

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

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# Tidings



# LENT

# MARCH 2020

**The Tidings**  
**Otterbein United Methodist**  
**Church**

176 West Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747

Fax - (540) 433-4018

[oumcharrisonburg.org](http://oumcharrisonburg.org)

Prayer Ministry - (540) 434-7745

*Tidings* articles are due by the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

You may either bring articles to  
the church office or email them  
to [oumcdm@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcdm@hotmail.com)

**Saturday Night Alive**

5:30 pm

Informal Worship Service

**Sunday Schedule**

9:30 am Sunday School

for all ages

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](https://www.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](mailto:oumcpastor@hotmail.com)

**Rev. Faith Fowler**

Associate Pastor of Health &  
Wellness

[faithfowler@vaumc.org](mailto:faithfowler@vaumc.org)

**Sandy Schaefer**

Music Director / Organist  
[oumcmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcmusic@hotmail.com)

**Melissa Miller**

Office Manager

[oumcdm@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcdm@hotmail.com)

**Judy Falls**

Custodian

**Dawn Hunter**

Treasurer

[oumctreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:oumctreasurer@hotmail.com)

Office: 540-434-7747

x200 for Melissa

x201 for Adam

x203 for Dawn

x204 for Sandy

x207 for Judy

x210 for Faith

***Otterbein in Prayer***

Phyllis Albrite  
Millie Bruce  
Pat Brunk  
Rev. & Mrs. Carson  
Jennifer Cordova  
Jennifer Davis-  
Sensenig  
Allen Dellinger  
Nancy East  
Lisa Ferenc  
Elaine Ford  
Judy Grandle  
Florence Green

Betty Griffith  
Mindi Griffith  
Ray & Audrey  
Griffith  
Doris Hanger  
Rev. Isaac Harper  
Norma Heath  
Barbara Henry  
Bernie & Gloria  
Hildebrand  
John Hoffnagle  
Bob Jones  
Dot Jones

Evelyn Keane  
Glen Langston  
Janet Liskey  
Judy Liskey  
Brenda Logan  
Greta Marks  
Allene McCoy  
Wendy  
McDonaldson  
Orpha Miller  
Ron & Mary Ellen  
Rohrbaugh  
William Smith

Linda Stephens  
Jane Stover  
Juanita Taylor  
Martha Taylor  
Craig Thompson  
Charlie Tibbits  
Mckenzie Woods  
Richard Worden  
Dennis Wright  
Anita Yount



**College Chorale Upcoming Recitals:**

- March 1, 2:30 pm Camila Maric & Ammad Akbari, Junior  
Recital, JMU Anthony Seeger Auditorium
- April 24, 8:00 pm Mary Galvin, Senior Recital  
JMU Forbes Recital Hall
- April 25, 7:30 pm Leah Finn, Junior Recital  
JMU Anthony Seeger Auditorium
- May 2, 4:00 pm Joel Clemens, Senior Recital  
JMU Forbes Recital Hall

***For Your Information***

- *Tidings* deadline for the April issue is **Monday, March 16 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 [oumcdm@hotmail.com](mailto:oumcdm@hotmail.com) by the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Prayer Line Ministry:** Call 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.

## Asbury & Otterbein Youth Choirs to Sing at Choral Evensong and VMRC Vespers in March

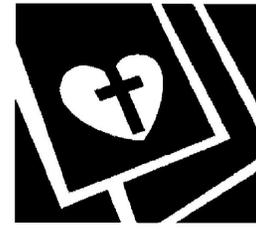
Your are invited to support the members of Otterbein's Youth Choir as they sing two outreach events in March:

- On **Sunday, March 1** at **5 pm**, they will sing at the **Emmanuel Episcopal Choral Evensong**. This is a contemplative evening service of sung prayers, psalms, and anthems celebrating the Feast of John and Charles Wesley.
- On **Sunday, March 15**, they will sing at the **VMRC Vespers Service** at **6:30 pm** at **Detwiler Auditorium**. This service will features Asbury's Pastor Steve Hay speaking about his travels to the Holy Land.

## Youth at Otterbein and Asbury UMC

Otterbein and Asbury's Youth (grades 6-12) meet regularly each Sunday evening for fellowship and devotion led by Asbury's JR Snow and Otterbein's Deanna Nye. The combined group has been studying an original series by JR and Deanna called "Disney + God." Youth have been examining how Disney movies such as *Star Wars*, *Frozen*, and *Iron Man* have interesting connections to God's message and presence in our lives.

Throughout the month of March, the youth will enter a Men and Women's study. It will begin with a focus on the men and women found in the Bible, and will continue with various guest speakers and perspectives in our individual lives as followers of Christ. We look forward to our evenings together and always welcome any 6-12 graders to join us!



# FROM THE PASTOR

Life at Otterbein is never dull. Some might blame me for that state of affairs and I will gladly take that mantle if needed. I am not one to sit around and not attempt at moving things in a positive direction. We have worked diligently over the past years at making sure we are an active congregation that is engaged in new ministry at every opportunity. Part of that internal drive on my part is due to how I have witnessed the church function throughout my life. It has been a great place to grow up, raise children, and find good community. As wonderful as all of that has been, I feel it is only part of what the church truly should be. We have abdicated much of our historical work to other areas of the community and I think we as the church and the community at large are lesser for that.

Take for example the Trappist Monks in Europe. The Catholic order was founded in the late 1600's and started with a strict set of rules to follow, one of them being that the monastery should be self-supporting, not needing funding from the church or the community. One method they employed, which is still in use today, was the brewing of malt beverages for sale, i.e. beer. You can still buy Trappist beer today. They understood that finding a way to be financially viable and contributing to society was just as important as reading the Bible and attending to the daily office. Their holistic approach to life has been sustainable for over 300 years and shows no sign of weakening, even in the highly secularized European landscape which they are mostly found. We as a church should learn from their example and find ways to engage more fully the economic potential of the church.

This by no means is advocating for Otterbein becoming a brewery; it would be an affront to our Social Principles and Harrisonburg seems to have plenty of beer available already, but it does ask an important question or two. How do we become financially

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sustainable over the next generation as the landscape we live in changes? One avenue to approach is to use our resources acquired over the years in a smart way that allows OUMC to thrive for the next 125 years. Part of this is in creating a viable long-range plan for our physical plant, including our rental parking. Part of this is continuing to be creative in our work with RISE and Vision of Hope around our coffee shop venture. As we move forward with both of these plans, we need to be open to reclaiming some of our past Christian heritage and finding ways to apply it to the 21<sup>st</sup> century reality that exists.

Please continue to be in prayer for the work we are doing collaboratively with other churches in our community and also as we engage in the planning process for our own congregation. I fully trust that God has a wonderful plan for Otterbein for the next 125 years; it is our work to discern and implement the fullness of God's vision.

Adam

### Otterbein's Week to Host Open Doors March 30 - April 6, 2020

#### How You Can Help:

- Volunteers will be needed to set up cots, etc. in Memorial Hall on **Monday, March 30 at 7:15 am.**
- Volunteers will be needed to load supplies into the van to be taken to storage on **Monday, April 6 at 6:45 am.**
- We will need **2 volunteers each night** to stay overnight (7 pm—7 am). Otterbein's nights are **Monday, March 30** and **Friday, April 3.** The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints is responsible for the other nights. Open Doors provides a paid Shelter Manager who stays awake all night and is trained to help in emergencies.
- **Hospitality Helpers** to talk with guests during and after Supper (Monday, March 30 & Friday, April 3).

Please contact Linda Conrad if you can help (564-3798 or [lst62conrad@yahoo.com](mailto:lst62conrad@yahoo.com)). **Thanks!** This is a wonderful ministry for the community that we need to continue to support.

long you desire. You may walk alone in prayer and meditation, or join others for conversation around the devotional. This spiritual discipline of prayer walking will help you to connect with God in meaningful and transformational ways. I invite you to give it a try!

Your Sister in Christ,  
Faith

### John Rutter's *Requiem* to be performed April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Otterbein Sanctuary

On Good Friday, the Otterbein and Asbury choirs will join voices to present John Rutter's *Requiem* as a meditative reflection through choral song. The *Requiem* will feature an instrumental ensemble and soprano soloists.

This beautiful work is a musical setting of parts of the Latin Requiem text, with added psalms and biblical verses, in English from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The seven movements of the work are contemplative in nature, expressing the journey from darkness and death to light and life eternal. The music is full of exquisite, lyrical melodies that will move you as we journey to the cross, reflect on our own mortality, and rejoice in the hope we have of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

Please join us and invite your family, neighbors and friends to support the members of Asbury and Otterbein's Music Ministries who have worked hard to prepare this major choral offering during the Lenten season.

### Holy Week Events

April 5, 7:30 am	Palm Sunday Community Breakfast – RISE
April 9, 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service – Asbury UMC
April 10, 7:00 pm	Good Friday Service – Otterbein UMC
April 12, 10:30 am	Easter Worship – Otterbein UMC

## Health & Wellness

### Prayer Walk

*"As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."*

*And immediately they left their nets and followed him."*

Mark 1:16-18

Jesus required movement of his disciples. If Simon and Andrew were to follow Jesus, they had to move. They needed to leave what they were doing, change plans, and go a new way.

Physical movement is a gift given to us by God, however limited it might be on any given day. Have you ever thought about the movement required for deep breathing? When you breathe out, or exhale, your diaphragm relaxes and **moves** upward into the chest cavity. Diaphragmatic breathing is a type of breathing exercise that helps strengthen your diaphragm, an important muscle that helps you breathe. The next time you take a deep breath, thank God for the gift of movement happening within your body.

Walking is another wonderful movement given to us by God. Anyone who has struggled with anxiety and/or depression will tell you that getting up and going for a walk will often help them to feel better. Experts agree about this mind-body connection, and promote the benefits of movement for those who struggle with difficult emotions.

Praying while walking is a wonderful way to practice the gift of movement while staying connected to God. During Lent, I invite you to join me for a Saturday series of **4 Lenten Prayer Walks. On Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28, we will meet at the Eastern Mennonite University's outdoor track at 10:30 in the morning.** I will begin our time by leading us in a short devotional that will help direct your thoughts and prayers while you walk. We will begin walking in silence as a group around the track, and then you will be invited to walk at your own pace for however

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## UMW News

At our February meeting, Barbara German gave a very informative presentation on her trip to United Methodist Day at the General Assembly on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Barbara.

**Friday, March 6** is World Day of Prayer.

**Tuesday, March 10** is the *Call to Prayer and Self-Denial meeting*. We will meet at **11:15 am** in **Memorial Hall** for a soup and sandwich luncheon, followed by the program presented by Portia Pruitt. The \$4 AMD is due at the March meeting.

**Saturday, March 21** is the **District Spiritual Life Retreat, 9 am—1 pm**, at **Mt. Tabor UMC** with Melissa White, Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator, as the speaker. The cost is \$12 and is due Friday, March 13, along with the registration form, which can be found on the UMW bulletin board. The \$12 includes lunch and materials.

**Tuesday, April 14** is our regular **monthly meeting at 11:15 am** in **Room 204**.

**Thursday, April 30** is the **District Evening Together at 7 pm** here at **Otterbein**. Ragan McManus will be the speaker.

It's about time to begin working on our Kits for Conference. Information will be in the April *Tidings*.

*Heartfelt thanks to my church family for the cards and calls, and special thanks to Pastor Adam Blagg for visits and prayers during my 11 day stay in the hospital. Bless You,*

*Judy Liskey*



# Creation Care Task Force

## The Rs of Creation Care

In February, we discussed the “3 Rs of Creation Care” - reduce, reuse, and recycle. These are great ways to start caring for God’s creation. But there are even more Rs to consider once you understand the “waste hierarchy!”

### Repair

It is a norm in our society to buy a new item when the old one breaks. It definitely can be easier! But buying new every time something breaks has a massive impact on the earth and its resources - energy used in production and in transportation of materials, landmass, resources pulled from the earth to make new materials. Try to start thinking “How can I repair this?” instead of “Where can I get a new one?”

### Refuse

Refusing materials is a great way to help creation - by refusing single-use plastics such as straws (unless needed due to a physical ailment or disability), plastic bags, and plasticware, we are sending a powerful message to those around us, as well as to companies, that we are working to keep our earth beautiful. Single-use plastics frequently sit in landfills, but also find their way into the oceans, where they either become deadly food for an unknowing animal or they are deposited along a coastline. If you are looking to start refusing, invest in some reusable bags to take shopping (you might already own some options at home!) or refuse a straw or cutlery (or bring your own!). Once you start looking around, it’s much easier to refuse items than you might think. The thoughts “do I really need this?” and “what happens to it after I’ve used it one time?” can help put things into perspective.

### Remember

Some of you might be thinking, “These things sound great! But I can’t remember to do that.” It is a valid thought - remembering necessary things like car *continued next page...*

keys and wallet can sometimes be challenging enough! The best way to remember these items is to keep them in your car or bag. It is a conscious effort and you WILL forget them as you start this journey! Many times I have rolled my grocery cart out to my car with all items loose and put them in my trunk without any bags. Trust me, a few times of doing that and carrying it all into your house after will definitely have you start remembering your reusable bags!

### Respect

Every choice you make makes a difference to our planet. It seems that just by refusing straws or bags, one person only makes a small dent in respecting creation. But if you multiply those actions by 50 or 100 or 1,000,000 people, it starts making a big difference! Respecting our planet and God’s creation is vital to reframing how you think about your choices.

### Restore

Find ways to help restore the earth and God’s creation. Help out with a tree planting or a river cleaning. Donate to organizations that restore Earth’s resources or to organizations that help wildlife. Humans have taken a lot from the earth, so anything we can do to restore what it has given us through God’s creation is important.

I hope that you’ll take time during the coming days and weeks to consider these Rs. Pick one a week or month, or do a little of each whenever you can! Whatever decisions you make, no matter how little they may seem, towards restoring and respecting God’s creation is a step in the right direction.



CREATION CARE  
TASK FORCE

Sarah Macomber  
Creation Care Task Force

Sources:  
[www.sustainabilityandchristianity.org](http://www.sustainabilityandchristianity.org)  
[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)