



**Spring 2025 Newsletter from:**



**Dear Church Family,**

Psalm 46:10 is the passage of the Bible which always helps to calm and guide me, no matter what the situation is that I am facing or experiencing. It is, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth". No matter how disturbed or concerned about someone or a situation, to just stop, and realize that "God Is in Control", and everything will "be alright"!

The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on Easter, April 20<sup>th</sup>. During this Lenten time everyone will have a daily devotional to read and following during these 40 days of Lent. Lent gives us the time to get closer with Jesus, as we together follow Jesus' path to the Cross and His Resurrection. Our Community Lenten Services at area Churches will continue at 6:00 pm and conclude at Holy Family Church on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates and times on your calendar, as they are listed in the bulletin weekly.

Tammy and I are so happy to be a part of the Otterbein Church family as are mom and dad. Each day I thank the Lord for His guidance, in bringing Tammy and I to Otterbein to share in the growth and the stewardship that Otterbein brings to this area. May God's blessings be with all of you as we, together, continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Bill

### **Greetings from our Minister of Visitation**

Every year as Lent approaches I seem to be bombarded with books and resources offering me 40 things to read and 40 different practical changes to change my life. I am reminded of Mary and Martha in Luke 10. Jesus had come to visit and Martha was running around getting ready. Mary, her sister, sat at the feet of Jesus. No, not wiping them from the dirty roads, but listening to what he said.

Perhaps we need a bit of Mary time during Lent. A time to leave everything else to one side and just sit at Jesus' feet!

During this season of Lent let us be reminded of some of the basics of our faith.

1. We are fallible creations of God. Read (Genesis 2:7). On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that you are dust. That is not something to boast about! Lent reminds us that we are utterly dependent on God. We really do not have it all together as we think.
2. We are sinful creatures. Read (Genesis 3:11) Lent is a good time to examine our lives. This is what lies behind many of the 40 days of books & resources. Repent and believe the Good News of the Gospel!
3. We are mortal. Read (Genesis 3:19) To dust you shall return. Often, we try to forget all of those words. We live our lives as if we created ourselves. We like to think nothing is wrong with us and death, no way, we want to think about that dreadful thing at all!
4. We are rescued - He told the serpent. Read (Genesis 3:15) - This verse is known as the Protoevangelium. The first gospel or the first time we hear Jesus defeating the evil one. Lent is a time to take the bad news seriously. Make sure you remember the Good News that awaits you.

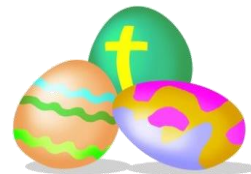
The Resurrection and victory over death.

At the close of your forty day's journey of reflection, repentance, and reconciliation, may you learn more about yourself and the risen Christ.

Drawing closer to God with you, Rev. Carl

### **Celebrate Easter with Us - Schedule**

4/13 10:15 am Palm Sunday worship with Children's Program  
4/18 7:00 pm Holy Friday Worship  
4/19 10:00 am Community Easter Egg Hunt  
4/20 8:00 am Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall  
4/20 9:00 am Sunday school for all ages  
4/20 10:15 am Resurrection Worship!





**Hopeful Hearts** This is a new group for all women who have lost their spouse/mates. If you are a widow, join us as we begin a new journey together to support and encourage each other. All are welcome regardless of how long you have been a widow. A meet and greet meeting will be held in Room 8A (Hospitality Room) on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. See Judy Medley for more information.



**United Women in Faith**

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

**Men's Devotions and Donuts** Join Pastor Bill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 am. All men are welcome for this time of Devotions and Fellowship.



**Lunch after Church** Every third Sunday from September through May, we serve a meal immediately after worship, usually starting about 11:30 am. There will not be Lunch After Church on Easter Sunday. The menu May 18<sup>th</sup> is boneless pork chops mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, 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 18<sup>th</sup>. The menu is Ham, Potatoes, & Green beans, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - noon is VBS, with the Closing Program/Picnic Friday evening at 6:00 pm. Join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road, taking all the kids (Travelers) on thrilling journeys to exciting destinations. Led by the Navigator and an adventurous pup Scout, kids will learn that God is always with them. Through engaging stories from the Navigator's Guide (the Bible), Travelers will delve into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. 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](http://Otterbeinconnection.org) or call the church office at (330) 484-2776.



**Summer Camp** It is time to register for summer camp. There are discounts for families sending siblings, 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** Sociable 60's meet on the first Monday of each month. We have lunch at a restaurant, a short business meeting, and a program. If you are retired, you are welcome to join us. It's a good opportunity to have fun, eat a meal and visit with friends. Call any officer or member for info. Judy Carrick, President. April 7<sup>th</sup> they will meet at Amish Door in Wilmot. Dave & Bonnie Steenrod will host.



**Honoring The 80's & 90's** On May 4<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. **You will receive your lunch free.** You may bring 1 guest who will also be free. Any additional guests will be \$5.00 each. 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.