

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

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# Tidings



# February 2023

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

176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747  
oumcharrisonburg.org  
Prayer Ministry - (540) 434-7745

*Tidings* articles are 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

**Sandy Schaefer**  
Director of Music Ministries  
Minister of Visitation  
oumcmusic@hotmail.com

**Melissa Miller**  
Office Manager  
oumcdadm@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  
Wanda Baker  
Gary Billingsley  
Millie Bruce  
Rev. Louis Carson  
Fern Cline  
Eleanor 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  
Megan Liskey Lambert  
John Liskey  
Tom Liskey  
Allen Litten  
Marion Malabad  
Allene McCoy  
John Miller  
Mary Jo Mitchell

Wesley Monger  
George & Betty Painter  
BJ Payne  
Judy Pruett  
Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh  
Margaret Shifflet  
Becky Smith  
Linda Stephens  
Juanita Taylor  
Anthony VanPelt  
Daisy VanPelt  
John Welch, Jr.  
Mary Wenger

*We want to thank the Otterbein family for your thoughts and prayers for comfort and peace for our loved one. She said that she was "ready to meet Jesus" and she passed peacefully.  
~ Family of Janalee Tutwiler ~*



**For Your Information**

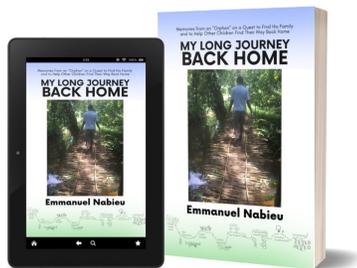
- **Tidings** deadline for the **March 2023** issue is **Wednesday, February 15** by **3 pm**. All groups, classes, and individuals are welcome to submit articles for the *Tidings*. Plan your activities and bring the written details to the church office or email to the office at oumcdadm@hotmail.com by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **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.

## My Long Journey Back Home

The memoir of Emmanuel "Nabs" Nabieu

Our friend from Helping Children Worldwide, Emmanuel "Nabs" Nabieu, has written his memoir. It is an absorbing and deeply moving story about surviving the civil war in Sierra Leone and navigating life on the streets and in the CRC orphanage. He is dedicating a portion of the sales towards helping bring more street-connected children to safety through the ministry of the Child Reintegration Centre and Helping Children Worldwide. He will be joining us in a few months to share more of his story.

*Emmanuel tasted the brutality of the 11 years of the Civil War in Sierra Leone at the age of 7 when his village was overtaken by the rebels. After the murder of his dad, he got separated from the rest of his family for over 10 years as he navigated life in the jungle, on the streets, and as one of the first children taken into the Child Rescue Centre orphanage in 2000. Coming back later as the leader of that orphanage, he helped to transform it into family-based care so that children can grow up in safe, loving families. He now works as the Director for Mission Advancement and Partnership at Helping Children Worldwide. Nabs' story is about hope, resilience, and transformation. Read how he overcame severe trauma, bitterness, and soul-crushing life challenges and still found joy in bringing hope and building significance into the lives of countless vulnerable children and families.*



The book can be purchased on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3PFjB71>

The Sanctuary is due for painting and the Trustees are currently working on getting estimates. If you can help with "second mile" giving to help offset the cost of this project, please place your donation in the offering plate and designate "Sanctuary Painting." Thank you.



# FROM THE PASTOR

As I get older, I have discovered that I am less fond of winter. I am now beginning to understand the seasonal migration to warmer climates that many people make as they hit retirement. I do like snow, especially when I do not have to travel while it is falling, but the cold is just not much fun anymore. Even in the midst of my general dislike of the season, I do understand the importance of what winter means. It is a time of rest and renewal. A time for the earth to rest and get ready. Some plants require the down time of winter to fully flourish in the spring or summer. The cold allows them to rest. Maybe this should be a lesson for us as Christians as well. I do not think we do rest very well. I know I do not. We move from place to place with busy agendas and all sorts of things to do. We think the world would end if we do not get everything done on our list. This is often how I think and function.

As I write this, I am preparing to spend three weeks resting. I have been engaged in ministry for the past fifteen years and while I have taken the appropriate amount of vacation time, I have never paused my ministry for three weeks and renewed my spirit. You can ask me in early February how I did. I am unsure of my capacity to rest in such a way. My colleagues in other denominations have normal routines of taking sabbatical time, three months every ten years seems a typical practice. We UMC clergy do not normally practice this routine. It is an interesting question as to why we do not think we need this type of rest and renewal in our lives.

I think all of us could use some rest from time to time. I hope you find the space and time to do that as well. We know that Jesus did this, going away to be apart from others, time spent in prayer and rest. It seems comical to think that we do not need this in our lives. After all, if Jesus needed rest, surely we do as well.

*Adam*

## Why Engage in Men's Ministry?



Here are some answers to that question as taken from the General Commission of United Methodist Men:

- Men lead others best by modeling Jesus Christ in thoughts, words and deeds.
- Spiritual maturity is signified in spiritual reproduction, as the faith of mature disciples passes on in others.
- Men growing in Christ become effective spiritual leaders in their homes and congregations, working as partners with their spouses and congregational leaders—both lay and clergy.
- Spiritually growing men help congregations to become vital and alive.
- Everything desired from and through men comes as a result of men growing spiritually and maturing as disciples: family blessings, stewardship, service, outreach, prayer, spiritual leadership, lifestyle evangelism, and faithful obedience. Men are foundational to the life and health of the church.
- When a man lives daily in surrendered faith, God is honored, and many lives are blessed. Transformed hearts are forged only within Christ-centered lives—nothing less is our acceptable offering; nothing less truly reveals Christ.

As you consider these reasons for engaging in men's ministry, the Otterbein Men's Fellowship invite you to join us for our monthly breakfast gatherings at **Thomas House Restaurant** in Dayton. The men will meet for fellowship and prayer and a little business on **Saturday, January 28 and Saturday, February 25**. Gatherings begin at **7:30 am** and generally conclude in about one hour.

On Saturday, **March 25** beginning at **4:30 pm** the men will offer their churchwide **Spaghetti Supper**. Please make plans now to join us in **Memorial Hall** for this annual event. Additional details will be found in the March *Tidings* and Sunday Worship Bulletins.

Please see our entire planned meeting/event **2023 Calendar** at this website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>.

### **Leadership/Planning Team**

Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, & Carter Ritchie

## Chili Luncheon

The Faith Builders Sunday School Class is pleased to announce the return of their **annual Chili Luncheon**. We will be serving in Memorial Hall following the church service on **Sunday, February 26**. The menu includes chili, hot dogs, pimento cheese sandwiches, and ice cream. Donations will go to support the College Chorale Scholarship Fund. Everyone is invited to come and join the fellowship!



Dear Rev. Blagg & the Otterbein UMC Family:

Thank you for receiving me with such a warm welcome this year and allowing me to share what God has been doing in my life and in North Macedonia. I had a wonderful time being with you all, especially the Sunday School class before the service and the reception afterwards. Your prayers and support of both me and the ministry in Macedonia means a lot to me. May God bless you as you continue to shine His light in Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, and to the ends of the earth!

In Him,

*Jennifer Moore*

# Thank You

REV. BLAGG & OTTERBEIN

We are so thankful for your continued support and contributions. You have been a major champion and warrior for change alongside us in our efforts for transformational and sustainable access to opportunities in Guatemala

In November, HSP and AMA were able to deliver 36 new sanitation systems to 36 families in the community of Chuicutama, Guatemala with the help of your donation!

The arrival of personal, at-home sanitation stations will lift the physical and mental burdens of traveling two and three times a week for a basic household chore. These new sinks will return many hours of the week back to women, providing more opportunities for engagement with the community and career fulfillment.

HSP, AMA, and the families of Chuicutama, Guatemala celebrate your partnership and cherish your commitment to breaking barriers to opportunity.



Gratefully  
HIGHLAND SUPPORT PROJECT

## History of *Virginia Originals*

In 2008, 25 years after the first *Virginia Originals* was published by the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, another book of their works was published to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of their name change. The theme was “Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love” and this month we are featuring a poem from that book in celebration of our new name, United Women in Faith.

### *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*

Can we hope for a world  
of peace, joy, and love?  
We can if we put trust  
in our maker above.

Let us hope that our prayers  
will be answered some day  
and that wars and fighting  
will all pass away.

Let love be our guide  
as we minister worldwide  
and make peace our mission  
so nations prosper with pride.

Let us be full of joy as the  
world fills with peace  
and the fighting and bitterness  
between countries cease.

*Wilma H. Mitchell  
Otterbein UMW*





## CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

When they all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, *"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."*

John 6:12

### Food Waste

Starting off the new year quoting dismal figures, stating how we as a nation and Christians are neglecting our duties to be good stewards of our world, needs to be addressed. While there are major areas that need attention, food waste is one for which we can take a personal responsibility. According to the USDA, food waste in America is estimated at between 30-40 percent of produced food. These estimates from the USDA's Economic Research of 31 percent food loss at the retail and consumer levels corresponded to approximately 133 billion pounds and \$161 billion worth of food in 2010. This amount has far reaching impacts on society.

- Wholesome food that could have helped feed families in need sent to landfills.
- Land, water, labor, energy, and other inputs are used in producing, processing, transporting, preparing, storing, and disposing of discarded food.

The US has a goal to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent by 2030. As with most change, it's complicated. You can visit The United States Department of Agriculture's website at [www.usda.gov>foodwaste](http://www.usda.gov>foodwaste) to view how they hope to reach this goal.

Like many areas of stewardship, the solutions start with us. As citizens, and most importantly as Christians, we must do our part. You can find many websites with ideas that will help you by searching **"ways to reduce food waste."** The Mayo Clinic website lists 7 simple ways we can use to reduce our own food waste:

1. **Take an inventory.** Take stock of your pantry, refrigerator, and freezer before going to the store to prevent overbuying.
2. **Create a meal plan.** Planning at least a few meals for each week is a great way to ensure you have healthy meals. It also prevents you from buying too much food because you feel like you need to be prepared for anything. Coordinate your meals so you aren't using completely different ingredients for every recipe. For example,

plan to eat broccoli as a side one night and in a casserole the next.

3. **Save and eat leftovers safely.** If you don't think you will be able to eat your leftovers within three days, store them in the freezer and label them. Keep your freezer organized so food doesn't get lost and then thrown out due to freezer burn.
4. **Store food appropriately.** One of the biggest reasons I hear people say they don't eat fruits and vegetables is because *"When I buy it, it ends up going bad, and I throw it out anyway."* Start by only buying what you can eat in a week. Store greens with a paper towel in a plastic container in the crisper drawer, tomatoes and bananas on the counter, potatoes and onions in a cool, dark place, and fresh herbs in a glass of water. Have some frozen fruits and vegetables on hand in case you eat all your fresh produce before your next grocery day.
5. **Buy "ugly" foods.** Purchasing imperfect food refers to misshaped or oddly shaped fruits or vegetables and it has never been easier. Some companies will deliver "ugly" foods to you with a monthly subscription. You also can start a relationship with a local farmer through a community-supported agriculture or farmers market to get your hands on some imperfect produce. Remember, don't purchase bruised or spoiled produce.
6. **Compost, Compost, Compost!** Even vegetable peels don't have to go to waste. Composting is a great way to keep food waste out of the landfill and provide nutrition for your garden. You also can find small composting containers that you can keep in your home or there are options within our own community that allows the opportunity to contribute.
7. **Use leftovers creatively.** Find ways to use rather than toss food that isn't fresh. Vegetable scraps and peels can be made into soup stock. Apples or blueberries that are soft work perfectly cooked in oatmeal. You can even use stale bread to make croutons or an egg strata. Slightly wilted vegetables are great for soups or stir-fries. One of the best things about soup is you can make it out of pretty much anything.

*These suggestions are but a few to help you get started on your way. We can change our daily lives to be more in line with what Christ expects.*

Vicki Gaines