

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

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Tidings



January 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

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite
David Angier
Wanda Baker
Gary Billingsley
Millie Bruce
Rev. Louis Carson
Fern Cline
Cliff & Jean Davis
Ann Dellinger
Jo Ellen Dickenson
Jeanne Ely
Mike Earman
Judi Espinoza

Mindi Griffith
Ray & Audrey Griffith
Doris Hanger
Norma Heath
Rodney Hildebrand
Todd Hillyard
Jo Ann Liskey
Allene McCoy
Mary Jo Mitchell
Wilma Mitchell
Philip Moyers
George & Betty
Painter

BJ Payne
Maxine Perry
Judy Pruett
Linda Ridder
Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh
Maggie Sparks
Dot Swartz
Juanita Taylor
James Vance
Daisy VanPelt
Michelle VanPelt
Ken Williamson

Many thanks to everyone who remembered me in their prayers and with calls, cards, visits, and food during my knee surgery recovery, birthday, and Christmas. A special thanks to Darlene Cochran who has taken me to all my doctor's appointments and surgery. Also a big thanks to Joyce Foltz who has been my personal chauffeur to physical therapy and other places. Also thanks to Betty Redmond who came and changed the dressing.



Because of both knee and back problems, it has been a painful journey, but at last the healing journey has begun and has been manageable because of friends like you. God bless each of you.

Wilma Mitchell

For Your Information

- **Tidings** deadline for the February issue is **Monday, January 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.
- **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.



The Otterbein Men's Fellowship would like to thank all who supported our *Christmas Pancake Brunch* in December! Over 90 persons enjoyed good fellowship along with pancakes, sausage, and strawberry, blueberry, chocolate chip, chocolate syrup, and whipped cream toppings! Donations from this project, so far have, totaled \$2,080.00, all going towards the College Chorale Scholarship Fund.

The Men's Fellowship is preparing for 2024 and invites all men to our first Prayer Breakfast meeting of the new year at Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton on **Saturday, January 27 starting at 7:30 am**. To view all of our planned breakfast meetings and other activities, check out the website below. You can also view pictures from recent projects as well as see and hear the Men's Choir singing during the UMM Sunday Worship Services over the years.

For additional information concerning our fellowship, please check our website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>.

Leadership/Planning Team:

- Mike Earman
- Bill Pollard
- Carter Ritchie



FROM THE PASTOR

You are most likely reading this during the season of Christmas. In our church heritage, the days between December 25th and January 6th are considered Christmas; we remember it in song with the 12 days of Christmas. This ends on January 6th with Epiphany. We often commemorate Epiphany Sunday with the story of the magi in Matthew's gospel. Epiphany is often the forgotten major holiday of the church. It falls so close to Christmas we often just breeze by it without really taking any extra time to explore what it means. The origin of the word comes from Greek and is simply "to reveal." Epiphany is the time when the divinity of Christ is revealed. This connects it nicely to the story of the magi, who come to worship the new king. In the Eastern church the narratives of Jesus' baptism and the wedding at Cana are also linked to this Sunday, each revealing in their own way the divinity of Christ. In our Western tradition these two scripture passages are often used in ensuing weeks, but not on Epiphany.

In Rome we have records of Epiphany being a separate celebration by the mid-Fourth Century, about the same time as the earliest mention of Christmas being on December 25th. We also know that Epiphany originated in the Eastern Church as a celebration of the birth of Christ, with Clement of Alexandria making note of it in the Third Century. In some orthodox traditions, the January 6th date is still a Christmas celebration, with Epiphany falling on January 17th.

Our normal practice at Otterbein is to

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celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday before January 6th. Due to how the liturgical calendar works this year, that Sunday would be December 31st and seems a little abrupt. So, this Epiphany Sunday will also be the Baptism of the Lord; we will honor some of our Eastern Church practices and celebrate both on January 7th.

I write this still in the midst of Advent, with some expectant hope for a wonderful Christmas season. Many blessings as we celebrate this time together. Merry Christmas and may the light of Christ revealed during Epiphany guide you this coming year.

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, January 9**, 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. ***Lunch will be provided following the meeting.*** All women are invited!

Reminder: The OUMC Clothes Closet is in great need of winter clothes for men, women and

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to access and complete surveys for the County's Transportation Feasibility Study.

- Otterbein member, Patsy Liskey wanted to make sure her newly elected County Supervisor was aware of VIA and the importance of transportation and child care. As a result, she reached out to and met with her Supervisor via ZOOM.
- Otterbein member, Vicki Gaines assisted in creating videos of VIA members sharing the difference VIA is making in our community and inviting others to support VIA's initiatives.
- And each time VIA gathers for a public action, there are fifteen or so folks from Otterbein working to ensure all goes well. Some folks assist Melissa in putting together packets. Others come early to prepare the gathering space by setting up chairs, tables, and banners. Others serve by staffing the registration tables, by greeting folks as they arrive, or by serving as ushers. And then many of those same folks stick around to clean up and break-down after the event.

Thank you, Otterbein, for all your 'behind the scenes' actions. You are making a lasting, positive difference in the lives of people in our community!





VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

On December 7, 35 folks from Otterbein joined over 300 other people, including elected and corporate leaders, in committing to take the next steps in

securing door-to-door on-demand transit and affordable child care for our community (See the news coverage at <https://www.whsv.com/2023/12/07/valley-interfaith-action-seeks-bring-transit-system-rockingham-county>).

While these larger actions are important and often get most of the attention and press, they couldn't happen without all the 'behind the scenes' actions of everyday folks from Otterbein and other VIA organizations. And so I'd like to highlight and celebrate some of these 'behind the scenes' actions that make the larger actions possible. For example:

- Otterbein member, Linda Conrad invited other residents of VMRC (where she resides) to learn more about VIA and get involved. As a result, fifteen folks from VMRC participated in the most recent action and VMRC is discerning whether they want to become a supporting organization like Otterbein.
- Otterbein member, Carol Barber witnessed first-hand how students seeking to learn English as a second language are directly impacted by the lack of transportation. As a result, she took the initiative to ensure they had an opportunity

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children! Coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and shoes of all sizes are 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

Later

Later

*after the angels,
after the stable,
after the Child,
they went back...*

as we always must,

*back to the world that doesn't understand
our talk of angels and stars
and especially not the Child.*

We go back complaining that it doesn't last.

They went back singing praises to God!

We do have to go back,

But we can still sing the alleluias!

*~ Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem**



*UWF Christmas
Gathering on
December 12*



Creation Care Taskforce

CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

Our inclination is to withdraw indoors when it's cold, but the truth is that you can still (and should) enjoy nature in the winter. To hide indoors would mean missing out on a truly magical experience. People often believe that being too cold can lead to getting sick, but luckily this isn't true! Cold weather does not cause colds or flu, only viruses can do that. As long as you're taking care of yourself and staying warmly dressed, spending time outdoors can only benefit your health.

We can enjoy nature in the winter like we did as kids. Even an adult can have that same feeling of enjoyment, awe, and wonder. One of the best ways to get in touch with nature is to go walking and hiking. Take a walk in your neighborhood or seek out new areas to explore.

Bird watching is another fun activity in which you can take part in during the winter months. There are many birds that stick around during this time, so it's a great opportunity to become familiar with the birds in your own back yard or in the woods and forests nearby. Pick up a field guide on wild birds and try to identify as many as you can.

Collect nature to bring indoors such as pine boughs, winter berries, pinecones, etc. Arrange in vases and bowls or place on the fireplace mantle. These bits of the outdoors can remind us that winter

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won't last forever.

So go outside and enjoy nature this winter. Explore your local park, your own backyard, or a natural area in your community. Take a moment to appreciate what you see and hear in God's beautiful creation. Whether it's walking, looking at the stars, or just enjoying winter's bounty, there are plenty of ways for you to enjoy nature this winter.

From the Creation Care Taskforce

Happy New Year from your Outreach Ministry Team!

The following two projects will get Outreach off to a good start:

1. Open Doors is requesting the following items needed by their clients. We're asking for you to select one or more, bring them to Church during the month of January and we'll see they are delivered.
 - Disposable Razors
 - Shaving Cream
 - Deodorant
 - Snacks - "walkable" snacks that need no preparation
2. Orders for "Otterbein's Signature Coconut Cakes" will be taken the last two Sundays in January. Cakes will be delivered before Easter. As usual all proceeds will go to benefit Otterbein's Mission Projects.

Thank you for your continued support!

Your Outreach Ministry Team