

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

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# Tidings



# February 2024

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

176 West Market Street  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747  
 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 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

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

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

**Melvin Falls**  
 Custodian

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

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

*Otterbein's*  
**Signature**  
**Coconut Cakes**

Otterbein's Signature Coconut Cakes offer the opportunity to have the perfect Easter dessert. You, your family, and friends can enjoy what many now consider a tradition for their celebration!

**Orders will be taken until January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Bring completed order form to church or call Carla Nemoytin (540-810-4491) or Vicki Gaines (540-820-3841) to place your order.

*Your order will be ready on or before March 24<sup>th</sup>.*

Coconut Cakes			
	6"	8"	10"
	\$20	\$25	\$35
Quantity			
Coconut Cupcakes			
	12 Minis	6 Regular	Total Due
	\$12	\$15	
Quantity			

Name: .....

Phone Number: .....

All proceeds benefit the local, national, and international missions of Otterbein United Methodist Church.

### **Otterbein in Prayer**

Phyllis Albrite	Judi Espinoza	BJ Payne
David Angier	Diane Gray	Maxine Perry
Wanda Baker	Mindi Griffith	Judy Pruett
Christy Blagg	Ray & Audrey Griffith	Linda Ridder
Gary Billingsley	Doris Hanger	Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh
Millie Bruce	Norma Heath	Maggie Sparks
Rev. Louis Carson	Todd Hillyard	Dot Swartz
Fern Cline	Jo Ann Liskey	Juanita Taylor
Cliff & Jean Davis	Allene McCoy	James Vance
Ann Dellinger	Mary Jo Mitchell	Daisy VanPelt
Jo Ellen Dickenson	Wilma Mitchell	Michelle VanPelt
Jeanne Ely	Philip Moyers	Ken Williamson
Mike Earman	George & Betty Painter	

### **Chili Luncheon**

**On Sunday, February 18, the Faith Builders Sunday School class will host their annual Chili Luncheon. It will begin following the worship service until 1:00 pm. We will be serving chili, white chicken chili, hot dogs, pimento cheese sandwiches, and ice cream. A freewill offering will be collected. Everyone is invited to come join the fellowship.**



### **For Your Information**

- **Tidings** deadline for the **March** issue is **Monday, February 19** by **9 am**. 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](mailto:oumcadm@hotmail.com) by the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Prayer Line Ministry:** Call **540-434-7745** 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.

# FROM THE PASTOR

Easter is early this year, which make Ash Wednesday and Lent early as well. You might have noticed this since we barely finished reading our Advent Devotionals when you were being tasked with writing for Lent. Ash Wednesday this year also falls on Valentine’s Day. This is not a common occurrence—only four times in the past 100 years have these two holiday’s shared the date (1923, 1934, 1945, 2024)—and is related to the timing of Easter. Determining the date for Easter is tied to the spring equinox and the first full moon after that date. To confuse matters even further, the Orthodox church uses a different calculation for Easter so in the Eastern church the date is different most years.

This year on February 14<sup>th</sup> there are competing claims to what should be celebrated. For the cynic, maybe this is the perfect match; but traditionally, celebrating the love of Valentine’s Day and the acknowledgement of our mortality and sinful nature for Ash Wednesday are not necessarily compatible. I would not advocate for abandoning one of these holidays for the other. Celebrating love on Valentine’s Day is perfectly fine. While I may not be attached to the commercialization of the day, nor think the hyper attentive focus on romance be the most important thing we need to focus on, a few flowers and candy for a loved one is not destroying the fabric of our society. On the other hand, I would argue that taking some time to focus on Ash Wednesday is important. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time of penitence and preparation, with us stopping and acknowledging our human weakness and frailty. *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”* are the words of our liturgy. A pretty sobering statement. It moves us from the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany to a time of renewal and preparation for Easter. We celebrate the birth of Christ, acknowledge our need for salvation, and

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then rejoice as the Kingdom comes closer at Easter. This is our liturgical movement.

So, on February 14<sup>th</sup> this year, please do as much of Valentine's Day that you need to, but also take some time to engage in the work of Ash Wednesday. We will worship together on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> and if that is time you have set apart for Valentine's Day, we will also provide other opportunities on that day to be attentive to the dusty work of Ash Wednesday.

*Adam*



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.*

On **Tuesday, February 13**, the Otterbein United Women of Faith will meet at **11 am\*** (please note the time change) in **Memorial Hall**. Our program presenter will be Barbara Phillips, Co-Vice President of the Shenandoah River District. She will provide information and insight into the missions that we support as United Women in Faith. Be prepared to make your pledge for 2024. **Lunch will be provided following the meeting.** Please plan to attend to share food and fellowship. All women are invited!

**Reminder:** The OUMC Clothes Closet is in great need of winter clothes for men, women and children! Coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and shoes of all sizes are

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On **Saturday, March 23** beginning at **4:30 pm** the men will offer their church-wide **Spaghetti Supper**. Please make plans now to join us in Memorial Hall for this annual event. Additional details will be found in the March *Tidings* and Sunday Worship Bulletins.

Please see our entire planned meeting/event 2024 Calendar at this website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

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

Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, & Carter Ritchie

## **Outreach Ministry Team Update**

A special thank you for all who contributed to our request for items needed by Open Doors. Open Doors has been supported by Otterbein in many ways, this being only one. Our hope of them transitioning to a permanent home will enable them to better serve the local homeless population.

### **Fresh Start**

Our second distribution occurred this month.

From Bridge of Hope: "*Good Morning Carla, the family was very appreciative of the Fresh Start items last week. In case you'd like to share with your church, please thank them for their generous donation, the donated items will benefit a mother and her daughter in Bridge of Hope's program. This family is starting a new chapter, and these items will help get them started as they create a new home together.*"

Bridge of Hope's representative said they have several families going through their program now that will probably be requesting assistance in the near future.

Otterbein's Outreach Team



## Why is Men's Ministry Important?

Here are some answers to that question as taken from the General Commission of United Methodist Men:

- Men lead others best by modeling Jesus Christ in thoughts, words, and deeds.
- Spiritual maturity is signified in spiritual reproduction, as the faith of mature disciples passes on in others.
- Men growing in Christ become effective spiritual leaders in their homes and congregations, working as partners with their spouses and congregational leaders—both lay and clergy.
- Spiritually growing men help congregations to become vital and alive.
- Everything desired from and through men comes as a result of men growing spiritually and maturing as disciples: family blessings, stewardship, service, outreach, prayer, spiritual leadership, lifestyle evangelism, and faithful obedience. Men are foundational to the life and health of the church.
- When a man lives daily in surrendered faith, God is honored, and many lives are blessed. Transformed hearts are forged only within Christ-centered lives—nothing less is our acceptable offering; nothing less truly reveals Christ.

As you consider these results which come from engaging in men's ministry, the Otterbein Men's Fellowship invite you to join us for our **monthly breakfast gatherings** at **Thomas House Restaurant** in Dayton. The men will meet for fellowship and prayer and a few business items on **Saturday, January 27** and **Saturday, February 24**. Gatherings begin at **7:30 am** and generally conclude in about one hour.

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just some of the items in short supply. Check your closets for gently worn items that you no longer need or wear. Folks in our community need our help!

Grace & Peace,  
Pat Wingert

***Dear God, it is so hard for us not to be anxious,  
we worry about work and money,  
about food and health,  
about weather and crops,  
about war and politics,  
about loving and being loved.  
Show us how perfect love casts out fear.***

**Monica Furlong, England  
from *Soul Weavings: A Gathering of Women's Prayers***



**WINTER CLOTHES ARE NEEDED  
for the Clothes Closet**

**ALL kinds – Especially Men's,  
but Children's and Women's as well.  
Including – coats, hats, scarves, gloves  
SHOES are also needed.**

**Basically the Clothes Closet is running  
LOW of about everything.  
Gently worn clothes are welcome.  
THANKS for your generous support!!**



## CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

### Creation Care Taskforce

A new year, a new month,  
a new day.

Despite the night, God's sun is  
faithful.

Despite the dark clouds in our world and our lives,  
God's Son is faithful.

Let us "seize the day" with that assurance.

Let us respond to the grace of new beginnings  
with resolve and joy!

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant with God. As covenant people, we put our trust in God and put ourselves to work caring for what God has entrusted to us. Our past is past. God's grace enables us to forge ahead on behalf of all creation. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till. Now is the time to renew your commitment to be good stewards of our earth.

**Make a green resolution for the New Year.** Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation; and celebrate the steps you are already taking as you add others.

### John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will,

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place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and  
service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

*Excerpts from January 2024 newsletter – United  
Methodist Creation Justice.*

### Otterbein Creation Care Taskforce

