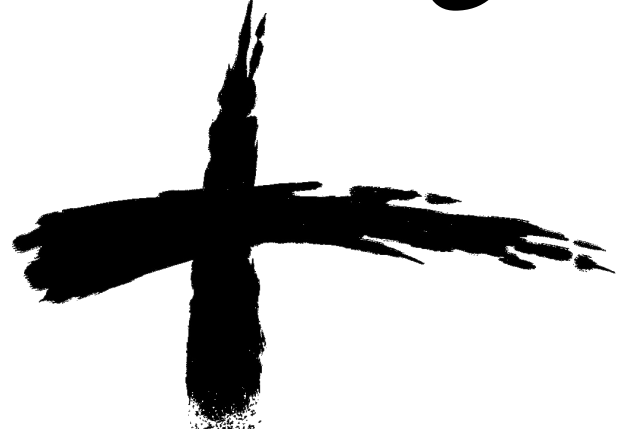


OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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Tidings



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 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



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

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

Phyllis Albrite
Linda Byers
Mildred Byrd
Rev. & Mrs. Carson
Wes Crisman
Allen Dellinger
Ann Dellinger
Lisa Ferenc
Arnold Fishback
Judy Grandle
Florence Green
Betty Griffith
Ray & Audrey

Griffith
Doris Hanger
Rick & Julie
Haushalter
Barbara Henry
Silas Herndon
John Hoffnagle
Charlene Hunley
Emily Joiner
Dot Jones
Steve Joseph
Aaron Kauffman
Evelyn Keane

Bishop Lewis
Janet Liskey
Judy Liskey
Greta Marks
Hubert & Gertraud
Martin
Gloria Miller
Mary Miller
Lorrie Murphy
Evelyn Myers
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

Want to know more?

Immediately following our 5th Sunday meal on
March 31, we will have a time of conversation
and explanation about the finances at OUMC. We
will explore the different ways we handle money
at the church, touch briefly on the history of the
endowment, and generally educate about where
we get our money, how we spend it, and what
you can do to assist in a variety of ways.

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the April issue is **Monday, March 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 oumcdadm@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.
- **Stamps for Mission**
Continue to save your used postage stamps and deposit them in the stamp box in the breezeway.

Open Door Fellowship

From funds on hand, we distributed the following in 2018:

People Helping People	\$250.
RISE	\$500.
Mission Central Building Fund	\$500.
Heifer International	\$200.
Otterbein Cash Day	\$100.
Sponsor a Child—Africa	\$300.
Otterbein College Chorale	\$800.
Otterbein Charity Fund	\$200.
Cleaning Kits	\$200.
Kingsway Ministry (postage)	\$18.
Kingsway Ministry (Christmas Gifts)	\$60.79
Kingsway Ministry	\$200.
	<hr/>
	\$3,328.79

We collected 44 pairs of used eyeglasses for Doctors without Borders, 11 cartons of Shoes for Kenya, and sent cards to those on our prayer list.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 1 at 11:15 am.**

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!



FROM THE PASTOR

Ash Wednesday falls during the first week of March this year and, as such, is pretty late in the calendar year. In recent years, the gap between Christmas and Lent has been much shorter and I have yet to decide if I like this break. It has given me more space to preach about discipleship and some current challenges in the Church, and the extra time to prepare Lenten devotionals has been very well received. It also pushes all of the liturgical calendar further into the year. Ash Wednesday is during college spring break, and the normal dreariness of February seems to fit with the somber tone of Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday also brings us back to worship with our friends at John Wesley. The ongoing connection that we have established with their faith community is life-giving for me and I always relish the opportunity to be with them, even if on this evening it will be a more reserved time of worship. Ash Wednesday gives us the opportunity to remember that at the core, all of us are the same. No matter where we are in life, young, old, rich, poor, student, teacher, etc, when we come before the church and have the ashes placed on our heads in the sign of the cross, we acknowledge our common heritage before God. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It has a hint of melancholy or even the tone of morbidity, but there is beauty in acknowledging the unity of the moment. Before God, none of us have an elevated or special place; on Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we are one.

It is worth noting that the first significant liturgical event after the called General Conference will be Ash Wednesday. As we figure out how to live in unity, or not, we come together to acknowledge our unity in dust. May this Ash Wednesday and Lent remind us of that unity, even in the face of acknowledging our own mortality.

Adam



UMW News

Friday, March 1: World Day of Prayer

Saturday, March 2: The District Spiritual Life Retreat at 9 am at McGaheysville UMC, 9 am—1 pm. Rev. Laura Douglass will present the program: “Reflecting on Women and Spirit Spanning Time and Space: A Lens on Early Sisterhood of Grace.”

Tuesday, March 12: The Unit will hold it's **Call to Prayer & Self-Denial** meeting in Memorial Hall at **11:15 am**. It will begin with a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon. Soup will be provided and members are asked to bring sandwiches or dessert. All women of the church are invited.

The \$4 AMD Dues need to be paid to Jo Ann by March 12.

Thursday, April 4: Evening Together at 7 pm at Cedar Grove UMC/Mission Central. The evening will be mission focused.

Tuesday, April 9: The April meeting will begin with a **Soup and Sandwich Luncheon** in **Memorial Hall** at **11 am**. The guest speaker will be Louise Jennings from Kingsway Prison Ministry. We are inviting other District UMW units as our guests.

Caring Hearts will meet on **Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 pm in Room 206** for a presentation on fostering relationships. The guest speaker will be Deb Figliola. All ladies of the church are invited to join us!

Reflection on Spiritual Disciplines: Fasting

We know from reading the Bible (Matthew 6:16, Matthew 9:15) that fasting was a part of religious practices in Jesus' time. We also know that fasting has been a staple of spiritual disciplines for many years. John Wesley fasted several days a week, although his fasts were often limited in time. In fact, in our United Methodist historic questions for ordination, #16 reads: “Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?” The correct answer is “yes”. In my experience, when we speak of spiritual disciplines, the one that receives the most negative energy is fasting. Somehow we have been convinced that going without food for a set period of time is most likely impossible. This is simply not true. Excluding medical concerns, a healthy person can go roughly forty days without food, so the idea of needing to eat every single day to remain alive is just our spoiled stomachs crying out for attention.

Fasting has a different purpose than just being disciplined enough to skip a meal. It is meant to allow for more time to focus on God. If fasting is a spiritual discipline that you choose to engage in for Lent, it should be as a way to reflect on the fact that our daily sustenance is not just food, but that God truly sustains us. It also allows us to understand that other things in the world exert control over us (i.e. the stomach), where we would hope that God's will is the primary influencer in our lives. If you would like to read more about fasting, I would encourage you to pick up a copy of *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster. While the whole book is worthwhile, I found his chapter on fasting to be most enlightening. You can find a copy in our church library.

~Adam



Faith in Action Update

Faith in Action is in the final months of its current criminal justice campaign asking local city and county governments to hire a community justice planner and to

do away with the \$1/\$3 a day keep fees for inmates at the Harrisonburg/Rockingham and Middle River jails. Information about this campaign can be found on Faith in Action's Facebook and Instagram pages.

You, as a FIA covenant congregation, can support this campaign with your prayers, but you can also show physical support by attending or participating in any or all of the following:

- Let local elected officials know that you support the work of Faith in Action.
- March 2 - Vigil of Solidarity - 10:30 am at Court Square
- Attend City Council and County Board of Supervisors meetings with other FIA representatives. You don't have to speak. Your presence will speak for you.
- Attend the Community Criminal Justice Board meeting at the County Office complex on March 4 at 4:00 pm. Just come, listen, and support FIA as leaders continue to ask support for FIA's criminal justice reforms.
- Mark your calendars for April 17, the Great Community Give. This is a fundraising event for Faith in Action. More information will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your continued support of the social justice work of Faith in Action. Feel free to ask questions. Adam Blagg is Vice President of Faith in Action, Linda Conrad is treasurer, and your church representatives are Carole Barber, Vicki Gaines, and Eileen Magruder.



Our next meal event will be the **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 cakes for dessert. We hope you will make plans to join us on **Saturday, April 27** and support this annual fundraiser.

One of the projects we plan to continue this year is to provide devotional guides (*Strength for Service to God and Community – Daily Devotional Messages for Those in the Service of Others*) to service personnel. In the past we have donated these devotional books to members of area rescue squads, fire departments, Harrisonburg City Police, and Virginia State Police. *Your support of the Spaghetti Supper on April 27 will help us continue this important project, as well as others.*

Have you been thinking about becoming involved in our group? One simple way to do this is to join us for a delicious breakfast and a time of prayer and fellowship at our monthly meetings. Our next regular meeting will be **Saturday, March 23** beginning at **7:30 am** 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>



transforming the lives of
impoveryshed children

Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Esther Adama Josiah is sponsored by Ed & Vicki Gaines. Esther 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.

Esther Adama Josiah

Date of Birth - May 22, 2004

Current Class - JSS I

School - Queen of the Rosary School (QRS)

Esther is a lively young lady who enjoys interacting with people, particularly hanging out with friends. She was enrolled into the CRC program in 2016 at the age of 12. Her mother is deceased and her father works in the village as a farmer. Esther lives with her older sister, who is currently a student at the University. Thanks to the kindhearted sponsors like Ed & Vicki, Esther is able to have her basic needs met and be steps closer to pursuing her dreams of becoming either a Dentist or a Doctor upon future completion of University.



OUMC Finance Committee 2019 Funding Update

Sidewalk Repairs have been completed. The new concrete cannot be treated with salt until cured for 12 months, so please be careful. Every precaution will be done to keep it free of ice and snow. Approximately \$6,200 Spring Cash Day monies have been used to pay this improvement.

Hearing Assistance Update: This project has been completed with the assistance of Rev. Larry Clark. The Fall Cash Day contributions funded this project of over \$2,300.

Outside Window Restoration: Cleaning, painting, glass, and wood repairs were done. New protective covering was also installed. This project was completed in January. Funds from Endowment and Parking Lot Rent was used to fund this approximate \$83,000 restoration.

Tower Bell Chimes are being updated with a solid state relay system. Elsworth Neff built the original system in 1994 and is now installing the new system. A mic has been added in the tower so that the person playing can hear them. This project is \$7,000 and funded from Doris Ely's generous Endowment gift to the church and Memorial gifts. Her daughter, Mary Ely Griffith, plays the chimes each Sunday following the morning service.

These and other Trustee projects have been done throughout the year with your financial help and use of Endowment Funds. We thank you for your continued generosity and appreciation of Otterbein Church.

As outgoing Financial Chair, I express my gratitude to everyone for their generous support for our programs and projects. The committee has been very diligent and faithful in directing the finances in the most efficient manner. I encourage you to continue your generous support and also consider your Endowment legacy to Otterbein so that future projects and programs can proceed in the same efficient manner.

Patsy Liskey

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 @ 1 pm, Otterbein Sanctuary
- **Cecelia McKinley, Senior Vocal Recital**: Saturday, April 20 @ 8 pm, JMU Forbes Recital Hall
- **John Nye, DMA Trumpet Recital**: Monday, April 22 @ 7 pm, Otterbein Sanctuary
- **Aidan Everett, Senior Vocal Recital**: Friday, April 26 @ 7 pm, Otterbein Sanctuary
- **Joel Clemens, Junior Vocal Recital**: Sunday, April 27 @ 1 pm, JMU Anthony Seeger Hall

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 have donation boxes at each sanctuary door. 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). If you wish to donate a specific animal, use the Heifer Wish List and include that with your donation. **We will end the Heifer Project on Sunday, March 31, 2019.**

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



Otterbein's 125th Anniversary Celebration

We are just six months away from the planned celebration of **Otterbein's 125th Anniversary.**

The weekend of **September 21st** and **22nd** will be here before you know it! Plan now to attend the various events that will be offered to commemorate this occasion. A detailed schedule will be announced in the upcoming months.

As you take a look at the **Bits of History** below, it is noteworthy that in the month of March, 125 years ago, our founding members came together to worship for the very first time.

BITS OF HISTORY for MARCH:

March 25, 1894: The first worship service of the newly formed church group was held in the YMCA Hall on the second floor of the Avis Drug Store building (now Kline May Realty) on South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.

March 9, 1952: Following renovation of the Social Hall, Bishop William Gregory and Superintendent Floyd Fulk officiated at the dedication of the newly named *Memorial Hall*. The new name honored the "Thirteen Charter Members" who founded the Harrisonburg United Brethren in Christ Church in 1894. It also memorialized members of the church who served in US armed forces.

March 1960: The Board voted to change the name of the church by dropping "First" from First Evangelical United Brethren Church; thus, *Evangelical United Brethren Church*.

March 6, 1964: The benches that were original to the First United Brethren in Christ Church in Harrisonburg were sold to the McGaheysville Pentecostal Church for \$330.

continued next page...

March 3, 1968: A vote was held on names submitted by church members and classes for the renaming of the church following the EUB/Methodist merger. The name *Otterbein United Methodist Church* received 139 votes, which far outpaced the next most popular name, *First United Methodist*, with 57 votes.

March 26, 1978: Easter Sunday—2.5 inches of rain and sub-freezing temperatures created a severe ice storm. Only a few members braved the conditions and attended the 11 am service. Because special bulletins had been printed and extra preparations had been necessary in planning the Easter service, the Easter Worship program was held the following Sunday, April 2.

March 1995: Saturday Night Alive was initiated.

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

Otterbein's Week to Host Open Doors April 1—8, 2019

How You Can Help:

- Volunteers will be needed to set up cots, etc. in Memorial Hall on **Monday, April 1** at **7:15 am**.
- Volunteers will be needed to load supplies into the van to be taken to storage on **Monday, April 8** at **6:45 am**.
- We will need **2 volunteers each night** to stay overnight (7 pm—7 am). Otterbein's nights are **Monday, April 1** and **Saturday, April 6**. The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints is responsible for 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 (Monday, April 1 & Saturday, April 6)

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.