

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

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Tidings



October 2021

The Tidings
Otterbein United Methodist
Church

176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office - (540) 434-7747

Fax - (540) 433-4018

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 oumccadm@hotmail.com

Saturday Night Alive

Not meeting at this time.

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](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

Sandy Schaefer

Director of Music Ministries

oumcmusic@hotmail.com

Melissa Miller

Office Manager

oumccadm@hotmail.com

Judy Falls

Custodian

Dawn Hunter

Treasurer

oumctreasurer@hotmail.com

Office: 540-434-7747

x200 for Melissa

x201 for Adam

x203 for Dawn

x204 for Sandy

x207 for Judy

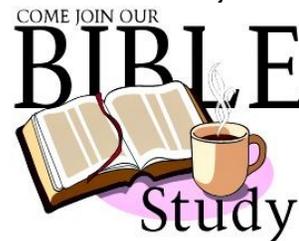
Otterbein in Prayer

Susie Ayala	Doris Hanger	Judy Pruett
Kelly Bacon	Laura Headlee	Don & Bonnie Rohr
Gary Billingsley	Norma Heath	Mary Ellen Rohrbaugh
Millie Bruce	Hunter Hensley	Millie Sager
Rev. Louis Carson	John Hoffnagle	Linda Stephens
Cliff & Jean Davis	Dot Jones	Martha Taylor
Jo Ellen Dickenson	Janet Liskey	Daisy Van Pelt
Nancy East	Marion Malabad	Keith & Sharon Waters
Vicki Gaines	Allene McCoy	Mary Wenger
Florence Green	Betty Miller	Mike Wetzel
Betty Griffith	Art & Mary Jo Mitchell	Anita Yount
Mindi Griffith	Gary Nesselrodt	
Ray & Audrey Griffith	George & Betty Painter	

Bible Study is Here Once Again!

We have resumed our weekly gathering and in-person classes are available at 10 am and 6 pm, with a hybrid model being used for the 6 pm session. At 6 pm you may join via Zoom; check Adam's weekly email for current link.

This fall will begin with a series of lessons about Faith, followed by the Gospel of John. During Advent we will take a few weeks for a history lesson about Christmas and Advent. Feel free to drop into any session whenever it suits your schedule. The current reading guide is available outside of Room 204.



For Your Information

- ***Tidings* deadline** for the November issue is **Monday, October 18** 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 oumccadm@hotmail.com by the 18th.
- **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.

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers for Christ at Otterbein UMC:

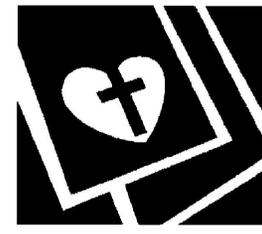
We would like to express our deep gratitude for your support of our summer youth camp and ministry here in North Macedonia. The camp was a huge success – praise God! And we were able to award six full-scholarships and fourteen partial-scholarships in large part due to your generous donation to us. Thank you to all who gave and to the many who put in time and energy to organize the fundraiser. You are a blessing to us!



Thank
You!

May God's presence, protection, and rich blessings be on all of you and your surrounding community,

Jennifer Moore, Simona Tanceva,
and Dejan Vasilev
Camp Organizers



FROM THE PASTOR

As October lingers on the horizon, it is my hope that fall is soon to arrive. (Today it is 85, and the forecast for the next few days does not appear to be much different.) As I grow older, I have discovered that my general tolerance for heat and humidity continues to diminish. This became a pretty clear observation this summer when I found the early morning humidity and relatively high temperatures to be extremely oppressive while running. This is the first time I've really noted my dislike for this type of weather. If you talk to enough people, you will find a variety of opinions about weather tolerance. My grandmother could not stand cold weather and spent a decent part of her retirement in Florida where 50° was a chilly day. On the other hand, for me, 50 degrees is just about perfect! What I have learned though through all this like and dislike of weather and temperatures is that I have zero control of the weather on a day-to-day basis. Besides relocating to a different climate, I am simply stuck with what the weather will be when I wake up in the morning.

Fortunately, that is not how all of life works. There are two big things that I believe in when it comes to dealing with the environment that we find ourselves in. First, I am in control of my reaction to the situation that I find myself in. For the sake of continuity, we'll stick with the weather. Every day the mercury climbs higher I could be upset about the conditions I find myself in, or I could just accept that this is the way it is today and adapt. I have control over how I react even if I don't have control over the

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weather. My reactions could be emotional: calming down and reminding myself getting mad won't help. Or my reaction could be practical: postponing a run to a cooler time of day or turning on an extra fan in the house to cool things off. Being able to react in a positive, productive way to any situation is a huge benefit to keeping life a little less stressful.

Second, there are plenty of things in life I do have control over, or can at least exert some influence around. It is tempting, and easy, to complain about a variety of things that occur in life, most of them are not like the weather. While we are at times hindered by circumstances, more often we do have some voice in the way things work. If the relationship you have with a friend has become fractured, you have the ability to work at repairing it. If you see hardship that exists in the community, there are avenues for correction. None of this might be easy, and it could seem overwhelming, but we at times falsely claim to have no agency. There has been much talk in our community about the current issues surrounding housing. Otterbein has been no stranger to this conversation, having had informal and formal discussion over the past several years. The issue seems impossible for us to fix. Instead of giving up and just moving on to something different, we continued in relationship with our community and when a modest proposal came before us to make a small dent in the larger problem, we moved to do our part. (You can find more details about that solution in this issue.)

While our individual efforts to fix things might seem meager, when each of us do something, change does occur. Now if we could just all make it a little less humid...

Adam



UMW News

We will not have a Unit meeting in October.

On **Thursday, October 7**, the **District Annual Meeting** will be held at **Otterbein** at **7 pm**. Refreshments will be provided by the District UMW Officers.

Otterbein will have **Children's Sabbath Sunday** on **October 10** sponsored by the UMW. The theme is "*Where Does It Hurt? Listening to Heal Our Children.*"

The next Unit meeting will be **Tuesday, November 9** at **11:15 am** in **Room 204**. This will be our "Thank Offering Program."

The District UMW "Looking Ahead Together" will be November 13. More details will be available at a later date.

So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.

So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.

~ Galatians 6:9-10 ~

Thank you for all the birthday cards I received. They are much appreciated!

~ Betty Painter ~



Mission through Local Investment

Otterbein is reaching out to help with the affordable housing challenges in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. After many months of study by the Administrative Council, Sam Nickels, Our Community Place Executive Director, presented a vision of purchasing a house to offer another program for people in need of entry level housing. The Administrative Council decided that the plans presented were very valid, detailed, and fit our future goals of local investment in our community.

Otterbein's investment in this mission project was in the form of a \$50,000 low-interest loan from our Endowment Fund to be paid back over 40 years. The Deed of Trust has been finalized and repayments began in September.

Contact Adam if you would like any additional details of this local mission project.

3 Rules

Do you remember the 3 Rules John Wesley shared with us United Methodists?

We occasionally list them in the bulletin or you might see them on the board in the sanctuary from time to time. They are three types of things we should do as Christians, but it is good to remember that these external actions come from internal motivation. Since we have been loved by Christ and have experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the inner grace that we feel should manifest in outward expressions. Our three rules help us to remember to function out of the grace we have experienced and, at times, will remind us that the Holy Spirit is still at work within us as well.

You'll find the three rules elsewhere in this issue; keep them in mind as you move through this month!

The Otterbein Men's Fellowship would like to thank all who supported our Drive-Thru Curbside Spaghetti Supper in September! We are so blessed with the response to this meal we received from so many of you. As this is written,



Thank You!

there are no final figures concerning the donation amount given to support the OUMC College Chorale Scholarships. However, we are sure that our church family and others will be generous in their giving! Last year's Spaghetti Supper raised \$2,200.00 for the Chorale Scholarships! That was enough to support one Chorale student for the entire year!

At this point, it's unclear whether the Men's Fellowship will be able to offer our **Christmas Brunch** in December due to the continued threat of COVID19 and especially the Delta variant. We pray that everyone will continue to follow safety practices (getting a vaccine, wearing a mask, physical distancing, washing hands frequently).

The Men's Fellowship has one more breakfast meeting planned in 2021. We will meet at Thomas House Restaurant on **Saturday, October 23 at 7:30 am** for food, fellowship, and prayer. We invite you to join us!

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

Leadership/Planning Team: Bill Pollard, Carter Ritchie, and Dylan Andrade



CREATION CARE TASK FORCE

Creation Care

Benefits of Planting Trees

The first obvious benefit of planting trees is that they create homes for wildlife. Many species of wildlife depend on trees for habitat: food, protection, and homes. Additional flowers, leaves, and fruits produced by some trees are also used by wildlife. Leaves and other debris enrich the soil once they fall and create more places for wildlife to burrow underneath for safety and security. Trees also create a shady sanctuary for animals from extreme temperatures and storms.

Trees act as environmental aids and buffers. They give off oxygen that we need to breath and sequester carbon (CO₂) reducing the overall concentration of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. They act as natural flood control, reducing the amount of storm water runoff, which reduces erosion and pollution in our waterways and may reduce the effects of flooding.

Trees planted in neighborhoods can reduce property owners' energy costs and add to home values. It is estimated that streets with shady trees can be 6 to 10 degrees cooler than streets without trees. This not only affects the comfort and beauty of the neighborhood but also reduces energy needs.

Also, studies suggest that being around trees is good for our mental and social well-being. Trees can help us feel less stressed and more restored. Consider the current season of fall and the much looked-forward-to changing colors of the leaves. In late winter we watch for the budding

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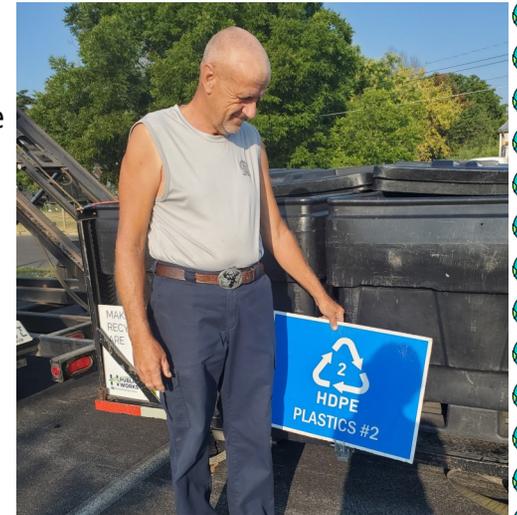
of leaves letting us know spring is on the way.

A major benefit of planting trees is for *future* enjoyment and protection of the environment. Planting trees now will lessen environmental impacts in the future. Consider what opportunities you have to plant trees at your home or to support local or nationwide efforts to plant trees. Should we plant some trees here at OUMC?

Betty Redmond
Creation Care Taskforce

Correction

The name of the gentleman in this picture was incorrect in the September *Tidings*. Mr. High is a 30-year employee of the City of Harrisonburg and oversees off-site recycling in several locations in the city.



Charge Conference

Thursday, October 28

**7 pm
via Zoom**

**Weekday Religious Education
(WRE) Benefit Auction**

**Saturday, October 23, 10 am
Shady Oak at Weaver's
Mennonite Church**

There will also be a **bake sale and
silent auction** on Friday evening
from **5-7 pm**.