

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

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Tidings



February 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

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

Greetings from RISE!

We don't know about you, but in the grand scheme of holidays, we aren't too fond of Valentine's Day. At least, how Valentine's Day is generally celebrated in modern-day America. Like almost all holidays, it's, of course, been commercialized to such a degree that it seems to be no more than another way for candy businesses and Hallmark to make a ton of money. We (Amanda Garber and Adam King) were out at Target the other day working on a project and we were noting how incredibly shallow, syrupy sweet, or even downright offensive much of the Valentine's Day items were.

Plus, it just seems odd to us that a holiday named after a rather obscure Catholic saint and martyr has become what it has. The stories about Valentine are really more myth than history, as very little is known about this man. But the stories that are often attributed to him paint a picture of a man committed to Jesus and His Church. There are stories of him secretly marrying Christian couples against the order of the Emperor. There are stories of him performing miracles of healing. But whatever may be the case, what history does reveal is that this man's actions and commitment to Jesus ultimately led to his execution...

Happy Guy Who Was Executed Day, my Love! It's weird to celebrate his legacy with chocolate and pink everything, don't you think?

But the more we thought about it, the more we realized that perhaps there is an opportunity to begin reclaiming Valentine's Day and make it something a little more...

It's a small, simple idea. We call it the **Just Love Project**, and the mission is to spread a message of Love that is more than candy and cheap romance, but is instead rooted in a thirst for justice, peace, and the upside-down Kingdom of God belief that God cares about the small and overlooked of our world. This year, we're starting the reclamation project with a series of greeting cards. These are beautiful, handmade cards that offer simple, but profound messages about the nature of Love. We are selling them at a very reasonable price and all proceeds from the sale of the cards will go towards supporting our mission of Mending God's Creation Together.

So we invite you to join us in proclaiming that Just Love Wins by purchasing one or more of our cards at www.riseharrisonburg.com/just-love-store or by emailing us at riseharrisonburg@gmail.com.

Blessings,
Adam King

Associate Minister of Formation, RISE United Methodist Faith Community

JUST
LOVE



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!

Trustees Report to the Congregation

The Trustees last met on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, to discuss issues related to the upkeep of the church buildings and property.

Window Restoration Update—This work is nearly completed. There were delays in the start and progress of the work due to weather issues.

Sidewalk repairs—Work has been completed by Kenny Wood. Cash Day donations are being used to cover the cost of the project.

New Lighting in High Street Vestibule—Work has been completed by Randy Nelson. Randy will soon install motion light switches in Men's and Women's 2nd floor restrooms. Lights in these spaces will turn on and off automatically.

Bell Tower Chimes—Elsworth Neff has installed a microphone in the bell tower to enable the musician at the keyboard to hear the bells. A temporary wire is in place before a more permanent connection is installed. The chime board will be replaced with a solid-state system. Funds from the Doris Ely memorial will be used to fund the chimes project.

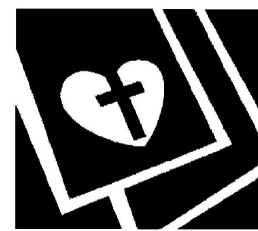
UMC Anniversary Celebration (Sept. 21-22, 2019)—Projects to be completed before event:

- a. Scrape and paint fire escape and remaining outside wood trim (High Street side is in most need of work).
- b. Refinish outside doors into the church.
- c. Power wash Market Street steps, etc.
- d. Paint/refurbish outside signs – parking, etc.
- e. Replace sanctuary light bulbs not working; replace/repair light bulb on the accession wall mural and inside floods on the large stained-glass windows.

Rontopolus property—The Trustees agreed that a plan for purchase and use of the Rontapolus property (next door) should be addressed in 2019. This will be a future topic for discussion by the UMC Administrative Council.

Spring Workday—Saturday, April 13, 2019, beginning at 8:00 am. Thanks to everyone who helped with the church workday in December.

The current Trustees are John Liskey Sr. (chair), Connie Liskey (vice-chair), George Painter, Arnold Fishback, 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

As we spend time in 2019 reflecting on our life as a worshipping community, it would not be a bad thing to examine ways in which this has been an asset to the greater community we are a part of. Many of those reflections could lead us to determine that we have had an impact on those in our community who needed support in time of need. Ministries over the years such as Open Doors, Soup Kitchen, refugee resettlement, and peace initiatives have provided support in times of hardship. There are innumerable examples of how we have lived out the work of mercy in our world and, as we look forward, I see no reason to think that we will not continue to practice acts of mercy in a variety of ways and means.

One of the places where the challenge lies is in expanding our mercy to encompass acts of justice. Justice in this sense means getting to the root cause of issues and working at solutions. So instead of simply feeding the hungry, we explore why the hungry exist and what can be done to fix the root cause. Whereas feeding the hungry is not necessarily easy, it becomes much more challenging to fix hunger, even in a relatively small area. It requires patience and time to first set aside our own preconceived notions and explore the variety of reasons the problem exists. Then exploring not only the ways that we can address the issue, but involving others in the process of discovering and implementing solutions. This is not easy work, but it is work that can make a huge difference in the work of the kingdom. As we move into our next 125 years, I think it is imperative that we, at times, stop and ask questions about justice and take every opportunity presented to do all that we can to work at fixing the issues that lead to our ministries of mercy.

Adam



UMW News

February 12: The UMW will meet at **11:15 am** in Room **204**. The AMD Dues of \$4 are due by March 12.

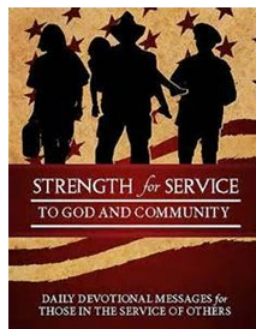
March 1: World Day of Prayer

March 2: The District Spiritual Life Retreat at 9 am at McGaheysville UMC. See details elsewhere in the *Tidings*.

March 12: The Call to Prayer & Self-Denial program and soup and sandwich luncheon will be held at 11:15 am in Room 204. Portia will provide the soup and members are asked to bring sandwich and desserts. All women of the church are invited.

Our regular breakfast/prayer meetings for the next several months will be **Saturday, January 26, February 23, and March 23**. Meetings begin at **7:30 am** at **Thomas House Restaurant** in Dayton and generally last one hour. We begin with a short business meeting, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and conclude with a time of devotions and prayer. Check the website below for meeting and event dates in 2019.

Our next meal event will be served up in April. Our **Spaghetti Supper** will be held in Memorial Hall on **Saturday, April 27**. Put this date on your calendar and make plans now to support our efforts by enjoying a delicious meal.



This year, 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>

Upcoming Music Events

Choral Evensong

March 3rd at 5 pm, Emmanuel Episcopal Church

The combined Otterbein and Asbury Youth Choir will be leading the Choral Evensong commemorating the Feast of John and Charles Wesley at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Sunday, March 3rd at 5:00 pm. The church is located at 600 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg. Evensong is a contemplative service of sung prayers, psalms, and anthems. This service will highlight John and Charles Wesley, thanking God for the evangelical zeal, preaching, and hymns of these two godly pastors. Please mark your calendar to come and support the members of Otterbein's Youth Choir as they lead in this special community service.

Choir & College Chorale Member Events

The Otterbein congregations is cordially invited to attend these upcoming music events of our Choir and College Chorale Members:

- *Les Miserables*, presented by Spotswood High School, (Sean Macomber, Band Director): Wednesday-Saturday, February 27-March 2 @ 7 pm and Sunday, March 3 @ 2 pm
- *Footloose*, presented by The Covenant School, Charlottesville, (Daniel Warren, Band Director): February 28-March 2
- JMU Opera *The Pirates of Penzance*: Monday and Tuesday, April 8 & 9 @ 8 pm, JMU Forbes Center
- Mary Galvin, Junior Vocal Recital: Saturday, April 13 @ 2 pm, Otterbein Sanctuary
- Cecelia McKinley, Senior Vocal Recital: Saturday, April 20 @ 8 pm, JMU Forbes Recital Hall
- Joel Clemens, Junior Vocal Recital: Sunday, April 27 @ 1 pm, JMU Anthony Seeger Hall

Mark Your Calendars!

On March 31, following worship, we will have a **Baked Potato & Ice Cream Bar luncheon**. This will be a free-will offering event to help raise money for Mission Projects. All are invited to come enjoy some great food and fellowship!



Otterbein's 125th Anniversary Celebration

Preparations are well underway for the activities commemorating Otterbein's 125th Anniversary on **September 21 and 22, 2019**. There will be historical displays, special music, delicious food, dynamic worship opportunities, invited guests, and hopefully **YOU!!** As you make long-range plans, be sure and save these dates on your calendar.

We continue to re-visit some of the significant happenings in the life of our church. Here are some of the ***BITS OF HISTORY for February:***

- **February 1894:** Bishop I.L. Kephart, who presided over the United Brethren Annual Conference, assigned the Rev. C.H. Crowell the task of organizing a church in Harrisonburg, (population 2,500). The church was called The Harrisonburg Mission Station, or Harrisonburg-Dayton Circuit of United Brethren in Christ.
- **February 16, 1917:** The McCullough Company of Baltimore, MD, was contracted to do the stonework on the new church. The original plan was to use all native limestone, but the building committee decided to use granite from Port Deposit, MD, on the west, south, and part of the east walls. Native limestone (at 25 cents/wagon load) was used on the remaining walls.
- **February 8, 1946:** The church board authorized the trustees to purchase the Adolph Wise property that was directly across West Market Street from the church for \$5,000.
- **February 6, 1950:** Broadcasting worship services over WSWA radio was instituted.
- **February 1962:** The pipe organ was in need of repair. Donated parts from the organ in the former Shenandoah College, Dayton, VA, were used. The rebuilt organ had 1564 pipes as compared to the original 959 pipes, and it was said to be one of the best in the Virginia Conference. Cost of rebuild: \$10,500.

As we remember our past, we are the present and future, so each and everyone of us is a part of Otterbein UMC history.

(Source: *History of Otterbein United Methodist Church*, by Paul G. Kline)

Mission Project: Heifer International



Our church-wide mission project for February and March is Heifer International. They have been around for over 55 years and have helped over 90 million people.

The money we donate goes towards buying animals for people who need food. This improves their nutrition and makes their lives better. For their children, it increases the chance that they will live longer and better lives. Animals such as cows (thus the name Heifer), goats, pigs, sheep, rabbits, chickens,—even llamas, bees, and water buffalo are available for donation.

Let's say we donated a heifer to a poor family in Guatemala or Cambodia. They can get milk from the cow, but that milk can also be made into cheese or yogurt. And when that heifer has a baby, the calf can be given to another poor family who needs food and that's called *Passing on the Gift*, sort of like paying it forward.

Last year, we collected \$850 in donations for our Heifer Project. We were able to purchase 2 gifts of clean water @ \$300 each, 5 flocks of chicks @ \$20 each, and 1 irrigation pump @ \$150. This year we would like to purchase many types of animals. In our materialistic society, it's hard to wrap your head around people not having enough to eat. Today we have a chance to help.

We will have donation boxes at each sanctuary door during February and March. You can use one of those boxes or write a check, designate "Heifer" in the memo line, and drop it in the offering plate. Or use one of the spare offering envelopes in the pew for a cash contribution and write Heifer and your name on the front. Your donations are tax-deductible and will appear on your church giving statement (as long as they include your name).

Thanks for helping us make a difference in someone's life!

Remote Area Medical Clinic

March 2-3, 2019

Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Be sure to check upcoming bulletins for details about how Otterbein plans to help with the RAM Clinic—we will need YOU! We are still ironing out details, but there will be many ways you can help prior to the Clinic. If you would like to help at the event March 2-3, you must register to volunteer directly through the RAM Website (<https://www.ramusa.org/>). You can also check the website to find out more about the organization and their clinics.





transforming the lives of
impoveryshed children

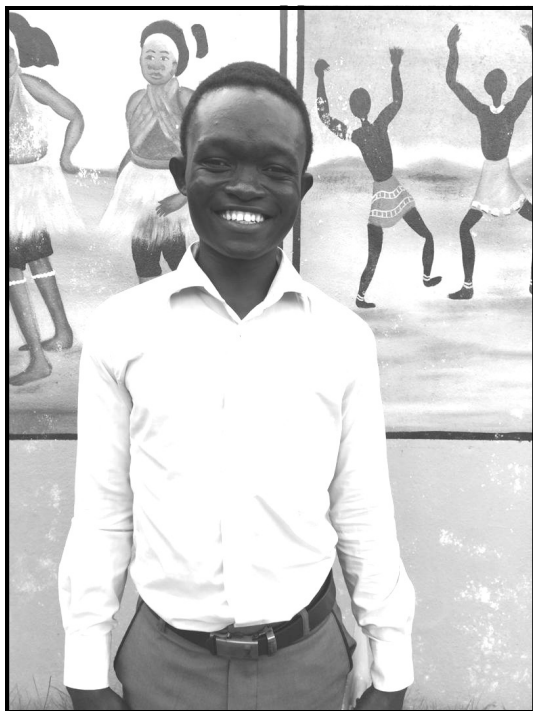
Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Joseph Sevalie is sponsored by Rinko Enosaki. Joseph is able to fulfill his career ambition because of the support of our Otterbein member. 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.

Joseph Sevalie

Joseph Sevalie is a 21 year old male who was born on June 11, 1997 in Sierra Leone. Both of his parents are alive, however, they are divorced and Joseph is currently being raised by his father who works as a Security guard in order to support the family. Joseph is the 3rd of eight siblings (4 boys & 4 girls). He was enrolled in the CRC program in 2008 when he was in grade 6. Currently, Joseph is pursuing an Associate's degree in Social Work at Njala University. Upon successful completion, he would like to acquire a Bachelor's degree in the same field, and ultimately advance his educational career by pursuing Law.

Joseph is very appreciative of his sponsor and staff at HCW and the CRC. He hopes and prays that they will continually support him with achieving his future goals.



Harrisonburg United Methodist Women Spiritual Life Retreat Saturday, March 2, 2019 McGaheysville UMC

All women of the church are invited to attend the Harrisonburg District UMW's Spiritual Life Retreat on **Saturday, March 2, 2019**, at **McGaheysville UMC**. Registration starts at **8:30 am** and the program runs from **9:00 am—1:00 pm**.

Our new District UMW Spiritual Life Coordinator and Deacon in Full Connection, Retired, **Rev. Laura Douglass** will present our program. Many of you may know Laura as the former music director from Asbury UMC. We are excited to have Laura leading our retreat as she shares her program **"Reflecting on Women & Spirit Spanning Time & Space: A Lens on Early Sisterhood of Grace."** The cost of the retreat will be **\$12** and will include lunch served by the McGaheysville UMW. All are welcome to attend. Deadline for registration is February 22.

The registration forms are located on the UMW Bulletin Board by the water fountain. Please make checks payable to Harrisonburg District UMW and mail registration form and check to Sharon Harold, 4580 Ottobine Road; Dayton, VA 22821 by the February 22 deadline or give to Wilma Mitchell by Sunday, February 10 to be mailed as a group. Contact Wilma if you have questions (433-9545).

The Faith Builders Sunday School Class will host their **annual Chili Luncheon on Sunday, February 24, 2019**, following worship until 1 pm. They will be serving *chili* (hot and mild), *white chicken chili*, *hot dogs*, *pimento cheese sandwiches*, and *ice cream*. A free will offering will be collected to support missions and the College Chorale Scholarship Fund. Everyone is invited to come join the fellowship!

