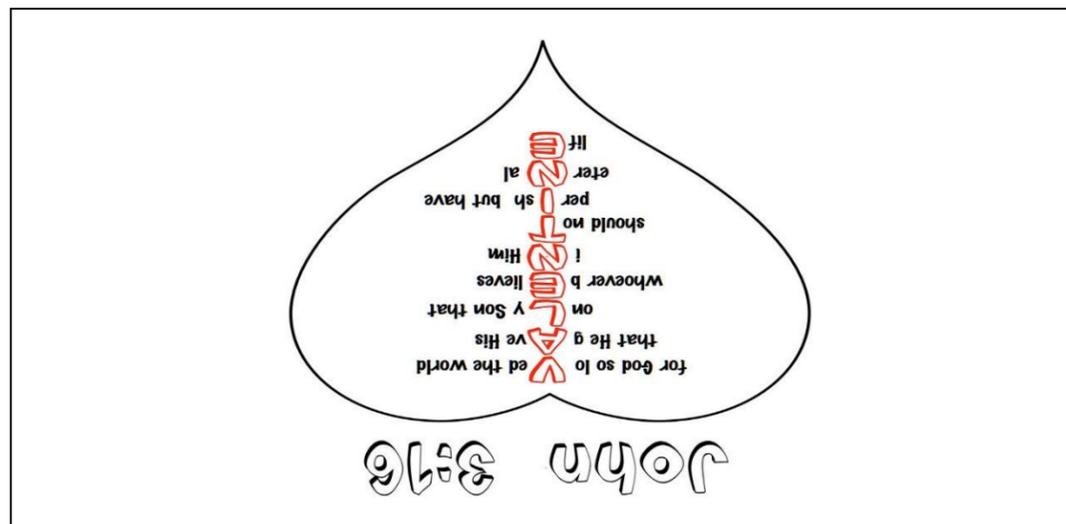


The *Spirit* of Otterbein

FEBRUARY 2020



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

The Spirit of Otterbein

FEBRUARY 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

L.O.V.E. REPORT

Our Church Council held a lively retreat on January 20th to start our year of serving Christ together. We discussed the calendar for the year ahead, the agenda for our meetings, and the timing of our work together. We also are going to add into our regular Council agenda a L.O.V.E. Report. Now I know it's February and your mind's eye is seeing hearts at the title L.O.V.E. Report!!! We are not referring to that kind of love. So, let me take this opportunity to define what we're talking about.

The acronym is shorthand for: Living Our Vows Exceptionally (L.O.V.E.) The vows we refer to here are those vows that we reaffirmed at our service on the second Sunday of January when we as a congregation reaffirmed our baptismal and membership vows. The L.O.V.E. Report is a brief time in our Council meetings where we will lift-up the examples in our congregation of where we see members living out their vows to support our church by their:

- Prayers
- Presence
- Gifts
- Service
- Witness

Let's all focus on living out these vows and fill the L.O.V.E. Report with examples and the world with love in Christ's name.

In Christ's love,

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. Note that it is very difficult to give you my full attention for extended conversations on Sunday mornings. Text or call 443-510-3308.

P.P.P.S. For those scheduling church meetings or events, always check with Donna Hall, 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. For those planning for the months ahead, I am in an online clergy continuing education program on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. January 8 through February 5 and will be unable to attend meetings or events on those nights.

Out and About with the Pastor

Your Pastor is out and about in your community and church members and friends have been enjoying gathering at the various venues. For the month of February, the pastor will be out:

- At Long John Silvers on Edwin Miller Blvd. on February 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Movie of the Month

If you've seen the movie *Harriett* plan to join our discussion on February 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at Panera Bread on Foxcroft Avenue.

Baptisms and Memberships

Interested in Baptism and/or Membership? We will be celebrating baptisms and receiving new members again soon. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or a family member or if you are ready to become part of the congregation of Otterbein United Methodist Church, please speak to Pastor Patricia.

- ✓ Please note that changes to your membership status (transfer to another United Methodist Church, to another denomination, or withdrawal of membership) must be submitted in writing so that records can be properly updated.

Weddings, Funerals, and Memorial Services

Please contact Pastor Patricia if you would like her to officiate so that the day and time can be coordinated, and planning session(s) can be scheduled and if desired the church can be reserved for the event.

Young Adult Konnection

Our young adults from age **18 to 39ish** we are taking a mid-winter break

Read and Reflect Book Bunch

We are reading along with the Community Lenten Services and our text is *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. Attend the Wednesday evening Community Lenten services at 7:00 p.m. to enhance your reading.

Many Hands Make More Music!!

If you can count, you can learn to play tone chimes. You don't need to have any experience and you don't need to read music. Everything you need to know to play in our tone chime choir will be taught to you in fun and friendly rehearsals by our director, Pierce Unger.

Come to a practice on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. or contact Pierce Unger or any tone chime ringer if you want more information. We look forward to having you join the fun!!!

Welcome to Our New Members!!!

We are delighted to welcome to our congregation:

- ❖ Dwight and Gina Neal
- ❖ Cole Goddard

Please take the opportunity to greet them and get acquainted.

Snowtices: 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.

Pastor's Vacation: Pastor Patricia will be away Saturday, February 8th through Friday, February 21st. Should you require emergency pastoral care during that time, please contact Donna Hall in the church office during normal church office hours and after hours, contact Pat Fleming, SPRC Chairperson, who can contact the pastor covering for her in her absence.

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS

Please Remember the Homeless this month by donating to our Blessing Box. We're always in need of personal hygiene items, especially small travel size, and hand and feet warmers. This month we're focusing on re-stocking our ready-to-eat food supply. Consider donating the following:

- Tuna pouches
- Pull tab fruit cup or applesauce
- Chicken salad kits
- Non-refrigerated boxes of milk or juice
- Individual cereal boxes
- Protein or breakfast bars
- Snack crackers
- Individual boxes of raisins
- Any prepared food that doesn't require heating or utensils.

Did you know that you can contribute to the Blessing Box at any time? You don't have to bring it into the church. Simply put your offerings in the box whenever you're at the church. By pitching in throughout the week, the box will be filled more often. As the sign on the box says, "Take what you need; Leave what you can." Let your friends and family know that they can donate to the box anytime, too.



Sister ACTS – Book & Puzzle Sale

Sister ACTS will host a book and puzzle swap at their meeting on March 21st. All ladies and their friends are welcome to attend. After the meeting, the church doors will open to the public to purchase any remaining books and puzzles. The money raised will go toward Otterbein's Blessing Box to purchase things like rain ponchos, Mylar emergency blankets, and anything else needed. So, clean off your shelves, root through your closets, and empty your attic of any unwanted books and puzzles. Drop them on the stage before March 21st.

Worship Watch

11:00 a.m.

B.L.E.N.D. Worship Service

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

“The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” - DeAnn Hollis

To be a part of building the local church is an immense privilege. One way that everyone can be involved in this is through volunteering. I believe there are four aspects volunteering that everyone should take to heart. The first is that volunteering is about **service**. Serving other people is ultimately what volunteering comes down to. It's not about becoming well-known or “*climbing the ladder*.” The heart of volunteering is that it's all about loving people, serving people, and investing into their lives. The second is that volunteering often requires us to **sacrifice** something. We choose to sacrifice our time, energy, and sometimes even our finances – but it's something we *choose* to do out of a love for Jesus, people, and the church. Volunteering unlocks the **potential** that God places on peoples' lives. From creativity to leadership to administration, God has given different gifts and talents in each and every one of us. Volunteering allows us to discover what it is that God has placed on our lives. And finally volunteering becomes **family**. Over time, the community that you volunteer with becomes family to you. The Church has a big vision, and through volunteering, you can work alongside like-minded people in making this vision a reality. Volunteering allows you to be a part of something so much bigger than yourself! As leaders, let's not make volunteering simply about doing tasks, but encourage people to do life together – to become family. Care for your team. Love them, catch up with them, celebrate with them, and honor them.

I ask this month that you take a moment to look inside your heart and pray on what God maybe calling you to do. If you believe you may have a calling or talent you are willing to share please let us know as we have many opportunities within the church to share such gifts.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

<i>Season of Epiphany</i>	
DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
February 2, 2020	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ? Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ? Sermon: <i>Foolishness and Wisdom</i> ? Celebration of Holy Communion
February 9, 2020	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany • Guest Speaker: Gary Mason
February 16, 2020	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany • Guest Speaker: Sheril Merki
February 23, 2020	Transfiguration of the Lord ? Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9 ? Sermon: <i>Light and Shadows</i>

LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 26TH

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

ST. LUKE'S UMC @ 7:00 p.m.

<i>Community Lenten Services</i>			
<i>Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m. with Concurrent Program for Children under Age 12</i>			
<i>Based On “The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life” by Adam Hamilton</i>			
DATE	LOCATION	PREACHER	TOPIC
February 26, 2020	St. Luke's UMC	Rev. Lynn Wilson	Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah
March 4, 2020	Trinity UMC	Rev. Ed Hall	Study: Listening and Paying Attention
March 11, 2020	St Luke's UMC	Ms. Kay Barkwill	Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me
March 18, 2020	Calvary UMC	Rev. Ken Walker	Give: Where Your Treasure Is
March 25, 2020	Otterbein UMC	Rev. Mike Cantley	Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light
April 1, 2020	Mt. Zion UMC	Rev. Patricia Sebring	The Five Practices from the Cross

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 5, 2020

Easter – April 12, 2020

5 Ways To Be A Blessing To Others
by The Praying Woman

When you feel down and depressed, take your eyes off your own situation and set them on those around you. It may be hard to do, but I've learned that the best way to forget your own 'problems' is to help someone else with theirs.

Notice the needs of those God has set in your path. Pray about ways of solving someone else's problems. Pray to be a source of constant encouragement and a blessing to others.

There is good in every darkness, and there are countless ways we're given the chance to help. How do we do this? We lift others up. We compliment them. We let them know we love them.

"It's not enough to simply feel love. We have to show it. We have to express it. Love is not love until we give it away...and we should be giving it away at every opportunity."

Here are 5 ways to be a blessing to others:

1. Pray For Someone.

Talking to God on another's behalf can move major mountains. We can be pretty selfish sometimes when it comes to prayer.

It is not uncommon for our personal prayers to be quite self-centered. Interceding for others forces us to take our minds off of ourselves and turn them to others.

2. Just listen.

Sometimes all someone needs is for someone else to listen to them. They just need someone to talk to and confide in. Someone who will listen without judging.

You'd be surprised to know how many people take their own lives each year because they feel so alone, hopeless, or misunderstood.

3. Offer words of encouragement.

Simply encouraging others to keep on keeping on can be more of a help than you might think.

There is not a day that goes by that we couldn't benefit from some encouragement. Some days more than others. Sometimes we just need to hear someone else say "It's going to be alright".

4. Give.

Know someone in a financial crisis? Give a financial gift. Of course prayer works and sure you can sit and listen to their problems all day, but if you are able, do more than that. Give!

God's blessings to us are not meant to end with us. His desire is that they filter down to others. This principle applies in all areas of our lives, including finances.

Fundraising, Donating funds, or new/used goods can go a long way. What may be pennies to you, may be a meal for someone else.

What may be trash to you, may be someone else's treasure. Don't let the size of your gift keep you from giving. The most important thing is that you give from your heart.

5. Volunteer.

With budget cuts, now more than ever volunteers are needed in every area. Orphanages, Senior citizen homes, Homeless shelters ... can all use a helping hand.

It won't cost you a thing. Just an hour or two of your time will make an impact on someone for a lifetime.

Just look at His extravagant promise "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed" (emphasis added).

Now, that's a verse to claim as your own! Sharing our blessings with others will never lead to deprivation.

In fact, the Lord promises to increase the harvest of our righteousness and enrich us in everything in response to our generosity. We can never out-give God.

A hoarded blessing is never enjoyed as richly as a shared one. Using your gift to meet someone else's need glorifies God by demonstrating His grace at work in your life.

Don't let His generous provisions end with you. Pass them on and discover the joy of a never-ending cycle of blessings.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:16

2 Steve Cronk

6 Laura Ann Gunnoe

7 Lydia McBee

8 Sandy Davis

10 Theoda Becker

11 Rosemary Hammersla

13 Kevin Lancaster

22 Olivia Sagior

28 Eddie Becker



FOR THE RECORD
JANUARY 2020

ATTENDANCE:

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP SERVICE
Jan 5	34	78
Jan 12	37	68
Jan 19	42	72
Jan 26	43	80

OFFERING:

	SUNDAY SCHOOL	REGULAR OFFERING	SPECIALS:
Jan 5	\$22.00	\$6,233.00	\$ 91.00
Jan 12	\$69.00	\$3,412.00	\$240.00
Jan 19	\$53.00	\$3,622.00	\$425.00
Jan 26	\$60.00	\$1,601.00	\$ 77.00

BUILDING FUND GIVING:

Jan 5	\$1,065.00
Jan 12	\$ 320.00
Jan 19	\$ 345.00
Jan 26	\$ 130.00

PRAYER FOR HEALING, PRESENCE, AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN THE CHURCH.

Prayer Concerns

FEBRUARY 2020

Weekly Servants for February:

Lay Readers:

Feb 2: Sandy Davis
 Feb 9: Jean Fulk
 Feb 16: Charla Frye
 Feb 23: Linda Sponaugle

Nursery:

Feb 2: Maya Ulman
 Feb 9: Steve Roach
 Feb 16: Vicki & Gary Mason
 Feb 23: Chelsea Payton

Children's Messenger:

Feb 2: Chelsea Payton
 Feb 9: Chelsea Payton
 Feb 16: Chelsea Payton
 Feb 23: Pastor Patricia

Ushers:

Feb 2: Men
 Feb 9: Seekers
 Feb 16: Newcomers
 Feb 23: Ladies



Greeters: Gruver-Men's Class

Publicize 2nd Sunday Emergency Food/Supplies for CCAP: Seekers Class

We have received Thank You's from the following:

- CCAP/Loaves & Fishes for donating \$1,010 in December
- CCAP/Loaves & Fishes for donating 36.4 pounds of food in December
- Tri-County Pastoral Counseling Services for donating \$250 in July and November
- Martinsburg Rescue Mission for miscellaneous donations

IMMEDIATE:

Jack & Betty Allen
 Terry Bowers
 Linda Brining
 Ralph Brining
 Sharon Burns
 Jenny Butler
 Mike Emery
 Lars Lilienthal
 Sharon Lynche
 Captain Jack Overton
 Julie Shallis
 Janice Shipe
 Mike Shipe
 Christine & Devon
 Nancy Warrenfeltz

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
 Jaxon Milburn
 Charlotte Shade
 Betty Ann Keiter Tabler

MAKING PROGRESS

Wilma Moore
 Michael Callahan

MILITARY MEMBERS

Joshua Brining
 Nick Foster
 Brett Richards
 Christopher Riser

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
 Sally Hefflee
 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

Drug Addiction Epidemic
 Our Military & Families
 Families who lost jobs
 Youth & Family
 Homeless
 Families with marital problems
 US Congress
 Immigration problem
 The Middle East
 Parkinson Support Group
 Families touched by violence & terrorism
 CCAP/Loaves and Fishes
 Victims of violence against children
 Families who lost a loved one
 National, State, & Community Leaders
 Police officers
 Health care workers
 Children's Ministry
 Unity in the spirit of our Nation

RESIDENTS

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
 Albemarle Health & Rehab Center
 1540 Founders Place, Room 216
 Charlottesville, VA 22902

SYMPATHY: *We extend our sympathy, thoughts and prayers to the friends and families of:*

** June Gano
 * Donald Zepp*

PRAYER CHAIN MEMBERS

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

Prayer Chain will have its next meeting on Monday, Feb 17th at 10:00A.M.

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Private Party 4-6pm Assembly Room
2 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. B.L.E.N.D. Worship	3 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting	4 5:00 p.m. Pastor's Out & About at Long John Silvers 7:00 p.m. Tone Chimes 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	5	6 6:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls	7	8 10:00 a.m. Sister ACTS with Pastor Tom Smith
9 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. B.L.E.N.D. Worship	10	11 7:00 p.m. Tone Chimes 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	12	13 6:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15
16 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. B.L.E.N.D. Worship	17 10:00 Prayer Chain	18 7:00 p.m. Tone Chimes 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	19	20 6:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls	21	22 Private Party 12-4 Downstairs Kitchen
23 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. B.L.E.N.D. Worship	24	25 5:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Tone Chimes 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	26 LENT BEGINS Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC	27 6:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls	28	29