

# *Welcome to Otterbein United Methodist Church*

December 14, 2025

10:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent

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

## **THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP**

### **We Gather to Worship the Lord**

Welcome

Prelude

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*  
Jim Dye, organ

Caswell

### **\*Greeting**

L: Soon parched lands will blossom into life

**P: and burst into joyful song—very soon.**

L: Say to those who are drowning in fear,

**P: “Take courage! Here is God, coming to save you.”**

L: Soon every creature will have what it needs in abundance.

**P: All peoples of all dis/abilities and ages will shout for joy in freedom—  
very soon.**

L: A highway stretches heavenward, smooth and level.

**P: All may walk or roll there unimpeded.**

L: Soon happiness and joy will overwhelm us!

**P: Grief and groaning will flee for good—very soon. Amen.**

### **\*Opening Prayer**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

No. 213, UMH

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**We Proclaim the Word of God**

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Lesson    Isaiah 35:1-10    (OT, pg. 663)

\*Gospel Lesson    Matthew 11:2-11    (NT, pg. 11)

Sermon    "A PROPHET"    Rev. Adam Blagg

Announcements

**We Give Our Thanks**

Invitation, Confession, Pardon, & Peace    No. 12, UMH

\*Hymn    *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*    No. 57, UMH  
(vs. 1-4)

\*Doxology    VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion    No. 13, UMH

Pastoral Prayer

**We Go Forth Renewed**

\*Closing Hymn    *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*    No. 218, UMH

Benediction

\*Postlude    Handel

*A Theme and Variation on "Joy to the World"*

Jim Dye, organ

## **This Week's Opportunities**

### **Sunday, December 14**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

### **Monday, December 15**

4:30 pm Soup Kitchen

5:00 pm Clothes Closet

### **Tuesday, December 16**

6:00 pm Bible Study—Rm. 204

### **Wednesday, December 17**

10:00 am Bible Study—Rm. 204

6:00 pm Bells

7:15 pm Choir

### **Thursday, December 18**

2:00 pm JOY Group Planning  
Team—Rm. 204

### **Friday, December 19**

### **Saturday, December 20**

### **Sunday, December 21**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

### **Lay Reader:**

Susan Pollard

### **Attendance Last Sunday:**

159

### **Next Week's Nursery Volunteers:**

Vicki Gaines & Carla Nemoytin



## **Otterbein in Prayer**

David Angier

Rosalie Bailey

Gary Billingsley

Marilyn Blagg

Whitney Bradley

Millie Bruce

Earl Cannon

Rev. Louis Carson

Nissa D'Andrea

Cliff Davis

Diane Cline Davis

Jo Ellen Dickenson

Tammy Duxbury

Mike Earman

Judi Espinoza

Ed Gaines

Charles Glassick

Ray Griffith

Fred Hopkins

Emily Joiner

Tina Jolly

Danita Kreeger

Deb Leap

Steve Lily

Chuck Macklin

Peggy Miller

Art & Mary Jo Mitchell

Maxine Perry

Judy Pruett

Dot Swartz

Carolyn Stroop

Juanita Taylor

Michelle VanPelt

John Walsh

Hazel Willi

Baby Charlie Woods

Gina Wyse

Family of Karen Cannon

## Announcements

- **Tidings Deadline**—**TOMORROW by 9 am.** This is an especially short turn-around, so late submissions cannot be accommodated.
- **2026 Offering Envelopes** are available for pick-up in the High Street vestibule. *Please be sure to pick up the correct box!* If you don't see a box with your name and would like to begin using envelopes for your 2026 giving, fill out your information on the yellow paper and a box will be assigned to you.
- **Thank You!**—Following a very successful *Holiday Pancake Brunch* on Sunday, December 7, we are pleased to announce that a total of **\$2,836.00** has been donated towards the College Chorale Scholarship Fund at Otterbein UMC. Many, many **THANK YOU's** to each of you who assisted in any way in this Otterbein UMMen's project. Indeed, it takes a village to pull off an activity such as this! It could not have been done without the outstanding support of those in our Men's group and others, as well. Again, *thank you!*
- **Christmas Concert**—Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley, a 38-member professional choir under the direction of artistic director Scott Zane Smith, presents their holiday concert, **"The Wonder of Christmas"** on **December 20-21**, at **Linville Creek Church of the Brethren** in Broadway. The one-hour concert consists of sacred and secular music, with many familiar tunes that celebrate the magic of the holiday season. **Concerts both days are at 3 pm.** For more information, find them on Facebook, @Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley.
- **Clothes Closet** is **NOT accepting donations** at this time **EXCEPT for the following**: winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, AND socks (especially white). Thanks and PLEASE tell your friends and neighbors that the Clothes Closet is OPEN with free clothes for all ages every Monday 4:30-6 pm.
- **Inclement Weather Policy**—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.
- **Assisted Listening Devices** and **large print bulletins and hymnals** are **available**. Please see an usher for assistance.

**TLC Person  
of the Week:**

Nancy Grogg  
1036 Virginia Avenue  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

*Remember Nancy 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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oumcharrisonburg.org

Office: (540) 434-7747

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 3 pm

Friday: Closed