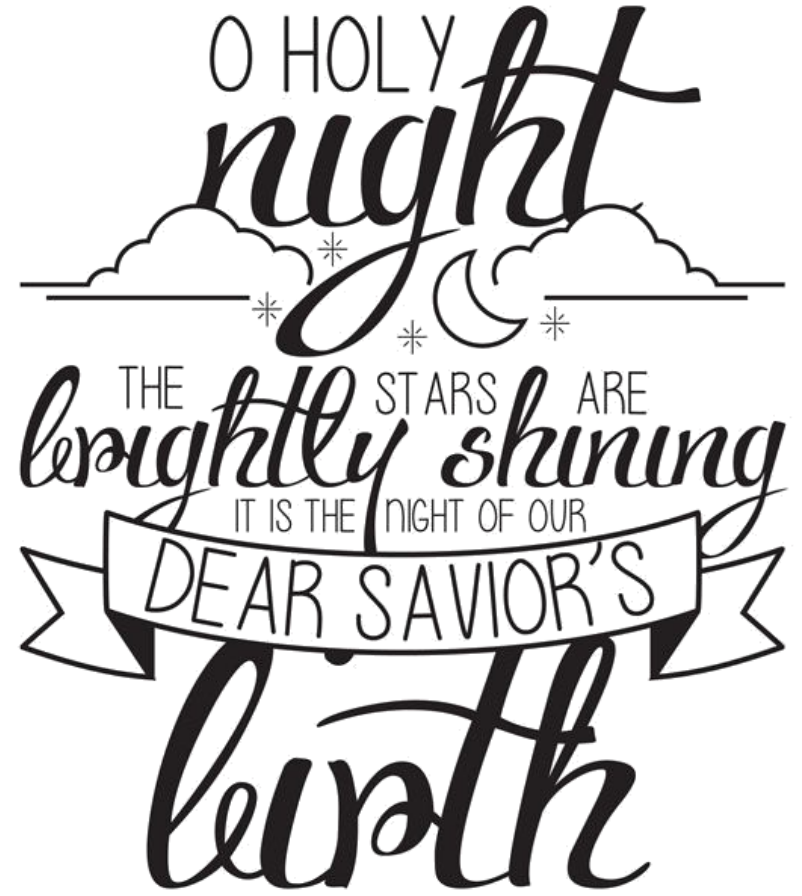


OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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# Tidings



# December 2025

**The Tidings**  
**Otterbein United Methodist**  
**Church**

176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747  
oumcharrisonburg.org

*Tidings* articles are generally due  
by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
You may either bring articles to  
the church office or email them  
to oumcdadm@hotmail.com

**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

**Melissa Miller**  
Office Manager  
oumcdadm@hotmail.com

**Gary Edlind**  
Director of Visitation

**Ricky Goodwyn, Jr.**  
Director of Music Ministries  
oumcmusic@hotmail.com

**Dan Curtis**  
Organist

**Drew Dodson**  
Bell Choir Director

**Melvin Falls**  
Custodian

**Bonnie Andrade**  
Treasurer  
oumctreasurer@hotmail.com

Office: 540-434-7747  
x200 for Melissa  
x201 for Adam

**Otterbein in Prayer**

|                     |                    |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| David Angier        | Jo Ellen Dickenson | Art & Mary Jo Mitchell |
| Rosalie Bailey      | Mike Earman        | Maxine Perry           |
| Gary Billingsley    | Judi Espinoza      | Judy Pruett            |
| Marilyn Blagg       | Ed Gaines          | Dot Swartz             |
| Whitney Bradley     | Charles Glassick   | Carolyn Stroop         |
| Millie Bruce        | Ray Griffith       | Juanita Taylor         |
| Karen & Earl Cannon | Fred Hopkins       | Michelle VanPelt       |
| Rev. Louis Carson   | Tina Jolly         | John Walsh             |
| Nissa D'Andrea      | Deb Leap           | Hazel Willi            |
| Cliff Davis         | Steve Lily         | Baby Charlie Woods     |
| Diane Cline Davis   | Chuck Macklin      | Gina Wyse              |

**CLOTHES CLOSET** is NOT accepting donations at this time  
EXCEPT for the following: winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves  
AND socks (especially white). Thanks and PLEASE tell your  
friends and neighbors that the Clothes Closet is OPEN with free  
clothes for all ages every Monday 4:30-6 pm.

*The Hospitality Committee would like to take  
this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the  
congregation for the many delicious dishes  
that were provided during the year.  
You are most appreciated!*



**For Your Information**

- *Tidings* deadline for the January issue is **Monday, December 15** 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

## OOTSP (One of the Sweetest People)

I'd like to highlight an OOTSP person each month as I discover them as I do my visiting of Otterbein UMC members who can no longer attend church. Here's one:

### Maxine Perry

I have visited with her in her duplex house near Sentara RMH. I have given her flowers and she loved that. I asked her if she knew Carolyn Stroop in Bellaire Retirement Community and she said yes and many others in the church. She said she was doing well for 91 years old and she hasn't needed a doctor appointment for a long time.

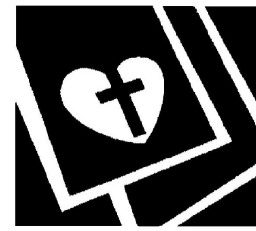
Maxine was born and raised in Rockingham County. Her family lived in Singer's Glen and she went to Sunday School and church there every Sunday. She was in the youth fellowship and choir as a teenager. She said that she didn't sing much, but she and her girlfriend whispered and giggled a lot. She went forward to the altar at 12 years old and accepted Christ as her Savior.

She moved to Harrisonburg and joined the Brethren Church (now Otterbein United Methodist Church). She was active in church and the women's group. She remembers going Christmas caroling with the church and carolers came to her house once. She worked at the Mick-or-Mack Grocery Store (near Court Square) for 30 years. Customers would form a line at her register even when other registers were empty. She had two sons, Dennis and Carl (who passed away). Dennis was a United Methodist pastor in Richmond for 30 years. He now pastors a United Methodist Church in Elkton, Maryland, where young couples used to go when they eloped to get married. She has two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Her family keeps in touch and visits when they can.

She feels bad about not being able to get to church, but her walking is limited. If you remember Maxine (or not) pay her a visit or a call or a card. She is truly One Of The Sweetest People!

*Note: I have been authorized to bring Holy Communion to people I visit who can not make it to church any more. Please contact me at GaryEdlindSr@gmail.com and we will make an appointment.*

Thank you, Gary Edlind, Sr. - Director of Visitation, OUMC



# FROM THE PASTOR

As our December *Tidings* is being prepared, we are also working on our annual Advent devotionals. During my appointment at Glossbrenner, we started writing Advent devotionals as a community. The four local congregations worked cooperatively to compile a devotion for each day. I simply borrowed the idea from what I had experienced at Otterbein when I attended before entering into ministry. To keep everyone from writing about Christmas, we gave everyone a set of daily lectionary texts to work with. That practice continues to this day. It is also where I hear the most comments about having to write devotionals for Advent. Our spirits yearn from Christmas and we expect to be writing about those narratives during the season of Advent. Instead, the texts remind us that Advent is about preparation. Preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and preparation for his pending return. Sometimes they are hard to work with and not as celebratory as we might like. This is working as intended. While all of us are blessed by the practice of devotional reading, the writer is doubly blessed in having to study and sit with a potentially unfamiliar text. Working through how it speaks to them, what message it might have for others and what connection it has to the work of preparing for Christmas is a significant task. This is a great way to deepen our discipleship and grow in our faith. I know at times the content is hard; I am challenged when I write these devotionals as well, but in our faith, we are capable of doing hard things from

*continued next page...*

time to time. I love reading your devotions because I know that it is a place where you have had an opportunity to grow in your faith and share that evidence with others. I'm tempted for us to add the Christmas season to the Advent devotionals; we have more than enough able writers to cover the extra twelve days and then you would get the opportunity to write about Christmas in addition to Advent. I imagine that the challenge would not lessen, but maybe the spirit of the work would be a little more joyful.

I hope you are having a great season of preparation during Advent and may blessings abound during Christmas.

*Adam*



### **Macedonian Baked Drumstick Recipe**

Although this is not the exact recipe given to the team, it's the closest to their directions of "some garlic powder, some onion powder, salt, etc." This is the recipe for the drumsticks served at our potluck earlier this year.

For 8 drumsticks - Bak at 400° for 35 - 45 minutes, depending on size of drumsticks

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 3/4 cups Olive Oil      | 1 † Paprika |
| 2/3 cups Parsley Flakes | 1 † Salt    |
| 1 † Garlic Powder       | 1 † Pepper  |
| 1 † Onion Powder        |             |

Good Luck, enjoy!  
Otterbein's Macedonian Team

The sheepfold is a place of safety and protection with the shepherd serving as the gate. As Christians, we know that Jesus is the gate to salvation. Alongside the fence is a primitive wooden structure, an observation tower to better visualize the surroundings in an effort to further protect the flock. Likewise, we are never out of God's sight as he faithfully keeps watch over us.

While looking at the sheep, you will find the signature of "C. Day Rudy Co. Harrisburg, PA", creator and installer of the window. It is located in the far right panel under the largest sheep resting in the green grass.

There are many winged angels and other enhaloed figures at both the top and bottom portions of the window. Perhaps the four central figures that hold the scrolls with the words, "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST" may depict Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, since the four Gospel writers are often included in church windows.

Stained glass artisans sometimes add local landmarks to their works. Look closely at the bluish mountains in the background. One range has the familiar outline of the Massanutten Peak as if viewed from the east. It's unknown if this was intentional, but it made me think of the Magi who followed the star over Bethlehem as they journeyed from the East to visit and honor the newborn King. This placement in the window provides the proper orientation and direction of their travel.

I love art and where it can lead your thoughts and interpretations! I hope you will enjoy finding some of these seldom noticed elements. Perhaps you will come up with other interpretations.

~~GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST~~

## Hidden In Plain Sight—Part 2

by Carole Gaines

This is a continuation of our look at the sanctuary window, ANNUNCIATION TO THE SHEPHERDS. The bucolic scene of river, plants, and sheep provides a lovely picture in its own right, but let's look at the possible symbolic elements.

A winding river in the background of the landscape might suggest key Christian concepts associated with water: baptism, life, transformation, cleansing, and salvation. The many green bushes and trees represent life, growth, and rebirth, as well as beautifully illustrating the magnificence of God's creation.

The angels, bright and prominent in the sky, feature the largest angel holding a palm branch, an ancient Christian symbol of peace, victory, and eternal life. It's also a reminder of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem where crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches.

In Christian art, a shepherd's staff with its familiar crook often reflects Jesus' ministry and work of caring for the poor, weak, and vulnerable. As the hook could be used to retrieve sheep from precarious situations, so Christ is ever-present as our Good Shepherd.

Next to the shepherd dressed in red is a lone, centrally-placed sheep intently looking heavenward. A single lamb often symbolizes Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. The image of that single lamb also brought to mind the parable of the lost sheep that has returned from its wandering and is now safe in the shepherd's care.

The remaining flock of sheep could easily represent the body of believers who belong to God and are loved by Christ. The sheep are protected by a rail fence which symbolizes divine protection.

*continued next page...*



United  
Women  
in Faith

*United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.*

Greetings!

For Otterbein UWF, December begins with Christmas Lunch at Camp Overlook in the Blessings Lodge on Monday December 1. A group of us will travel together and meet other women from the district for time of fellowship. This event is always a lovely way to begin the season of Advent. ***Our regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in Memorial Hall followed by soup and sandwich lunch.*** All women are invited to join us for fellowship and delicious food!

Coming in January: Reading program book discussion! Following our regular meeting (Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 11 am), we will meet to discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This book is on the reading program list for 2026 and available at Massanutten Regional Library. If you love to read, please join us ***January 13 at 12 noon in Room 204.*** Bring your lunch and be ready for lively discussion! ***All women and men are invited to participate.*** Contact Ginny Whitehill for further information.

Grace & Peace,  
Pat Wingert

***Restore us, O God: make your face shine on,  
that we may be saved. Psalm 80:3***





## Christmas Brunch to Support College Chorale Scholarships

The **Christmas Family Brunch** is planned for **Sunday, December 7** in Memorial Hall immediately following the Christmas Cantata, presented during Morning Worship at 10:30 am. All donations will support the **College Chorale Scholarship Fund**. The meal will feature good food and fellowship for everyone! Enjoy pancakes with syrup and a variety of fruit toppings, sausage, fresh fruit cup, and beverage.



The Otterbein United Methodist Men will meet on **Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 am in Memorial Hall**. Following a short business meeting, the men will set up the dining area and make other preparations for the Family Brunch. Cooking for the meal will begin Sunday morning, December 7 at 9:00 am in the kitchen.

Beginning the first Sunday in each month in 2026, the men will be collecting canned food for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and any other needy area Food Pantries. Thank you in advance for your support of this monthly project of the OUMM which begins on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Our monthly Otterbein Men's Fellowship prayer breakfast meetings will resume on **Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 7:30 am in Memorial Hall at Otterbein UMC**.



### **\*Want to know more?\***

Contact the planning team:

Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, or Carter Ritchie.

Also check out our website:

<https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

## From Your Outreach Ministry Team

*For there will never cease to be poor in the land.  
Therefore, I command you, you shall open wide your hand to your  
brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.*

Deuteronomy 15:11

### New Project

**Kingsway Apple Tree Project**—*Bev Earman, point person*

Thanks to Bev and Otterbein for their continued support of this worthwhile project. We'll report donation information in our January *Tidings*.

### Ongoing Projects

**Mercy House** – *Susan Pollard, point person*

Next delivery is November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Fresh Start** – *Carla Nemoytin, point person*

**First Step** had no distributions in October.

**Soup Kitchen** – *Susan Pollard, point person*

The Soup Kitchen served 130 guests in October!

**Clothes Closet** – *Linda Conrad, point person*

The Clothes Closet was open four Mondays in October. 37 men and women and 3 children were served; this included 9 new shoppers!

**Gleaning** – *Vicki Gaines, point person*

Gleaning for 2025 has come to an end and over 3,890 lbs. of fresh vegetables have been delivered to The Salvation Army, Our Community Place, and Gemeinschaft. Otterbein is now sharing produce doated to Otterbein with Shenandoah Valley Garden Share, which distributes to county food banks. These donations are included in our totals and reported to The Society of St. Andrew under Otterbein. A big THANK YOU to Otterbein's gleaning teams; we had a great year!

*Your Outreach Team!*