITIES, & ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR 28% OF DONATIONS

*For Your Information*

- *Tidings* deadline for the July/August issue is **Monday, June 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 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 Tuesday, May 14, 2019 to discuss issues related to the upkeep of the church buildings and property.

### **OUMC Anniversary Celebration (Sept. 21-22, 2019):**

Projects to be completed before our celebration:

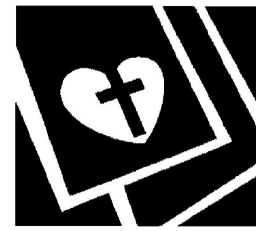
- a. Scrape and paint fire escape and remaining outside wood trim (High Street side is in most need of work).
- b. Refinish or replace outside doors into the Sanctuary.
- c. Power wash Market Street steps, etc.
- d. Paint/refurbish outside signs – parking, etc.

**Sanctuary lights:** The Trustees continue to explore ideas for increasing the effectiveness of lighting in the sanctuary. The age of the fixtures is proving to be a challenge to simply replacing current bulbs with brighter LED bulbs.

**Parking Lot (lower lot) trees:** The health of the trees in the lower parking lot is not good. The Trustees have decided to wait until Fall to remove the existing trees and replace some areas with another variety, possibly dogwoods.

**Memorial Hall and Sanctuary doors:** The replacement doors from the back-parking lot into Memorial Hall were scheduled to arrive the middle of May and will be installed soon thereafter. The Trustees continue to explore options for replacing the Sanctuary doors, which do not latch properly.

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

Summer is a great time to read. Actually, I have yet to find a time of the year where reading is not great. I grew up with an hour-long bus ride every day, each way. Two hours on a bus every day is mind numbing as a child and the majority of that time I spent reading. I consumed a lot of fantasy writing... CS Lewis, JRR Tolkein, Piers Anthony, Anne McCaffery, and many others. I even had a phase in high school where I read US News and World Report. The habit stuck; I still read a lot and often wish I could find/make more time to read more. If you have been to my office, you have seen a stack of books on my desk just waiting for my attention; I have another stack at my desk at home. My interests have turned away in recent years from fantasy to more worldly pursuits. The past two years I have read a lot about social issues affecting our world and the church, as well as a few good memoirs. Before that, I went through a phase of catching up on a lot of classical literature that I missed in high school and college. My reading has turned from passing time on a bus to staying informed as to what is happening in our world.

This summer we are doing something new and offering the chance to read together. Several local congregations are putting together a reading list and finding time to gather and discuss the books we are reading. Our Summer Book Club will gather on various dates in July and August at a variety of locations and times. I hope you will find a book that interests you (or challenges you) and make a point of having some conversation with people around the topic. Happy reading!

*Adam*



## UMW News

The UMW will **meet Tuesday, June 4** and **Tuesday, June 11 at 11:15 am** in **Room 204** to assemble and pack Kits

for Conference. If you have any boxes to pack the kits in, please bring them to Room 204 by June 4. **Kits are requested by Sunday, June 2.**

The UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference in Roanoke is on June 21 at 6:45 am at the Holiday Inn Valley View. The speaker is Darlene Amon. The cost is \$18.

The UMW will **meet at Golden Corral** for breakfast on **Tuesday, July 9 at 9:00 am.** *NOTE: This is a change in location.*

Mission Encounter will be held at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center on July 26-28. There will be three mission studies to choose from. The cost is \$190. For questions and application, contact Wilma Mitchell 15 433-9545. The deadline is July 15.

## 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.**

back on shopping and discretionary spending.

- Eating simple foods.
- Enjoying simple pleasures that require no expense.
- Removing distractions and preoccupation with things.

with the resultant God-given fruit:

- Living an uncluttered life.
- Creating more space in your life for loving and serving God.
- Experiencing freedom from envy and entitlement.
- Being able to let go and experience freedom.
- Staking your identity in God's love, not accumulations and possessions.

What is one thing you can do today to simplify your life?

**Resources:** *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun; *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard J. Foster

Prepared by Betty Redmond

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

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.

## Reflection on Spiritual Disciplines: Simplicity

The Spiritual Discipline of simplicity is probably one of the harder disciplines to practice. There are so many conflicting messages about how we are supposed to live that keeping our lives and our faith simple easily gets lost. How do we strip away all the complexities of our world to get back to living by the basics?

First we must consider that the discipline of simplicity is an “inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle”, according to Richard Foster. It is a mindset, a way of thinking, and requires a change of attitude and behaviors.

Three inner attitudes of spiritual simplicity:

- All that we have is a gift from God.
- God will take care of all that we have.
- Our possessions don't exist primarily for us, but are there to be used for others.

As we develop an internal sense of simplicity, the external demonstration of simplicity will tend to follow. However, we live in a society that values things. People think that to be the best you must have the most, be the highest paid, get all the rewards, be the most popular. Yet, what does that do for us in the long run? When our lives pass on the earth, will those “things” get us anywhere? This is what Jesus was trying to get across in his teachings. There is far more in living a life for God, and it starts by keeping our life simple

As you seek to grow in the spiritual practice of simplicity, consider what Adele Calhoun says the practice of simplicity includes:

- Assessing the things and activities that keep life complicated and confusing, and working to simplify these things.
- Setting priorities that flow from a loving God above all else.
- Downsizing possessions and cutting

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transforming the lives of  
impoveryshed children

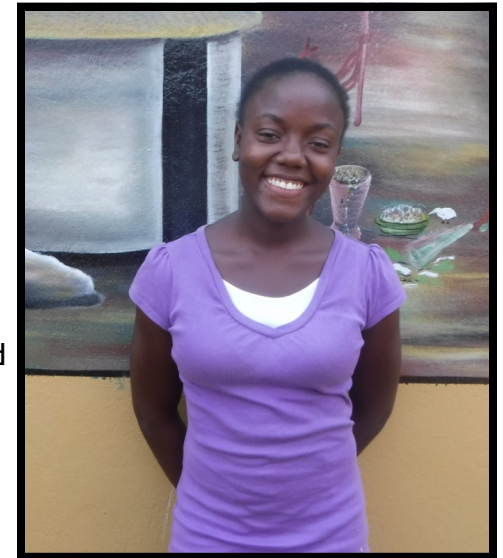
## Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Gladys Momoh is sponsored by Art & Mary Jo Mitchell. Gladys 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.

### Gladys Momoh

Date of Birth: January 11, 1999  
Place of Birth: Bo, Sierra Leone  
Religion: Christian  
Current Class: SSI  
School: Comprehensive Senior Secondary School

Gladys was enrolled in the Child Rescue Centre (CRC) child sponsorship program in 2007 and lived on the premises until 2015 when she was reunified with her relatives. She lost her father at the age of 6, however her mother is alive. She currently resides with her aunt and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 children.



Her favorite subject in school is Biology and she hopes to become a Nurse upon completion of her education. Gladys enjoys reading, her favorite food is cassava leaf and rice, and her favorite color is blue. She loves her family and also loves her country. Gladys is very appreciative of her sponsors for their continued support in her positive growth and development.



## Health and Wellness

### Discovering the Freedom of 12-Step Spirituality

*"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...I can will what is right, but I cannot do it."*  
(Romans 7:15, 18)

**The first step toward change involves  
a courageous admission of our weaknesses.**

I am curious if you have ever struggled to be consistent in a particular area of your life. Maybe you made a plan to begin a new healthy habit, or perhaps wanted to stop doing something that isn't good for you, only to find yourself frustrated by not being able to follow through with your good intentions. If this has been your experience, you are not alone. This is the dilemma of many, and this is what Paul is talking about in the Scripture above. This is the human experience!

So what do we do about it?

I suggest that we learn from others who have gone before us, and I invite you to join me this summer in the exploration of 12-Step Spirituality. Perhaps you are not familiar with the Twelve Steps. The person largely responsible for formulating them was Bill W., one of the founding members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who, during the spring of 1938, listed the 12 principles that he believed helped alcoholics to recover. They had grown out of his own experience and that of other alcoholics, what he learned from an evangelical movement called the Oxford Group, and from his reading of the Bible, especially the Sermon on the Mount. Literally millions of people can testify to the blessings and benefits of working the Twelve Steps, not just to overcome alcohol addiction, but to **overcome any compulsive behavior or bad habit**. No wonder that Dallas Willard, one of the most respected spiritual writers of our time comments in one of his books that: *"Any successful plan for spiritual formation, whether for the individual or group, will in fact be significantly similar to the Alcoholics Anonymous program."*

And so, I encourage you to join me in the exploration of 12-Step Spirituality as a way to help you overcome the compulsive behaviors and bad habits in your life. Please join me this summer for a book study of ***One Day At A Time: Discovering the Freedom of 12-Step Spirituality***, written by Methodist pastor Trevor Hudson. We will get

*continued next page...*

## Kits for Conference

The Kits for Conference are **requested by Sunday, June 2**. Please refer to the instructions in the May *Tidings* or on the leaflets found in various locations around the church. ***Please be sure to follow the instructions as printed.***

If you would rather make a monetary donation to help with the postage and toothpaste costs, please 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.

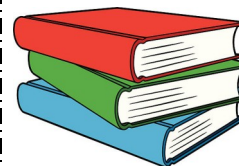
The final deadline for the Kits is Sunday, June 9, but we would like to have the majority by Sunday, June 2. The UMW will meet Tuesday, June 4 and Tuesday, June 11 to assemble and pack the Kits. The Kits will be dedicated Sunday, June 16. Contact Wilma at 433-9545 if you have questions. ***Boxes are needed to pack kits.*** Thanks!

## Summer Help

Former College Chorale student Annalise Sears will be in Harrisonburg this summer. She would like to let her Otterbein family know she is available for nannying, babysitting, pet sitting, or music lessons. She may be reached at 540-878-7263.

## Summer Book Studies

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. An overview of the studies being offered can be found in this *Tidings* and full descriptions of each study can be found in the breezeway and High Street entrances and on our website, which is where you can register for the study you're interested in.



SAVE THE DATE:



WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US  
FOR OUR CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION  
MONDAY JUNE 17, 7:00PM  
IMMANUEL MENNONITE

together two times over the summer for discussion and support. For more details about dates and times, see the enclosed Summer Book Study flyer or reach out to me with questions.

You are not alone in your struggles. There is hope for change – no matter how old you are! Transformation is possible because of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, and it happens as we do the work and collaborate with the Godly principles available to us in the 12-Steps.

Your sister in Christ,  
Faith

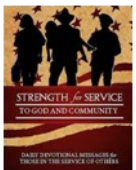
A BIG THANK YOU! to everyone who supported the Men's Spaghetti Supper in April. We served about 80 persons. Donations in support of the **College Chorale Scholarship Fund** totaled an amazing \$1,000.00!



On August 25, the Men will lead the Morning Worship service at Otterbein and plans are to have a men's choir to sing during the service.

Our **Prayer Breakfast dates** for the next several months are **June 22, July 27, and August 24**. 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.

Finally, we are planning for a fundraiser in the fall so that we might purchase additional Devotional Guides for Veterans and others. Stay tuned for more information in the future!



#### 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>

## Otterbein's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Hopefully, you have reserved the weekend of **September 21-22** and plan to attend the activities slated for **Otterbein's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Celebration!** Expect to be well fed, uplifted by word and music, and visually delighted by historical displays and items unique to the history of our church.

Saturday evening's concert will feature **Anthony VanPelt** and **Blue Ridge Thunder**. Prior to the concert, you can enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres while fellowshiping and strolling through the collected historical mementos. Start Sunday morning with a delicious brunch served in Memorial Hall. Then, be blessed during morning worship with an inspiring message from the invited guest speaker, phenomenal instrumental and choral music, fellowship with friends—old and new, and remembrances befitting this milestone occasion.

### **Bits of History for June:**

**June 1, 1894:** Rev. C.H.Crowell presided over the formal organization of the new church and paid tribute to the original "faithful thirteen" charter members: *Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Funkhouser, Mrs. H.N. Whitesel, Miss Mollie Life, Miss Ada Glovier, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Whitesel, Mr. and Mrs. J.N. Garber, Miss Sally Davis, and Miss Jennie Wisman.*

**June 5-12, 1918:** A week of receptions, tours, and musical concerts took place for the dedication of the new church building. That Sunday morning, with the sanctuary and adjoining space packed to capacity, it was announced that the church needed \$46,500 plus an additional \$2,000 still due on the Loewenbach property. Within ten minutes, over \$40,000 in pledges and gifts was collected. By the end of the day, Bishop W.M. Weekley announced that over \$47,000 had been collected!

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**June 13, 1954:** Harrisonburg Evangelical United Brethren Church celebrated the church's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dr. James A. Swain's message was, "The Heroic Past and Tomorrow".

**June 18, 1972:** The parsonage search committee announced that 162 Elmwood Drive was available for \$60,000, and this purchase was approved.

**June 1-2, 1974:** 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration began Saturday, June 1, but due to inclement weather, the planned picnic was held in Memorial Hall. Sunday worship was conducted by former pastors, the District Superintendent, the Chancel Choir, and the Richmond-area Bishop. Following worship, the visiting guests enjoyed a luncheon at the Holiday Inn.

**June 4-5, 1994:** Otterbein UMC observed it's Centennial Celebration. A sixteen square centennial quilt was crafted by church members. Rev. Donald Fridinger delivered the Saturday message and on Sunday, Rev. Robert Bridgers returned to the pulpit as guest speaker. A catered meal followed the Sunday morning worship service.

**June 5, 1994:** As soon as the Centennial festivities were completed, clearing of the sanctuary and organ chambers commenced in preparation for the major sanctuary renovation with a projected completion within 120 days.

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

### **Otterbein in Prayer**

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