

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

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# Tidings



# January 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 oumcadm@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  
oumcadm@hotmail.com

**Ricky Goodwyn, Jr.**  
Interim Director of Music  
Ministries

**Dan Curtis**  
Organist

**Melvin Falls**  
Custodian

**Dawn Warren**  
Treasurer  
oumctreasurer@hotmail.com

Office: 540-434-7747  
x200 for Melissa  
x201 for Adam  
x203 for Dawn

**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 **January** issue is **Wednesday, January 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 oumcadm@hotmail.com by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 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

### **Kingsway Appletree Project** – *Bev Earman, point person*

A big thank you to Bev, who volunteered to take on the Apple Tree Project for 2024. 92 apples were picked and 92 children were blessed by Otterbein's generosity.

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

No deliveries to report in November.

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

Fresh Start had no new distributions in November, but we understand from our partners that requests are in the making. A big THANK YOU to Otterbein's United Women in Faith for their generous donation of \$200 going to the work of Fresh Start!

### **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 96 individuals during the month of November.

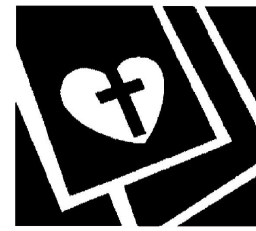
### **Clothes Closet** – *Linda Conrad, point person*

The Clothes Closet sorted, hung, and distributed clothes on four Mondays in November. Clothes were distributed to 45 men and women and 10 children. They served 4 new men and women clients and 2 new children.

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

As previously reported, gleaning has ended for 2024. If you would like to become a member of a team, the call will go out in early spring for volunteers. We'd love to have you!

*Wishing all a Blessed New Year!*



# FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year!

Deep in our Methodist heritage is the practice of recommitting our lives to Christ at the beginning of each year. John Wesley believed this was an essential part of being a "Methodist"; an annual renewal of our covenant vows found in the baptismal liturgy. Not a re-baptism, but a re-commitment to being wholly in connection with Christ. Over the course of my tenure at Otterbein, we have used the full Wesley Covenant Service once; liturgically it is suggested for use at a New Year's Eve service. We have also had a baptism renewal service early in the year. The Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, has been a date we have used. While we have not been liturgically regular with these practices, I think the idea of recommitment at the beginning of a new year is great. While the idea of our faith fading away as a year goes on is not true, it is always good to come back to the things that ground us. We do this corporately through the church calendar, Christmas and Easter being touchstones to God's work in creation, Incarnation, and Resurrection, showing us again and again that God loved us so much to live with us and restore us.

Our personal faith needs those moments as well and sometimes those corporate moments work just fine, but occasionally we need more. For me it has always been communion. A corporate practice, but yet very personal.

One loaf, one cup shared by all, but still given to an individual. John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Prayer is much the same. Shared in community, but exceedingly personal in nature. I've included a portion of the prayer below. Maybe it can be something you use to center your celebration of the New Year.

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

## John Wesley Covenant Renewal Prayer

Adam

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.

January has been designated

# Fresh Start Month

Monetary donations will be accepted during the month of January to support the work of Otterbein's Fresh Start Program. Household items are purchased and distributed to individual/families who are reestablishing a home following unfortunate circumstances in their lives.

Make your checks payable to OUMC and designate "Fresh Start" in the memo line. By donating you will also be supporting the work of Bridge of Hope, Our Community Place, and First Step who Otterbein has partnered with for this program. Thank you for donating and read each month in the *Tidings* as the Outreach Committee reports on distributions made.

Visit the hallway bulletin for more information.

## 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  
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



The Otterbein United Methodist Men's Fellowship would like to thank all who supported our *Christmas Pancake Brunch* in December! Approximately 80



people enjoyed good fellowship, along with pancakes and strawberry, blueberry, chocolate chips, chocolate syrup, and whipped cream toppings! Generous donations from this project totaled **\$2,350**, all going towards the College Chorale Scholarship fund.

 The Men's Fellowship invites all men to our first Prayer Breakfast meeting of the new year on **Saturday, January 25 starting at 7:30 am**. The group will gather in **Memorial Hall** at Otterbein UMC. This change carries with it the hope that there will be more participation with our group. Come and enjoy the fellowship and a delicious hot breakfast!

To view all our planned breakfast meetings and other activities, check out the website link below. You can also view pictures from recent projects as well as see and hear the Men's Choir singing during the UMM-led Sunday Worship Services over the years.

For additional information concerning our fellowship, please check our website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

#### **Leadership/Planning Team**

Mike Earman  
Bill Pollard  
Carter Ritchie



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 group shared a delicious meal at Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook in early December. We were pleased to join with other women from our district for a time of fellowship. Our regular meeting included a report from Carla Nemoytin and Vicki Gaines about Otterbein's outreach ministry, Fresh Start. We were delighted to make a donation and then share our lunch together.

All women are invited to join us for our meeting **Tuesday, January 14 at 11 am in Room 204**. As we begin a new year, our program focus is "How has your faith been formed in you?" We look forward to making new friends and learning more about each other. Please join us! Contact Betty Redmond or myself for more information about our group.

Grace & Peace,  
Pat Wingert

***My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness. Continue to allow humor to lighten the burden of your tender heart.***  
~ Maya Angelou ~



## Creation Care Taskforce

### CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

#### *The Light From God*

When I went into the bathroom  
At 4:00 am last night,  
The room was lit up with  
A brilliant ray of light.  
I pulled the shade a little  
And much to my surprise,  
There was a full moon shining  
Squarely in my eyes.  
The sky was striped with shades  
Of gray—it really was subdued,  
And in the midst of all that gray  
The moon came shining through.  
It was such a marvel  
On this early winter morn,  
To know that when the moon goes down,  
A brand new day is born.  
Thank you God for the sky of yours  
With all its beauty rare,  
Because the moon that shines on me  
Is shining everywhere.  
When the world seems to be darkened  
And you don't know what to do,  
Just look up towards the heavens—  
God's light is shining through.

Wilma Mitchell

*continued next page...*

"When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and stars which you set in their places—what is man, that you think of him; mere man that you care for him? Yet you made him inferior only to yourself; You crowned him with glory and honor. You appointed him ruler over everything you made; you placed him over all creations."

Psalms 8:3-6 (GNB)

As we begin a new year, let us, as Christians, take time to experience the fullness of God's creation by observing, admiring, and caring for the natural wonders of His handiwork. And above all, thank him.  
Happy New Year!

Creation Care Task Force

