

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

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Tidings



September 2022

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

Not meeting at this time.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School

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

Sandy Schaefer

Director of Music Ministries
oumcmusic@hotmail.com

Melissa Miller

Office Manager
oumcdm@hotmail.com

Judy Falls

Custodian

Dawn Warren

Treasurer
oumctreasurer@hotmail.com

Office: 540-434-7747
x200 for Melissa
x201 for Adam
x203 for Dawn
x204 for Sandy
x207 for Judy

Otterbein in Prayer

Susie Ayala
Gary Billingsley
Millie Bruce
Rev. Louis Carson
Fern Cline
Loretta Crider
Charlie Davis
Cliff & Jean Davis
Ann Dellinger
Jo Ellen Dickenson
Amber Earman
Mike Earman
Nancy East

Dennis Gaines
Ray & Audrey Griffith
Doris Hanger
Laura Headlee
Norma Heath
Hunter Hensley
Alice Ely Howell
Allen Litten
Marion Malabad
Allene McCoy
Eugene Moyers
Mary Jo Mitchell

George & Betty
Painter
Judy Pruett
Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh
Glen Sites
Becky Smith
Linda Stephens
Paul Swartz
Juanita Taylor
Daisy Van Pelt
Mary Wenger
Shirley & Charlie
Williams

Divorce Recovery Workshop
Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
September 12—November 7

Open to anyone in the community who is
separated, in the process of a divorce, or in
the process of adjusting to a divorce.

Free of charge.

If childcare is needed, you must register by September 11.

To pre-register or for more information, visit
oumcharrisonburg.org/drw or contact the church office.

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the **October 2022** issue is **Monday, September 19** 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 19th.
- **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.



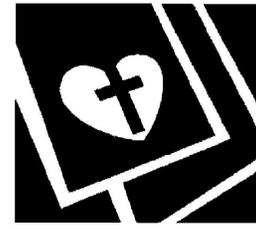
Faith in Action Update

FAITH *in* **ACTION**

Faith in Action continues to build relationships within our community of Otterbein and with other groups and organizations outside the church. This is being accomplished by one-on-one conversations with individuals and groups done by our Core Team. As these relationships develop, it will allow Faith in Action to have a power base when it comes time to work on the issues at hand. Currently we are gathering information about the needs for *Child Care* and *Transportation* in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area.

YOU can give your support to Faith in Action by attending the **Assembly** in **October**. We are hoping to have 500 diverse and representative leaders from across Harrisonburg and Rockingham County to ratify our issue and action agenda.

If you are interested in either of our current issues—*Child Care* or *Transportation*—OR want more information about Faith in Action, contact Linda Conrad or Adam Blagg.



FROM THE PASTOR

The end of summer invites us to rejoin routines that were paused in the midst of the more relaxed rhythms we have just enjoyed. Kids are back in school; JMU, EMU, Bridgewater and other universities are back in session. Things have settled down, traffic has increased, and the weather has cooled. While I enjoy summer and the variety of different experiences it brings, I also relish the return to the fall routines in the life of the church. Bible Study will begin again in September and that weekly pattern is one I enjoy and is very life-giving. The choir returns to a more normal routine and we welcome new and returning members of the college chorale. We fall into those standard routines with ease. For some that is good, but for others in our community and church family, those routines can provide additional stress. Anytime we see significant change in how we order our lives, that disruption has the potential to raise our levels of anxiety. Change induces stress; how we manage that stress is important.

In my experience, we as people too often focus solely on the physical nature of our existence. Recently while preaching on a Sunday morning, I somehow managed to stumble over a chair and fall down. It hit my knee and bumped my elbow, but by the end of the service, I could hardly tell that anything was physically wrong. Many people asked how I felt over the next few days, concerned that I might have additional bumps and bruises. Physically I was fine. What no one asked was how I felt emotionally after such a public miscue. Not only was the entire congregation attentive, it was also captured for anyone in the world with an internet connection to watch! While I lost no sleep over this incident and it is a trivial example of emotional or mental strain, I think it is a good example of how we assess others and the world at large. We do not talk about mental health as much as we should. We sometimes think of John Wesley's question: "How is it with your soul?" But do we actually use that in conversation with others that we share a connection with? And if we did, are you comfortable in sharing

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that? Maybe we should start with the trivial encounters in life and start having conversations about mental, emotional, and spiritual health, as well as our inquiry of physical health.

This will take practice, but I think it is a worthwhile practice. Caring for the whole of our person is vital to our health. So maybe as we enter into September and the changes we see happening around us, we pause and inquire from time to time with those closest to us how they are doing with life and move past just a recounting of the aches and pains of our physical bodies.

Adam



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

The UWF (UMW) will meet **Tuesday, September 13** at **10:00 am** in **Room 204**. The third quarter pledges are due to the District UMW in September. Please bring your pledges for June, July, August, and September up-to-date. The new 2023 officers will be appointed and voted on.

The Reading Program and *Living Into Our Purpose* Reports are due to the District Chairs on September 10th.

The **District UWF Prayer Breakfast** will be **Saturday, September 17** at **9:00 am** at **Asbury UMC**. The registration form and more information will be placed on the UMW Bulletin Board by the water fountain. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

*God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.*

Matthew 5:9

Macomber, Otterbein Worship Team Chair, for her assistance in spearheading this program. As the School of Music Operations Coordinator at JMU, Sarah is a valuable asset to our church's Music Ministry. Dr. Judith Ofcarcik, JMU Assistant Professor of Music Theory, is also helping implement the program and teach lessons. Dr. Ofcarcik, who was a substitute organist for Otterbein this summer, holds a master's degree in organ performance from Indiana University.

The second area we will be adding in honor of Priscilla's legacy is an Adult Learning and Study program for Otterbein members and the Harrisonburg community. The goal of this program is to offer short-term classes on varied aspects of music to promote musical knowledge and appreciation. Topics for exploring will be offered in 4-8 week sessions and include subjects such as music reading and notation, music appreciation, classical music workshops, symphony overviews, opera seminars, instrumental lessons, and music in the movies. All classes and materials will be free of charge (underwritten by the gift from Priscilla). The first study will be ***Our Hymns, Our Heritage***, a six week course with an overview of the church's favorite hymns with discussion on how to strengthen our love and appreciation for them. Sessions will be at **Otterbein** on **Tuesdays** at **1:00 pm** on **September 20 and 27 and October 4, 11, 18, and 25**. Please contact Sandy or the church office to sign-up. Invite your friends!

Music Notes

This fall we are excited to begin two programs in honor of Otterbein's devoted and beloved member, Priscilla Whitmore. Priscilla served as an organist at Otterbein for forty years and was a faithful soprano in the choir throughout her life. Priscilla bequeathed funds to the Music Ministry that we want to use in her memory specifically for things that she loved and were important to her. To begin, members of the Worship Team have organized the following opportunities this fall:

First, in conjunction with the piano faculty at JMU, we are offering organ lessons to piano majors. Selected students will receive a term of eight weeks of lessons, organ shoes, and book materials at no cost (underwritten by the gift from Priscilla). All JMU piano studios and their professors will be invited to attend masterclasses in early fall to learn about the organ, see the pipe chambers, and hear how adding the skill of playing organ can open opportunities in their future careers. After the initial group of students, we will continue to offer 8-week terms so additional students can benefit from organ instruction and exposure throughout the next several years. Our goal is to train organists to fill church positions and keep interest in organ playing alive for the next generation of musicians. We will also open a modified program to advanced high school students in the area at the recommendation of their teachers. We are grateful to Sarah

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Spaghetti Supper to be held Saturday, September 24



Plans are moving forward to serve our **Annual Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, September 24 beginning at 4:30 pm.** This meal will be served in-person in Memorial Hall. The menu will be spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, drink, and dessert. The men will meet at the church on Saturday, September 24 at 1:00 pm to prepare the meal.



Just two more regular breakfast, prayer, and fellowship meetings of the Men's Fellowship group remain in 2022. The meetings are set for **Saturday, August 27** and **Saturday, October 22** beginning at **7:30 am** at **Thomas House Restaurant** in Dayton. These meetings usually conclude in about one hour. You are most welcomed to join us!



Want to know more? Contact any member of our planning team: Bill Pollard, Carter Ritchie, and Mike Earman, or check our website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

Update from North Macedonia

Jennifer Moore, our missionary serving in North Macedonia, recently sent a newsletter sharing about the summer camp recently held for children ages 6-12. They were thrilled to have 39 children attend the 4 day, 3 night camp. The theme was "Adventure in the Jungle" and they discussed things that can help them navigate through a real jungle, as well as the jungle of life. If you'd like to read all about the experience, the full newsletter is on the credenza in the breezeway entrance or email Melissa in the office and she'll forward you the newsletter.



CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

*Let the heavens be glad
and let the Earth rejoice,
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
Let the field exult
and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees
of the forest sing for joy.
Psalm 96:11-12*

The vision of all the trees in the forest singing for joy warms the heart of all who find tranquility and peace in God's creation. Having visited the Rockingham Landfill and learning that six hundred tons of solid waste is deposited there every day, it seems illogical for these cheerful verses to come to mind, but they do. Landfill supervisor Jeff Smith and the twenty people employed at 813 Greendale Road work hard to ensure the waste contained at the landfill does not pollute the soil, groundwater, or the air.

Our local landfill was started in 1970 and contains 300 acres. The current refuse pit, referred to as a cell, is made up of 25 acres. The cell is lined with a membrane that protects the soil and groundwater and is bordered with gravel filled trenches to leach out liquid from the waste.

Piping beneath the cell takes in the methane gas that accumulates from the waste to an above ground flare. The flare burns off the gas at a rate of 500 cubic feet per minute, twenty-four hours a day, so the air remains clean, and all that is detected is an odor derived from the waste. Methane is odorless. At one time gasses from the cell were piped to the hospital as an energy source, however today natural gas

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2022-2023 Bible Study Schedule

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| Sept. 13 – Oct. 4 | Action: What do we do when Bible Study ends? |
| Oct. 11 – Nov. 22 | Gospel: Luke |
| Nov. 29 – Dec. 20 | Advent Study |
| Jan. 10 – Feb. 21 | OT: Joshua, Judges, Ruth |
| Feb. 28 – Apr. 4 | Lent Study |
| Apr. 11 | Off |
| Apr. 18 – May. 23 | Theology: Why do bad things happen? |
| June | Book Study TBD |

Bible Study starts again the week of September 13th! We will meet in person on Tuesdays at 6 pm and Wed at 10 am. Once again, we will record Bible Study and provide a link after the session is finished. Look for the first reading guide around the first of September. More details will follow in our weekly email. Our Gospel this year will be Luke and our Old Testament books will be Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. We will supplement these with some other more topical studies, including an Advent study focusing on history.





Should we partner with Bridge of Hope?

Bridge of Hope is a local organization that serves single parent families facing homelessness in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area. This faith-based organization recently reached out to Otterbein to see if we would have interest in being one of the local churches participating in their program.

Bridge of Hope staff identifies eligible families, helps find housing, and offers rental assistance on a decreasing basis over time of the program, which can range from 12 -24 months. The overarching goal is that families will break the cycle of poverty and homelessness and live into stable, resilient futures. Along with help in finding and paying for housing, families are provided assistance in finding employment, additional job training as needed, and opportunity to learn money management and problem solving skills.

Bridge of Hope has been successful by offering a three-way partnership that includes the family, which drives the program, an on-staff case manager, who connects the family with resources to reach their goals, and Neighboring Volunteers, who serve as a social support system. This social support is what makes this program unique.

The Neighboring Volunteers component of this program is where local churches come into play. A small group of volunteers from the church become "Neighboring Volunteers" and working together with the case manager, build a supportive relationship with the family. Neighboring Volunteers participate in five hours of initial Neighboring Training, have regular interactions with the family and case manager, and working together, form the Bridge of Hope Neighborhood. Frequent contacts providing hope and encouragement to the family calls for a commitment of time and energy, not a financial commitment. Connecting with a family as a Neighboring Volunteer is similar to what you do to support family, friends, and other neighbors.

In the coming weeks you will hear more details about Bridge of Hope and possible involvement of our church in this program.

is less expensive to use than landfill gas. Other companies have expressed interest in using gas from the cell, so perhaps this source of energy will be tapped again.

The current cell is anticipated to be full within five years, and then two more cells will be constructed adjacent to the current pit. When a cell is closed, it is capped with either three feet of clay or with a membrane and then covered with eighteen inches of clay. After a mound is closed, grass is planted on top, and the only maintenance required is to mow. It takes many years, but over time, some of the cell's waste begins to decompose causing the mound to settle. The mound may sink as much as four feet in two years. After that, the decompression rate plateaus for a time before the mound settles again. There is a chance that future generations may mine the mounds for the metal contained there.

Mr. Smith reports that the biggest challenge in caring for the landfill is to monitor and prevent leachate seeps. Leachate seeps allow the liquid in the cells or "trash juice" to infiltrate storm water which can contaminate streams and river. When a leachate seep is detected, holes are dug and lined with gravel to allow liquids to seep back into the trash.

Other challenges of landfill operation are improper recycling and the depositing of hazardous materials in garbage cans. When general trash, food, or liquids are placed in recycling bins or recyclables are sorted incorrectly, the recycling company must return the materials to be added to the landfill

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waste and does not pay for the recycled items.

Hazardous materials such as light bulbs containing mercury, asbestos, chemicals, and medical waste cannot be deposited in landfill cells. Including hazardous materials in garbage cans is dangerous for sanitation workers and prevents proper care of solid waste cells.

As stewards of God's creation, we are grateful for the dedication of the local landfill employees and are called to assist them as they strive to protect the environment. By reducing the volume of our household waste, recycling responsibly, and disposing of waste properly, we can make a positive contribution to the task of solid waste management.

Barb German
Creation Care Task Force

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We would like to reopen our church nursery for Sunday morning services. We know there will be a limited numbers of children at first, so we are looking at ways to best utilize volunteers. Our tentative plan is to assign two volunteers each Sunday who will open the nursery at 10:15 am. If no children have arrived by 10:40 am, the volunteers may join the morning service. As has been our practice in the past, we will assign two volunteers to work together for child and church safety. All volunteers will be asked to read and agree to the Otterbein Child Protection Policy. If you feel led to participate in this ministry of the church and become a volunteer, please contact Betty Redmond.



Equipment for Caring

Mission Central is our district-wide United Methodist centralized mission to families in need and **Equipment for Caring** is one of the ministries under the Mission Central umbrella. This program loans medical equipment at no cost to anyone in our community who has a need. The program is volunteer-run and relies on the generous support of churches, individuals, and businesses to sustain their mission.

The equipment is gently used and donated by businesses and individuals within Harrisonburg and the surrounding counties. All equipment is cleaned upon receipt and safety checks are performed before they are loaned out. They also provide adult diapers, pull-ups, and skin/wound care products.

Durable Medical Equipment available for loan includes: standard & transport wheelchairs, bedside commodes, toilet seat risers, bath benches/shower seats & stools, a variety of walkers, canes, and crutches, nebulizers with tubing, hospital beds, and Hoyer lifts.

Assistive Devices include: grabbers, sock assist, leg lifters, chair cushions, slings, walker attachments, cloth incontinence pads, divided plates, pill organizers or boxes, and blood pressure monitors.

If you, or someone you know has a need for any of these items, Equipment for Caring is **open Mondays, 5-7 pm** and **Thursdays, 9-11 am** at 1712 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, or call 540-383-6112.

The Outreach Ministry Team invites your assistance in helping meet the needs of Equipment for Caring. If you have unused medical equipment at home, please consider giving it new life by donating it to the Equipment for Caring medical equipment loaner program. Their ongoing goal is to collect donated medical equipment to restock. If you would like to donate a piece of equipment or assistive devices, please take to Mission Central (see website for hours open) or leave in the entry breezeway at the church to be delivered for you. Monetary donations are used to repair equipment or purchase adult care supplies. Make checks payable to OUMC and designate "Equipment for Caring."

You may also place items of particular need, including adult large or extra-large pullups (not diapers with tabs), disposable bed pads, and cloth bed pads, in the designated area in the church entrance breezeway during the month of September.