

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

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Tidings



May 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
15th 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

3-Day Regional

METRO IAF TRAINING

Learn how you can take action, build power, and improve your community using the tools of relational organizing. During this training, leaders will dig deeper into the universals of broad-based organizing, reflect on their public life, and connect with leaders doing similar work in their institutions and organizations.

Training sessions are led by veteran organizers from across IAF and use role play, historical texts, and stories from past campaigns to facilitate conversations between organizers and leaders.

When

- Thursday, May 29, 5 pm - 9 pm
- Friday, May 30, 9 am - 9 pm
- Saturday, May 31, 9 am - 1 pm

Where

- Hyatt Place, Harrisonburg, VA

Estimated Cost

- Commuter Non-Member: \$355
- Commuter from VIA Member Institution:
 - Covered by Institution Dues

Additional Details

- Meals and snacks included.
- Thursday dinner will be from 5-6:30 pm and the first session will start promptly at 7 pm.
- Participants are expected to be on time and attend all sessions, including meals.
- The 3-Day Training is a prerequisite for national 7-Day Training.

Register Here

<https://forms.gle/n994hoTA1WHjdpTq7>



Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, May 14



Questions / Concerns?
Contact your local Lead Organizer



For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the June issue is **Thursday, May 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 15th.

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite	Mike Earman	Maxine Perry
David Angier	Judi Espinoza	Judy Pruett
Rosalie Bailey	Charles Glassick	Emma Rexrode
Gary Billingsley	Ray Griffith	Abi Simmers
Whitney Bradley	Art Hanger	Dot Swartz
Millie Bruce	Fred Hopkins	Mark Stanley
Rev. Louis Carson	Tina Jolly	Carolyn Stroop
Nissa D'Andrea	Steve Lily	Juanita Taylor
Cliff Davis	Chuck Macklin	Daisy VanPelt
Ann Dellinger	Art & Mary Jo Mitchell	Michelle VanPelt
Jo Ellen Dickenson	Betty Painter	Hazel Willi
Elva Downs	BJ Payne	Gina Wyse

Kits for Conference Time!!!

Please join us as we collect items for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). The Virginia Annual Conference will be collecting **Hygiene Kits** and **Feminine Hygiene Kits**. The lists are available on the UWF bulletin board, on the table in the breezeway, and in the narthex. There will be a container for you to deposit the items. If you prefer to give monetary donations for the cleaning buckets, please designate "UMCOR Cleaning bucket" on your check or envelope.

All donations should be made no later than May 30.

Questions??? Contact Pat Wingert, 540-405-2204.

FROM THE PASTOR

On Easter Sunday we heard in the scripture Peter's understanding of the resurrection (Acts 10:34-43). It is a deeply moving testament to God's work through Jesus Christ to create a new narrative for all. It's powerful language that includes all people and a reminder that we are called to share that message with others. The complementary lesson (1 Corinthians 15:19-26) is Paul's narrative of the same message. Jesus is alive! Paul uses strong language around death being destroyed and even equates death with a broader brush than we might. Naming powers and authorities as having no hold on Jesus Christ, "after he (Christ) has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power." Both passages are used in the lectionary for Easter alongside John's telling of Easter morning, but in the context of the larger work they are found, they have significant meaning as well. Peter and Paul are both concerned with what's going on around them. Clearly shaped by their experience of Jesus Christ and his victory over death, they still are writing and living in a certain time. Peter is debating with himself, it seems, about how he and the early church should move forward in the relationship between Jews and Gentiles. Paul is addressing the very personal concerns of a young fledgling church in Corinth. While we read these great testaments of our shared faith, they are being written to specific people with problems of their own, which might not really be our concerns.

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Therein lies the beauty and challenge of scripture. The universal message of resurrection, Christ's victory over death and what that calls us to, is not enough. It has to be lived out in the context of the moment. Christ is Risen; the primary statement of our faith must be applied to the context of our time together. This is the challenge and joy of these weeks after Easter. We work in the midst of a world where we proclaim that death has no hold on our lives and on creation. This freedom we see played out in Paul and Peter is still our narrative. It becomes our work to live this way in our own context, both personally and as a community of faith. I cherish the work we will embrace between now and Advent in doing this work with you. Not only proclaiming Christ is Risen, but working each and every day to make that the reality of our lives lived together.

Happy Easter!

Adam

Have You Heard?

In June, three Otterbein members will be traveling to North Macedonia to support Otterbein's missionary Jennifer Moore. Eileen Magruder, Kira Blagg and Vicki Gaines will be there in time to assist with summer camp. You can be a part of this mission trip by donating toward expenses and, just as important, by praying for safe travels.



CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

Creation Care Taskforce

"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin, yet I tell you not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." (Luke 10:27)

Ever notice how often Jesus alludes to nature when He talks of God's providence and love for us?

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside of
your Father's care." (Matthew 10:29)*

Have you noticed that the bird population in North America has fallen by 3 billion, or 30 percent, since 1970? (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) Has our Father? Much of this is from the loss of habitat, our pursuit of the well-mowed, well-manicured backyard, and our overuse of exotic plants and pesticides. This huge loss to nature was the result of small steps repeated millions of times by millions of people over decades.

Maybe it's time to return some of God's love by planting more native plants and trees, to recreate habitat for birds and the insects and seeds they need to thrive. The Creation Care Taskforce is taking a small step in our planting of twelve trees and hundreds of native flowers and grasses around the church grounds. Won't you walk with us by doing the same in your backyard?



Otterbein United Methodist Men News

May we share a word about the Otterbein United Methodist Men's Website with you?

Our church has an excellent website with lots of information and links to current and previous monthly *Tidings* and Worship Bulletins. There are also links to the various ministries at Otterbein. One of those links will take you to interesting information about the United Methodist Men in general, and, specifically, information about our local UMM group, **Otterbein Men's Fellowship**. When you click on that link (oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men), you'll find video and audio recordings of some of the music presented during previous Worship Services led by the Otterbein Men. There are photos of fellowship meals prepared by the Men for the entire congregation. Also, you will see a schedule of dates for prayer breakfast meetings and other activities for all of 2025!

So that brings us now to sending you a *special invitation* to join our group for any or ALL of these activities as we continue through the year. Our next Saturday prayer breakfast meetings will be **May 24** and **June 28**. We meet in Memorial Hall at OUMC beginning at 7:30 am and conclude in just about an hour. *Breakfast is provided!*



Looking to the future, on **Sunday, August 24th**, the Men will lead morning Worship with a special speaker and music by the Men's Choir! Please mark your calendar now and make plans to fellowship with us soon!



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!

We met on April 8th to commemorate our "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." The offering will support economic development, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. These funds support the work of United Methodist Conference women's teams that design and lead projects that make a direct impact on improving the lives of their families and community members. We learned about projects in Peru through which women and girls learn handicraft skills, financial literacy and small business skills from and with one another. Such projects are supported world-wide through our mission giving. Thanks, Betty, for presenting this program.

Our next meeting is **May 13** at **11 am** in **Room 204**. Please join us!

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.

New Projects

Isaiah117 – *Susan Pollard, point person*

Susan has a plan to bring the great work of Isaiah117 to Otterbein. Details will be announced shortly—stay tuned! In the meantime, you can learn the mission of Isaiah117 by visiting their website: isaiah117house.com

Our Community Place

Otterbein was asked by OCP to join **OCP's Spring Wellness Drive**, which we did. As usual, Otterbein members donated generously in support of the drive. A big **thank you** to all who donated!

Ongoing Projects

Mercy House – *Susan Pollard, point person*

Susan delivered requested grocery items to Mercy House on March 7th (total cost: \$100). Otterbein's next delivery will be June 30th. Thanks, Susan, for serving our neighbors at Mercy House!

Fresh Start – *Carla Nemoytin, point person*

One delivery was made since our last reporting. **Bridge of Hope** secured housing for a family of five: a father and four teenage children. This family had been living at Mercy House for quite some time and had nothing as far as household necessities. Fresh Start supplied them with cleaning supplies and kitchen, bedroom,

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and bathroom basics. They have now settled into their new home with the help of Otterbein's congregation—yet another example of working together. Good deeds can be accomplished.

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 March.

Clothes Closet – *Linda Conrad, point person*

Clothes Closet was open five Mondays in March and served 35 men and women and 8 children; 4 new adults and 4 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!

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.