

## ***Pastor's Message*** by Rev. Bruce Fensterbush

George Barna wrote a book a few years ago entitled ***Rechurched the Unchurched***. It contained some very interesting facts about folks we would commonly refer to as “unchurched” or “non-Christian.” For instance, Barna’s research indicated that

- Less than 5% of the 7,000 people surveyed said they would go to a church because of its programs or ministry.
- 2 out of 3 people said that the **number one** reason they would keep attending a church was the openness and friendliness of the people.
- Of those surveyed, most said they would be more likely to return to a church if invited by a **friend**, not the pastor.

That last one really caught my attention. I’ve often heard it said that people might come to a church once to hear a pastor preach but they will only stay if they find community. It seems that Barna’s research supports this old saying.

Pastor and church consultant Bill Easum commented on Barna’s findings saying that if he (Easum) were to return to full-time pastoral ministry, he would spend far more time emphasizing the “Bring A Friend Concept” than he ever did before. He wouldn’t turn it into a program but, instead, build it into the fabric or the DNA of the church. He even suggested that he might make it a part of the membership process – you can’t become a member of the church until you’ve brought a friend! I’m not quite sure I could get away with that here at Otterbein...but it is tempting.

In the twenty neighborhood gatherings we conducted last fall, my wife and I met over 215 Otterbein members and friends. During those visits, one of the questions I asked was “What brought you to Otterbein?” You might be surprised to know that the most popular answer to that question was ***“A friend invited me.”*** The second most popular answer was ***“I was born into the church.”*** A few people mentioned a previous pastor but, for the most part, the majority of our members came to Otterbein at the invitation of a friend!

When was the last time you brought a friend to church? Or Sunday School? Or Youth Group? Or a Bible Study? Or?

Do you know anyone who is a “non-Christian” or maybe just doesn’t have a church home? Or maybe someone that used to go to church but doesn’t any more. Perhaps in your neighborhood, at work, at school, or even in your family?

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## *Christian Education News*

**Adult Sunday School Classes** – New class members are always welcome! Please do not think you have to wait for a new study to join! Check out all the classes until you find a class just right for you. Classes meet from 10:10 to 11:00 every Sunday morning.

**L.I.F.E. Living in Faith Everyday Adult Class** (Room 12/13 in the gym area)

**Format of class:** *Life Application Discussion/DVD*

**Leader:** Heather Housel

**Current Study: When God Doesn't Fix It: Learning to Walk in God's Plans Instead of Our Own**

by Laura Story

In this five-session curriculum, Laura examines the twists and turns that took place not only in her life but also in the lives of many of the heroes of the faith. She reveals how God used crises in the lives of people such as Abraham, Sarah, David and Paul to bring them closer to him and set them on the path he wanted them to take. She also shows how God used each of these individuals in spite of their flaws and brokenness. God may not fix everything in our lives. In fact, our situation might not ever change or get better. But we can know that God will lead us to a place where *we are better* because of it.

**B.A.S.I.C. Brothers and Sisters in Christ Adult Class** (Room 8)

**Format of class:** *Discussion/DVD*

**Leader:** Harry Owens

**Current Study: Irresistible** by Andy Stanley

Once upon a time there existed a version of our faith worth living and dying for, something the world found irresistible. Men and women pursued it at the risk of persecution, job loss, and eviction from their homes, temples, and society. What if we actually followed their lead? Perhaps it would change how we read the Bible? Perhaps it would help us understand our own faith and what we believe? Perhaps we would change the world again?

In *Irresistible*, pastor and author Andy Stanley shows how distortions of the gospel have left us with an anemic version of Christianity that undermines our credibility and our evangelistic effectiveness. He takes readers on a fascinating journey back in time to recover a faith so rich, so dynamic, so disruptive, that it could not be ignored, marginalized, or eradicated. Rather than working harder to make Christianity more interesting, we need to recover what once made faith in Jesus irresistible to the world.

**Loyal Bible Adult Class** (Room 9/10)

**Format of class:** *Lecture*

**Leader:** Rotating Leaders – See Wayne Schwartz for details

**Current Study: The International Uniform Series** believes the Bible is the record of God in Christ, the key resource for understanding the Christian faith, being under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of His Spirit. This fall quarter is concentrated on the theme God's World and God's People in the Old Testament and study Scripture passages from Genesis.

## *Children's Activities* by Connie Vail

Thanks to all the kids who participated in the Christmas Eve worship service and the children's pageant. All your smiles, singing and acting made for quite a celebration. Thanks also to Christine Smith for co-directing and Julie Vail for being our narrator.

### Children's Day

Children's Day is coming March 31<sup>st</sup>. All children are welcome to participate in the 9 am service in the sanctuary. Our plan this year is to study stories about the apostle Peter during children's church and Sunday school in February and March, create a slide show of what we learned and show it on March 31<sup>st</sup> along with some special music.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Looking ahead, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will combine our treasures with The Bright Beginnings Day Care, Don't be late! Donations of wrapped candy, small toys, stickers, etc. or prizes will be greatly appreciated. Any help with stuffing the eggs or hiding them would also be eggceedingly eggcellent! Check the weekly bulletin for updates as we get closer to Easter.

Children's Church is for children ages 4 thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children are dismissed from the worship services usually around 9:30 am and meet in room 5 for Bible stories and activities.

Children's choir practices every Sunday at 10:00 am in the choir room and performs in both the sanctuary and The Gathering every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. See the schedule on the bulletin board outside room 5 for any changes in March or April due to Children's Day and Easter. Choir director is Susan Durham.

Sunday school meets in room 5 after choir practice usually around 10:15 am till 11:00 am with Bible stories and activities from the *Hands-On-Bible* curriculum.

The nursery is staffed with 2 experienced helpers every Sunday from 8:30 am to 11:00 am for infants and children up to age 3.

Extra help is always needed for all the children's programs we have at Otterbein, please consider helping in any way. Clearances are required for safety, but are easy to obtain and are free.



## *News & Notes*

**MS Support Group** meets on the following Mondays at 6:30 pm in the church library – February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Administrative Council** is scheduled to meet on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in room 8. The meeting minutes and other handouts will be emailed to council members prior to the meeting.

**Blood Pressure Screenings** are the first Sunday of the month at 10:10 am in the cry room.

**Church Leadership for 2019**: The complete listing of church officers and committee members for 2019 is posted on the bulletin board by the office and in the narthex. Welcome to our new members and Welcome Back to our returning volunteers. Thank you to everyone willing to share your time and talents.

**2019 Offering Envelopes** are available in the narthex for folks who usually attend the sanctuary worship service and on the table in the gym for folks who usually attend The Gathering worship service. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like to, please contact the church office.

**2018 Financial Statements** are available. Please see Hattie or Russ Ogle on Sunday mornings or contact the church office to have your statement mailed to you.

**Cash for Causes Fundraiser**: We are participating in Giant Food Stores "*Cash for Causes*" community fundraising program, as well as the Karns Gift Card Community fundraiser program. For each gift card we sell, we keep 5% to use as we choose. Cards are available in \$25 and \$50 amounts. Otterbein has decided to use the money to purchase equipment for the church. Gift cards are to be used for everyday purchases like groceries and gas. They are available for purchase the first Sunday of the month in the narthex and anytime during the week in the office. This is a great fundraising opportunity for us. So far, we have raised over \$7,400.

**Seniors/Singles Group** Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at Hickory Ridge Restaurant and Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at a location TBD. Contact Betty Bennett at 717-245-0618 with questions.

**Scripture Readers Needed** Pastor Bruce is looking for individuals to read scripture during the sanctuary service on Sunday mornings. If you would like to serve God and Otterbein Church in this way, please contact the church office. You will be contacted the week you are scheduled to read and given the scriptures ahead of time so you can rehearse the readings.

**Scout Sunday** is February 10<sup>th</sup> in the 9:00 am sanctuary worship service.

**Pioneer Girls Sunday** is February 17<sup>th</sup> in the 9:00 am Gathering worship service.

**Holiday Office Hours**. The office and daycare will be closed on President's Day – Monday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service** is March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Mt. Zion in Churchtown.

## *United Methodist Women* by Alice Franklin

January meeting allowed the United Methodist Women to plan for 2019 and secure some dates for their various fundraisers and events. The first fundraiser is set for Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> when the women will meet in the kitchen at 8 AM and bake cherry pies in honor of President's Day. Sign-up sheets to order a pie are in the hallway by the office and in the gymnasium. Pies are \$7.00 each and can be paid for when you pick up your pies. Pies will be ready for pick-up from noon to 1pm or 4-5 pm at the church.

Time for CHICKEN POT PIE! On Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> the ladies will meet at 8 am in the church kitchen and begin the task of making homemade chicken pot pie. Please consider coming to help with this labor intense process and truly benefitting from great fellowship. By noon, Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the pot pie will be ready for pickup, \$6.00 a quart.

Please consider attending our monthly meetings the second Tuesday of the month. This year our February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Room 8 at 7 pm and open to all women who attend Otterbein. Each month we give to mission projects locally, nationally, or internationally and would be so happy to have you join our group.

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## *Pastor's Message* (continued from page 1)

If so (and I'm sure you can think of at least one person) I'd like to challenge you to begin praying for them on a regular basis, starting today. Then, sometime in the next few weeks, invite them to come along with you to worship or some other Otterbein activity. If they agree to come, perhaps you could even offer to bring them or, at the very least, meet them at the entrance and accompany them while they are here. You may be the only person that has ever invited them to come to church. Who knows, maybe one day if some pastor asks them, "What brought you to Otterbein?" they might just say YOU!

I look forward to welcoming all your friends in the coming weeks. Oh...and it will be good to see you too!

Till next time...

*Pastor Bruce*

## *Volunteers for February & March*

### Ushers

**9:00 Service – February:** Rick Singiser, captain, Vic Barnes, Doug Fickel, Doug Hair, Joel Hiles, Hattie Ogle, Harry Owens, Joe Shughart

**9:00 Service – March:** Gary Morrow, captain, Steve Bear, Lee Calaman, Jeff Ham, Von Jaymes, Scott Morrow, Bob Noggle, Ron Tanger

### Mailbox Reminder

All committee chairs are reminded to check the mailboxes in the library weekly for correspondence.

Don't forget your canned fruit for Project SHARE. Our monthly goal is 100 cans. There are containers in the narthex and in the gym. The monthly deadlines are as follows:  
Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Sunday Morning Worship Services:

Worship Services are every Sunday morning at 9:00 am. The traditional worship service is in the sanctuary and the contemporary worship service, called The Gathering, is in the gym. Our *Soul Café*, located in the gym and offering coffee and baked goods, is open prior to the 9:00 am worship service and briefly following the worship service. ***Donations of baked goods are always appreciated.*** Please see Wendy Wickard with questions or to volunteer to help.

Sunday School for all ages is from 10:10 am until 11:00 am all year long.

### Weather related cancellation of Worship Services:

If we need to cancel worship services because of severe winter weather, we will post this information on our website: [www.ottumc.org](http://www.ottumc.org) and will contact the local TV stations (ABC 27, CBS 21 and WGAL 8). An email will also be sent from the church office (as long as we have your email address!!) Please see the article in this newsletter about providing your email address to us for communication purposes.

### *Altar Flowers*

Feb. 3 Harry & Janet Lay  
Feb. 10 Jim & Marcia Compton  
Feb. 17 Jerry & Doris Hiler  
Feb. 24 Richard & Patti Johnson

March 3 Linda Roher  
March 10 Myrna Minnich  
March 17 Gerald & Donna Paden  
March 24 Nancy Foster  
March 31 Dan & Justine Monken

Flowers come from Georges' Flowers. Please call them directly at 717-243-2626 with special requests. The cost per Sunday is \$44 plus tax, billed directly from Georges' Flowers (price is for 2017).

## OTTERBEIN Updates

**Receive “Otterbein Updates” via email** – We currently have some email addresses for those who attend Otterbein and we are looking for more. A new system is being put in place to improve how we can, from time to time, send news and updates out by email. If you are currently receiving messages from Otterbein, we already have your address. For

those that would like to be added to this list, there are several ways you can subscribe to this service. We will have signup forms on the website ([www.ottumc.org](http://www.ottumc.org)) and on the Otterbein.UMC.Carlisle facebook page. Opportunity to subscribe will also be made available at our welcome stations. Submitted email addresses will be appropriately treated as private information and, if after trying this service you find this is not for you, there is the option to *opt out* at any time. Please consider adding your preferred email address to our list – we would like to keep you in the loop for what is going on at Otterbein.

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### *Pastor Bruce’s Speaking Schedule*

Feb. 3	Sanctuary	Allegra Juday in The Gathering
Feb. 10	Sanctuary	Brendan Warren in The Gathering
Feb. 17	On Vacation	Rev. Barry Robison, District Superintendent, in the sanctuary
Feb. 24	The Gathering	Rev. Dave Reed in the sanctuary
March 3	Sanctuary	
March 10	Sanctuary	
March 17	The Gathering	Rev. Kevin Hughes in the sanctuary
March 24	Sanctuary	
March 31	Sanctuary	Combined 9 am worship service in the sanctuary. Followed by a Rise Against Hunger food packing event.

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### *Call for New Members*

We will be receiving new members at both services on Pentecost Sunday which, this year, is June 9<sup>th</sup>. A four-week New Member Orientation Class will be offered during the Sunday School Hour each Sunday in May for anyone interested in joining the church or just finding out more about the ministries of Otterbein. If you are interested in becoming a member or would just like to be a part of the class, please contact Leslie in the church office.

## ***Bright Beginnings Child Care of Carlisle***

Hello from BBCCC and Happy New Year to All!

BBCCC celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> birthday in January and we are so excited to reflect back on the past 5 years of blessings here in our center. We have approximately 75 children enrolled on an average day with numbers increasing for the summer months. As our college students head back to class for the Spring semester, we are looking to hire an additional before and after school age teacher to accommodate the large class. We are looking to hire an additional toddler teacher to accommodate additional little ones on our waiting list for that age group.

Speaking of waiting lists – BBCCC has a lengthy waiting list in most classrooms, but especially the 2 ½ –year–old room and before/after school program. If you are aware of anyone looking for full time or part time employment, please have them submit a resume to me at [khudson@otterbeinumccarlisle.org](mailto:khudson@otterbeinumccarlisle.org) or call me at 717-258-8216 x 3. All applicants must have a minimum 2 years working with children and provide all clearances and an updated physical. Applicants with an Associates degree or higher in ECE or related field are preferred.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas program was a huge success with about 350 people in attendance. It sure was beautiful to see the church full of so many daycare families coming to watch a celebration of their children's hard work. As we look ahead to the spring months, we will once again be having an Easter egg hunt in coordination with the church on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Lifetouch will also be at the center photographing the kids for Spring pictures. Vision Resources will come again to perform free eye exams for the children.

Saying thank you certainly doesn't seem to be enough to the continued donations our center still receives, but please know we truly appreciate all the church members who randomly drop in with craft items, toys and snacks with a smiling face! Thermal laminating sheets, glue sticks, chubby paint brushes, sidewalk chalk, and healthy snacks and drinks are always in need!

Our new play yard continues to bring lots of excitement for the kids as they are able to use it year round when mother nature permits!

As always, if anyone is interested in volunteering, please see Miss Kim for details as background clearances and physicals are needed. The kids love having visitors as well, please stop in anytime to say hello!





## *Youth Ministries* by Megan Wilson

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** the Youth Group will be hosting a Family Dinner & Movie Night from 5:30–8:00! The cost is only \$10 per family.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** the Youth Group will be having another Date Night: Babysitting event from 6–8:30 pm.

**Beginning in February** the Youth Group will be starting a mid-week gathering called “Talk Times”. They will be held every Tuesday in February and March from 6:30–8 pm. The locations are TBD. If you have or know of youth that cannot come to our Sunday night gatherings but would like to be a part of the “Talk Times”, please contact Megan Wilson for more details.

**Mark Your Calendars!** Otterbein Youth will be hosting a Dinner Theatre on March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5–7pm. Tickets will be \$10 per person. Dinner and entertainment will be provided by Otterbein Youth. Be on the lookout for more information.

**Are you a graduating senior in high school or college?** If so, we would like to recognize your accomplishment here at Otterbein! On Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00–7:00 we will be having a senior recognition dinner for you and your family. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office or [youth@otterbeinumccarlisle.org](mailto:youth@otterbeinumccarlisle.org) by April 7<sup>th</sup>. Also, we will be recognizing seniors in our Sunday morning services on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

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### *“Heaven” Bible Study* – leader is David Fincher

**Starts:** Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

**Sessions:** Six (6) Once per week on Tuesdays

**Times:** Begins at 6:30 pm ends 8:00 pm

**Location:** Meeting in Room 8. ***A SIGN-UP SHEET IS POSTED ON THE LIBRARY WINDOW***

Description of Study: For nearly 15 years Randy Alcorn has been inviting readers to bring their questions regarding eternity to the scripture, study what God says there, and imagine together what Heaven will be like. In this companion to the best-selling book, the author encourages and guides small groups and individuals, who are searching, mourning, hurting, or helping to set aside time to fix our eyes on Heaven and reflect on the hope we have.

In Six Sessions, we will:

1. Examine God's promises to find out what they tell us about eternity
2. Dig into scripture to discover concrete foundations for peace about the future
3. Consider how insights about Heaven can shape what we do right now

Attendees will need to bring their Bible. Study Guide Handout copies will be provided.

## *Thank You Notes to Otterbein*

We received Thank You notes from the following local organizations for our ongoing support (paid quarterly): Mission Central, Community CARES, Project SHARE, Samaritan Fellowship, Safe Harbour, Salvation Army, United Methodist Home for Children.

“Dear Pastor Bruce & Otterbein Church Family – Thank you for your cards, calls and messages we received since our mother’s passing. We know she is with dad. A place she has longed to be since 1973. Special thanks to Steve & Keevin for the video support. Pat for her skillful playing of the organ. The Funeral Luncheon Committee and Pastor Bruce. You pulled it all together and provided mother with a service that is worthy for her move on to her next home. Thanks Again.” – The Family of Jane Clepper.

“To Otterbein Family – Thanks to everyone for the support shown to me, during my long hospital and rehabilitation stay. Your prayers, cards and visitations were greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Joe for his many uplifting visits. With warm appreciation for your kindness.” – Carolyn Bear

“Dear Pastor Bruce and Otterbein Family – We’d like to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers during the illness and passing of our beloved son, Dale.” – Harry & Janet Lay & Family

“Church Family – Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, flowers and visits. Special thank you to Pastor Bruce for visiting me in Hershey Medical Center. I am getting better each day. Please pray for the 18-year-old girl who hit us. She was charged with DUI – alcohol and marijuana. May she realize that she needs to change her path in life.” – In Christian Love, Kim McCoy

“Otterbein Church Family – There are no adequate words to express our appreciation for all the support you have shown us the last 5 plus years of my ovarian cancer journey. You have blessed us with prayers, food, flowers, visits, phone calls and lots of hugs. Thank you! Keep the prayers coming and the love you share. Otterbein is a bright light in our household and to our community. God Bless.” – All our Love, Jennifer & James Grove & Family

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## *Job Posting – Director of Children’s Ministries*

After six years of dedicated service, Connie Vail will be stepping down as our Director of Children’s Ministry. We thank Connie for all that she has done to teach our little ones about Jesus. She will be missed on staff and by all the volunteers who have worked with her.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is now accepting applications for Connie’s successor. Interested parties are invited to pick up a job description and employment application in the church office. Please return the completed application to the church office, Attention: Eric Behrenshausen (2019 SPRC Chair), by Sunday, February 24, 2019. The successful applicant will be required to complete FBI, Children and Youth and State Police background checks.

## ***Music Rehearsal Schedule***

Celebration Winds: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 10:15 am

Children's Choir: Sundays 10:00 am

Lumina Worship: Sundays 3-5 pm

Bells of Otterbein: Mondays 6:30 pm

Adult Choir: Sundays 8:30 am and  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Youth Choir: Sundays 10:00 am

Please contact choir and band directors for  
more information.

## ***Speakers for The Gathering***

Contemporary Worship Service, 9:00 am in the gym

Feb. 3 Allegra Juday, His House

Feb. 10 Brendan Warren, Lumina

Feb. 17 TBD, His House and  
Children & Youth Choirs

Feb. 24 Rev. Bruce Fensterbush, Lumina

March 3 TBD, His House

March 10 TBD, Lumina

March 17 Rev. Bruce Fensterbush, His House  
and Youth Choir

March 24 TBD, Lumina

March 31 Combined worship service in the  
sanctuary, followed by a  
Rise Against Hunger food packing  
event

## ***Sunday Sanctuary Musical Performances***

Sanctuary Worship Services 9:00 am and 11:15 am

Feb. 3 Celebration Winds, directed by Harold Edwards

Feb. 10 Adult Choir, directed by Andrew Vensel

Feb. 17 Children & Youth Choirs, directed by Susan Durham

Feb. 24 Bells of Otterbein, directed by Tammy Ham

March 3 Celebration Winds, directed by Harold Edwards

March 10 Adult Choir, directed by Andrew Vensel

March 17 Youth Choir, directed by Susan Durham

March 24 Bells of Otterbein, directed by Tammy Ham

March 31 Children's Sunday (combined 9 am worship service in the sanctuary)

Followed by Rise Against Hunger food packing event

## ***"Hoops, Scoops and Cake for Everyone"***

Missions Fundraiser

March can be a dreary time of year...so how about joining the Mission Committee for some fun and fellowship on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>! Doors will open @ 1:45 pm and the activities will begin @ 2:00. This 2-hour event is programmed for the entire family and all adults are welcome! No need to worry, if you don't have any kids...you're invited, too! Dress is casual, sneakers are required, and you need to let your hair hang down...that is if you still have hair!



We have an afternoon filled with basketball contests, an Ice Cream Social and a Specialty Cake Auction. Attendance and participation is free, but we urge you to come prepared! Bring your appetite and don't forget to bring some cash or your checkbook...we will accept donations toward the Ice Cream Social and we hope you'll participate in the Cake Auction, as well. All funds collected at this event will be used to help offset the costs of Otterbein UMC Teens and Adults, who will be participating in the (2019) upcoming Mission Trips. Information about these Mission Trips will be available the day of the event and we urge you to stop by, talk to one of the Mission Committee Members and look at your schedule! We'd love to have you join us for one of our Trips—**Red Bird Mission, Beverly, KY; Tangier Island, VA and/or Wrightsville Beach, NC.**

**We want to put all creative & passionate Bakers on notice!** We need you to show your STUFF! Start looking at your recipes NOW and plan to bake and donate something fun and interesting! We will have different categories; judging and special recognition for those Bakers who participate. And don't forget we will be looking for Volunteers, an Auctioneer, etc. and we hope you'll consider offering your assistance. Please stay tuned for more information in the Church Bulletins!

**Lead for the Event: Joe Packowski**



## *Missions Updates and Opportunities*

The Missions Committee wants to extend its thanks and appreciation for all your support and special efforts during the past year. Your monetary support, donations of needed clothing, hats, scarves, gloves, personal hygiene items and volunteer time have benefitted not only our local community, but the greater National and Global efforts supported by Otterbein United Methodist Church. Your willingness to share your blessings with others is a great example of how working together can accomplish great things.

**As we move forward in (2019), the Missions Committee would like to hear from you! We urge you to share your thoughts, engage with us and reach out to others. Help us unite and advance the great mission opportunities that exist within our community.**

- **Do you have some special community projects or local organizations that you think Otterbein can help to support?**
- **What is important to you as a member of Otterbein? Can we do more in our local community?**

**Please speak to one of our Committee Members to share your thoughts and hopefully volunteer with us. We are currently looking for more Members and hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us. You are encouraged to attend one of our monthly meetings. In 2019, Mission Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the Library.**

**Committee Members: Beth Helterbran, Chair, John Hackman, Jody Heberlig, Mike Marra, Harry Owens, Kathy Singiser and Pastor Bruce Fensterbush.**

**Fun Missions Facts....**Did you know that throughout the year Otterbein provides financial support for these very important mission opportunities and efforts? They include: UMCOR, Mission Central, United Methodist Home for Children, Helping Haiti Heal, One Great Hour of Sharing, Human Relations Sunday, Outdoor Christian Education, United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, Project SHARE, Samaritan Fellowship, Safe Harbour, Community CARES and the Salvation Army.

**And don't forget that we also supply monthly support to the Missionary Work conducted by:** Red Bird Mission, Kentucky, McCurdy Ministries/School, New Mexico, Deidre Zimmerman- Nepal and Lisa Nichols- Henry Fork Center, Virginia.

## ***Missions Updates and Opportunities*** (continued)

Please review and plan to participate in a few of the following upcoming Mission Opportunities. Imagine yourself getting directly involved by sharing your skills, knowledge and the love of God with others in need. You will be meeting new people from various walks of life, some from other churches but all who feel a calling to take action and do something. Please note that on the Tangier Island trip, Otterbein will be only a small part of a multi-denominational mission experience. Please see which of these might be right for you! ***If you can't decide which trip to choose, maybe you can participate in more than one.***

All interested individuals are invited to attend a **Mission Trip Luncheon, scheduled for Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> @11:30 am in ROOM #8. *Advanced sign-up is required; please reach out to Leslie in the Church Office, as soon as possible.*** There will a presentation from Trent Davis of Servants, Inc. who will outline and discuss the proposed Wrightsville Beach, NC Trip, scheduled for August. In addition, the Red Bird Mission and Tangier Island Trips, scheduled for June, will also be discussed in more detail. We hope to answer questions and solicit some information about your skills, interests, etc. *Please remember that the Missions Committee has scholarship monies, to help offset the costs of the trips, as well.*

### **Red Bird Mission, KY**- Otterbein UMC; Second Year

**Leads: Melanie & John Hackman**

**Dates: June 9 – 15, 2019**

**Numbers: (15)      Adults & Teens welcome**

**Costs: \$375/person**- covers transportation costs, room and board, as well as, the construction materials and supplies needed to complete the projects planned for the week.

**Expected work to be performed/skills needed:** Construction Skills- roofing, decking, wooden fence installation, General Labor- minor building repairs, painting, lawn clean-up, general site clean-up, Thrift Store- unloading trucks, prep work, organizing, etc.

**Red Bird will organize and assign the work projects**

Passenger Van is expected for transport

**Housing: Dormitory Style**

**Registration DEADLINE: March 15, 2019; \$100 Deposit is required**

## *Missions Updates and Opportunities* (continued)

### **Tangier Island, VA**– Multi–Denominational; Third Year

**Lead:** Mike Marra

**Dates:** June 19 –25, 2019

**Numbers:** (5) out a total of (25)      **Adults & Teens welcome**

**Costs:** \$350/person– covers transportation costs, room and board, team t–shirts and the construction materials and supplies needed to complete the projects planned for the week.

**Expected work to be performed/skills needed:** **Construction Skills**– roofing, decking, wooden fence installation, **General Labor**– minor building repairs, painting, lawn clean–up and general site clean–up, **Youth Work, Kitchen Help; Home Visits** to ill and elderly shut–ins

**Projects will be organized in conjunction with Swain UMC located on the Island**

Small Bus is expected for transport

**Housing:** Church Education Building– Bunk Beds

**Registration DEADLINE:** March 15, 2019; \$100 Deposit is required

### **Wrightsville Beach, NC**– Harbor District; First Year

**Lead:** Pastor Bruce & Kit

**Dates:** August 11–17, 2019

**Numbers:** (10–15)      **Adults & Teens welcome**

**Costs:** \$350/person– covers transportation costs, room and board, construction materials and supplies needed to complete the projects planned for the week.

**Expected work to be performed/skills needed:** **Construction Skills**– decking, ramp building, wooden fence installation, **General Labor**– minor building repairs, painting, lawn clean–up and general site clean–up; **Kitchen Help**

**Projects will be organized by Servants, Inc.**

Passenger Van is expected for transport

**Housing:** Dormitory Style

**Registration DEADLINE:** April 15, 2019; \$100 Deposit is required

Please note that we will keep you informed of any changes or modifications, we encounter.

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## *Special General Conference Update*

A Special General Conference has been called for February 23 – 26, 2019. United Methodist Delegates (864) from around the world will meet in St. Louis to discuss legislation concerning the future of the United Methodist Church. This Special General Conference is only the second ever called in the history of the UMC. It has been called to receive proposals from the Commission on a Way Forward (a panel assembled by the Council of Bishops) to formulate plans to settle the 40–year debate in our congregation over human sexuality. Three plans have been submitted to the General Conference by the Commission and several others have been submitted by other groups. For more information you can visit: [susumc.org/wayforward/](http://susumc.org/wayforward/)

## *Otterbein UMC 2018 Year-end Financial Report*

Our total budget for 2018 was \$964,488. That amount included \$646,958 to cover costs and benevolent outreach of the church and \$317,530 to cover the financial needs of our Day Care program.

Total annual income for 2018 was \$1,056,813. Total church expenses were \$683,358 against church income of \$652,588 for a deficit of \$30,770. Day Care expenses were \$318,009 and income totaled \$404,225 or \$86,219 to the good. Note that our Day Care paid their pro-rated share of church utilities and general expenses in addition to tithing over \$19,000 directly toward church mortgage principal.

The 2018 mid-year review reported a mortgage principal balance of \$545,000. At year-end our balance is \$467,245.

The Administrative Council approved a 2019 budget of \$1,078,414 -- \$684,688 of that for the church and the remaining \$393,726 for Day Care. The larger church budget is driven by anticipated costs associated with HVAC unit replacement and by increased employee expenses including a new Coordinator of Lay Ministries. Our Day Care is growing and must hire additional qualified employees to meet that demand. All good things.

In summary: Our financial position is stable but not without concerns. Our annual church expenses outpaced income last year. Even considering that some of the over expenditure can be attributed to our paying more than required against mortgage principal balance, we cannot become complacent. Our Consecration Sunday last October resulted in less than a third of our required income for 2019. None of us could run our family homes that way, but we continually expect to run our church home in that manner. If we each do our part, all will be well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Your Finance Committee



### *From our Trustees*

Three HVAC units were replaced late last year. We have now replaced all of the original HVAC units in the church and gym, with the exception of the two units that cover the sanctuary.

Thank you to Joe Newsome for his years of service as President of Trustees.

Welcome Mark Galbraith as our new President of Trustees.

With the resignation of Kevin Cadigan as softball team manager and coordinator of all activities on the softball field, and no one willing to replace him, we will no longer have an Otterbein softball team and the field will not be maintained as a softball field. We will allow the grass to grow in the infield and will remove the temporary side and outfield fencing. The backstop and benches will remain in place.



## ***Financial Peace University Returns to Otterbein UMC***

*Financial Peace University* will help you take control of your money, plan for your future, and transform your life.

FPU consists of a nine-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey. It incorporates a small-group discussion that encourages accountability and discipleship.

**Dave Ramsey's proven program will teach you how to win with money. You'll learn about master budgeting, saving for Emergencies, paying off debt and other financial aspects.**

Nine video lessons featuring Dave Ramsey, Rachel Cruze, and Chris Hogan. Follow along in your workbook as they teach you:

- Lesson 1: Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget
- Lesson 2: Pay Off All Debt
- Lesson 3: Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund
- Lesson 4: Invest for the Future and Build Wealth
- Lesson 5: Buyer Beware
- Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance
- Lesson 7: Retirement Planning
- Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages
- Lesson 9: Living and Giving Like No One Else

Weekly classes start at Otterbein UMC on Thursday, February 21, at 7 pm. If you have questions, please contact Jim Compton at 717-243-9967. To sign up for the class, go online to <https://pfu.com/0179378> or contact Jim and he can order your workbook for a \$20 discount.

Anyone who has previously attended the FPU class may attend this class without ordering the new workbook, just bring your old workbook to the class.

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## ***Scouts Upcoming Fundraisers at Otterbein***

Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Time TBD.

Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 – 10 am. All you can eat pancakes, plus extra goodies. Just \$5 per person.

Please come out and support our Scouting program.

## *Servant's Corner*

- Outreach Task Force: Since 2007, we have delivered over 478 loaves of bread to our first-time visitors. Please contact the church office with any suggestions or to become part of this outreach ministry.
- Blood Donor Club #412, remember to give our number when donating. We have received 25 units towards our 2018 quota. When you donate, remember to give **our club number 412**. Did you know: Approximately 9 million Americans give blood each year. Contact Wayne Schwartz (717-258-3987) with questions about donating.
- Our Annual Blood Drive was conducted on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. This has been become a community-wide drive.

## *Getting Involved*

### Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

Administrative Council – Feb. 17 at 1:30 pm  
Meets quarterly

Bright Beginnings Daycare Board – Feb. 25, 6:30 pm  
Meets quarterly

Christian Education Comm. – as needed

Communications Comm. – as needed

Contemporary Worship Comm. – TBD

Finance Committee – Feb. 10 at 10:00 am  
Meets quarterly

Missions Committee – Feb. 26 at 7:00 pm  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly

Springville Cemetery Assoc. – as needed

Staff Parish Relations Comm. – as needed

Trustees – March 20 at 7:00 pm

United Methodist Women – Feb. 12 at 7:00 pm  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly except summer

Worship Committee – Aug. 28 at 6:00 pm

***Please note that all newsletter information is due in the church office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Newsletters are written bi-monthly.***

### Bible Studies

Come join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 for our study of God's Word. As a group we enjoy learning not only His Word, but enjoy the sharing and unity with each other in our faith journey. We start at 9:15 and end at 11:00. We meet in the Library. Look forward to seeing you there. If you would like to learn more contact Edna at 717-249-8299 or email at: [samiam2108@gmail.com](mailto:samiam2108@gmail.com)

### Sunday School for All Ages

Sunday school for all ages meets on Sundays at 10:10 am. Classes for children and youth by age group and four different adult classes are available most every Sunday.

### Soul Cafe

Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:05 am in the Gym.  
***Food donations are greatly appreciated.***  
Volunteers are needed weekly to help set-up, refresh and clean-up the Soul Café area and kitchen. Please see Wendy Wickard to help.

***For the Record*****Membership:** (Count is 575)

Our sympathies to the Larry Mench family.

Welcome New Members: Dennis, Julie, Delaney, Bethany & Cecilia Moore

**Finance Committee Report****Thru Dec. 2018 vs. Thru Dec. 2017**

*Church Income for 2018*      \$652,588  
*Church Expenses for 2018*    \$683,358\*

*Church Income for 2017*      \$649,657  
*Church Expenses for 2017*    \$690,289\*

Daycare Income for 2018      \$404,225  
 Daycare Expenses for 2018    \$318,009

Daycare Income for 2017      \$406,655  
 Daycare Expenses for 2017    \$389,059

\*figures include mortgage principal payments and additional payments on mortgage debt.  
 Income includes Capital Campaign income

**Mortgage balance as of 12/31/2018:**

Building \$467,245

**Our Scouting Program Needs Your Help:**

The Scouting program has taken a large setback. As of the beginning of the last school year, we are no longer allowed to recruit at the school. This year we plan to recruit at Memorial Day and Foundry Day. We will also be reaching out to the Township for assistance at programs that they are sponsoring. If anyone knows of good recruiting events or knows of a young person in elementary or middle school that would benefit from the program please contact: Cubmaster – Andy Clarke, [clarkear2698@aol.com](mailto:clarkear2698@aol.com) or 607-426-2472. Committee Chair Errol Huffman, [errolhuffman@hotmail.com](mailto:errolhuffman@hotmail.com), or 812-361-6530. Or you may call Jim Otto at 717-856-8516.

**Attendance for December**

	9:00 Sanctuary	9:00 Gymnasium	11:15 Sanctuary	Sunday School
<b>Dec 2</b>	270			107
<b>Dec 9</b>	216	101		109
<b>Dec 16</b>	175	114	35	102
<b>Dec 23</b>	206	97	39	88
<b>Dec 30</b>	146	85		76
Dec. 2 Celebrating the Season of Christmas = 117				
Christmas Eve: 6:30 pm = 194, 9:00 pm = 308, 11:00 pm = 159				

Otterbein UMC  
647 Forge Road  
Carlisle, PA 17015

Feb/March 2019

Office Hours:  
Monday – Thursday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed for lunch 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Fridays, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

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**Otterbein UMC**  
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## Staff

Rev. Bruce Fensterbush  
bfensterbush@susumc.org  
Emergency number: 717-659-7695

Connie Vail, Children’s Ministry Director x 104  
children@otterbeinumccarlisle.org

Megan Wilson, Youth Ministries Director x 103  
youth@otterbeinumccarlisle.org

Leslie Conway, Admin. Asst./Treasurer x 101  
office@otterbeinumccarlisle.org

Kim Hudson, Bright Beginnings Child Care x 105  
khudson@otterbeinumccarlisle.org

Brendan Warren, Contemporary Worship Coordinator  
gathering@otterbeinumccarlisle.org

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## Worship Services

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary Service  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Gym  
Sunday School for all ages 10:10 a.m.