

# otterbein Connection

Spring 2024 Newsletter from:



Dear Friends,

I have many favorite Bible passages and one of them is the following (Isaiah 35:1-2):  
The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

God is full of surprises. A couple of years ago, I retired from full-time local church pastoring.

I had a plan: to become certified at the top level of drug counseling. However, in the 30 years since I completed the Master's degree and practicum in drug counseling, the standards changed and I can't obtain a license without 2,000 hours of paid supervision. God closed a door, but opened a window, and I flew out of it, rejoicing greatly!

This opportunity to be partnered in ministry with Otterbein UMC has been a joy to me. In many ways I've come full circle. My first congregation was mostly farmers; the church was surrounded by fields of corn, soybeans and wheat. And now, OUMC is the same: farmers with corn, soybeans and wheat! We're planting the Word of God in the community, and watching it grow. We feed the hungry (we're Methodists, after all, with casserole dishes always ready to fill and serve). And we're casting a vision for the future with renewed spiritual fervor, mission outreach and passionate worship.

Thank you for being my mission partner in Navarre, Ohio, a town where I first preached when I didn't even know I was going to be a preacher!

Blessings, Pastor Ash

## Greetings from our Minister of Visitation

*"I'll be with you, as you do this day after day, right up to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:20b (The Message)

Your day is filled with appointments to make, to-do lists to check off, errands to run and meals to prepare. Before you know it, busyness is your rhythm, stress is the undercurrent of your life. What if you soaked in the truth of Matthew's Gospel that Jesus is with you always?

To accept the promise that Jesus is with you is to believe that He is guiding you through each day, each moment, each pleasant surprise and bitter disappointment. When you read the Gospel, you discover the character of Jesus. Our Lord is someone who is clearly invested in the lives of real, messy and complicated people. Whether you are getting to know Jesus for the first time or have walked with Him for years, you will find strength and renewal in the Gospels. You will find Jesus in His humanity, ready to walk alongside you through every season of your life.

No matter what Book you read of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, you will encounter Jesus as your guide, your Friend, and your salvation. May the Lord of the cross and empty tomb, fill you with new hope and life in this season of sacrifice and Resurrection. See you at worship, Pastor Carl

**Lawn Mower Clinic** We are holding the Lawn Mower Clinic on Friday and Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This is for walk behind mowers. Service includes blade sharpening, oil change, spark plug replacement and power washing. Mowers must all be in working condition. Drop-off will be Friday from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the picnic shelter behind the church. Work will be on Saturday, from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. If at possible, please pre-register by calling Abbey at (330) 904-3148 with the following information: Name, address, phone number, brand of engine, brand/model of mower. A \$40.00 donation is requested. You may also register by calling the church, (330) 484-2776, during office hours – Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am – Noon.



## Celebrate Easter with Us - Schedule

3/24 10:15 am Palm Sunday worship with Children's Program

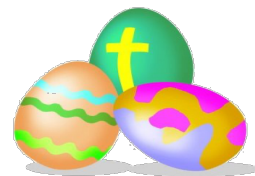
3/29 7:30 pm Holy Friday Worship

3/30 10:00 am Community Easter Egg Hunt

3/31 8:00 am Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

3/31 9:00 am Sunday school for all ages

3/31 10:15 am Resurrection Worship!





United  
Women  
in Faith

**Otterbein United Women in Faith** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. All women are invited. The **Rummage Sale** will be Wednesday April 3 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and Thursday, April 4 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (Bag Day). Items may be brought in on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

**Lunch after Church** Every third Sunday from September through May, we serve a meal immediately after worship, usually starting about 11:30 am. The menu April 21<sup>st</sup> is boneless pork chops, mashed potatoes & grave, vegetable, coleslaw, applesauce, dessert & beverages. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12, and under 5 is free.



**Community Meal** The Church holds a free Community Meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The March Community Meal is March 26<sup>th</sup>, one week later than usual because of the Primary Election. The Menu is Creamed Chicken Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, Chips, Applesauce, Dessert and Drinks. There is carryout or dine-in. All are invited. From 5:30- 6:30 pm there will be **JAM (Jesus and Me)** in the education wing. Children from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have a story, activities and a craft.



**Vacation Bible School** June 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - noon is VBS, with the Closing Program/Picnic Friday evening at 6:00 pm. At Camp Firelight VBS, we will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time on a summer camp adventure with God. After the Opening Assembly time, the Campers will make their own art projects at the Craft Station, sing new songs at the Music Station, explore the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, play games at the Recreation Station, and enjoy tasty treats at the Snack Station. Join us as we discover how to put our trust in God in every situation! There will be classes for kids 4 years old and up through those who are entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Register online at: Otterbeinconnection.org or call the church office at (330) 484-2776.

Otterbein is planning a **Mission Work Camp** with 3 other churches to the Steubenville Urban Mission J.O.S.H.U.A. Project at Steubenville, Ohio. This will include doing painting, gardening, working in the warehouse, or other large projects. This is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. Those going will be staying on site for the four nights. If you are interested, please see Pastor Ash.



**Summer Camp** It is time to register for summer camp. There are discounts for families sending siblings, Central Valley District and East Ohio Conference camperships, and our church helps financially to ensure our youth have a tremendous faith-based experience during the summer months.

### Sociable Sixties

They meet the first, Monday of the month at 12:00 noon. Everyone who is retired is welcome to join us. It is a time for fellowship and friendship. We enjoy a meal, have a short meeting and a program. We hope you will come and be a part of this ministry. April 1<sup>st</sup> they will meet at Crossroad's Restaurant. Dave & Bonnie Steenrod will host.



**Honoring The 80's & 90's** On May 5<sup>th</sup> we will be honoring those from our congregation that are 80 years old or older. They will be recognized during worship. After taking a group picture, they will be served a Swiss steak lunch. Each guest may bring 2 people with them. There will be a \$ 5.00 fee for those persons. An invitation will be mailed.

**Teddy Bear Ministry** Our Teddy Bears are ready to go and serve those who need cheering up. There is a sign-up sheet on the Blessings Board that has the names of the Bears, where you sign them out. This ministry was started several years ago by Ray & Nancy Fortner. We are thankful we can continue it. If you have questions, call Judy Carrick.



**Prayer Chain** If you have a concern or a praise you would like placed on the prayer chain, please call Michelle Feucht at (330) 309-6140.

**Information updates** We are working to update our records and are asking that you might let us know if you have changed your phone number, added a cell phone, eliminated a landline, or added or changed your e-mail address. Please email the church at [secretary@otterbeinconnection.org](mailto:secretary@otterbeinconnection.org), call the church at (330) 484-2776 or write us a note with this information. Thank you.