

What's Happening at Otterbein!

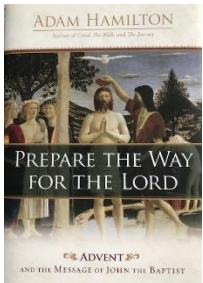
Barnabas Group

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 15 - 21, please pray for** West Side, Clearfield UMC – Clearfield, Roruks UMC, Roruks – Sierra Leone, Letort UMC – Carlisle, Pine Glen UMC – Karthus, Lightstreet UMC – Bloomsburg, Elkland UMC – Elkland, Courtdale UMC – Courtdale, Pleasant Hill Shade Gap UMC – Burnt Cabins, Covenant UMC – Lock Haven, Mt Calvary Bendersville UMC – Biglerville, Wesley Bloomsburg UMC – Bloomsburg, Greene Hills Camp / Retreat Center & RV Park – Alexandria.

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".

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).

Missions Committee - Toys for Tots: TODAY IS LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS



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 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!

Giving Hope This Christmas – TODAY IS LAST DAY TO PURCHASE

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!

Upcoming at Otterbein

Event	Date	Time	Location
Youth Group	December 15	6 – 8:00 PM	Library
Otterbein Bells	December 16	6:30 PM	Choir Room
Bible Study	December 17	9:00 AM	Library
Longest Night Service	December 20	7:00 PM	Sanctuary

1st Sunday of each month – New Person for Barnabas Group to write notes to

2nd Sunday of each month – Canned Fruit Sunday

3rd Sunday of each month – Wave to our friends joining us from home