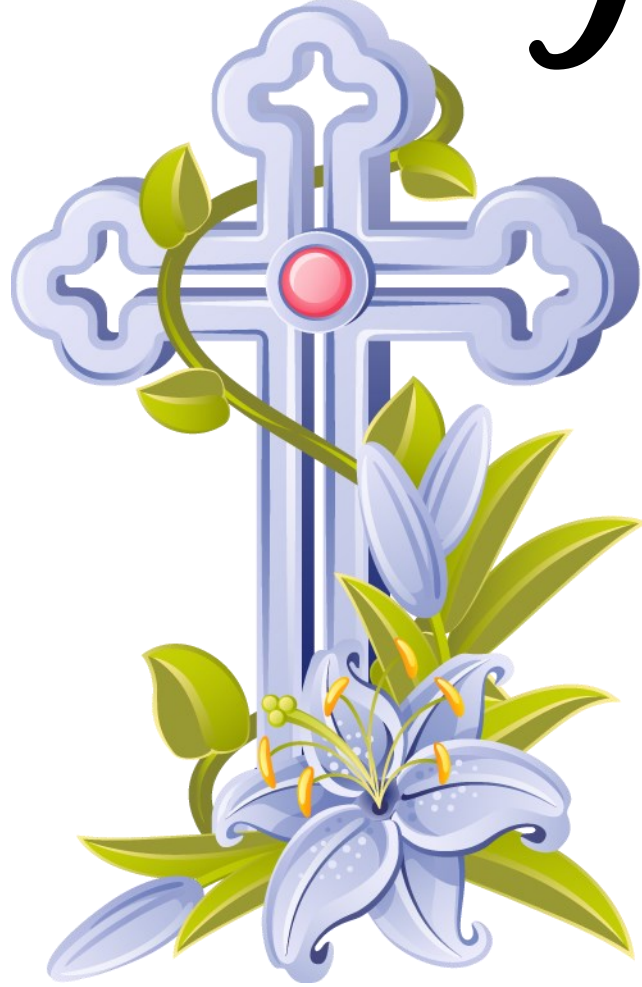


OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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Tidings



April 2024

The Tidings
Otterbein United Methodist
Church

176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747
oumcharrisonburg.org

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

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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
Theresa Bickers
Gary Billingsley
Millie Bruce
Rev. Louis Carson
Fern Cline
Cliff & Jean Davis
Ann Dellinger
Jo Ellen Dickenson
Jeanne Ely

Mike Earman
Judi Espinoza
Jerry Ford
Diane Gray
Ray & Audrey Griffith
Art & Doris Hanger
Norma Heath
Chuck & Nancy Macklin
Mary Jo Mitchell
Wilma Mitchell
George & Betty Painter
BJ Payne

Maxine Perry
Judy Pruett
Linda Ridder
Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh
Maggie Sparks
Dot Swartz
Juanita Taylor
Daisy VanPelt
Michelle VanPelt
Susan Young

College Chorale senior **Darien Roby** will present his **Senior Recital** on **Saturday, May 4th at 5:00 pm** in **Otterbein's Sanctuary**. Please make plans to support Darien as he celebrates his four years at JMU and three years at Otterbein.

On **April 28th** JMU's female Christian a capella group **Into Hymn** will be singing at our worship service. This premiere choral group shares a love of singing, a joy in praising God and a desire to share their music with the community. Members Madi Gilleland and Meredith Scarborough have blessed Otterbein's Music Ministry this year by volunteering for and being active in our handbell choir.

For Your Information

- *Tidings* deadline for the **May** issue is **Monday, April 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.



A Note from Church World Service

cwsharrisonburg.org

We're grateful to be in partnership with Otterbein UMC as we welcome refugee families to the Shenandoah Valley. Meet Angelique, originally from Democratic Republic of Congo, who fled to Kenya in 2015 and was living in a refugee camp there. She was not able to study in Kenya. "My biggest dream was to come to the US, continue my education, and become a doctor." In October 2023, Angelique's brother was resettled in Harrisonburg by CWS and later that month the family was reunited when Angelique was able to join him. Now they share an apartment and with her dream in mind, Angelique has made incredible strides during her first months here. She got a job working night shift so that she can take daytime English classes. Though never a driver before, she successfully completed driving classes and received her permit. She is saving money for a vehicle and getting more practice on Interstate 81 before taking her exam. "I'm a strong woman," she says, as she shares an award she received from her employer. Recognized for being a hard worker as well as her teamwork, ownership, and positive spirit among the staff, Angelique explains, "When I see that my co-workers need something, I go help them out." When asked how she feels about her new home, Angelique's smile broadens even more. "I'm so grateful for the help I've received. I can pursue my dream here."

God smiles too as we welcome the stranger, become good neighbors, and build a community where everyone has **food, voice, and a safe place to call home.**



In John's Gospel, one of the enduring themes throughout is the image of light and darkness, with Jesus being the light that has come into the world. Early on Easter morning, we have been in the habit of gathering to watch the sunrise just west of town at West Rockingham Ruritan Park. It is old farmland, with some of the neighboring hillsides still being active, but you can see clearly as the sun rises the rich beauty of the land.

I think John is wise in using the imagery of light and dark. I imagine that Jesus had many such images he used through his three years of ministry, but it is hard to think of one more powerful than Jesus as the light that will not be overcome. The powerful darkness of the Roman Empire oppressing the Jewish people, the darkness of sin, death, crucifixion, and a sealed tomb. The darkness of Jesus being betrayed and deserted by his followers. All of this despair and darkness, and none of it can overcome the light of Jesus. And as such we are a people of light.

We carry this image with us in the familiar ways each and every time we worship. The acolyte brings light into the sanctuary and lights the two candles on the altar. During Advent we light additional candles each week and during certain times of the year we also light the Paschal candle. This large candle represents the eternal light that is Jesus Christ and as it is lit this Easter season, we will do it a little different. The light of Christ is not something we light and extinguish each week but something eternal. While it is impractical for us to keep the candle lit for the entire fifty days of Easter, we are not going to light or extinguish it during worship this year. Prior to the start of the service, we will inconspicuously light the candle and it will remain lit through the entire service. This is a better liturgical statement

continued next page...

and hews closer to our theological understanding of Jesus Christ as the eternal light of creation. On Ascension Sunday at the conclusion of the gospel reading for that day, we will extinguish the candle, noting that Christ has ascended to heaven.

These of course are small changes, but they reflect our shared understanding of our professed faith. The artwork on display in our sanctuary through the windows and in other places remind us of that as well. Throughout the course of the year we also bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary, acknowledging Christ's presence at baptism and services of death and resurrection. Worship is not an experience of just hearing a sermon or song, but it is a full sensory experience. Our visual experience of our faith is just as remarkable and important as what we hear or say on a Sunday morning. It is not surprising that our older denominational traditions used incense in the regular practice of worship as well. I do hope you will take some time during Easter to fully appreciate all that is happening visual in our sanctuary on any given Sunday.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

Adam

#GREATCOMMUNITYGIVE



An initiative of
The Community Foundation

Save the Date!

Great Community Give

Wednesday, April 17
6 am—8 pm

Early giving opens
April 3.



VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

From Your Outreach Ministry Team

John answered, "Anyone who has a shirt should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Luke 3:11

The Outreach Ministry Team thanks all who purchased an Otterbein Signature Coconut Cake or Cupcakes. Thanks to the efforts of the Outreach team and our volunteers who helped with preparing cakes for distribution. We're still totaling the amount the cake/cupcake sales brought in and will announce in our next *Tidings* article. While a date for future sales has not been determined we're hoping to have another sale around the fall holiday season.

- Fresh Start – Please see the Thank You Otterbein received from last month's distribution to a family establishing a home upon leaving First Step. Fresh Start made another donation to a family in need through Bridge of Hope. Details of the circumstances to follow.
- Soup Kitchen – Thanks to the dedicated efforts of The Soup Kitchen members Susan and Bill Pollard, Mary Earman, and dedicated helpers Bob & Joyce Jellum and substitutes. Those in need of a nourishing meal have been served.
- Clothes Closet – The Clothes Closet continues to serve by distributing donated items of clothing to those in need. The Clothes Closet was open 4 weeks in February, serving 45 men and women plus 10 children. They had an additional 7 new clients. Again, there is a call for school age children's clothes.
- Gleaning – Gleaning will resume at the Harrisonburg Farmers Market mid to late May, date TBA. If you were a team or a substitute and still feel a call to serve, GREAT! If not, please let an Outreach member know. The Outreach team appreciates both past and future teams for their service!

Outreach Team: Vicki Gaines, Chair, Jane Lough, Wilma Mitchel, Bev Earman, Linda Jordan, and Carla Nemoytin



129 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540)434-0295
firststepva.com

2/21/2024

Dear Congregation of Otterbein United Methodist Church and Fresh Start,

On behalf of our guest at First Step domestic violence shelter, we would like to sincerely thank you for your contribution. Your donations went to a family of three, a mother and her two young children under the age of ten, who recently moved into their first ever home in Harrisonburg after fleeing from domestic violence several months ago. Thanks to your contributions she was able to furnish her home with cozy bedsheets and warm blankets for her children. She was also so excited about her new coffee maker! Your program has truly made a difference to this family, your hard work and generosity matters!

Thank you,

First Step Staff Members



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.

Our UWF group will meet **Tuesday April 9th at 11 am in Room 204**. Our program will provide opportunity to learn more about the projects we support through our **designated giving: Wesley Community Service Center, Henry Fork Service Center, and the Society of St. Andrew**. We will discover who we serve and how lives are changed through our giving.

Have you read any good books lately? Have you looked at the UWF reading program list for some good suggestions? Let me know if you want to see the list. I recently finished *The Feathered Bone* by Julie Cantrell, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson, and *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. All are excellent reads and on our reading list!

Happy Spring! May you find moments of breathtaking beauty, conversations filled with hope and energy for sharing God's love with everyone that you encounter.

Peace,
Pat Wingert

*** Be watching for information about Kits for Conference***



The Otterbein Men's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who supported our Spaghetti Supper in March! We are so blessed by the response to this meal. Donations went towards support of the

College Chorale Scholarship Fund. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more specific information.



The Otterbein Men's Fellowship regular **Saturday** meetings for the next few months will be **April 27, May 25, and June 22** at Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton. We begin at **7:30 am** and usually conclude in one hour. Breakfast is followed by a short business meeting and a time of devotions and prayer. All are welcomed to attend.

For additional information concerning our fellowship, contact a member of our Leadership/Planning Team below or check our website:

<https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>

Leadership/Planning Team:

Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, Carter Ritchie



Mark your calendars as our monthly luncheons are beginning again on *Wednesday, April 24, at noon*. Our first lunch will be at *The Galley* on South Main St. in Harrisonburg.

Since it is not that far from church we can just meet there. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Contact Kathy Billhimer or Mary Earman for more info.

The Faith Builders Class would like to thank everyone who helped, contributed, and donated to the Annual Chili Luncheon in February. Freewill donations totaled \$1,274.00 and with additional class funds, we donated \$1,500 to the College Choral Scholarship Fund.



Did you know...

The first Chili Luncheon was held in 1992 by the Carpenter Class. The class received a call from Irene Ruddle asking for Sunday School classes to host a soup/sandwich lunch each month for church fellowship. We were given the month of February. Class member George Lawson (1948-2000) said it was a good month for chili. George and the class prepared the chili and sandwiches until he passed away. The Carpenter Class/Faith Builders have continued annually since then with the exception of Covid years.

The class began as a Young Adult Class in 1987 with associate pastor Rev. Bob Gochenour as teacher. The name was changed to Carpenter Class in 1989 after class member Nan Carpenter, son Justin (6), and daughter Leanne (3) died in a house fire in March. Mike Carpenter (husband/father) was away on a business trip, daughter Megan (20 months) was in a bedroom with the door closed and survived the fire. Mike agreed that we change the name to Carpenter Class in memory of Nan and his family.

Freewill offerings have contributed to many missions, UMCOR, provided carpet for the toddler room (2006), and many years supporting the College Choral Scholarship Fund. In May 2013 the Carpenter Class and Willing Workers (1954) class merged to become Faith Builders.

Meet Some New Members...

In 2018, James (Jim) and Jean van Roekel moved from Northern Virginia and settled in the quiet village of Singers Glen. They have been attending Otterbein UMC regularly for the past two years and recently became members in January of this year.

Jean had relocated to Northern Virginia from Pennsylvania in 1986 to pursue a Federal Government career. She found her calling and has served for over 37 years with the U.S. Marshals Service and is currently a Management and Program Analyst working in a specialized field. She plans to retire in September and will be able to spend more time with Jim, her husband of 18 years, and to fully enjoy all the Valley has to offer. Jean's previous church affiliation was with Masontown Brethren Church in Masontown, PA.

Jim, a native of North Carolina, lived in Alexandria, VA for 15 years before he and Jean came to the Valley. He is retired from the U.S. Marshals Service and has proudly served in law enforcement at both state and federal levels for over 30 years. Jim is a graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill. He is also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Air Force. His previous church membership was with the United Methodist Church in Goldsboro, NC. Jim's daughter Heather, an educator, has taught high school biology for 24 years. He also has two grandchildren that will be completing their college degrees in May; a grandson (graduate degree), and a granddaughter (associate degree). Jim's daughter and grandchildren all currently live in North Carolina.

As a couple, the van Roekels, enjoy (and keep busy!) caring for their pets: three Havanese dogs (Woodrow, Brandy, and Theodore), and four cats (Snickers, Maisy, Daisy, and Patches). Visiting antique shops is one of their favorite activities. Jean enjoys cooking meals with Jim, and Jim shares that his culinary specialty is grilling. Jean, an avid gardener is likely looking forward to the milder weather and longer days of the approaching growing season.

Thanks to Jim and Jean for sharing a bit about themselves.
Welcome to the Otterbein family!



CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

Creation Care Taskforce

In Genesis God talks about man caring for all that He created. The rivers, lakes, and streams are part of that amazing creation. Things we do every day at home and at work threaten our waterways. How can we help? Here are some simple suggestions to help reduce polluted runoff:

- Properly dispose of hazardous household items. Oils, solvents, and even prescription drugs should not be poured down a drain. Check with the city or county for the correct way to dispose of these items.
- Reduce your use of fertilizers and pesticides. Lawn fertilizers are a big source of toxic runoff.
- Landscape with native plants. Native grasses and plants require less water and fertilizers than alien species.
- Install a rain barrel. Rain barrels reduce erosion and flooding and provide the extra bonus of water for your garden.
- Plant a tree. Besides providing shade trees provide oxygen to the environment and their roots prevent erosion.

A volunteer opportunity to help keep our local waterway, Blacks Run, clean is the **Annual Blacks Run Clean Up Day** on **April 13** beginning at **9 am**. For more information and to register, visit <https://arcg.is/1PKWzz0>.

Otterbein Creation Care Taskforce



Selah Academy News

Selah Academy is thriving at OUMC. Thanks for all your words of encouragement, your friendliness to our students, for allowing us to use your beautiful children's floor, and for special things like heart cookies on Valentine's Day (thank you, Soup Kitchen crew), and tours and crafts with Ms. Shaeffer.

We love discovery-based learning that uses all our senses. Our spiritual formation program, called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, uses "play" materials to help kids connect to Jesus's real life here on earth (if you haven't seen the spiritual formation room we use upstairs, feel free to peek at it some Sunday after church).

One station or "work" that has become a favorite is The Last Supper. It consists of 13 small figures, a small table, a miniature chalice, and a tiny paten or bread plate with a ball of clay (bread) on it. Kids can be seen breaking the clay up into pieces and passing around the chalice to the different characters. They have heard the scripture of The Last Supper in Matthew 26 and are fully engaged with the story through these materials.



This type of "play" helps kids connect to Christ and His church.

Another favorite sensory Selah rhythm is a 3-hour block of time we reserve on Mondays to prepare food, set a table, eat together, and clean up. We notice kids like to eat things they prepare, even things like egg rolls and egg drop soup which we made



continued next page...

recently while reading stories from Asian countries.

Selah's mission is to create an environment where children can connect to Christ and discover the wonder and beauty of His world. Thanks, OUMC, for being a huge part of that mission. We are grateful!



You're invited to join Selah Academy families and kids for their **Spring Celebration on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 pm** in the OUMC sanctuary. Refreshments to follow in Memorial Hall.



A Gift From Missionary, Jennifer Moore

An intricately handcrafted and framed cross was recently received from missionary Jennifer Moore, who is serving in North Macedonia. The accompanying marker reads:

This plaque is presented to the congregation of Otterbein United Methodist Church in recognition of their faithful support of missionary, Jennifer Moore, and the work in North Macedonia. Handmade Macedonian filigree made from silk thread (artist: Marija Saveska)

You will find this beautiful artwork hanging in the High Street vestibule next to the glass display case.