

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

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# Tidings



# November 2022

**The Tidings**  
**Otterbein United Methodist**  
**Church**

176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747  
Fax - (540) 433-4018  
oumcharrisonburg.org

Prayer Ministry - (540) 434-7745

*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 oumccadm@hotmail.com

**Saturday Night Alive**  
*Not meeting at this time.*

**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

**Sandy Schaefer**  
Director of Music Ministries  
oumcmusic@hotmail.com

**Melissa Miller**  
Office Manager  
oumccadm@hotmail.com

**Judy Falls**  
Custodian

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

Office: 540-434-7747  
x200 for Melissa  
x201 for Adam  
x203 for Dawn  
x204 for Sandy  
x207 for Judy

**TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!**

Poinsettias may be ordered in memory or in honor of a loved one.  
Each poinsettia is \$8.50. **Order Deadline: Monday, November 28**

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Otterbein UMC with  
"poinsettia" written on the memo line.  
Tear off this form and place in offering plate or return to church office.

***Otterbein in Prayer***

Susie Ayala  
Gary Billingsley  
Millie Bruce  
Rev. Louis Carson  
Fern Cline  
Loretta Crider  
Cliff & Jean Davis  
Ann Dellinger  
Jo Ellen Dickenson  
Amber Earman  
Mike Earman  
Nancy East  
Dennis Gaines

Ray & Audrey Griffith  
Doris Hanger  
Laura Headlee  
Norma Heath  
Hunter Hensley  
Alice Ely Howell  
Allen Litten  
Marion Malabad  
Allene McCoy  
John Miller  
Eugene Moyers  
Mary Jo Mitchell  
Randy Nelson

George & Betty Painter  
Judy Pruett  
Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh  
Glen Sites  
Becky Smith  
Anna Steele  
Linda Stephens  
Juanita Taylor  
Anthony VanPelt  
Daisy VanPelt  
Mary Wenger  
Shirley & Charlie  
Williams

***For Your Information***

- **Tidings** deadline for the **December 2022** issue is **Tuesday, November 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 oumccadm@hotmail.com by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Prayer Line Ministry:** Call 434-7745 anytime (day or night) to hear a prayer to encourage and give you support. To leave a prayer request: listen to the prayer, then follow the prompts to leave your request or words of praise.



## Music Notes

Last month's newsletter contained

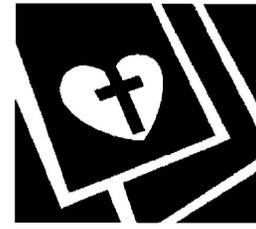
pictures and biographical information on

Otterbein's current College Chorale students for 2022-2023. We hope this is something you will keep handy to pray over these members of our church family as they share their time and talents with us throughout the school year. In this newsletter, you will find another insert with updates on a few members of our College Chorale Alumni.

In his sermons and newsletter articles, Adam often reminds us of the importance of connection. Each of the 30+ students who have come through our College Chorale Scholarship program are special and had their own unique personality and gifts they brought to our choir and worship. I make an effort to keep up with these alumni, to encourage them in their life events, accomplishments, and careers. Even though they move on to new places and opportunities, our College Chorale members do not forget us!

This was evidenced this fall when Leigh (Rohrbach) Shotwell and her husband came with their families to baptize their precious daughter, Elsie, in our sanctuary. Surrounded by the love and affirmation of her Otterbein church family, Leigh chose to travel to be here for this important life event. This speaks volumes to the impact of our College Chorale program beyond just the music and the scholarship opportunity – it is primarily the connection with you, the Otterbein church family, that is life changing and plants seeds that have impact throughout these young adults' lives. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting Otterbein's College Chorale Scholarship program. We continue to have a legacy of alumni to be very proud of! If you would ever like an address or update on an alumni from years past, please me know. They love to know they will always be connected to Otterbein as a part of our church family!

*Sandy Schaefer*



# FROM THE PASTOR

As we enter the final two months of the calendar, we come to a different season of life in the church. Shortly after the first of the month, some of the administrative tasks of the church begin to slow and we move away from frantic tasks to a more worship-centered focus. While the months of September and October provide time for the necessary work of administration and launching new programs, November and December allow us to re-center ourselves in the important narratives of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. While Otterbein has recently not had a formal Thanksgiving service, the sentiment persists in our worship experiences through the fall. There is a deep understanding that we are thankful for all that God has done and continues to do in our midst.

We do spend time in worship focusing on Advent. It is such a beautiful time at Otterbein. Our sanctuary dresses up well for the holidays. The Chrismon tree, poinsettias, and other seasonal decorations lend to the spirit of worship that is always evident, but feels a little more present during the final weeks of the year. I hope you will plan on being with us in worship, either in person or virtually, for every Sunday in November and December. Each of them has a special something happening. Depending on publication of this, you can also add the last Sunday of October to the list. We will remember those members who have died on All Saint's Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

In November we will begin the month with a baptism and welcoming new members to the church. Our missionary, Jennifer Moore, will be joining us the next week, sharing about the work we have supported in North Macedonia. We will take some time after worship to share in some fellowship and more personal conversation with her as well. Thanksgiving will be bookended by Christ the King Sunday and the beginning of Advent. Advent is long this year since

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Christmas is on Sunday, so our service of Lessons and Carols will actually be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent.

What an amazing season we have in store for us during worship between now and the end of the year. Of course many other events will be happening besides worship: caroling, JOY Group, Advent devotionals, the list is too long for this space. Take a look elsewhere in *Tidings* for more details and, as always, the bulletin will keep you informed. It feels so good to have things return to something more normalized than the past two years. Do not miss out on all that we have available!

*Adam*

### **Sight and Sound Bible Story DVDs Now Available**

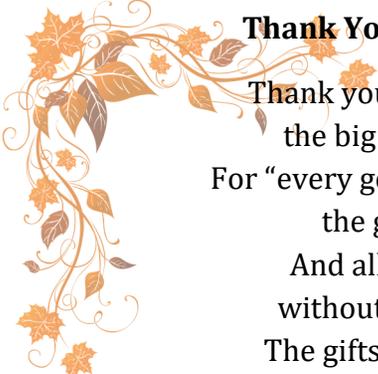
Five special DVDs are now available for check-out in our church library. These are dramas presented at Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania. Available videos are *Moses, Noah, Joseph, Ruth, and Jonah*. The library is located just behind the sanctuary, next to the choir room.

### **Trustees**

The Otterbein Board of Trustees is pleased to report the following projects are either underway or recently completed. Please reach out to any Trustee for additional details or to provide input.

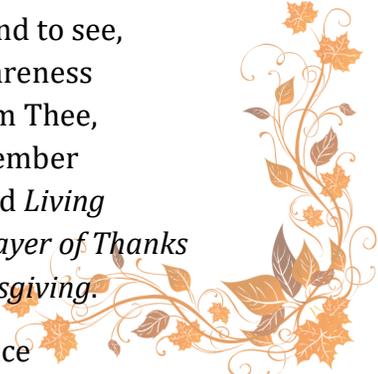
- Lower parking lot storm drain repaired after developing a hole in the pavement caused by years of storm water runoff
- Addition of an in-line humidifier to offset the dry air in the sanctuary due to the new heating system
- Repair of roof leak in the High Street tower
- Initial conversations about painting of sanctuary

### **Thank You, God, For Everything**



Thank you, God, for everything—  
the big things and the small,  
For “every good gift comes from God” -  
the giver of them all—  
And all too often we accept  
without any thanks or praise  
The gifts God sends as blessing  
each day in many ways,  
And so at this *Thanksgiving time*  
we offer up a prayer  
To thank you, God, for giving us  
a lot more than our share...  
First, thank you for the little things  
that often come our way,  
The things we take for granted  
but don’t mention when we pray  
The unexpected courtesy,  
the thoughtful, kindly deed,  
A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need...  
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces  
That come to us with “sweet surprise”  
from never-dreamed-of places—  
Then, thank you for the “*Miracles*”  
we are so much too blind to see,  
And give us new awareness  
of our many gifts from Thee,  
And help us to remember  
that the *Key to Life and Living*  
Is to make each prayer a *Prayer of Thanks*  
and every day *Thanksgiving*.

Helen Steiner Rice





## CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

The Creation Care Task Force wishes to thank all who participated in our first "Finding Sabbath In Nature" walk on October 15. The weather was a perfect fall day and made finding God during our walk an easy task.



God gave us the job of being good stewards of his creation. If you are interested in joining our team or have suggestions for future projects please contact any team member.

### The Creation Care Team:

Betty Redmond, *Chair*

Wilma Mitchell

Sarah Macomber

Barb German

Vicki Gaines

Ginny Whitehill

Joe Whitehill,

*Honorary Team*

*Member*



The Otterbein Men's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who supported the Spaghetti Supper in September! A total of **\$1,484.00** was received in donations for the College Chorale Scholarship Fund. Your generosity is **A\*M\*A\*Z\*I\*N\*G!**



The men are planning the **Family Brunch for Sunday, December 11** in Memorial Hall immediately following the Christmas Cantata during the Worship Service. Mark this date on your calendar now and watch the church bulletin and *Tidings* for more details to follow.

There's one more regular UMM breakfast meeting planned in 2022. We will meet at Thomas House Restaurant on **Saturday, October 22 at 7:30 am** for food, fellowship, and prayer. Please take an hour out of your Saturday morning and join us!



For additional information concerning our fellowship, please check our website:  
[oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men](http://oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men)

Leadership/Planning Team:

*Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, Carter Ritchie*



United  
Women  
in Faith

## *United Women in Faith News*

To Remember

*Find out what God would have you do,  
And do that little well;  
For what is great and what is small,  
This only He can tell.*

~ Author Unknown ~

The United Women in Faith will meet **Tuesday, November 8** at **10:00 am** in **Room 204** for our **World Thank Offering Meeting**. All women of the church are welcome.

The UWF District “Looking Ahead Together” is **Saturday, November 12** at **Bridgewater UMC** beginning at **9:00 am** until **noon**. The first speaker will be Graham Witt talking about Open Doors. The second portion will deal with Zone Leader issues.

The Otterbein Unit was presented the *Six Channels of Mission Giving Award* and the “*Living Into Our Purpose*” *Gold Unit Award* at the UWF District Annual Meeting on October 6 at Dayton UMC. Judy Monger, Hazel Willi, and Christy Blagg received certificates for completing Plan I of the UWF Reading Program. Christy was also recognized for reading the most books (13) in the District and our church was recognized for reading the most books (39) as a Unit.

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Children’s Sabbath Sunday Service on October 16. Congratulations to Sandy Schaefer for receiving the Special Recognition Award.

We will not meet in December. Please keep your pledges up-to-date so Jo Ann can pay our fourth quarter Pledge to Mission in December.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2023 with our new president, Pat Wingert. If you are interested in learning more about the United

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Women in Faith, plan to attend the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Do It

*Whenever a task is set for you  
Don't idly sit and view it,  
Nor be content to wish it done;  
Begin at once and do it.*

~ Author Unknown ~

### Advent and Christmas Music Opportunities

#### Music Lecture Series Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

On Tuesdays in Advent, Otterbein will be presenting a series of **presentation lectures on Advent and Christmas music themes**. These programs will take place at **1:00 pm** on **Tuesdays November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20**. Guest speakers will be coming from local universities and music organizations to share on music and historical practices related to this special church season. Please plan to join us for this series made possible through gifts of the Priscilla Whitmore Music Fund – you will be blessed!



#### Otterbein’s Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

Please mark your calendar to be at worship for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. We will celebrate the Christmas message in scripture and song. Our Sanctuary Choir, soloists and guest instrumentalists will present favorite carols of the season. You don’t want to miss it!

#### *Invitation to a Miracle*

#### Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Asbury UMC

Members of Otterbein’s Music Ministry will join with musicians from Asbury to present the **Christmas Cantata *Invitation to a Miracle***. This cantata is full of joyous and familiar Christmas songs and narration that share the miracle of the timeless story of the birth of Jesus Christ. This program will be presented as part of Asbury’s Sacred Arts Series and is given as a benefit concert. The freewill love offering will go to support the Harrisonburg community through the work and ministry of Open Doors.