

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

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
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# Tidings



# April 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  
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

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

**Dan Curtis**  
Organist

**Melvin Falls**  
Custodian

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

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

***Otterbein in Prayer***

Phyllis Albrite  
David Angier  
Rosalie Bailey  
Gary Billingsley  
Whitney Bradley  
Millie Bruce  
Rev. Louis Carson  
Nissa D'Andrea  
Cliff Davis  
Ann Dellinger  
Jo Ellen Dickenson  
Elva Downs

Mike Earman  
Judi Espinoza  
Charles Glassick  
Ray Griffith  
Art Hanger  
Norma Heath  
Fred Hopkins  
Steve Lily  
Chuck & Nancy Macklin  
Norlyn & Betty Miller  
Art & Mary Jo Mitchell  
Betty Painter

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

**Downtown Cross Walk**

Friday, April 18  
Noon—1 pm

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Harrisonburg downtown  
ecumenical Good Friday prayer walk,  
based on the "Stations of the Cross,"  
**begins at Blessed Sacrament Catholic**  
**Church, and ends at St. Stephens United Church of Christ,**  
stopping at a total of 10 downtown churches and public buildings.



Led by someone carrying a large cross, the group stops at each station where a member of the "Biblical Storytellers Guild" will tell a passage from the Gospel of Luke and a local pastor responds with a prayer. This is a contemplative, communal, and spiritual practice of shared ecumenical worship and witness that has been going on every year in downtown Harrisonburg for nearly four decades. Please join us! The walking route is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers.

***For Your Information***

- ***Tidings* deadline** for the **May** issue is **Tuesday, April 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>.



129 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540)434-0295  
Firststepva.com

03/04/25

Dear Congregation of Otterbein United Methodist Church and Fresh Start,

On behalf of everyone at First Step, I want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for your continued generosity. Your donations make an incredible impact on the families we serve, providing them with essential items that allow them to start fresh in a safe and stable home.

Most recently, a mother and her child were able to receive much-needed household items because of your kindness. We often see firsthand how something as simple as having the right supplies can make a new place feel like home, giving survivors a sense of normalcy and comfort as they begin rebuilding their lives. Your support plays a direct role in helping families find stability and hope after incredibly difficult circumstances.

Thank you for all that you do, it truly makes a difference. We are so grateful to have you as a partner in this important work.

Best,  
First Step Staff

## Attention Graduates!

The time is coming soon to honor the graduates in our midst. If there are members of our church family who are graduating this summer or who have graduated this winter, please inform the church office with the graduate's name, school, month of graduation, parents' names if applicable, and future plans. More information about a Sunday to honor our grads will be forthcoming.

# FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome to my favorite month! April is by far my favorite month of the year. While I don't care much about my birthday anymore, it was always fun as a kid to have a special day. We never had big parties in Doe Hill for birthdays, but they were special anyway. We always had a meal together and my grandparents would join us. I always enjoyed eating with family and that still is my favorite part of any birthday celebration. There are two things I always found interesting around my birthday; the first was Easter. In my formative youth, my birthday coincided with Easter twice in a five-year span. On Easter Sunday I had my 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> birthdays. It was really neat at that stage of my life to join those two things together. Easter at Doe Hill was a great celebration. We did a Sunrise Service in the cemetery and then a church-wide breakfast. Some of my best memories as a child at church were around Easter. I retain my love for Easter, but will have to wait a few more years to celebrate my birthday on Easter again; the next date on the calendar is 2067.

The other fond connection I had with April and my birthday was that I shared the same birthday as someone in our community, we just happened to be separated by 50 years. He was faithful in sending birthday cards as I was growing up and we joked about having a big party when we hit the 100 and 50 milestone on the same day. Life unfolded in such a way that both of us did make those milestones but our celebration was limited to a phone call.

Today my love of April is more about the time of year. I love seeing spring blossom, the weather turn warm, and often being able to celebrate Easter once again. I *continued next page...*

enjoy my birthday meal with family and am thankful for each card I get. Easter is late this year so we have a long lead in for enjoying April before that final pageantry of Easter morning. For me that might be the perfect culmination to a great month. I hope you have space and time this April to enjoy the spring and prepare your heart for a wonderful Easter.

*Adam*



### Otterbein United Methodist Men News

The Otterbein Men's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who supported our Spaghetti Supper in March! We are so blessed by the response to this meal. Donations went towards support of the College Chorale Scholarship Fund and other UMM projects. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more specific information.



The Otterbein Men's Fellowship regular Saturday meetings for the next few months will be **April 26, May 24, and June 28** in **Memorial Hall** at Otterbein UMC beginning at **7:30 am**. Breakfast will be provided, followed by a short business meeting, devotions, and a time for group prayer. So far, our turn out has been excellent and we hope for additional participation in the months ahead! Please plan to join us!

For additional information concerning our fellowship, contact a member of our Leadership/Planning Team below or check our website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

#### Leadership/Planning Team:

Mike Earman  
Bill Pollard  
Carter Ritchie



## Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18

7:00 pm

We invite you to join us and bring your family and friends to a Good Friday service that reflects on the passion of Jesus Christ through scripture, hymns, and choral music. The combined choirs of Asbury and Otterbein will present Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* with orchestra.

Fauré's *Requiem* offers a serene and uplifting journey through themes of life, death, and eternal rest. Unlike traditional requiems that often emphasize judgment and fear, Fauré's work conveys a sense of peace and hope, culminating in the comforting message of eternal life. The *Requiem* begins with the gentle introit, "Requiem Aeternam," which calls for eternal rest for the departed, setting a reflective and soothing tone for the service.

As we focus on the cross and the crucifixion, we are reminded of Christ's immense sacrifice for all mankind. Fauré's *Requiem* beautifully encapsulates this message, illustrating the profound love of God and the promise of salvation. The final movement, "In Paradisum," evokes a vision of heavenly peace, assuring us that those who believe in Christ shall find rest and joy in His presence. Join us on Good Friday, April 18, at 7 pm for this moving musical.





## CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

Matthew 25:14

God has entrusted his servants, man, to take care of his property, earth. As good and faithful servants we strive to do God's will by actively participating in ways to show how much we appreciate God's gift of our beautiful world.

We have an opportunity to work together with other community members at the **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Blacks Run Clean Up Day**. You will find details of the day's events and can register your participation on the Creation Care Task Force Bulletin Board. Otterbein members have participated in this event in prior years and found it's a fun way for individuals and families to work together in preserving the world God entrusted to us.

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Blacks Run Clean Up Day**

**When: Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**



**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, sisters in faith!

Our March meeting was a delightful gathering as we hosted Jennifer Moore, missionary to North Macedonia. Jennifer shared lots of information about her work on behalf of children and youth, including a fun video of one of the summer children's camps. She works closely with adult leadership training and recruiting new leaders and expanding programs. For more information, please check out the website: [umcmmission.org/?s=jennifer+moore](http://umcmmission.org/?s=jennifer+moore). This is a link to the Board of Global Ministries and Jennifer's work in North Macedonia. We thank the visitors and church members who came to hear Jennifer's presentation and joined us for a delicious meal of soup and sandwiches. An offering was taken to support Jennifer's ministry.

All are invited to join us for our meeting **Tuesday, April 8 at 11 am in Room 204**. Betty Richmond will lead us in the annual "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." A special offering will be collected. We hope to see you there!

Grace & Peace,  
Pat Wingert

***Holy and gracious God, You call us to be with and for each other. You have made us for community. Help us to seek ways to act with loving care for all who have been rejected and pushed aside. Give us strength to stand up and speak out in support of the ones our society says have no voice. Guide us in Your ways of justice and mercy. Amen.***

## From Your Outreach Ministry Team

*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.*

Matthew 25:40

Outreach is always open to new ideas and projects. If you know of a need, whether it is a short- or long-term project, please feel free to let us know. You can be the eyes and ears of Otterbein's Outreach Team.

### Completed Projects

#### Open Doors – *Christy Blagg, point person*

By now most of us know how successful **Team Otterbein** was in supporting **Coldest Night Out**, a fundraising event in support of Open Doors. The team raised \$2,990! Thanks, Christy, for doing such a great job of organizing.

### New Projects

#### Isaiah117 – *Susan Pollard, point person*

Susan will be sharing her thoughts on how Otterbein can support the work of **Isaiah117**. Stay tuned. In the meantime, you can learn the mission of Isaiah117 by visiting [isaiah117house.com](http://isaiah117house.com).

### Ongoing Projects

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

Susan's next delivery is the end of March after the *Tidings* deadline. We'll report results in our May *Tidings*.

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

One delivery was made since our last reporting; please see the thank you letter from First Step.

A big **THANK YOU** to the **Faith Builders Sunday School Class** for donating \$300 from the Chili Luncheon to Fresh Start. We can make good use of your donation!

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

The Soup Kitchen continues to serve hot meals to all who are present on Monday evenings. The kitchen served over 65 people during the month of February.

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

Clothes Closet was open four Mondays in February and served 24 men and women and 8 children; 7 new adults and 8 children.

**A reminder to advertise our Clothes Closet!**  
**Mondays 4:30—6 pm**

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

Plans are being made for 2025 gleaning season. Like last year, gleaners will have a set schedule on the same Saturday and deliver to the same location each month. We do have subs that can be called upon if a conflict arises. Time spent gleaning and delivering is approximately 2½ hours. It's a very fun activity and is a great way to spend a Saturday mid-day, hours 12:30—2 pm. If you would like to become a team or team member, please let Vicki Gaines know; she'll find room for you!

*Your Outreach Team!*



VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

#GREATCOMMUNITYGIVE



An initiative of  
The Community Foundation

**Save the Date!**

**Great Community  
Give**

**Wednesday, April 16  
6 am—8 pm**

**Early giving opens  
April 2.**