

# ***What's Happening at Otterbein!***

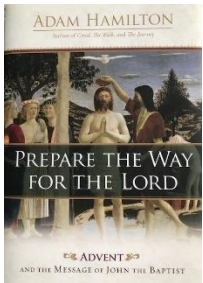
## **Barnabas Group**

The Barnabas Group has a new person for the month of **December** that would appreciate your prayers and notes. The name and note cards can be found in the narthex or multipurpose room. Please stop by and write a note to share God's love, encouragement, or comfort. If you are not a note writer, there are cards with notes already printed in them. You need only sign your name and place in the basket.

## **Circle of Prayer**

Each week our Susquehanna Annual Conference requests prayer for churches within the Annual Conference, partner churches in Sierra Leone and conference camps. During the **week of December 1 - 7, please pray for** Whitneyville UMC – Whitneyville, Llysven Altoona UMC – Altoona, Faith Chapel White Deer UMC – White Deer, Mt Pisgah Trinity UMC – York, Caldwell UMC – Lock Haven, Tompkinsville UMC – Scott Township, Trinity Walnut Bottom UMC – Walnut Bottom, Faith Chapel UMC – Howard, Clarkstown UMC – Muncy, Fairview McConnellsburg UMC – Harrisonville, Camp Penn Camp & Retreat Center – Waynesboro.

## **BASIC Sunday School Class – Starts December 1st - 10:00 AM - Room 8**



Come join Harry Owens at the BASIC Sunday School class for the Advent study "Prepare the Way for the Lord" by Adam Hamilton. Who better to ready your heart for the coming of Jesus than his precursor cousin, John the Baptist? In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "prepare the way of the Lord". This study explores four themes in John's message: "A People Prepared for the Lord", "God is Gracious", "The Fruit of Repentance", and "Witnesses Testifying to the Light".

## **Women's Bible Study**



The Women's Bible study will meet on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in room 8 to discuss the book "Seasons Greeting: Christmas Letters from Those Who Were There". Brenda Brehm will lead on December 4<sup>th</sup>, which will include the first five (5) chapters of the book. Rosa Seyfried will lead on December 11<sup>th</sup> and will be the remaining chapters of the book. Rediscover the beloved Christmas story this year through the words of those who were there. From King Herod to the Magi, the innkeeper, the midwife – and even Jesus himself—hear the dramatic stories of the Bible characters forever changed by the miracle that took place in Bethlehem so long ago. Limited copies are available so if you would like one, please contact Rosa.

## **Women's Christmas Party - December 7<sup>th</sup> – Greater Grace Bible Fellowship**

Greater Grace Bible Fellowship has invited the women of Otterbein to a Women's Christmas party at their church located at 119 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Boiling Springs. The celebration will begin at 5:00 PM with food, fellowship and fun. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Hattie Ogle at (717) 258-3438

## **Christmas for the Family Event – December 14th (11 – 2 PM)**

On Saturday, December 14th, we will be hosting our annual community "Christmas for the Family" event. We are still in need of some elves to help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy at ([office@ottumc.org](mailto:office@ottumc.org) or (717) 321-6682). We will have an indoor inflatable, hayride, hot chocolate bar, dessert bar, snack station, face painting, crafts and card making for the children AND our very own Santa and Mrs. Claus (Vicki & Dean Clepper) will fly in from the North Pole for the day.

## Missions Committee - Toys for Tots:



Otterbein will be supporting the local Toys for Tots again this year, from November 17 to December 15, 2024. These toys go to support children in Cumberland and Perry Counties. There are 3 bins placed throughout the church for you to fill with **BRAND NEW UNWRAPPED** toys for children of all ages. The bins are in the Narthex, the hallway outside the Office and the Gym. **Please have all donations in the bins by**

**December 15, 2024**, so they can be delivered to the Marines in time for their Christmas distribution. If you prefer, you can also place money in a Missions envelope, write Toys for Tots on the outside of the envelope or on the memo section of your check, and an elf will do the shopping for you. You can also donate online at [ottumc.org](http://ottumc.org) and click on "Give", then select "Missions" as the fund and fill in "Toys for Tots" in the "Area of need". Please place envelopes in the offering plates or mail to the Church office. Last year **YOU** donated 145 new toys, 34 books and \$450.00. Let's spread a little Christmas cheer! Thank you for your continued support of our community!

## Salvation Army – Ring the Bell – December 7<sup>th</sup>

It is time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle collection. Otterbein will be at Karns Grocery Store in Boiling Springs on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. We are asking for people to sign up for a one-hour time slot between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM. We encourage you to bring a friend because ringing is more fun when there are two!

The signup sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office. Please write your phone number beside your name in case we need to contact you.

Questions, comments, or schedule changes? Contact **Julie Greenisen (717) 701-0701**.

As always, thank you Otterbein for all you do for those in need in our community!

## Giving Hope This Christmas

For the person on your list who has everything, purchase a Stocking Stuffer kit from Hope Walks: Freedom from Clubfoot!

Clubfoot is a deformity present at birth that twists the foot downward and inward, making walking difficult or impossible. Hope Walks is working in clinics in Africa and the Dominican Republic to provide treatment to correct the feet of babies who would otherwise live with crippling deformity. An important part of the correction process, the Ponseti method, is a brace and two connected shoes.

This is where your gift comes in! Purchase a kit, which includes a pair of leather and three paint pens for them to unleash their creativity for just \$20! Once they are decorated, send them back to Hope Walks (shipping label included) or return them to Otterbein UMC. Hope Walks will send the individual a photo of their completed masterpiece!

Stocking Stuffer kits will be available for purchase in the Narthex and Contemporary area from November 17 – December 15, 2024.

## Snow Removal



It is that time of year when we anticipate snow and its removal from the church parking lots. To guide the plows and prevent damage to our lawn areas, approximately 30 snow poles have been installed around the edges of our lots. As you enter and leave the church property, please be mindful of their presence.

## Help the Barnabas Group Spread Christmas Cheer



The Barnabas Group is asking for your help to do Christmas caroling. The date for caroling is **Sunday, December 22 at 2:00 pm**. We plan on meeting at the church library so that we can carpool to members' homes. The Barnabas group members will finalize the recipients of our joyful noise and names and addresses will be provided prior to leaving the church as well as song sheets. Don't want to be jumping in and

out of your car? You can still participate. We will be having a small group that will stay in the library to do phone call caroling. Please consider joining this activity to bring some joy to others. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside the office as well as in the gym. We would like to have enough people caroling to break up into small groups. We plan on meeting back at the church after caroling for some hot chocolate, to share our experiences, and a special surprise.

## Karns & Giant Gift Card Sales

Giant Food Stores and Karns Food Stores gift cards are available in both \$25 and \$50 amounts. Cards may be purchased before the 8:45 Traditional Service at the Welcome Desk or in the church office on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The funds raised by this program are used to purchase equipment for the church. They make great holiday gifts! Pick yours up this week!

## Ushers Needed for Christmas Eve and 2025 Signup

We need ushers for our Christmas Eve services at 2 PM, 7:30 PM and 11 PM. If you can usher for one or more of the services, please use the signup sheet located on the bulletin board outside the office. Please also check the 2025 Usher Signup sheet and sign up for a spot as well as confirm the month(s) your name is already listed (the list rolls over each year).

## This Week at Otterbein

Event	Date	Time	Location
Youth Group	December 1	6 – 8 PM	Library
Otterbein Bells	December 2	6:30 PM	Choir Room
Bible Study	December 3	9:00 AM	Library
Women's Bible Study	December 4	7:00 PM	Room 8
Choir Cantata Practice Choir Anthems Practice	December 4	6:30 – 7:10 PM 7:15 – 8 PM	Choir Room

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month – New Person for Barnabas Group to write notes to

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month – Canned Fruit Sunday

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month – Wave to our friends joining us from home

## Communion Dates 2025

February 2

October 5

April 17

December 24

June 1

August 3