

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

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Tidings



March 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
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

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

at 7:00 pm. After graduating from JMU, Erik completed his Master of Music degree at The Julliard School. An active performer, Erik has recently appeared as an apprentice singer with The Santa Fe Opera, had his Carnegie Hall debut, sang at The Kennedy Center, and performed with The Virginia Opera. Erik is a 2022 George London Award Winner, a National Semi-Finalist in the 2022 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, and a winner of the 2022 Julliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital. Erik married fellow Otterbein College Chorale member Abby Stanley in June of 2021. Tickets are available through the Forbes Box Office. Come hear a magnificent concert and support a former member of the Otterbein College Chorale! If you have any questions or want to attend with a group from Otterbein's choir, please contact Sandy for more information.

Otterbein in Prayer

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

For Your Information

- **Tidings** deadline for the April issue is **Monday, March 18** 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 oumcdadm@hotmail.com by the 18th.
- **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.

Good Friday Service

March 29th at 7:00 pm

Please join us and invite your family and friends to a Good Friday service reflecting on the passion of Jesus Christ through scripture, hymns, and choral music.

The combined choirs of Asbury and Otterbein will present John Rutter's *Requiem* with orchestra.

This moving work takes the listener on a journey from darkness to light and climaxes with Christ's words, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, shall never die.*" Utilizing texts from the Requiem Mass, the Psalms and The Book of Common Prayer, the seven movements of the work form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death. A Requiem or Requiem Mass is a mass for the dead, celebrated for the repose of the souls who have died. The introit of the liturgy begins with the words. "Eternal rest grant them, O Lord."

Focusing on the cross and the crucifixion is a poignant reminder of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for all mankind. Jesus' death on the cross demonstrates God's love for us by making a way for our sins to be forgiven and our relationship to God to be restored:

**Lest I forget Gethsemane, lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me, lead me to Calvary.**

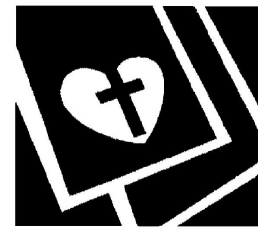
Alumni Concert at Forbes Center

Erik Grendahl, Baritone and Jenny Anne Flory,
Mezzo Soprano

Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 pm

Otterbein College Chorale Alumni, Erik Grendahl, will present a concert at JMU Forbes Recital Hall on Tuesday, March 19th

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FROM THE PASTOR

I write this on a Monday morning, just following our second church meal together in 2024. You might recall my challenge to the congregation in late 2023 to reengage the practice of gathering around the table as a congregation. We did this in 2023 with weekly communion service; in 2024 we hope to take the next step and eat with each other once a month in a more relaxed setting. Our meals in January and February have been great. Good attendance, good food, good talk around the table. Part of that challenge was the desire to connect our congregation more deeply to each other. Otterbein is not a huge Congregation; we probably have 150 people who worship with us at least once a month. It is possible to know everyone here, but it takes energy and effort to do so. Corporate worship, while extremely important and central to our personal and historic faith tradition, is not necessarily the best place to meet everyone. We are creatures of habit and finding a different spot to sit each week to meet a new person is not something many people do. So we find other ways to encourage relationship. Food is a great way to do that. It is deeply rooted in our New Testament narrative. Jesus is often eating with others, or feeding others, or talking about food. Fellowship around the table is formative!

Table fellowship also deepens the unity of the church. A recent Lenten devotional talked about the necessity of unity in divisive times, highlighting the need to keep to our center in Jesus. I agree completely. I don't think anything better demonstrates that than focusing our fellowship and worship on food—the spiritual food we find at the table of Jesus Christ and the sustaining food we find at our monthly meals. We will continue this work at unity in March with the United Methodist Men hosting a meal on Saturday, March 23rd. Plans are also being discussed

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about a post-worship meal in April. We laugh about United Methodists and covered dish meals, but I am enjoying taking this work of eating together seriously as a way to maintain the unity and health of the church.

See you around the table soon!

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.

Otterbein United Women in Faith met February 13 with Barbara Phillips, the Co-Vice President of the Shenandoah River District. She explained how the women are working to better communicate and work together as we support each other, local missions, and global ministries. Our unit looks forward to more engagement with others in our district. A delicious lunch followed the meeting and included Rev. Adam Blagg and Melissa Miller. Thanks to all who provided food, Betty Redmond for preparation, and all who helped clean up! It was a lovely time of fellowship.

Our next meeting will be March 12 at 11 am in Room 204. The program will be “The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial”. A special offering will be taken. All women are invited to come and find out more.

Please contact me for more information.

Peace, Pat Wingert

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Charity During Lent from The Outreach Team

*When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand
know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.*

Proverbs 19:17

Commit during Lent.

Secretly give to someone in need.

Open Doors contributions were accepted and delivered. We received a very grateful “Thank You” from Nate at Open Doors. Outreach members thank all who contributed.

Coconut Cakes – Orders have been taken for *Otterbein's Signature Coconut Cakes*. Cakes have been baked and are waiting to be iced. A few extras will be available for sale if you missed the deadline for ordering. Those who ordered will be contacted to determine when you would like your cake/cupcakes. As always, the monies received go towards mission projects.

Fresh Start – Good News! After such an enthusiastic initial first response, Outreach was wondering why we had not heard from First Step, the women's shelter. Mystery solved, there has been an influx of new hires. The new hires have been instructed; we should be hearing from them as needs arise.

Soup Kitchen – The Soup Kitchen continues to serve hot meals to all who come on Monday evenings. New faces are being seen each week.


Clothes Closet – For the 3 Mondays the Clothes Closet was open in January, a total of 33 men and women plus 1 child was served. Additionally, 4 new clients signed up. **Men's, women's, and school-age children's clothing are very much needed.** All donations are greatly appreciated.



Spaghetti Supper to be held Saturday, March 23

Plans are moving forward to serve our **Annual Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, March 25 beginning at 4:30 pm.** The menu will be spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, drink, and dessert. One of the featured desserts will be Vicki Gaines' coconut cupcakes! The men will meet at the church on *Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 pm* to prepare the meal.



 Have you been thinking about becoming involved in our group? One simple way is to join us for a delicious breakfast and a time of prayer and fellowship at our monthly meetings. The Otterbein Men's Fellowship regular *Saturday* meetings for the next several months will be **April 27** and **May 25** at **7:30 am** at **Thomas House Restaurant** in Dayton. During our regular breakfast gatherings, the meal is followed by a short business meeting concluded by a time for devotions and prayer. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us!



Want to know more? Contact any member of our planning team: Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, and Carter Ritchie, or check our website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

You are invited to attend!

WRE Students' 2024 Choral Presentation

"The Lord's Plans"

Saturday, March 16th, 4:00 pm

**Eastern Mennonite University Commons
1307 Park Road, Harrisonburg**

Freewill Offering

WRE Office: 540-438-9997

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deeper dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

~Shirley Erena Murray (The Faith We Sing, 2128)

Did you know...

When our latest church history book was written and published in 2020, it was by no means the end of "our story." Documentation of the ongoing happenings, programs, and missions of our church continues. Organized by each subsequent year, you will find the written updates, photos, and documents contained in a large notebook binder labeled "OUMC 2020—Present" located on the bookcase in Room 204.

In keeping with this "did you know?" theme: Are there folks that you worship alongside each week that you don't know? The likely answer is "Yes." For some time now we've been urged by Rev. Blagg to reach beyond our usual circle of friends and introduce ourselves to someone in our congregation we've not met. Most recently at the Faith Builders Chili Luncheon in February, everyone wore name tags to ease introductions and help forge new relationships.

We want everyone to feel warmly received as a part of our church family. Going forward, Otterbein's newest members will be featured in a *Tidings* newsletter article as another means of welcome and introduction. Learning a bit about people can be a real ice-breaker!

Let's continue to encourage conversations, connections, and community.



Creation Care Taskforce

CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

As spring approaches, you may be thinking about how to get your yard ready after a dreary, cold winter. Did you know that there are ways to

bring your life to your yard AND be environmentally conscious?

Rain Barrels

Did you know that the average roof collects 600 gallons of water for every inch of rain? That is a lot of potential to capture fresh water! Rain barrels are a simple step towards freshwater conservation, especially considering environmental degradation, prolonged droughts, and the rising price of municipal water in many communities. Rain barrels also reduce erosion and flooding caused by turbulent stormwater runoff, which is a major environmental concern, especially in urban and suburban areas with impervious surfaces such as paved roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. These impervious surfaces prevent water infiltration back into the ground, resulting in more frequent and more severe chances of flooding. Another concern is stormwater pollution, which happens when chemicals and sediments get picked up by rushing rainwater and flow into a storm sewer system or a local body of water. Rain barrels can help reduce this pollution by capturing and containing rainwater, decreasing the total amount of runoff water.

The Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be hosting a **Spring Rain Barrel Workshop** on **March 27th, 6:00-8:00 pm** at the Recycling Convenience Facility at 2055 Beery Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. You can register online at <https://svswcd.org/rain-barrel-workshop-harrisonburg> or you can call (540) 534-3055 or email

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chelsea.thomas@svswcd.org. **Registration Deadline is March**

25.

Pollinator Gardens

Pollinator populations, such as bees, beetles, ants, wasps, butterflies, and more, have been declining in recent years, which is bad news for us and our ecosystem. Without pollinators, many foods, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicines we use wouldn't be possible! The best way to help these pollinator populations is to reduce our impact on their environment. This includes thinking twice before using pesticides and increasing your available green space. More plants and less pavements means that pollinators will have more habitat to do their important work! A great way to do this is to grow a pollinator-friendly garden. This provides pollinators with the food, water, and shelter they need to survive. You can do this by planting a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall. Here are some tips for your pollinator garden:

- Plant clumps of plants instead of singular plants to allow easier access for pollinators
- Focus your plant choice on native and non-invasive species (can be found with a simple Google search!)
- Spread the word!

Harrisonburg has its own recognition as a "Pollinator Friendly City," which provides us with many opportunities to learn how to help the dwindling population. You can go by the Ice House on **March 23rd, 1:00-4:00 pm** to learn more about the city's initiatives with pollinator gardens. You can also visit <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/pollinators> for more information on the city's pollinator-friendly spaces, upcoming events, and more on establishing pollinator spaces.

Otterbein Creation Care Taskforce