

Welcome to Otterbein United Methodist Church

September 20, 2026

10:30 am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

We Gather to Worship the Lord

Prelude

The Gift to Be Simple

Wood

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Hungering and thirsting, we come to the Lord.

All: Jesus is the living bread!

Leader: Feed us with your love and healing power, O Lord.

All: Give us the bread of hope and compassion that we may also feed others.

Leader: Praise be to you, O Lord, for your compassion for us.

All: Praise be to you, O Lord, for your steadfast love. Let us worship God!

***Opening Prayer**

***Opening Hymn**

All Who Hunger

No. 2126, TFWS

Children's Time in Worship

Linda Conrad

We Proclaim the Word of God

Anthem

Amazing Grace

arr. Rutter

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading	Isaiah 55:1-5	(OT, pg. 685)
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Scripture Reading	Matthew 14:13-21	(NT, pg. 16)
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Sermon	“SIMPLE GIFTS”	Rev. Laura Stratton
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*Hymn	<i>Take My Life, and Let It Be</i>	No. 399, UMH
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We Give Our Thanks

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation, Confession, Pardon, & Peace	No. 12, UMH
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Anthem	<i>Set Me As a Seal</i> College Chorale	Clausen
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*Doxology	No. 95, UMH
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Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion	No. 13, UMH
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Prayer after Communion	No. 11, UMH
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We Go Forth Renewed

*Closing Hymn	<i>Let Us Be Bread</i>	No. 2260, TFWS
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*Benediction

*Postlude	<i>Maestoso in A Major</i>	Mendelssohn
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* Please stand as you are able.

This Week's Opportunities

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am New Member
 Orientation—MH

Monday, September 21

4:30 pm Soup Kitchen
4:30 pm Clothes Closet
6:00 pm SPRC—Rm. 204

Tuesday, September 22

1:00 pm Tidings Crew—Rm. 204
6:00 pm Bible Study—Rm. 204
7:00 pm Admin. Council/
 Finance/Endowment—
 Rm. 204

Wednesday, September 23

10:00 am Bible Study—Rm. 204
6:00 pm Bells
7:15 pm Choir

Thursday, September 24

9:30 am Guys Grief Group—Mr.
 J's Bagels
3:45 pm New Horizons Band—
 MH

Friday, September 25

Saturday, September 26

7:30 am UMM—MH

Sunday, September 27

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

Otterbein in Prayer

David Angier
Rosalie Bailey
Gary Billingsley
Whitney Bradley
Rev. Louis Carson
Loretta Crider
Nissa D'Andrea
Cliff Davis
Jo Ellen Dickenson
Mike Earman
Rev. Samuel & Judith
Espinoza
Zach Fickes
Mary Ann Glendye
Ray Griffith
Fred Hopkins
Joel Jordan
Steve Lilly
Patty Liskey
Chuck Macklin
Art Mitchell
Eric Mitchell
Maxine Perry
Judy Pruett
Ann Sebrell
Dot Swartz
Carolyn Stroop
Michelle VanPelt
Hazel Willi
Jay Williams
Keith Wright
Family of Millie Bruce
Family of Jackie Lilly



The flowers on the altar today are given by Dave & Donna Fickes in honor of Dave's brother, Wilmington, DE Senior Firefighter Jerry W. Fickes, Jr., who passed heroically in the line of duty on September 24, 2016.

- **New Member Orientation**—Are you interested in joining Otterbein UMC or interested in learning more about how to join, what membership means, or about the UMC denomination? Plan to stay **after worship TODAY** for lunch and an orientation. The lunch and orientation will last 1.5-2 hours, depending on questions.
- **Directory Updates**—Please let the church office know of any directory changes or additions by **September 30**. We plan to print a new directory soon!
- **Mystery Friends 2026-27**—**College students**: do you want to receive a reminder each month of how special you are to Otterbein? **Congregation**: do you or your group want to make a college student's day? Mystery Friends is the perfect match, and it's SO EASY! **Students**: simply fill out an information form (found at the church entrances and in the choir room) and **return it by Sunday, September 27**. **Congregation**: if you would like to participate, you can sign up to cover one month, birthdays, special occasions, however works best for you. Volunteers are needed beginning in October, so don't delay. Contact either Bev Nelson (beverleyznelson@comcast.net, 540-908-8793) or Kim Zigler (kzigler@comcast.net, 540-246-7781). Let's continue to show how important our college students are to our congregation.
- **Otterbein Signature Coconut Cakes**—Orders for Otterbein Signature Coconut Cakes & Cupcakes will be taken during the month of September. Sign-up sheets are located at the water fountains. There is a limited number to be sold, so sign up ASAP to be guaranteed your cakes for the holidays! All proceeds will be donated to Otterbein's Outreach Programs.
- **Clothes Closet**—The Clothes Closet could use **men's and children's clothing, white socks, AND shoes for everyone**. *Please NO women's clothing*. Thanks!
- **Weekday Religious Education Fall Benefit Auction** will be held **Saturday, October 17 at 10 am** at Shady Oaks at Weavers Mennonite Church. Breakfast and lunch available! Join them **Friday, October 16 from 5-7 pm** for their **Bake Sale and Silent Auction**.

Lay Reader:

Charles Williams

Attendance Last Sunday:

Next Week's Nursery Volunteers:

**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

176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office: oumccadm@hotmail.com

Pastor Laura:

laurastratton@vaumc.org

oumcharrisonburg.org

Office: (540) 434-7747

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 3 pm

Friday: Closed