

The *Spirit* of Otterbein

From the Pastor's Desk

December 2020

A Different Christmas

“Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”
(Luke 2:4-7)

This year we have all realized that our notion of a “typical” event has had to be set aside as we’ve learned the art of adaptation. We can look to Mary in the Christmas story for an example of adapting to unexpected circumstances. Most likely up until the call for the census, Mary was planning to be in Nazareth for the birth of the child she was carrying. She expected familiar surroundings with her family and friends supporting her. None of those plans was to come to fruition. She found herself in unfamiliar surroundings in Bethlehem with her accommodations more suitable for barnyard animals than for humans. She was isolated from her circle of family and friends and found herself in the company of shepherds (who because of Jewish cleanliness laws had to maintain a social distance). As we look to our own homes this Christmas in the pandemic, let’s remember things weren’t exactly as Mary had hoped and planned for that first Christmas.

Serving Christ together with you in this season,

Pastor Patricia

P.S. Please let me know of needs of your own, your family, and other members of the congregation for pastoral care. I am honored to serve you while you are in need: bereaved, ill, or in need of spiritual guidance be it at home, in hospitals, or in nursing homes. In the event of a pastoral need the very best number to reach me is on my cell phone at 443-510-3308. Please call, for I would rather hear multiple times about a need than not hear at all.

P.P.S I truly appreciate those who schedule an appointment for meeting with me so that I can accomplish all the tasks on my schedule and give you my full attention. Text or call 443-510-3308.

P.P.P.S. For those scheduling church meetings or events, always check with our church administrator before setting dates and times. In addition to the church schedule, she has information about my commitments that may preclude me from attending your meeting or event.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP@ 7:00 p.m.

Options for live and virtual worship: In person in the Sanctuary and via Zoom meeting and Facebook Live.

Time: Dec 24, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time)

To Join Zoom Meeting from your computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82631979859?pwd=TUVlQk02NEc5WXRvZ0RBUHFXMUerdz09>

When prompted:

Meeting ID: 826 3197 9859

Passcode: 751541

One tap mobile+13017158592,,82631979859#,,,,,0#,,751541# US (Washington D.C)

Phone in : +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C) Meeting ID: 826 3197 9859 Passcode: 751541



Caroling Before Worship on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Portico

DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
December 6 11:00 a.m.	<p>Second Sunday of Advent --Peace <i>Celebration of Holy Communion—super sanitary style</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Mark 1:1-8 • Sermon: Power and Peace
December 13 11:00a.m.	<p>Third Sunday of Advent-- Joy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28 • Sermon: Joy in Bearing Witness
December 20 11:00 a.m.	<p>Fourth Sunday of Advent-- Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; 46b-55 • Sermon: Spirit-filled Love
December 24, 7:00 p.m.	<p>Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Luke 21-20 • Sermon: Unconventional Beginning
December 27, 11:00 a.m.	<p>First Sunday after Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 • Sermon: Blessing and Blessed



Pastor's Study for Advent:

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

This is a four-week study by Adam Hamilton. The study will be conducted virtually through Zoom with a phone-in option through which we will be watching a video and engaging in discussions.

The four sessions will be: Wednesdays starting at 7:05 p.m.

1. December 2nd: Presidents and Kings
2. December 9th: The Savior and Our Need for Saving
3. December 16th: Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic
4. December 23rd: Light of the World

The book is available through bookstores as a printed text or as an e-book. You are responsible for purchasing your text.

Phone in: 1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 848 7907 7105

Passcode: 482209

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84879077105?pwd=cGhmY295VXdNVGZkQXVXd3N4cFRkZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 7907 7105

Passcode: 482209

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,84879077105#,,,,,0#,,482209# US (New York)

Read and Reflect Book Bunch – Rescheduled to January 6th

Our Advent-Christmas-Epiphany book is *Incarnation – Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton. It is available as a traditional printed book, electronic book or audio book from Amazon or other booksellers. There is no need to sign up for this Read and Reflect group—you are responsible for procuring the book and reading or listening in preparation. Those who would like to reflect on the selection after having read or listened to it are invited to an online chat on Wednesday , January 6 at 3:00 p.m.

If you have a recommendation for a book that is appropriate for our future Read and Reflect Book Bunch please contact Pastor Patricia with your recommended novels or non-fiction selections for consideration. Thanks. :

Read and Reflect Book Bunch Time: January 6th 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88912318397?pwd=WFFuMXlrVTZnK2lybmMzRHRRaU9gdz09>

Meeting ID: 889 1231 8397

Passcode: 650868

One tap mobile : +19292056099,,88912318397#,,,,,0#,,650868# US (New York)

Phone In: +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 889 1231 8397 Passcode: 650868

When prompted enter Meeting ID: 889 1231 8397 and then when prompted again enter Passcode: 650868



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS is asking for donations of boxes of crayons, pencils, glue sticks, and scissors.



The American Heritage Girls are once again seeking sponsorships for their Wreaths Across America fundraiser. With all that has happened in this country and our community over the last 6 months, we are looking to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten as we take steps towards normalcy. If anyone knows a business owner who might be interested in a corporate package there is one available. Wreaths are \$15 and will be placed at Antietam National Cemetery in December.

Contact Chelsea Payton at cpayton922@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Every year at Christmastime Otterbein congregation contributes to gifts for the church staff. Even though this year is like no other, I ask everyone if you can, to contribute to the collection of monies for the staff Christmas gifts this year.

Please clearly label that your gift is for staff Christmas gifts, whether you mail it in, use Paypal, or Zelle. Please have the money into accounts or office by December 14. Thank you in advance for your generosity. -Pat Fleming, SPPRC chair.



Poinsettias

The Altar Guild will be ordering poinsettias this year from Colonial Nursery. Colors will be red, pink, and jingle bell. The price will be \$9.50.

If you are interested in ordering poinsettias, please complete the order form found in the newsletter and return to the church office. If you receive your newsletter virtually, order forms will be available at the church office for you to come in and fill out, or you can call the church office and give administrative assistant your order. All orders must be paid for before delivery of the poinsettias. Make checks payable to Otterbein United Methodist Church. All Orders must be received by December 14, 2020.

2020 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Otterbein United Methodist Church
Attn: Altar Guild
PO Box 2378
Martinsburg, WV 25402

**The deadline for ordering is December 14.
Please print when completing the form.**

Flower	Quantity	Price	Total
RED	X	\$9.50	\$
PINK	X	\$9.50	\$
JINGLE BELL	X	\$9.50	\$
Total Amount Paid			\$

Color Choice: Red Pink Jingle Bell

In honor of

In memory of _____

Color Choice: Red Pink Jingle Bell

In honor of

In memory of _____

Color Choice: Red Pink Jingle Bell

In honor of

In memory of _____

Given By: _____

MISSION MOMENT

The “Things You Can't Eat” Ministry

The “THINGS YOU CAN'T EAT” ministry at Otterbein continues to be a success. On Wednesday, October 14, we gave out 67 bags of supplies. Since most of our distribution is to families, we are reaching many more than 64 people. We also included a brochure about Otterbein in all of our bags, We are so grateful for all the donations from the congregation. If you have items to donate you can drop them off at the church from 9am-2pm Monday-Friday or bring them to church on Sunday. Also monetary Donations are accepted. Make checks payable to Otterbein UM and put TYCE in the memo. Here is a list of items that we need (Please limit donations to those requested)

Toilet Tissue
Paper Towels
Boxes of Tissues or Small Individual Packs
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Liquid laundry Detergent
Bars of Soap
Wet Wipes (They do not have to be antibacterial)

Distribution dates ae the second and third Wednesday of December, starting at 10:00 am. Thanks for all your help and please keep this ministry in your prayers as we strive to be a helpful and caring presence in our neighborhood and community.

TYCE Committee

**Upcoming TYCE Ministry Giveaway Dates:
December 9th**

Snowtices: It's that time of Year for Inclement Weather

We are very concerned about safety and during weekdays will follow the lead of the Berkeley County Schools regarding delays and closures. On weekends please check the church answering machine or Facebook to determine if weather has induced schedule changes or closures.

OUR RESIDENTS:

Jerry Kusner Room 220,
Elmcroft Assisted Living
200 Gloucester Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401

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

Terry Bowers, Room 127
Hospice of The Panhandle
320 Hospice Lane
Kearneysville, WV 25430

Raymond "Mutt" Gano Room 201
Elmcroft Assisted Living,
200 Gloucester Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401

Barbara Lancaster Room 232
Harmony At Martinsburg
13857 Apple Harvest Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25403

Phyllis Kusner
Berkeley Springs Center
456 Autumn Acres Road (Phyllis Kusner)
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Here is the contact information for Kathryn Ford she would love to hear from us!

Kathryn Ford
Heritage Oaks
1100 German School Road, Apt. 321
Richmond, VA 23225

Kathryn's telephone number is (804) 562-5968

Not so Jolly Holidays? There's Support

When everything about this season from music to greeting cards reminds you that you're not feeling so jolly because of the loss of someone you loved, don't go it alone. Join others who understand because they are grieving a recent or long-ago loss of a beloved spouse, child, parent, sibling, relative, or friend. A grief-coaching group is meeting virtually on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Patricia Sebring is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Grief Coaching Group

Time: Dec 3, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, except for Christmas Eve

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83087175141?pwd=Q3EzQjdWNG4yK2pIMjFwSWpNcU9YUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 8717 5141 Passcode: 689015

One tap mobile +13017158592,,83087175141#,,,,,0#,,689015# US (Washington D.C)

Phone in +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C) Meeting ID: 830 8717 5141 Passcode: 689015

A Quick Note From Your Treasurer. . .

As the year is coming to a close there are a couple of items I would like to address:

The last Bank Deposit for year 2020 will be made on the morning of Thursday, December 31. So if you would like to have your offering included in your 2020 Offering Statement please ensure you either mail your offering to the church PO Box 2378 in sufficient time for it to be received prior to the 31st cutoff, or if you are in the church for the Sunday, December 27 Service you can put your offering in the “Red” Offering Box. Finally, you can always make your offering electronically via the church’s website (PayPal) or through your bank’s mobile app using the Zelle app. If you choose to use one of the electronic methods please do so no later than Wednesday, December 30.

The second item concerns the use of Offering Envelopes for your offering to the church. The use of these envelopes is greatly appreciated by the administrative staff and financial volunteers at the church as this greatly speeds up the posting of your offering to the individual offering accounts. **If you would like to continue using Offering Envelopes or would like to start using them please let Krissy know in the Church Office as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to order them for next year.**

Thank you.

Give to Glorify God!!!

*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.

- **Mail** your check(s) in an envelope to Otterbein UMC, P.O. Box 2378, Martinsburg, WV 25402
- **Click and give** by donating 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

Prayer List

November 2020

Immediate:

Lee Cutlip
Mike Emery
Lydia and Steven McBee
Dwight Neel
Captain Jack Overton
Cliff Sebring
Janice Shipe
Mike Shipe
Mike Wheeler
Linda Winegardner
Carol Zdziera
Jim LeMaster
Vanessa Bishop

GENERAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

End to the Coronavirus
Unity in the spirit of our Nation
Drug Addiction Epidemic
Our Military & Families
Homeless
Families touched by violence

CCAP/Loaves and Fishes
National, State, & Community Leaders
Police officers
First Responders
Health care workers
Children's Ministry

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
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
Melissa Shade
Robert Shank
Kimberly Sisk
Lisa Thompson
Becky Weaver
Mindy Wilmer
Clinton Wright
Wilson Youngblood
Carolyn Zdziera
Beverly Zook

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:

Max Corbin
Bob & June Cutlip
Scott Davis
Janice Dodson
Jeremy Duke
Rion Foster
Dave Fulk
Dan Kesecker
Brenda McDaniel
Betty Ann Keiter Tabler
Jack & Betty Allen
Katherine Ford

MILITARY MEMBERS:

Joshua Brining
Nick Foster
Brett Richards
Christopher Riser

PRAYER CHAIN MEMBERS:

Jean Butts 304-263-4427
Emily Waters 304-263-9433
Joy White 304-229-0946
Pat Wilson 304-263-5887

If you would like to become a member of the prayer chain, please let Jean Butts know.



SYMPATHY:

Our sympathies are extended to the friends and family of the following:

- ☞ Steve Cronk
- ☞ Sally Heffle
- ☞ Ethel Bovey

Five Ways to Worship

Worship in the sanctuary or worship virtually from home at 11:00 a.m.

*Our virtual services have been greatly upgraded.
Please try one or more of these methods to worship.*

- **In person** in the sanctuary following the proper guidelines to include wearing masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, etc.
- **Facebook:** Facebook Live at www.Facebook.com/otterbeinumcmartinsburg
- **Internet:** For those with internet but not on Facebook go to <https://zoom.us/> and enter Meeting ID: 886 6337 0629 and when prompted Password: 310715
- **Phone:** For those without internet you can call in from your telephone by dialing 1-301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID: 886 6337 0629 followed by Password: 310715
- **YouTube:** Recorded services are available after Sunday on our YouTube channel [oumcmartinsburg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/oumcmartinsburg)
Past Recorded services are available on our website.

Otterbein United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Patricia L. Sebring, Pastor

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

Phone: 304-263-0342

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

Located at 549 N. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Website: www.otterbeinumc.net

Email: secretary@otterbeinumc.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/otterbeinumcmartinsburg

YouTube: Otterbein UMC Martinsburg

Another Way to Donate to Our Church!!

There is now no need to worry about putting your offering in the mail. You can send your offering directly from your bank account to the Church's bank account. Our Church is now linked with Zelle.

Zelle is a fast, safe, easy and contact-free way to send money to friends, family and others you trust such as our Church. You can send money directly into the Church's bank account in seconds.

To get started just follow these three easy steps:

1. Enroll your email **or** mobile (cell) number through your mobile banking app **or** with the Zelle app.
2. Then enter the Church's email address of secretary@otterbeinumc.net
3. Finally, enter the amount you wish to offer.

Once you press send the Church gets a notification of who is sending the offering and how much the offering is and the offering is deposited within seconds to the Church's bank account so your offering can go to work right away!

It should be noted that your bank or credit union must be a participant with Zelle. Both BB&T and United Bank are participants as well as most major banks and credit unions. You should check with your bank or credit union to see if they are a participant in the Zelle program.

The following Web Link is available for more information on Zelle:

The link is <https://www.zellepay.com/>

Thank you for your continued support of our church through this electronic offering program.

December

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 11am		1 NA Meeting 7:00 pm	2 Advent Study 7 p.m.	3 American Heritage Girls Grief Group 7 p.m.	4	5
6 Worship 11am	7	8 NA Meeting 7:00 pm	9 Things You Can't Eat give away day 10 am-12 pm Advent Study 7 p.m.	10 American Heritage Girls Grief Group 7 p.m.	11	12 Poinsettia Orders Due
13 Worship 11am	14 Poinsettia Delivery	15 NA Meeting 7:00 pm	16 Advent Study 7 p.m.	17 American Heritage Girls Grief Group 7 p.m.	18	19
20 Worship 11am	21	22 Church Council 5:30pm NA Meeting 7:00 pm	23 Things You Can't Eat give away day 10 am- 12 pm Advent Study 7 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Worship @7:00p.m.	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26
27 Worship 11am	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Grief Group 7 p.m.		

- 2 Megan Hammersla
- 13 Connor Waters
- 14 Judy Laidlow
- 15 Sue Ann Palmer and Jennifer Unger
- 20 Pat Wilson
- 22 Anita Cooper and Betty Gunnoe
- 24 Rick Frye
- 29 Damien Pierce Unger





Rejoice!

Christ is Born



Otterbein United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 2378
Martinsburg, WV 25402

The Spirit of Otterbein
December 2020