

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

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Tidings



July &
AUGUST 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

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

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite
 Jerry Andes
 Linda Byers
 Rev. & Mrs. Carson
 Larry Clark
 Linda Conrad
 Allen Dellinger
 Judi Espinoza
 Lisa Ferenc
 Judy Grandle
 Florence Green
 Lynn & Betty Griffith

Ray & Audrey
 Griffith
 Doris Hanger
 Rick & Julie
 Haushalter
 Barbara Henry
 Silas Herndon
 John Hoffnagle
 Charlene Hunley
 Emily Joiner
 Dot Jones
 Steve Joseph

Evelyn Keane
 Chris Kibler
 Bishop Lewis
 Janet Liskey
 Judy Liskey
 Greta Marks
 Gertraud Martin
 Evelyn Myers
 Margaret Pence
 Justin Senger
 Anna Joseph Sheets
 Linda Stephens

Jane Stover
 Richard Stroop
 Martha Taylor
 Craig Thompson
 Charlie Tibbits
 Emily Tran
 John Widener
 Brenda Woods
 McKenzie Woods
 Dennis Wright

**Weekday Religious Education (WRE) is looking for
 2 new teachers for the coming school year. If
 you are interested, contact Ginger Brubaker at
 540-908-7169 or brubaker81@gmail.com.**

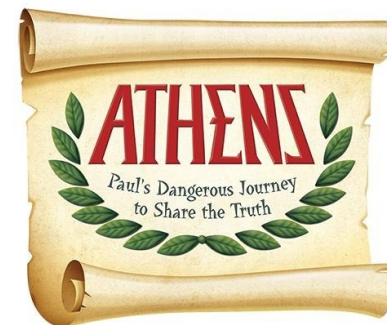
Vacation Bible School

July 15 - July 18

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Asbury UMC

**For more info and to register,
 visit asburydowntown.org/vbs**



For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the September issue is **Thursday, August 15 by 3pm.** 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.

Congratulations!!

The following graduates were recognized and given a gift during Worship on Sunday, June 9.

Benjamin Griffith graduated from **Spotswood High School** and plans to attend **Blue Ridge Community College** in the fall to start working towards a career teaching special needs students. He is the son of Aaron & Jodi Griffith.

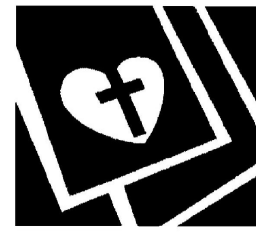
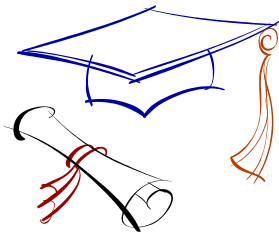
Kaylee Hiner graduated from **Turner Ashby High School** and will be attending **The College Of William and Mary** in the fall to study Communications. Kaylee is the daughter of Chad & Keri Hiner.

Tyler Dean graduated from **Harrisonburg High School** and plans to attend **Old Dominion University** in the fall to major in Kinesiology. He is the son of Zanda Griffith Dean.

Blaine Hiner graduated from **The College of William and Mary** with a **Bachelor of Science** degree in **Biology** and minor in **Marine Science**. He is working for Ohio State University as a Timber Rattlesnake Technician. Blaine is the son of Chad & Keri Hiner.

Tabitha Nelson graduated from **Radford University** with a **Master of Science** degree in **Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education**. She will be teaching locally before moving to Nevada to teach later this fall. Tabitha is the daughter of Randy & Beverley Nelson.

Danielle Davidson received her **Bachelor of Science** degree in **Nursing** from **Eastern Mennonite University**. She will be working at Sentara RMH. Danielle is the fiancé of Trey Nelson.



FROM THE PASTOR

Throughout 2019 we have had quite a few discussions about how to move the church forward. This by itself is not strange. Any church that is not looking ahead to where they see God moving is missing a vital aspect of what it means to follow God, but some of our conversations have been pretty adventuresome. These thoughts about where we are going that stretch beyond the immediate normal fixes to church life can provide a certain amount of tension to the system. It becomes a question of being receptive to God's vision for Otterbein and our relationship with the community and our willingness to embark upon adventures that we might not be able to see to completion. I think God calls us to big things which are often completed in small steps. I believe that ground work laid years ago is being used today to move the kingdom forward and that the work we complete will do the same for future generations.

All of these things are important to keep in mind as we make decisions about the direction Otterbein is taking in the coming months. A planning team has been working on a long term property use strategy over the first half of 2019 and will present their findings to the Trustees and Administrative Council in July. The scope of their work has been fairly large and some of the preliminary work has been aggressive and adventuresome. Hearing their presentation with an open mind will be a necessary requirement for any forward movement. Words like "we've never done it that way" or "are you crazy" will probably apply, but I feel that the work we are doing is Kingdom work and has the potential to move the church forward for the foreseeable future. Please be in prayer as this work is completed and presented, for we hope that it is a faithful vision of where God is calling our congregation.

Adam



UMW News

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

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

We will not meet in August.

Don't forget to work on your reports and get them in by the due date.

The District Prayer Breakfast is at St. James UMC on Saturday, September 7 at 9 am. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Thanks to everyone who helped pack Kits for Conference. We had 164 School Kits and 72 Health Kits.

Annual Conference Offering

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Annual Conference Offering. Because of your generosity, our church contributed \$1,125 to the offering. This year, the Bishop's Annual Conference Mission Goal was \$150,000. Please see the June *Tidings* for information about the mission projects that will receive funds.



2018 at a Glance



- **567** extremely vulnerable children and youth received scholarships for free education, case management, counseling, education, healthcare, and spiritual mentoring through the Child Rescue Centre.
- **1,800** primary school students impacted by the 30 Sierra Leone teachers who participated in the 2018 Teachers' Learning Collaborative.
- **19** secondary students passed entry requirements testing for university admission.
- **24** post secondary students received Promise Scholarships for university, vocational, and technical programs.
- **78** primary and secondary school students successfully passed required tests in order to matriculate and be eligible to continue education.
- **50** women caregivers of Child Rescue Centre students who have enrolled in the CRC Microfinance Program are in loan repayment statuses from their successful small business.
- **1,139** total infants and children under 5 years of age enrolled in Mercy Hospital's Nutrition Program.
- **8,100** patients treated for malaria by Mercy Hospital and Mercy Medical Outreach.
- **1,353** adults and children treated for HIV/AIDS through Mercy Hospital's HIV/AIDS program.
- **17,407** patients received quality care from Mercy Hospital or Mercy Medical Outreach regardless of their ability to pay.
- **900** villagers gained access to clean, safe drinking water from 2 deep bore well projects.

Reflection on Spiritual Disciplines: Celebration

In his book, *The Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster discusses twelve disciplines for Christians: meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration. Celebration is the last Discipline discussed in the book, but Foster says that “without joyous celebration to infuse the other Disciplines, we will sooner or later abandon them.”

The chapter on the Discipline of Celebration opens with a reminder that Jesus entered the world in celebration – “*I bring you good news of a great joy*” the angels said. The shepherds celebrated this event. In John 15:11 Jesus Himself said “*These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*” Celebration brings joy into life, and joy makes us strong in our faith.

Our decision to set the mind on the higher things of life is an act of the will. That is why celebration is a Discipline, the consciously chosen way of thinking and living. Foster explains that when we choose to practice the discipline of celebration, “the healing and redemption in Christ will break into the inner recesses of our lives and relationships, and the inevitable result will be joy.”

This September we will be observing the 125th Anniversary of Otterbein United Methodist Church’s ministry in Harrisonburg. What a great opportunity for us to practice the Discipline of Celebration together!

Prepared by Rosalie Bailey
Discipleship Ministry Team

On **Sunday, August 25 at 10:30 am**, the Men will lead the Morning Worship service at Otterbein. The Men’s Choir will sing and Gerald Harper will be our guest speaker. All men of the church are invited to join us in the choir. Watch for practice dates in the Worship Bulletin.



Our **Prayer Breakfast dates** for the next several months are **July 27, August 24, and September 28**. Meetings are on 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. *Please consider this your special invitation to join us!* Check the website below for additional meeting and event dates in 2019.

The Otterbein Men are planning for a church-wide Pancake Brunch in the fall (probably October 13 or 18th) so that we might purchase additional Devotional Guides for Veterans and others. “Stay tuned” for additional details about this event 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>

Divorce Recovery Workshop will be held from **6:30 to 8:30 pm** on **Mondays** from **September 9 thru November 11**. The ten-week course is open to anyone in the community who is separated, in the process of a divorce, or in the process of adjusting to a divorce. The workshop is free of charge. Childcare is available and a light supper will be served to the children. For more information or to pre-register, visit oumcharrisonburg.org/drw or contact the church office.

Health and Wellness

Hope for Connection and Joy after Loss

It was early on Sunday morning and I was sitting in my living room finishing up preparations for the sermon that I would preach later that day at Otterbein. It was also Father's Day, which meant my kids were at their dad's house, so I knew I had the entire day to myself. This reality can be very helpful when I desire quiet time to work, but it can also be very lonely when the work is done and they are not around. In that moment, early in the morning, I was grateful for the quiet, but also anticipating an afternoon and evening that, unless I was intentional, I would spend alone. I have had a few years of practice now being a single mom, which in my situation means having my children 4 days and being without them 3 days...every week!

When I was first divorced, the days and nights without my children were excruciating. Not knowing where they were, wondering if they were hurt, longing to comfort and hold them and not be able to was more painful and frightening than words can explain. Eventually, I had to make a decision...either go crazy with worry or give them over to God and trust that He loves them even more than I do and will protect them when I am not around. It's been a while now and still, every week when I must say goodbye to them so that they can spend time with their dad, my heart aches. And then, I take a deep breath, say a prayer, and let them go...trusting that God's got them and will be with them. It has never come easy, but I have learned that this is necessary so that I can live the life that God has called me to now. And, to my delight, I have discovered that there are still many opportunities for live-giving connection and great joy.

This leads me back to Father's Day morning when I was finishing up preparations for my sermon. All of a sudden, I looked up, and there was my neighbor Symone' standing at my back door with a huge smile on her face. I invited her in and told her about my

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transforming the lives of
impoveryshed children

Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Mariama Dugba is sponsored by Betty Redmond. Mariama 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.

Mariama Dugba

Date of Birth: April 5, 2001

Place of Birth: Bo, Sierra Leone

School: United Methodist Senior Secondary School

Current Class: SS I

Religion: Christian

Mariama was enrolled in the Child Rescue Centre (CRC) sponsorship program in 2013 when she was in JSS I. Both of her parents are alive and living in the village. Due to her parent's inability to send her to school, she left at the age of four to go live with her aunt so she could go



to school. However, her aunt later became blind and Mariama is now living with another of her aunts. Mariama has 2 siblings. She excels in school and her favorite subject is Agriculture. She hopes to attend the University where she plans to study Agriculture in hopes of becoming an Agriculturist. Her favorite food is rice and cassava leaf and she loves to read. Thanks to her caring sponsor, Mariama is able to continue on with her education uninterrupted and become steps closer to accomplishing her career goal.



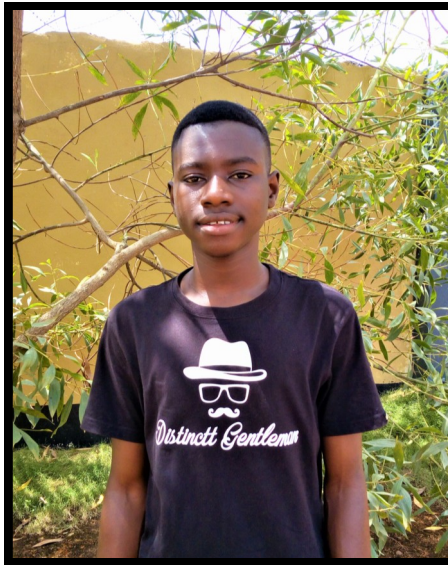
transforming the lives of
impoveryshed children

Sponsor a Child Spotlight

Saffa Fawundu is sponsored by Mat Magruder. Saffa is able to fulfill his 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.

Saffa Fawundu

Date of Birth: October 1, 2001
Place of Birth: Bo, Sierra Leone
School: Christ the King College
Current Class: SS 2
Religion: Christian



Saffa was enrolled in the Child Rescue Centre (CRC) sponsorship program in 2013. His parents are divorced and he resides with his mother and has 4 siblings. He excels in school and his favorite subject is Business Management. Upon completion of his education, he aspires to become a Business Manager. Saffa enjoys playing football. His favorite food is rice and cassava leaf and his favorite color is yellow. Thanks to his caring sponsor, Saffa is able to continue on with his educational pursuit and become steps closer to accomplishing his career goal.

day. We ate breakfast together and made plans to meet after church to throw a football. When we met outside later that day, there were a bunch of other neighbors hanging out and talking. We joined them and while sharing about our weeks discovered it was Hunter's birthday, another neighbor. Very spontaneously we decided to have a potluck dinner in his honor at my house later that night. So I spent my afternoon getting food ready for my friends and that evening we all gathered to enjoy good food and celebrate Hunter. It was a glorious evening filled with life and laughter. The last person left a little before 9 pm and as I reflected on the day, I was so grateful for my life, the lessons I have learned, and the opportunities that God still provides for me to experience connection and joy.

I don't know what loss you live with, but my prayer for you is that God would give you the grace to accept what you cannot change and let go of what has been lost so that you can make room for the spontaneous live-giving connection that is waiting for you. And I pray that *"the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may overflow with hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13).

Your sister in Christ,
Faith

Kits for Conference

Thanks to everyone who provided School and Hygiene (Health) Kits, made a monetary donation, helped pack the Kits, and those who took them to Conference.



This year we sent **164 School Kits** and **72 Hygiene (Health) Kits**, for a total of 236. We collected \$317, which means we had enough to cover shipping and toothpaste costs, plus a little extra as a donation!

Otterbein's 125th Anniversary Celebration



Delight in all that summer has to offer, but don't forget that at summer's end, we will assemble with friends, invited guests, and

the community on **September 21st & 22nd** to commemorate **Otterbein UMC's 125th Anniversary!** You can anticipate uplifting special music and concerts featuring guests **Anthony VanPelt** and **Blue Ridge Thunder**; meaningful worship with invited speaker, **District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez**; and exhibitions of historical memorabilia to browse. Food will be plentiful and delicious with heavy hors d'oeuvres served at an evening reception and brunch provided on Sunday morning. Expect a postcard to arrive in your mailbox in August detailing the schedule of these events. The weekend will be a time to reflect and to honor the devotion of generations of congregants who guided our church through the first 125 years. May we prayerfully and faithfully seek God's guidance as we continue the journey.

Bits of History for July:

July 1, 1894: The hall in the Logan Storeroom on Gray Street was rented as a temporary site for worship.

July 1, 1902: The Ladies Aid purchased the Strayer Lot, which adjoined the church, so that a parsonage could be constructed. Cost of lot: \$600.

July 1979: Installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary was completed.

July 9, 2009: Powerpoint displays for hymns and announcements were used for the first time during worship.

Bits of History for August:

August 4, 1917: Bishop William Bell presided at the "Laying of the Cornerstone" of the new church building.

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August 1988: A van route was established in order to transport worshippers to Sunday services.

August 1990: Forty-three years after the death of the beloved choir director in 1947, the "Friends of Charles Bazzle" gathered for the first of many annual reunions.

August 2015: The youth groups of Otterbein UMC and Asbury UMC merged.

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

Reflection on Spiritual Disciplines: Service

The discipline of Service means we are committed to serving others as Jesus called. It is about allowing our love for the Lord to flow in us from Him, and then to others around us. Service builds and prepares us to be stronger in character and in fulfilling our responsibility. The more we serve, the more Christ-like we can become.

Service is not about what we get, it is about what we already have been given and what we do with it. We earn nothing for doing what we are required to do. With the love of Christ flowing within us, it should flow to others around us. We should look out for and look after one another with acts of helpful kindness, generosity, and deeds.

Richard Foster, in his book *Celebration of Discipline*, points out that in His most famous teaching on service, Jesus concluded, "For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

We are called to use whatever means we can to practice our spiritual gifts and realize that the diversity we have is beneficial for one another. We are to be charitable and generous to others with what Christ has given us. This includes caring for those in need.

Prepared by Diane Ritchie
Discipleship Ministry Team