Welcome to
Otterbein United Methodist Church

October 25, 2026 10:30 am

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We Gather to Worship the Lord

Prelude *Gather Us In* Behnke
Steve Young, organ

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to God, because God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love!

All: The Lord forgives our sins, heals our brokenness, and surrounds us with steadfast love.

Leader: Lord, forgive us when hold tightly to our hurts and when we struggle to offer grace to others.

All: By the power of the Holy Spirit, soften our hearts and help us choose mercy over resentment, grace over judgment, and love over bitterness.

Leader: Today, we come to worship our God whose mercy knows no bounds!

All: May we receive God's grace with gratitude and extend that grace to all. Let us worship our merciful God!

*Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn No. 348, UMH
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Children's Time in Worship		Vicki Gaines

We Proclaim the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination		
Scripture Reading	Psalm 103:1-13	(OT, pg. 554)
Scripture Reading	Matthew 18:21-35	(NT, pg. 20)
Sermon	"FORGIVENESS"	Rev. Laura Stratton
*Hymn	*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*	No. 121, UMH

We Give Our Thanks

Announcements		
Pastoral Prayer		
Invitation, Confession, Pardon, & Peace		No. 12, UMH
Anthem	*This Is the Day*	Angell/Cooper
*Doxology		No. 95, UMH
Prayer of Dedication		
Celebration of Holy Communion		No. 13 UMH
Prayer after Communion		No. 11, UMH

We Go Forth Renewed

*Closing Hymn	*Freely, Freely*	No. 389, UMH
*Benediction		
*Postlude	*Toccata*	Young

** Please stand as you are able.*

This Week's Opportunities

Sunday, October 25

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Selah Open House
5:00 pm	Young-ish Adult Group—Rm 204

Monday, October 26

4:30 pm	Soup Kitchen
4:30 pm	Clothes Closet

Tuesday, October 27

1:00 pm	*Tidings* Crew—Rm. 204
6:00 pm	Bible Study—Rm. 204
7:00 pm	Trustees—Rm. 204

Wednesday, October 28

10:00 am	Bible Study—Rm. 204
6:00 pm	Bells
7:15 pm	Choir

Thursday, October 29

9:30 am	Guy's Grief Group—Mr. J's Bagels
3:45 pm	New Horizons Band—MH
6:00 pm	VIA Fall Assembly—Emmanuel Episcopal

Friday, October 30

Saturday, October 31

Sunday, November 1
Time Changes—Fall Back

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship

Otterbein in Prayer

David Angier
Rosalie Bailey
Gary Billingsley
Whitney Bradley
Rev. Louis Carson
Lt. Col. Sam Cartee
Loretta Crider
Nissa D'Andrea
Cliff Davis
Jo Ellen Dickenson
Mike Earman
Rev. Samuel & Judith Espinoza
Zach Fickes
Halcie Fishback
Mary Ann Glendye
Ray Griffith
Fred Hopkins
Joel Jordan
Deb Leap & Family
Patty Liskey
Chuck Macklin
Art Mitchell
Eric Mitchell
Maxine Perry
Judy Pruett
Ann Sebrell
Dot Swartz
Carolyn Stroop
Michelle VanPelt
Hazel Willi
Keith Wright
Family of Ila Kimata

Lay Reader:

Carole Barber

Attendance Last Sunday:

90

Next Week's Nursery Volunteers:

Janet Gloeckner & Emma Rexrode

- **Grown & Growing - A Young-ish Adult Group**—*Grown in life. Growing in faith.* Adulting isn't easy. Neither is faith. Let's do both together. Grown & Growing is a monthly gathering for adults - from early 20s through your 40s - who want to share a meal, make friends, have some fun, and grow in faith. Whether you're single or married, new to church or have been around it for years, there's a place for you. Come for the food. Stay for the conversation, community, laughter, and faith. Each gathering includes time to connect, a meaningful worship or Bible-study component, and plenty of fun. Childcare will be provided. **First gathering will be TONIGHT from 5-6:30 pm in Room 204**!
- **Miracle Sunday**—If you would like to support the **Miracle Sunday Offering**, please make your check payable to OUMC and designate "Miracle Sunday" in the memo line or give cash and write "Miracle Sunday" on the envelope. Thank you! We will collect donations until the end of October.
- **Book Club**—Do you enjoy reading and conversation? Join our book club! The first book we're reading together is ***The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*** by **Henri Nouwen** and we'll meet on **Tuesday, November 10** at **7 pm** in **Room 204**.
- **Christmas is coming!**—The Creation Care Taskforce invites you to attend the "**Mystery of the Christmas Star**" at the **JMU Planetarium**, **Sunday, November 15th** at **1:30 pm**. What can we learn about the star that the wisemen followed to find the baby Jesus? 60 seats are reserved for our congregation and friends, so sign up on the CCT bulletin board today where you will find directions and parking details. Also enjoy a provided lunch following worship service before we head out for the planetarium.
- **Dried Beans/Rice Collection**—The Otterbein UM Men are continuing our dried beans and rice collection. All donations will be taken to Community Mennonite Church to be included in the backpack program at Waterman Elementary so that families will have food for the weekend. Donating **one-pound bags of any kind of dried beans or rice** are a perfect way to be the "hands and feet of Christ" in our community. Donations may be placed in any of the colorful buckets at any time. *Thank you for your continued support of this project.*
- **Clothes Closet**—We can still use **Men's clothing** and **Children's coats**. Blankets and tarps would be appreciated for this upcoming cold weather. Thanks.

TLC Person of the Week:

Carolyn Stroop
302 N. Second Street, #372
Bridgewater, VA 22812

Remember Carolyn this week with a note or a card. Let's show her Otterbein's "tender, loving care"!

OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Laura:
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Office: (540) 434-7747

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 3 pm
Friday: Closed