

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

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Tidings



February 2025

The Tidings
Otterbein United Methodist
Church

176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747
oumcharrisonburg.org

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service

Please check the calendar for
times of regular and special
events.

Our Staff

Rev. Adam Blagg

Senior Pastor
oumcpastor@hotmail.com

Melissa Miller

Office Manager
oumcdadm@hotmail.com

Ricky Goodwyn, Jr.

Director of Music Ministries

Dan Curtis

Organist

Melvin Falls

Custodian

Treasurer

oumctreasurer@hotmail.com

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

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!

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the March issue is **Monday, February 17** 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 17th.

Our event will be held at Rockingham County Fairgrounds on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

Schedule:

4:00 pm - Meet - Check-in

4:45 pm - Muster - Gather for Opening Remarks

5:00 pm - Move - Send-off (choice to walk 2K or 5K)

6:00 pm - Munch - Light meal served

7:00 pm - Mosey - Goodbye!

For more information, and to register please visit:
<https://cnoy.com/location/harrisonburg>

You may sign up online - just make sure to join the Harrisonburg event and the Otterbein United Methodist Church team. You can also search by team leader (Christina Blagg). Not up to walking? Donations are welcome and encouraged! Please talk to Christy Blagg if you would like more information, or would like to donate to the team effort!

Let's change the tune for people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness...because it's cold out there. Join us on February 22, 2025 - team up, fundraise, and walk with us!

Thanks!

Christy Blagg
cwblagg@hotmail.com
(540) 294-4245

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite
David Angier
Rosalie Bailey
Wanda Baker
Carolyn Beam
Gary Billingsley
Whitney Bradley
Millie Bruce
Rev. Louis Carson
Fern Cline
Nissa D'Andrea
Ann Dellinger

Jo Ellen Dickenson
Mike Earman
George Ely
Judi Espinoza
Charles Glassick
Ray Griffith
Art Hanger
Norma Heath
Fred Hopkins
Chuck & Nancy Macklin
Art & Mary Jo Mitchell
Betty Painter

BJ Payne
Maxine Perry
Judy Pruett
Dot Swartz
Carolyn Stroop
Juanita Taylor
Daisy VanPelt
Michelle VanPelt
Hazel Willi
Gina Wyse



Have you heard of the "Coldest Night of the Year" event?

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities - here in Harrisonburg it will support Open Doors!

Open Doors shares:

The mission of Open Doors is to provide safe shelter for the unhoused, as well as compassionate support and access to services for all in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community. Our work and our values are rooted in dignity, integrity, compassion, advocacy and kindness.

In 2007, thermal shelter services began operating under the name HARTS (Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter). We began utilizing a mobile model for services. In 2013, HARTS became Open Doors. Last year alone, Open Doors provided emergency shelter for 237 individuals.

Each night that we provide safe and supportive shelter, we also provide a hot meal, showers, and basic care items such as toiletries, hats, gloves, and undergarments to name a few. Without Open Doors, many individuals would not have anywhere to stay, access to a hot meal or basic care items.

This year, when you walk with us- proceeds will support our new shelter known as the Navigation Center

The Navigation Center is our new year round shelter and drop-in center that consists of an expansion in the number of homeless we serve (40 to 80), a new commercial kitchen Program, and resource coordination expansion. With this exciting expansion, it allows Open Doors the opportunity to serve safe and inclusive shelter, AND to extend critical services to the greater Harrisonburg and Rockingham Community whether housed or unhoused.

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In the church year, February is often the time when we enter the Lenten season, but this year Lent and Easter are late. Ash Wednesday is the first Wednesday in March and Easter is on April 20th, so we have an extended season in the life of the church between Epiphany and Lent. It gives us a few extra weeks to relish in the cold and snow, some extra time for Bible Study and choir rehearsals. You even had an extended break between writing devotionals!

This found time is one of my favorite things in life. You know when you have a full week planned with multiple appointments, meetings, and things to do and suddenly something is cancelled and you find yourself with an unexpected hour that is suddenly free...how do you fill such time? Depending on how things are going, I often take those moments and simply rest. If in the midst of a hectic week, an hour or two like that is a blessing. A chance to decompress, be still for a heartbeat or two and then engage the next thing on my calendar with more energy. Sometimes that means a quick nap or a walk or just time to read something without an interruption.

I have found moments like this to be so nice that over the years I often schedule a week of vacation during this in-between season, early January, simply to rest and relax after Christmas and before Easter. To be honest, January is not a great time to travel. Weather can be a challenge and being outside is not always pleasant, but I still like the time to renew and refresh my body and spirit. Before we know it Lent will be upon us, and we will be engaged again with the work of preparation and penitence leading up to our Easter feast. I hope you are finding some time now to rest in these moments of in-between.

Adam

The Otterbein United Methodist Men's Fellowship is offering monthly meetings in 2025 right in our own church! The next meeting will be **Saturday, February 22** beginning at **7:30 am** in **Memorial Hall**.

After enjoying a hot breakfast, we will have a short business meeting followed by devotions and the sharing of prayer requests and prayer time. We would be thrilled to have you join us.



Men of Christian faith can benefit greatly from getting together for a number of reasons. Here are a few:

1. **Fellowship:** Gathering together with other men of faith provides an opportunity for fellowship and social interaction. It allows men to connect with others who share their beliefs and values, which can be an important source of support and encouragement.
2. **Spiritual Growth:** Spending time with other men of faith can help to deepen one's own spiritual practice. It provides an opportunity to share and learn from one another, to ask questions and seek guidance, and to pray and worship together.
3. **Accountability:** Being part of a community of men of faith can provide a sense of accountability. It allows men to hold one another accountable for living out their beliefs and values in their daily lives, and to offer support and encouragement when needed.
4. **Service:** Gathering together can also provide opportunities for men to serve their communities and those in need. It allows them to work together to make a positive difference in the world, and to put their faith into action.

Please go to our Otterbein Men's Fellowship page for a complete schedule of meetings and activities for 2025:

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

Leadership/Planning Team

Mike Earman

Bill Pollard

Carter Ritchie

to donating there is still time to be counted! We'll report the total amount of donations in next month's *Tidings*.

Soup Kitchen – *Susan Pollard, point person*

The Soup Kitchen continues to serve a hot meal to all who are present on Monday evenings. The kitchen served over 80 individuals during the month of December and a total of 1,249 for 2024. Good job Soup Kitchen Crew!

Clothes Closet – *Linda Conrad, point person*

The Clothes Closet sorted, hung, and distributed clothes on three Mondays in December. Clothes were distributed to 35 men and women and 3 children. They served 8 new men and women clients and 4 new children.

A young woman presented before Sunday's service who needed a winter coat. Linda made sure the lady left with a coat.

Gleaning – *Vicki Gaines, point person*

As previously reported, gleaning has ended for 2024 but will resume in the Spring of 2025. If you would like to become a team or team member, please let Vicki know; She can find room for you!!

Your Outreach Team!

There is a **2025 Flower Calendar** on the bulletin board near the breezeway entrance with many empty spaces! Flowers can be placed in the sanctuary to remember a friend or family member, recognize a special event, or just because. We invite you to take a look at the calendar and help us fill the empty spaces. Please see Julie Clough or Bev Earman if you have questions. The cost for arrangements is \$60.



From Your Outreach Ministry Team

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will reward them for what they have done.*

Proverbs 19:17

New Projects

Open Doors – *Christy Blagg, point person*

Thanks, Christy, for forging ahead to make our participation in Open Doors' new project a reality. Please refer to Christy's *Tidings* article to see how you can participate in Otterbein's support of Open Doors.

Isaiah117 – *Susan Pollard, point person*

Susan has once again stepped up by volunteering to be the point person for project Isaiah117. Project Isaiah117 hopes to establish a place for children who have been removed from their home by child welfare services to stay until foster care can be arranged. Susan is now gathering information and will report how she sees Otterbein's role in helping to establish a safe environment for these traumatized children. Stay tuned!

Ongoing Projects

Mercy House – *Susan Pollard, point person*

Susan made one delivery since our last *Tidings*, delivering 8 items of everything but butter. A total of \$155.14 was spent. Thanks, Susan, for your service!

Fresh Start – *Carla Nemoytin, point person*

No deliveries were made in December. Carla has heard from First Step. She was told there are a potential of 5 families waiting for housing that will need assistance. Bridge of Hope has one potential family that will need help in the near future.

January was designated "Fresh Start Month" meaning the congregation was asked for donations to support the work of Fresh Start. To all who donated a big Thank You! If you've been thinking about it but just not gotten around

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United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

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, sisters in faith!

Our January meeting was a celebration of our faith and the members who had January and December birthdays. We discussed some favorite "water" places that we have visited and favorite Bible verses and hymns/songs that reflect what we know of God and Jesus. Through this sharing, we learned more about the faith that has formed us and more about each other. We acknowledge that God has created us as his own precious children and that we belong to each other! We also decided to encourage each other every time we meet to bring a verse or song to share with the group. May it be so!

All women are invited to join us for our meeting **Tuesday, February 11 at 11 am in Memorial Hall.** Ramon Ritchie from Generations Crossing will speak to us about the services and care provided for adults and children. The program will be followed by a lunch of baked potatoes, chili, and salads. Please join us! For more information please contact Pat Wingert or Betty Redmond.

Grace & Peace,
Pat Wingert

God, as children grow, help them to grow in faith. As the young mature, help them to embrace love and mercy. As the elders age, help them to pass on wisdom. Help every generation follow the footsteps of Jesus. Amen.

Janice Lee, Global missionary from the United States serving in Cambodia from the Daily Prayer Guide 2025



Creation Care Taskforce

CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

You will be hearing much more about microplastics as scientists evaluate their impact on our environment. Below is a short explanation of microplastics. Christians have been given the responsibility of caring for God's creation (Genesis 1:26-28). That includes becoming informed and following practices that protect and lessen the impact of our habits on the environment. While scientists are figuring it out, maybe we should follow God's example and do our part in keeping plastics out of oceans and waterways.

What are Microplastics?

"Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than five millimeters that result from both commercial product development and the breakdown of larger plastics. As a pollutant, microplastics can be harmful to the environment and animal health. There are two types of microplastics: primary and secondary.

Primary microplastics are tiny particles designed for commercial use, such as cosmetics, as well as microfibers shed from clothing and other textiles.

Secondary microplastics are particles that result from the breakdown of larger plastic items, such as water bottles and drinking straws.

The problem with microplastics is that they do not break down into harmless molecules. Plastics take hundreds or thousands of years to decompose.

Scientists are still unsure whether *continued next page...*

consumed microplastics are harmful to humans or animal health and if so, what specific dangers they may pose."

How are you minimizing your use of plastic products?

Creation Care Task Force

Source: National Geographic

(nationalgeographic.org/resource/microplastics)

Chili Luncheon

On Sunday, February 23, the Faith Builders Sunday School class will host their annual Chili Luncheon. It will begin following the worship service until 1:00 pm. We will be serving mild beef chili with beans, white chicken chili, hot dogs, pimento cheese sandwiches, and ice cream. A freewill offering will be collected to go towards the College Chorale Scholarship Fund and class missions. Everyone is invited to come join the fellowship.



In case of inclement weather, the church office will follow the status of Harrisonburg City Schools. When the schools close for bad weather, the office will be closed and activities will be cancelled. If the schools are delayed 1 or 2 hours, the office will open at 9 am and activities will proceed as planned. Check WHSV-TV and email for information about worship service cancellations.