



Otterbein United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 2378

Martinsburg, WV 25402

The Spirit of Otterbein

APRIL 2020

Rev. Dr. Patricia L. Sebring, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 443-510-3308 Pastor's e-mail: revdrpls@gmail.com

Donna Hall, Administrative Assistant

Reenie Raines, Organist

John Kesecker, Sexton

Chelsea Payton, Christian Ed/Program Director

David Elliott, Audio Visual Director

Sylvia Michel, Nursery Attendant

Phone: 304-263-0342

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2378, Martinsburg, WV 25402

Located at 549 N. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Website: www.otterbeinumc.net

Email: secretary@otterbeinumc.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/otterbeinumcmartinsburg

The *Spirit* of Otterbein

From the Pastor's Desk

April 2020

God Be With Us All Pandemic Update

Church Closure Continues through Month of April

As the worldwide pandemic of coronavirus continues, I pray that you are well and taking every precaution to care for yourself and your family. Know that you are in my daily prayers as is our world while we walk through this situation together and rest assured that God is walking with us. Remember the words Jesus spoke so often, "Be not afraid" and trust in Christ's assurance, "I am with you always."

As West Virginia and surrounding states have taken steps to slow the spread of the disease, so to our Bishop is directing all churches in the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference to refrain from gathering in church buildings through and including Sunday, April 26th.

In compliance with that directive, and to protect the health of as many as possible, we are cancelling all events in the month of April. No in person meetings of our committees, inside or outside groups, or classes will take place during this temporary closure. We can use modern telecommunications and media to stay in touch including teleconferencing and on-line meetings.

In lieu of in-person worship, you can call in on **Sundays at 11:11 a.m.** for an abbreviated audio only worship experience in which I will include scripture, sermon, and prayer. To access this worship service from any phone **dial (712) 775-7031** and then enter the **access code 552610279**. (Please note that there were some issues with connectivity due to high internet use and local cable problems on March 22nd, which we believe have now been resolved. Also we are delaying the starting time to eleven minutes after the hour to ease connection traffic at the communications hub.)

All employees who can work from home will do so during the time the church building is closed. While we are working from home, we will be checking our e-mails regularly. Our Church Administrator, Donna Hall, will be checking the telephone answering machine several times a day Monday through Friday. You can always reach me, your pastor on my cell phone at 1-443-510-3308.

Please remember that during this temporary closure, not only our payroll, but most of our utilities and other expenses do continue. Mailing your offering or sending your gift through electronic banking will ensure that our church is able to continue its ministry amidst and after this crisis.

Let us pray for our world and the end of the pandemic and may we all do our part to reduce the potential for spreading this disease by practicing social distancing and exercising due caution.

If you have any questions or pastoral needs please contact me on my cell phone, 443-510-3308.

Blessings for safety and health of you and yours,

In Christ's love,

Pastor Patricia

Worship in New Ways

Call in Worship at 11:11 a.m.

Dial (712) 775-7031 and then enter the access code 552610279.

<i>Sermon Series: Where is God When . . .</i>	
DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
April 5 11:11 a.m.	<p>Palm Passion Sunday Parade!!!!!!! Pick up your Palm by driving under the Portico between 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. then circle the back parking lot while waving your palm branch high <i>We will be receiving offerings during this time.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Matthew 26:1—27:66 (The Passion Narrative) • Sermon: <i>When All Hell Breaks Loose!</i>
April 9 Holy Thursday	<p>Maundy Thursday Curbside Communion from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.!!!!!!! Receive your pre-packaged Communion by driving under the Portico between <i>We will be receiving offerings during this time.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed Meditation Guide Provided with Communion Elements No call-in worship service
April 10 Good Friday 7:11 p.m.	<p>Good Friday Call-in Worship at 7:11 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: John 18:1—19:42 • Sermon: <i>When Hope Seems Lost</i>
April 12 11:11 a.m.	<p>EASTER Call-in Worship at 11:11 a.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: John 20:1-18 • Sermon: <i>When Sorrow Becomes Joy</i>
April 19 11:11 a.m.	<p>Second Sunday of Easter Call-in Worship at 11:11 a.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: John 20:19-31 • Sermon: <i>When Doubt Meets Faith</i>
April 26 11:11 a.m.	<p>Third Sunday of Easter Call-in Worship at 11:11 a.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 • Sermon: <i>When Strangers Become Friends</i>

Offerings Essential!!!

Options for Supporting Your Church with Your Gifts

Our finances depend upon your continued support throughout this time.

These are some options to get your financial gifts to your church.

- **Bring** your offerings to one of the drive-up worship services listed above
- **Mail** your check(s) in an envelope to Otterbein UMC, P.O. Box 2378, Martinsburg, WV 25402
- **Click and give** by making a donation through the church website at www.otterbeinumc.net on the home page click the donate button to give through either PayPal or by debit or credit card
- **Online banking** by submitting an electronic payment through your bank online bill-pay
- **Auto pay** Please consider making your online/electronic contribution a recurring monthly gift

A Word from our Christian Education and Program Director, Chelsea Payton

Being the church outside of the building ~

Saying that this past month has been a challenge for our county and community would be a huge understatement. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the social uncertainty it has left us, it's important we try and find ways to adapt to our circumstances as we prepare for what is our current "normal". Only God knows how long this pandemic will last or how long it will take our society to fully recover. As people of God we know it is important we turn to him in times of uncertainty.

Many of us have felt the impact of our building being closed and the restrictions placed on the gathering of people. But in times like this we are called to demonstrate that we are the church, not the building. In **1 Timothy 5**, Paul describes the church as people dedicated to doing whatever it takes to reach out and help others. Although we aren't able to go out and be with people doesn't mean we have to stop helping others. Maybe it's something as simple as a phone call just to say hi, sending someone a letter, or simply praying for them. However we choose to act, we must do so in God's name.

Plans are being made to continue ministering to our youth and doing all we can to stay connected with one another. At this time the Spring Fling which was originally scheduled for April 4th has been postponed and a new date will be set once more information is provided regarding social gatherings. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer or assistance please do not hesitate to contact either the church, pastor, or another church member.

God Bless,

Chelsea Payton

A Helping Hand

Otterbein United Methodist Church has many older members in the congregation, and it is important they heed the warnings to “shelter in place.” Older folks and those with compromised immune systems are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. If you find yourself in a situation where you are running low on food or need to pick up a prescription, and you don’t have a family member or neighbor to help, please reach out to Pastor Patricia at 443-510-3308 or Leigh Fleming at 304-676-7332. They will send one of Otterbein’s Angels to help you. We want everyone to remain strong and healthy through this crisis.

OUR RESIDENTS:

Betty Raines

Clary Grove, Room 159B
209 Clover Street
Martinsburg, WV 25404

Raymond “Mutt” Gano

Elmcroft Assisted Living, Room 201
200 Gloucester Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401

Ethel Bovey

Shenandoah Center
50 Mulberry Tree Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

Terry Bowers

Hospice Facility, Room 127
320 Hospice Lane
Kearneysville, WV 25430

Linda Brining (Please use home address as she’s been moved a few times)

FOR THE RECORD MARCH 2020

ATTENDANCE:

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP
March 1	40	63
March 8	45	71
March 15	?	64
March 22	Church Closed	(25 call-in)
March 29	Church Closed	



ATTENDANCE

OFFERING:

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	REGULAR OFFERING	SPECIALS
March 1	\$ 88.00	\$2,777.00	\$937.00
March 8	\$117.00	\$2,515.00	\$289.00
March 15	\$121.00	\$3,539.00	\$358.00
March 22	Church Closed		
March 29	Church Closed		

BUILDING FUND:

March 1	\$410.00
March 8	\$375.00
March 15	\$160.00
March 22	Church Closed
March 29	Church Closed



- 1 Linda Brining
- 3 Betty Allen
- 7 Caitlyn Cronk
- 8 Nancy Gregory
- 9 Virginia Hicks
- 11 Zachary Hammersla
- 12 Gisela Lilienthal
- 14 David Day and Rhea Ellen Harless
- 15 Brooke Spickler
- 18 Jack Allen and Kathryn Ford
- 20 Patricia LeMaster
- 22 Mary Duke
- 25 Mike Callahan
- 26 Noll Wilson
- 27 Mike Deter



April
BIRTHDAYS

Prayer List

APRIL 2020

MOST RECENT ADDITIONS:

- Barbara Lancaster – Knee Replacement
- Linda Brining – Back in ICU
- Pat Wilson – Eyes
- Mike Callahan – New cancer
- Betty Raines – in Clary Grove
- Cliff Sebring – Leg amputation
- Emily Waters – Continued recovery
- Richard Ahearn
- Sally Hefflee
- Jonathan – 14yr old from Spring Mills Middle School who has a brain tumor

IMMEDIATE:

Jack & Betty Allen
Mary Kay Apple
Terry Bowers
Linda Brining
Sharon Burns
Jenny Butler
Mike Callahan
Mike Emery
Lars Lilienthal
Sharon Lynde
Arlene Mauck
Lydia McBee
Jan McNulty
Joyce Oats
Captain Jack Overton
Mary Sebring
Julie Shallis
Janice Shipe
Mike Shipe
Nancy Warrenfeltz
Mike Wheeler

THOSE LIVING WITH CANCER:

Carolyn Betke
Dave Betke
Sandra Biner
Vanessa Bishop
Buck Browning
JoAnn Cave
Amy Chapman
Patty Cooper
Sarah Crowell
Lee Cutlip
Mark Day
Paul Fell
Mary Ann Fields
Janice Fischbach
Virginia Fitzwater
Frank Harrison
Tammy Hatfield
David Hoffman
Melissa Holmes
Pamela Jones
Davis Keller
Joyce Kulb
Patty LeMaster
Eunice Lloyd
Sherry Manor
Bill Miller
Cathy Potts
Tom Price
Melissa Shade
Robert Shank
Kimberly Sisk
Lisa Thompson
Becky Weaver
Mindy Wilmer
Clinton Wright
Wilson Youngblood
Carolyn Zdziera
Beverly Zook

GENERAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

End to the Coronavirus
Drug Addiction Epidemic
Our Military & Families
Homeless
The Middle East
Parkinson Support Group
Families touched by violence
CCAP/Loaves and Fishes
National, State, & Community Leaders
Police officers
First Responders
Health care workers
Children's Ministry
Unity in the spirit of our Nation

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:

Ethel Bovey
Max Corbin
Bob & June Cutlip
Scott Davis
Janet Deter
Janice Dodson
Jeremy Duke
Rion Foster
Dave Fulk
Mutt Gano
Dan Kesecker
Jerry and Phyllis Kusner
Brenda McDaniel
Charlotte Shade
Betty Ann Keiter Tabler

MILITARY MEMBERS:

Joshua Brining
Nick Foster
Brett Richards
Christopher Riser

PRAYER CHAIN MEMBERS

Jean Butts 304-263-4427 Pat Wilson 304-263-5887
Emily Waters 304-263-9433 Joy White 304-229-0946
(Linda Brining 304-263-0546)