

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

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Tidings



June 2020

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 oumcdadm@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 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

Rev. Faith Fowler

Associate Pastor of Health &
Wellness

faithfowler@vaumc.org

Sandy Schaefer

Music Director / Organist
oumcmusic@hotmail.com

Melissa Miller

Office Manager
oumcdadm@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

x210 for Faith

Otterbein in Prayer

Phyllis Albrite
Wilda Billhimer
Gary Billingsley
Millie Bruce
Pat Brunk
Rev. & Mrs. Carson
Jeremy Cook
Jennifer Cordova
Tyler Custer
Jo Ellen Dickenson
Allen Dellinger
Jeremy Driver
Nancy East
Rev. Samuel Espinoza
Halcie Fishback
Carole Gaines
Judy Grandle
Florence Green

Betty Griffith
Ray & Audrey Griffith
Doris Hanger
Rev. Isaac Harper
Laura Headlee
Norma Heath
Barbara Henry
Silas Herndon
Bennie & Gloria
Hildebrand
John Hoffnagle
Charlene Hunley
Dot Jones
Evelyn Keane
Glen Langston
Janet Liskey
Judy Liskey
Gertraud Martin

Allene McCoy
Orpha Miller
James Neff
Alison Prost
Judy Pruett
Don & Bonnie Rohr
Ron & Mary Ellen
Rohrbaugh
William Smith
Linda Stephens
Martha Taylor
Craig Thompson
Charlie Tibbits
Keith & Sharon Waters
Mary Wenger
Rev. Richard Worden
Anita Yount

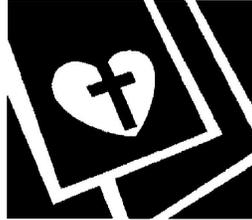
As many of you are aware, expenses are ongoing even in the midst of a pandemic. This is no different at Otterbein. We greatly appreciate everyone who has mailed their offering to the church office. This has enabled us to continue to pay our bills and staff salaries, as well as taken a bit of stress off the leadership so they can focus their energy on other needed areas during this time.

For those of you who were not aware of this option, please know that it is available at any time. Just make your check payable to Otterbein UMC, make any special designations (if necessary) in the memo line, and mail to the church at 176 West Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Thank you for your continued support of Otterbein UMC.



For Your Information

- ***Tidings* deadline** for the July/August issue is **Monday, June 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.
- **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.



FROM THE PASTOR

You might recall three words that have been listed on our board in the sanctuary: Unity, Charity, Love. They are the abbreviated version of a quote attributed to John Wesley, "In the essentials unity, in the non-essentials charity, in all things love." By all records, it is wrongly attributed to John Wesley; it is first found in a writing by Rupertus Meldenius in the 1600's dealing with Augustine's theology. John Wesley is connected to this because of a sermon entitled "Catholic Spirit," a lesson that emphasizes the way we should be working together. Specifically, he calls for us to do two things: love God and love neighbor.

Our quote begs the question of what are the "essentials" of Christian faith. As United Methodists, we define those as the traditional creeds of the Church, specifically the Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed. We also consider the EUB Confession of Faith and the Methodist Articles of Religion to be doctrinal statements of the church. These form the core of what we consider essentials. In these we must share unity.

Almost all of our arguments in the Church throughout our history do not concern the essentials, but instead the non-essentials (there are some notable exceptions, but most occurred in the very early church). The details and opinions that scatter our reading and understanding of doctrine and scripture are the places where we divide and fracture as the church. Our quote assigns the word *charity* to the non-essentials. In other words, when we disagree about the non-essential details of our faith, we should do so with grace and love. As you have probably experienced first-hand, this is not easy. We often disagree about the details and that is okay, we don't have to agree about everything, but we do need to be gracious in our

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*But I will sing of your strength,
in the morning I will sing of your love;
for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.
You are my strength, I sing praise to you;
You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.*

I encourage and challenge you with these beautiful verses which conclude Psalm 59. Take a moment to read the entire psalm, written by David at a time his life was in great turmoil. King Saul had sent soldiers to spy on his home, hoping to capture David and take him prisoner. Rather than become overwhelmed by the anxiety of his circumstances, David fixed his eyes on God and filled his heart with songs of God's strength. Our life experiences and the difficulties we face and overcome build within us greater strength. As we gain this strength, it becomes harder for circumstances to shake our faith, our joy, and our peace. Praising the Lord for all His past mercies and grace is a wonderful way to remove all the enemies of doubt and fear that can trouble our minds. Like many of the psalms of David, this one reminds us to glorify God by lifting up our voices to the Lord in prayer and praise, making music in our hearts to Him. During these challenging times when we are anxious for our lives to return to normal, let us follow the example of David and learn to praise instead of panic, to worship instead of worry. May we sing aloud of God's mercy in the morning and reflect on His loving-kindness all day long...

Missing you all dear friends,
Sandy

The Outreach Ministry Team wishes to thank all who generously contributed to our outreach efforts over the last few weeks. To date, we have received \$2,100 for the RMH Foundation's Employee Relief Fund, \$575 for the COVID-19 HR Community Response Fund, and \$1,283 for Our Community Place. Many in our community, those providing health care and other services to those in need, will benefit from this sharing of our resources.



disagreements.

This practice is highlighted in the third word, *love*. All things we do should be grounded in love. It sounds easy, but we see it so infrequently modeled in disagreements in the world at large. We see often the opposite. Disagreements often devolve into name calling, personal attacks, and offending or being offended. Disagreeing in love is work and requires relationships that are not often modeled effectively outside of the church. We should be working diligently at this. In fact, maybe the quote or our three words should be switched around. Love, Charity, Unity. Without the love of neighbor and God, all else falls apart. As we continue to see and experience disagreements in the Church and in the world, let us remember that love should be our focus.

Adam

At the time of this writing, we are unsure when we will be able to meet in person again for a meal and our fellowship monthly meetings at Thomas House Restaurant on the 4th Saturday of the month. New guidance has been received from the Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference and the Governor of Virginia. This information is currently being reviewed by Pastor Adam, the Otterbein Administrative Council, and others at OUMC. The Men's Fellowship Leadership/ Planning Team will continue to monitor the situation and email announcements of our future plans to those who are on our mailing list. If you would like to be included on that mailing list, please call or email Bill Pollard (540-421-3256 or pollard49@comcast.net) and you'll be added to the list.

While some of the information may no longer be accurate, you are invited to learn more concerning our group at our website: <https://www.oumcharrisonburg.org/united-methodist-men>. Our church website was recently redesigned by Sarah Macomber. We invite you to check out the new look for the website!



Creation Care

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Andrew Wheeler, with so many people ordering on line and more frequent home delivery of meals, recycling is more essential than ever. "Right now there is a critical need for all raw materials in the manufacturing supply chain, especially paper and cardboard."

If you're doing more online shopping, cardboard boxes and paper packaging materials may be piling up. You can help by flattening your boxes and taking them, along with paper packaging, to a recycling site. Check websites for any changes in site openings due to COVID-19. If you are not venturing out just yet, store your cardboard and paper until feasible to recycle.

Reusable grocery bags may not be the best choice at this time. Plus, grocery stores are delivering and offering pickup of groceries in plastic bags. Unfortunately, plastic bags may also be piling up. Be sure to repurpose some of these to line trash cans, clean up after your pets, and use in other ways, until it is easier to safely use reusable bags. As possible, return bags to stores with plastic bags recycling bins.

Sorry to say, this is another example of the negative impact of the pandemic. There is some evidence of positive effects on the environment, such as cleaner air and improved water quality due to decreased land and air travel and industrial activity. It remains to be seen if the world will take a lesson from this to combat environmental pollution in the future. As individuals, we can at least do our part, as simple as recycling cardboard and paper to save trees, in renewing God's creation.



CREATION CARE
TASK FORCE

Betty Redmond
Creation Care Taskforce

- **DECLARE** that God is with you in this wilderness experience and will provide for you in the midst of it.
- **IDENTIFY** your Amalek so that you are not caught off guard. What are the things that attack you in your wilderness?
- **ACCEPT** God's invitation to collaborate with Him in praise and prayers as HE wins your battles for you. You can sing unto the Lord anywhere and anytime.
- **LIFT** up your hands and worship God in the middle of the storm...in the middle of the struggle...in the middle of the pandemic. *The power of God to heal, comfort, advise, and set us free is made manifest as we lift up our hands in worship to Him.*
- **RECEIVE** support from friends that will "hold up your hands for you" as you endure through your exhaustion. Who is *your* Aaron and Hur?
- **WRITE** down what God has done for you so that those who come after you will hear of the goodness and power of God. The Lord is your Banner!
- **REMEMBER** that your victorious endurance in hardship will bless future generations.

I bless you to lift up your hands in praise, worship, and prayer. May you trust and believe, that as you lift your hands up to the Lord, He is fighting your battles for you, and victory **always** belongs to our God! Our hope comes from the Lord. Please know that I am here for you if you need support holding up your hands.

Your Sister in Christ,
Faith

¹ Chaim Bentorah Biblical Hebrew Studies. Word Study: Hand
from chaimbentorah.com.

Hello Friends,

We recently saw a sign that read: "Requesting a reboot for the year 2020; ours has a virus." All of us are probably thinking we could use a "do-over" for the current year. However, our present situation has provided us with some valuable lessons going forward. Have patience; this too shall pass. We are also discovering that we have a new appreciation for in-person fellowship with others, especially our church friends. Keep the faith and know that God is still in control! Stay safe, stay strong, and here's hoping we will be able to be together again...soon.

~Bill & Susan Pollard



UMW News

Due to the Coronavirus quarantine, all Otterbein, District, and Conference UMW meetings are cancelled through June. This includes assembling the Kits for Conference.

NOTE: The second quarter *Pledge to Mission* is due by June 10. Please bring your pledge up to date through June and mail to Jo Ann Liskey, 4856 Shen Lake Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, by **June 9**. For questions, please call Jo Ann at 434-2997.

Heritage Project—Church History Book

At long last, the content of our new church history book is in the hands of the publisher, Lot's Wife Publishing of Staunton. Originally slated to be a 125-year church history record (1894-2019), circumstances have allowed the inclusion of *at least* the first half of 2020 with it's unique and impactful events.

If you anticipate purchasing a book, please advise us of your intention. This estimate will help ensure the availability of adequate books while also avoiding the costs associated with printing excessive copies.

We greatly appreciate the generous monetary gifts that accompanied the "in memory" and "in honor" submissions to be printed in the dedicated Heritage section of the book. Your financial contributions will be helpful in meeting our up-front publishing costs. **The purchase of the book will be a separate cost.**

If you submitted memoriams or honorariums **but have not yet forwarded your pledge, please remit your free-will monetary gift to the church office.** Thank you! (Indicate "Heritage Book—gift" on the memo line of your check.)

Thanks for your support!

Contact Carole Gaines or Patsy Liskey if you have questions.

Health & Wellness from the Inside Out “Hands and Battle Plans”

Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, “Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner; for he said, “Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

Exodus 17:8-16, NKJV

The Israelites were in the wilderness - they had just been set free from slavery in Egypt. After 430 years of bondage, they were delivered by God’s powerful hand in the parting of the Red Sea. In their short time in the wilderness they had experienced miracles, signs, and wonders as God provided water from a rock when they were thirsty and caused manna and quail to appear out of nowhere for their food. Even so, they were **uncomfortable in the wilderness**. They complained often to Moses about the lack they were experiencing. But they were following God, and they were exactly where God wanted them to be when they arrived in the land of Rephidim. And then, they were attacked!

I find it interesting that they were exactly where God wanted them to be, yet even so, they were attacked by an enemy. This brings up a few things for us to consider. First, when we experience an attack from one of *our* enemies (sickness, fear, depression, loneliness, anxiety, stress, COVID-19), let us NOT assume that we are in the wrong place or that we have done anything wrong. The Israelites were obeying God and in that exact place where God led them to be, they were attacked.

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Second, this tells me that being attacked from an enemy does not need to catch us off guard. It is part of life here on this earth and we can be prepared. What I love about this Scripture is that God gives us a strategy and battle plan for when our enemies begin to threaten and attack. He also provides perspective about the wilderness and hope for the future.

Being in the wilderness can cause us to feel afraid and disoriented because we are not on “our turf.” Everything is different in the wilderness because nothing is as it was and that causes us to feel out of control. Perhaps the global pandemic of COVID-19 has felt like a wilderness experience for you. If so, I invite you to hear the encouragement and hope from the Word of God. **GOD IS WITH YOU IN THE WILDERNESS! GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU IN THE WILDERNESS!** Take a moment and let this truth settle into your heart. You are not alone in this new land. God sees you here. He has not left you alone to figure this out by yourself. He wants to guide you through this wilderness and He offers you a strategy and battle plan to overcome the enemy.

Notice what Moses did when Amalek came to fight against them. He sent Joshua and other men from the camp to go down to fight them, but Moses went up to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. Moses held God’s rod in his hand and lifted his hand up to the Lord. As long as his hand was lifted high, Israel prevailed. When he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. So Moses kept his hands in the air, even in the midst of his exhaustion. Then, his friends Aaron and Hur, provided him a place to rest and held his hands up for him until Israel won the battle.

Notice how instrumental the hand of Moses was in the midst of the battle. The word *hand* is used six times in this Scripture. The Hebrew word for hand is *yad*, which suggests that something spiritual was taking place through Moses. The hand is a doorway through which the power of God would flow. When Moses worshipped God, as all Jews, he did it with uplifted hands.¹ What does this tell us about the use of our hands in overcoming our enemies? It tells us that there is something powerful and supernatural that happens in the Spirit when we lift up our hands to God in the midst of our battles! Victory happens in praise and worship to the Lord.

So what is the strategy and battle plan for overcoming our enemies?

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