

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

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Tidings



June 2024

Otterbein United Methodist Church

presents

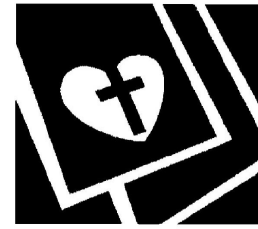
Tenor, Ricky Goodwyn in recital June 2 – 4:00 PM



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



FROM THE PASTOR

Today the sun is bright, the sky is blue, the temperature is perfect, the humidity is low. It is a day that calls for me to be outside. You would be right to guess that I am not currently outside; instead I am writing these words. Most of what I do as a pastor is confined to being inside and even if I sometimes desire to be outside, the work I do is not conducive to being outside all the time. The pandemic taught me the possibilities of working outside, but some of those outdoor meetings were in weather not as wonderful as today. Over the past few weeks I've experienced plenty of outdoor weather, not necessarily all work-related. Track meets in the rain are one example, or my own morning runs in a variety of weather. It takes heavy rain to keep me from my morning runs. We also encountered the results of outdoor rain indoors during soup kitchen a few weeks ago. A heavy afternoon downpour caused some basement flooding in the church that took some time to deal with. And it rained at Kira's graduation.

Do you sense a trend? I remember the poor weather days when I have to be out in it. I always recall the moments where I'm stuck inside on a great day and then end up being outside on the days not so great. Maybe I should shift my thinking. Life gives us plenty of good days as well as challenging ones. Days where the sun is bright and days when the clouds are gray. What we do with each of those days and how we approach the good and the not so good really define who we are. That does not mean we need to relish the ugly days. Does anyone really like 35 degrees and rain? I think it does ask of us how we are going to approach the days that are a challenge. The other week when it flooded the basement at Otterbein, I was so happy that the church was not empty when that happened. There were multiple people about working on cleaning things up. In the midst of a challenge, I nor anyone else was left to handle it alone. That is the beauty of the church. Bad days are better when your live in a

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community of people who share a common faith. For all the reasons why the church is amazing— mission, justice, body of Christ, discipleship, worship—being connected to a supportive community to get us through the tough days, and to celebrate the beautiful ones, is what I cherish the most. I never cease to give thanks for the way I have witnessed that lived out at Otterbein.

I believe that our faith needs to be lived out in very tangible ways. On the first Sunday of June we are going to have that chance to live out this weather imagery that I have used in this article. We will worship outdoors at Hillandale Park, and it might be a great day to be outside, or it might rain, but no matter what it does, we will still be connected to each other and that is a gift.

Adam

The Otterbein Men will continue meeting for breakfast, devotions, and prayer during the summer months.

Upcoming meeting dates are **June 22nd, July 27th, and August 24th**, all Saturdays beginning at **7:30 am** at **Thomas House** in Dayton. Please consider this your personal invitation to come, fellowship, and break bread with us this summer. If you need a ride, contact Mike, Bill, or Carter.

To learn more about the group, go to the OUMC website, click on ministries down to “United Methodist Men” for a complete schedule of Men’s events along with pictures and videos of our recent activities.



Want to know more?

Contact the Leadership team:
Mike Earman, Bill Pollard, or Carter Ritchie.

Also check out our website:

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

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

Mercy House – Susan Pollard, point person

Susan made her first delivery to Mercy House’s Food Pantry on Monday April 29th. She delivered milk, eggs, bread, sugar, and butter. All went smoothly!

Fresh Start – Carla Nemoytin, point person

Fresh Start helped 4 families since our last *Tidings*—Three from First Step (see thank you) and one from Bridge of Hope.

Soup Kitchen – Susan Pollard, point person

132 guests were served at the soup kitchen during the month of May! Many thanks to our faithful subs, Darlene Cochran & Kathy Billhimer, that took over during my absence.

Clothes Closet – Linda Conrad, point person

The Clothes Closet was on duty three Mondays in May and served 57 men and women and 6 children during the month. They served 8 new men and women.

Gleaning – Vicki Gaines, point person

Gleaning teams are coming together! With the addition of our new team, Ginny & Joe Whitehill, we now have three of the four teams needed for a once-a-month rotation. Returning from last year are Bev and Mike Earman, our team from the community Emmy Paradise and Cheryl Reiman, and subs Vicki Gaines, Tara Eckenrod, and Mary Sue & Wayne Wenger.

It would be great to add another team. If you have a call for this important ministry, please contact Vicki Gaines at (540) 820-3041. It’s an easy project requiring a couple of hours on one Saturday a month and training is included!!!

Many thanks to Ginny and Joe; your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated

Otterbein’s Outreach Ministry Team:

Vicki Gaines (Chair), Susan Pollard, Wilma Mitchell, Jane Lough, Carla Nemoytin, and Linda Jordan



A Response to Domestic Violence
129 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540)434-0295
firststepva.com

04/15/2024

Dear Congregation of Otterbein United Methodist Church and Fresh Start,

On behalf of our guests at First Step domestic violence shelter, we would like to sincerely thank you for your contribution. Your donations went to a three families who recently were able to move from shelter into their own apartments. These families consisted of a single mom with a teenage son, a single dad with a toddler and a woman who will be moving into her first ever place that is only in her name. All of these individuals have experienced serious domestic violence from intimate partner relationships while living in Harrisonburg or Rockingham Co. Your contributions will support them as they end the violence in their lives and empower them as they begin a future free from abuse. Your donated household items truly make a huge difference in giving these individuals a fresh start and feeling of community support.

Thank you,

First Step Staff Members



College Chorale Notes

THANK YOU FROM DARIEN

I wanted to send out a special thank you to my Otterbein family and let you know how much I appreciate your vast displays of love in the name of the Lord. Thanks to many of you who attended my Senior Recital and others who donated online at my GoFund Me page, I will be able to travel to Austria this summer to participate in the American Institute of Musical Studies for six weeks of intense opera training. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Love you all,
Darien Roby

THANK YOU FROM MICHAEL

Words can't describe how much singing at Otterbein has impacted my life. No matter how hard things got or how much I was struggling, I could always take solace in the fact that Otterbein would be there for me. Coming in every week to worship the Lord with you has been so much fun and rewarding. I have loved every second I've been here. I will forever carry the memories I've made at Otterbein!

God bless,
Michael Bromley

UPDATE FROM DEJUAN

At our College Chorale Recognition Sunday, DeJuan asked for prayers for his job interviews. Praise the Lord for this great news! DeJuan Woods will be the new Choir Director at Glen Burnie High School in Glen Burnie, Maryland. He will be teaching choir and piano and potentially AP Music Theory. Thank you for your prayers!

MYSTERY FRIENDS THANK YOU

The College Chorale would like to thank members of the congregation for your generosity in showering us with Mystery Friends gifts throughout the year. Thank you for all the gift cards, snacks, treats, and homemade cookies. They always brightened our day and came at just the right time. We loved and appreciated each and every one. Thank you for blessing us!



Creation Care Taskforce

CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

The Creation Care Taskforce has been keeping you informed on how to care for creation. This month we are taking a different view by referring to the actual creation. The following quiz is taken from *Bible Challenge: Small Facts from the Big Book*. Take the Bible Challenge and have fun while you learn.

1. What were the first two things God created?
(a) earth and sea (b) earth and sky
(c) earth and wind (d) wind and water
(Genesis 1:1)
2. What was God's first recorded statement?
(a) It is good. (b) It is not good.
(c) Let there be light. (Genesis 1:3)
3. On which day did God create the land and vegetation?
(a) third (b) fourth
(c) fifth (d) sixth (Genesis 1:9-13)
4. God created celestial lights dividing night from day in order to show four specific things: days, seasons, years, and _____.
(a) human generations (b) centuries
(c) millennia (d) signs (Genesis 1:14)
5. On which day did God create man?
(a) first (b) second
(c) sixth (d) seventh (Genesis 1:26-31)
6. At creation, how much of the earth was covered with water?
(a) approx. 70% (b) approx. 30%
(c) all of it (d) none of it (Genesis 1:1-10)
7. True or False: God created man and woman before He created plant life? (Genesis 1:2)

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8. God created man on the same day He created _____.
(a) the firmament (b) sea & sky creatures
(c) land creatures (d) sea, sky, & land creatures
(Genesis 1:24-31)
 9. What two trees did God place in the center of the Garden of Eden
(a) peace and war (b) good and evil
(c) life and knowledge (Genesis 2:9)
 10. According to the writer of Genesis, when God looked on His new creation, what was his assessment?
(Genesis 1:31)
 11. What was God's first command to humans?
(a) to clothe themselves with fig leaves
(b) to have children
(c) to take charge of all wildlife (Genesis 1:27-28)
 12. How did God water the earth after completing creation?
(a) with a spring of water from Goshen
(b) with a pervasive mist
(c) with three days and nights of rain (Genesis 2:6)
 13. Angered at Adam and Eve's disobedience, God cursed _____.
(a) Adam & Eve (b) the ground
(c) all creation (Genesis 3:17)
 14. In sealing the Garden of Eden after expelling Adam and Eve, what was God's objection?
(a) to protect the wildlife therein from sinful humans
(b) to thwart human access to the tree of life
(c) to preserve the garden as an unblemished monument to his work (Genesis 3:24)
- According to Psalm 8:6, God made man to have dominion over the works of his hands. Therefore, the call is for each Christian to be grounded in caring for His creation.

Otterbein Creation Care Taskforce