

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

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Tidings



May 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

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

Church. We'll gather to get an update on the \$200,000 local match and next steps to bring door-to-door, county-wide demand-response transit to Rockingham County. **Mark your calendars and plan to join hundreds of VIA leaders for this Transit Briefing!**

Register at tinyurl.com/TransitBriefing or by scanning the QR code.



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



SELAH ACADEMY

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
Mike Earman

Judi Espinoza
Steve Funkhouser
Diane Gray
Ray & Audrey Griffith
Art & Doris Hanger
Norma Heath
Chuck & Nancy Macklin
Sarah Macomber
Mary Jo Mitchell
David Morgan
Betty Painter

BJ Payne
Maxine Perry
Judy Pruett
Linda Ridder
Ann Sebrell
Maggie Sparks
Dot Swartz
Juanita Taylor
Daisy VanPelt
Michelle VanPelt
Susan Young

For Your Information

- **Tidings** deadline for the June issue is **Wednesday, May 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.



VALLEY INTERFAITH ACTION

VIA News

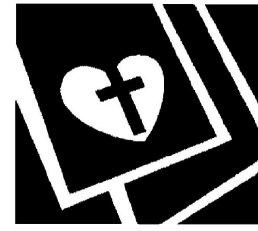
On January 24, the Rockingham Board of Supervisors rejected (by a vote of 4 to 1) VIA's request for a letter of support for a county-wide demand-response transit demonstration grant.

On February 5, VIA's Transit team met to evaluate our January 24 action and develop next steps. The team acknowledged our disappointment with the January 24 outcome, but also affirmed our resolve to address our county's transit needs by seeking to create a demand-response transit system. While VIA leaders continue to solicit corporate partners to fund a demonstration grant, the transit team established two focus areas:

1. VIA leaders needed to publicly address the unchallenged mischaracterizations that were expressed during the January 24 meeting. We did this through the local media. We also updated the FAQ document related to the Transit Initiative and posted it on VIA's website.
2. Most importantly, VIA leaders and the transit team renewed our efforts to build solid public relationships with the four Supervisors who voted to deny the request (Hensley, Longcor, Chandler, and Wolfe-Garrison). We encountered some initial resistance, but through persistent action, we have made progress. VIA leaders have met with Supervisors Chandler, Longcor, and Wolfe-Garrison. Supervisor Hensley has committed to meet with VIA leaders. As we engage in these ongoing public relationships with the County Supervisors, we will continue to evaluate where we are in gaining the three votes necessary for a letter of support for a transit demonstration grant.

Our next assembly will be a Community Transit Briefing on Thursday, May 23, 6:30 - 8 pm at Massanutten Presbyterian

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FROM THE PASTOR

I write and you should read this in the midst of the Easter season. It is a joyous time, the music is uplifting, the weather is warm, the flowers are blooming, the grass is green, it is one of my favorite times of the year. As I was planning worship for this time of year, I kept reading texts that focused on love. The lectionary this year draws from John and 1 John and the idea of loving one another keeps coming through. Hopefully you will note this in sermons during this season. After Lent it is great to focus on something refreshing and positive. Spring, and love, and resurrection are much lighter fare to think on and speak about than the ashes of Lent.

Even as we celebrate Easter, we also know that there are difficult things that still take place. We know that General Conference is going on during this period and the unknown nature of that gathering and what it means for the church is always a challenge. During this time of the year we also say goodbye to our college chorale. Some will be returning again in the fall, but others will be graduating and moving on to new places. We celebrate their accomplishments, but will miss their presence with us. And in the midst of this joyous time we also have heard that our Director of Music Ministry, Sandy Schaefer, will be leaving at the end of the summer to be closer to family. It is difficult to articulate how important Sandy has been to our congregation over her twenty years of service, but over the next several months we will do our best to honor her work for the Kingdom.

It is good for us to note in the

continued next page...

season of Easter that while we celebrate, life continues to have its challenges and unknowns. Much like Lent where we pause our fast on Sundays to have small glimpse of Easter, in Easter we are still impacted by the incomplete nature of the Kingdom of God. Even in Easter when we are surrounded by reminders of what God has done through Jesus Christ, there are still unknowns, uncertainty, and grief. We hold fast to the knowledge that God includes us in the promise of a day when all things will be made whole. Until that time we are comforted by knowing that amazing things have happened, are all around us, and will continue to come our way.

Happy Easter!

Adam

Staff-Parish Relations Committee News

Sandy Schaefer, our Director of Music Ministries, recently met with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and announced that she would be leaving her position here at Otterbein at the end of August. Sandy plans to move closer to her mom in Tennessee to help care for her mom and family. Elisabeth will be leaving for college in the fall and Jonathan is at Hillsdale College in Michigan. With both children away at school, it's a good time for Sandy to transition to where she is needed. Special recognition to celebrate Sandy's time with us is being planned for the weekend of August 10-11.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee covets your prayers as we move forward in finding new leadership for Otterbein's wonderful music ministry. Best wishes to Sandy and her family as she departs and concludes twenty wonderful years at Otterbein.

From Your Outreach Ministry Team

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will reward them for what they have done.*

Proverbs 19:17

The sale of Otterbein's Signature Coconut Cakes added over \$800 to our mission account! A big thank you to all who ordered. Those funds will go to replenishing our Fresh Start Program and our new initiative with Mercy House!

Mercy House – Susan Pollard, point person
Otterbein was asked by Mercy House to consider supplying staple items for their food pantry. They have four weeks of the month covered by other churches, but not the months with five Sundays. Because we have funds from our cake sales and because Susan offered to be point person, it was easy to say "YES"! So, Mercy House has been added as an ongoing project for your Outreach Ministry Team.

Fresh Start – Carla Nemoytin, point person
Fresh Start distributed needed items to a Bridge of Hope family; please see the Thank You from Bridge of Hope.

Soup Kitchen – Susan Pollard, point person
The Soup Kitchen continues to serve a hot meal to all who are present on Monday evenings. A true outreach program!

Clothes Closet – Linda Conrad, point person
The Clothes Closet sorted clothes, hung clothes, and distributed clothing on four Mondays to thirty-three men and women and five children during the month of March. They served twelve new men and women clients and one child.

Gleaning – Vicki Gaines, point person
Spring is here and Otterbein's gleaners will resume gleaning at the Harrisonburg Farmers Market on Saturday May 25th. Teams will be announced in the next *Tidings* article.

Otterbein's Outreach Ministry Team:
Vicki Gaines (Chair), Susan Pollard, Wilma Mitchell, Jane Lough, Carla Nemoytin, and Linda Jordan

College Chorale Student Recitals

Ricky Goodwyn, Jr. will present his Master of Music Recital on **Friday, May 3rd at 3:00 pm** at **JMU Forbes Recital Hall**.

Darien Roby will present his Senior Recital on **Saturday, May 4th at 5:00 pm** in **Otterbein's Sanctuary**.

Please come hear some great music and support Otterbein's College Chorale members in their end of the year programs!

College Chorale Recognition Sunday

On **Sunday, May 5th** we will recognize our College Chorale graduating seniors in our morning worship. Following the service, please join us for a fellowship potluck meal to celebrate and thank our College Chorale students for their wonderful contributions to our Music Ministry throughout the year. Meat will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Dear Otterbein UMC,

Thank you for extending your Fresh Start program to a current family in Bridge of Hope's program. The household items are a wonderful resource for families as they get settled into new homes. Your generosity and awareness of needs within our local community are appreciated.

Thank you, once again, for your support of families in Bridge of Hope's program.

Sincerely,

Maria Rodriguez, Program Director
Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham



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 UWF will meet **Tuesday, May 14 at 11 am** in **Memorial Hall**. Our speaker will be Sherrel Hissong who serves as Zone 1 leader for Shenandoah River District South. Sherrel will share with us how we can be involved with other UWF groups across the district. Join us for our meeting and lunch to follow.

Mark your calendar for “**Evening Together**” hosted **May 23, 7 pm** at **Keezletown UMC**. This is an opportunity for us to meet and fellowship with other women in the district.

Have you read any good books lately? Have you looked at the UWF reading program list for some good suggestions? Betty Redmond has gathered several books from the UWF reading list on the shelves in Room 204. Please sign the check out list and return the books promptly.

The month of May brings the opportunity for us to be part of the “Kits for Conference” effort. Please pay attention to the information provided elsewhere in the *Tidings* and also in the Sunday worship bulletins.

Peace,
Pat Wingert

Meet a New Member...

If you've been attending OUMC for a number of years, you might recall that one of our newest members actually grew up in this church. **Ginger Neff** joined Otterbein in January of this year by transfer of membership from Mt. Tabor UMC. Originally from Harrisonburg, Ginger reminisces that Otterbein was the church she grew up in, and states that "coming back feels like home." She may have been away for a while, but she still holds many friendships and acquaintances at church. She even has some family connections among the membership of OUMC. For instance, Hazel Willi is her great aunt, Ned Hillyard is a second cousin, and B.J. Payne is her nephew.

After studying at Johns Hopkins University, Ginger became a licensed psychotherapist. She continues to work in her chosen field and owns her own practice, Harrisonburg Center For Healing.

When she is not busy with duties at work, Ginger enjoys her hobbies of knitting and gardening. She also serves locally in a variety of ways through her extensive community involvement. Ginger comes from a large family and says she enjoys that her sisters "share their kids and grandkids" with her. Her favorite four-legged companion is her 3-year-old black Labrador retriever, Thornley.

Ginger currently resides in Augusta County, but in the future she plans to move back to Rockingham County.

Thanks to Ginger for sharing a bit about herself.
We welcome you back home to the Otterbein UMC family!



Otterbein United Methodist Church

presents

Tenor, Ricky Goodwyn in recital June 2 – 4:00 PM



176 West Market St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801

All contributions will support Ricky's studies at the
American Institute of Music - Graz, Austria

Checks to: PCCMI for Ricky (a 501 (c) 3 organization)
PCCMI, P.O. Box 127, Smithfield, VA 23431



Hygiene Kit (Value: \$12 per kit) **Toothpaste & Shipping Cost: \$2.00**

- **One hand towel** (15 x 25 -17 x 27 inches; No kitchen, cleaning, or microfibre towels)
 - **One washcloth** (No kitchen, cleaning, or microfibre towels)
 - **One comb** (Must be sturdy with at least 4-7 inches of teeth. No pocket combs or picks. Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 4-7 inches of teeth.)
 - **One toenail or fingernail clipper** (No emery boards or metal nail files)
 - **Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger; No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging.)
 - **One adult toothbrush** (Do not remove from packaging. Personal advertising not acceptable.)
 - **10 adhesive bandages** (¾ by 3 inches; Common household bandages acceptable)
 - **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag**
- *Do not add toothpaste when assembling kits*

Assembly Instructions

Lay hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag). Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Menstrual Hygiene Kit (Value: \$24.00 per kit) **Shipping Cost: \$2.00**

- **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag**
- **Two 2 oz bottles hand sanitizer**
- **Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags**
- **One travel pack of wet ones**
- **10 tampons** (5 regular and 5 super absorbency; unscented)
- **10 sanitary napkins** (unscented, long super ultra-thin)
- **Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger; No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging.)
- **One pack of flushable wipes** (42 count; unscented)
- **Six laundry detergent sheets** (Laundry detergent sheets should be placed inside of a small plastic storage bag prior to being added to the kit.)

Assembly Instructions

Start with a one-gallon resealable bag. Place one pack of the flushable wipes and wet ones in the bag. Place three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags and the 10 sanitary napkins in the bag. Then, add the smaller items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Important Notes

- All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols.



*May we share a word about the Otterbein United Methodist Men's Website with **you**?*

Our church has an excellent web page with lots of information and links to current and previous monthly *Tidings* and worship bulletins. There are also links to the various ministries at Otterbein. One of those links will take you to lots of interesting (and, we hope, entertaining) information about the United Methodist Men in general, and, specifically, information about our local UMM group, **Otterbein Men's Fellowship**. When you click on that link (www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men), you'll find video and audio recordings of the some of the music performed during Worship Services lead by the Otterbein Men. There are pictures of previous meals prepared by the Men for the entire congregation. Also, you will see a schedule of dates for prayer breakfast meetings and other activities for all of 2024!



So that brings us now to sending you a *special invitation* to join our group for any or **ALL** of these activities as we continue through the year. Our next prayer breakfast meetings will be **April 27, May 25, and June 22**. We'll meet at Thomas House Restaurant in Dayton beginning at **7:30 am** and conclude our meeting in just about an hour. And on **Sunday, August 25th** the Men will lead morning Worship with a special speaker and music by the Men's Choir! Please mark your calendar now and make plans to fellowship with us soon!

Attention Graduates

We will be celebrating **Graduate Recognition Sunday** on **June 9**. Please contact the church office if a church member in your family is graduating from high school, college, or any other educational institution.





Creation Care Taskforce

Did You Know?

CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

- Every second 160,000 plastic bags are used around the world. That adds up to approximately 5 trillion plastic bags every year, enough to orbit the Earth 7 times.
- Plastic shopping bags have a useful life of about 12 to 25 minutes, but it takes from 500 to 1,000 years for a bag to degrade, and plastic bags never fully break down. Instead the bags photo-degrade, becoming micro plastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.
- Fossil fuels, a finite resource, and high amounts of electricity and water are required for manufacturing plastic bags, and their production causes harmful side effects to the environment.
- Light and airy, plastic bags are easily swept by the breeze and carried to our local streams which flow into the Shenandoah River, to the Chesapeake Bay, and finally to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Birds often mistake shredded plastic bags for food, filling their stomachs with hazardous material, and hungry turtles find it nearly impossible to distinguish between jellyfish and floating shopping bags. Fish eat thousands of tons of plastic each year transferring it up the food chain to larger fish and mammals. It is estimated that throughout the world, people consume the equivalent of a credit card of plastic each week.
- Chemical leachates from plastic bags impair the growth of the world's most important micro organisms, Prochlorococcus, a marine bacterium that provides one tenth of the world's oxygen.

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What Can We Do?

- Fortunately there is an inexpensive and easy action we all can begin today. Start shopping with reusable bags.
- Each American uses at least 365 disposable plastic bags annually. If all the 100-plus worshipers who fill the pews at Otterbein each Sunday commit to shopping with reusable shopping bags, we will remove more than 36,500 plastic bags from the environment each year.
- What if each of us gifted a friend or family member with a sturdy reusable bag, and they in turn changed their shopping habits? Our environmental practice could spread far and wide. Together we can make a difference as we work toward caring for God's creation one reusable bag at a time.

Sources:

Center for Biological Diversity, "Ecology Packaging, The Nature of Great Packaging" by David Suzuki

Otterbein Creation Care Taskforce

Kits for Conference

It's that time of year again when we collect items and put together United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Kits. These are then sent to one of UMCOR's Supply Depots ready to be deployed to serve those most in need when disaster happens. We are collecting items for the **Hygiene Kits** and **Menstrual Kits**, as well as monetary donations for the Cleaning Kits (\$75). Lists of the items needed and directions for packing are on the next page and are available in the breezeway and the back of the sanctuary. A tub for your donations is in the breezeway.

Please have your donations in by May 28th.

United Women in Faith will have a "packing day" on May 30th.

Further information will be updated in the Sunday bulletins.

Questions? Please contact Pat Wingert.