

The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

Otterbein
St. Luke's
Trinity

April 2024

The Bridge

*One parish, three church campuses working together to be a bridge to the fullness of life in Christ.
Come share, worship, connect, serve, and learn alongside us.*

I Surrender

Dear Martinsburg Cooperative Parish,

Here is a short message on Christian Discipleship that follows our current sermon series.

Matthew 16:24 reads: "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."¹ Jesus gives his disciples instructions for following the Lord.

Christian Discipleship requires that we surrender every aspect of our lives to Jesus. This includes our relationships, our household, our decision-making, and our finances. Christ is the apex of who we are and what we do which represents an active and intentional faith.

I encourage us to take a self-analysis of our walk with God. Let's ask ourselves the following question:

Is there anything that takes priority over Jesus?
Write down what we discover and begin to pray

for the Lord's strength to rearrange our priorities to put Christ first.

The Good News is that Christ allows us to surrender our lives daily. Every day is a new opportunity to surrender before the Almighty One. I surrender my life to you today. This can be the prayer that ignites us to move toward the Light of the World in faithful Christian Discipleship. It's time that we surrender to Jesus.

In Christ,

Pastor John Clark Mayden, Jr.

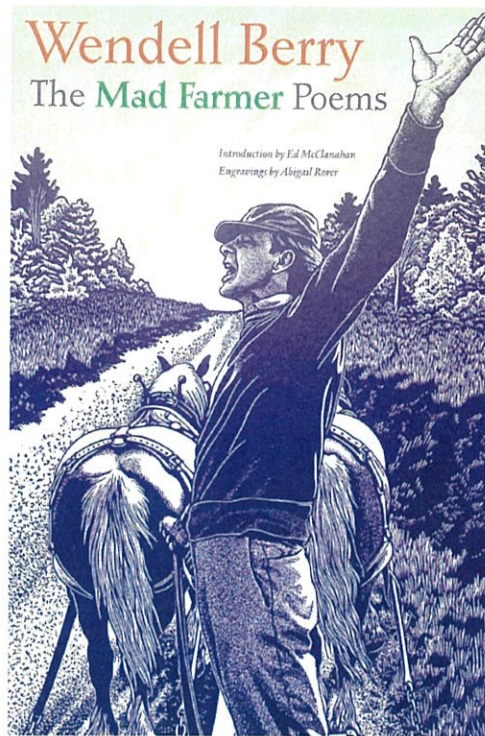
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2016%3A24&version=NRSVUE>. New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



**For the pastor on call,
day or night, dial
304-664-4141**

One of my favorite modern poems, “Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front,” is by Kentucky native farmer and poet Wendell Berry. Part of it goes like this:

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all you have and be poor.
Love someone who doesn't deserve it. . .
Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest. . .
Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts. . .
Practice resurrection.



By the time most of us read this newsletter, we will have celebrated Easter Sunday, Resurrection Day. *It is the highlight of the church year.* The Apostle Paul, in I Corinthians 15, speaks about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and its life changing importance for our lives: “For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ . . . But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we live in the hope of the Resurrection. We are participants in the resurrected life. We already practice resurrection. Through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been made a new creation: “The resurrection is like the first day of a new creation” (Alister McGrath).

Every Sunday is intended as a celebration of the new life we have in Christ Jesus after the Resurrection (which is why Sundays are not counted in the forty days of Lent. So, come, celebrate the Resurrection each and every Sunday: “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

In the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ,

Mary Jo Sims

APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Otterbein Birthdays

4/2 Cody Lancaster
 4/9 Virginia Hicks
 4/11 Zachary Hammersla
 4/12 Gisela Lilienthal
 4/14 David Day
 4/15 Brooke Spickler
 4/18 Kathryn Ford
 4/20 Patricia LeMaster
 4/24 Sadie Gisler

St. Luke's Birthdays

4/3 Roberta Rogers
 4/4 Steve Kenney,
 Harry VanMetre
 4/5 Thomas Hartley,
 Geneva Yost
 4/6 Josh Stark
 4/11 Shelley Mullinix
 4/17 Milani Catizone,
 Jack Lefler
 4/22 Brady Fields
 4/25 Robert Hagerthey
 4/26 Rebecca Franklin
 4/27 Zachary Ostrowski

Trinity Birthdays

4/4 Basil Ceravalo
 4/5 April Geyer, Brittani Keel
 4/8 Breigh-Anne Glover
 4/19 Jackie Morgan
 4/20 Alex Botic,
 Diana Ropelewski
 4/26 Ryan Sutherland,
 Jean Smith
 4/29 Sherry Miller

Anniversaries

4/27 Steve & Diana Ropelewski

Anniversaries

4/8 P. Douglas & Tara Gregory
 4/30 James & Christine Curry

April Preaching Schedule

4/7/2024

OUMC (9 AM) - Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

TUMC (10 AM) - Pastor Mary Jo Sims

SLUMC (11 AM) - Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

4/14/2024

OUMC—Pastor Mary Jo Sims

TUMC—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

SLUMC—Pastor Mary Jo Sims

4/21/2024

OUMC—Pastor Mary Jo Sims

TUMC—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

SLUMC—Pastor Mary Jo Sims

4/28/2024

OUMC—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

TUMC—Pastor Mary Jo Sims

SLUMC—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

Nacho/Taco Fundraiser

MCP Camping Ministries



Menu:

Soft Tacos, Hard Tacos, Nachos, Beef, Chicken, Beans and all the toppings, dessert, and tea/lemonade

April 13, 11am-1:30pm



700 New York Ave
 Martinsburg, WV 25401

Lunch by Donation!
 We look forward to seeing you!



Healing Prayer Service

The MCP monthly prayer service for healing will be held in the sanctuary at Otterbein UMC on April 17th, at noon.

Otterbein UMC

Please pray for...

NEW AND ONGOING PRAYERNEEDS:

Mandy Page
Gary and Reenie Raines
Lester Brining
Christie Heaton
Susan Cookus
John Kesecker
Gary McDaniel
Gisler Girls
Janice Dodson
Catherine Neel
Candi Keiter-Johnson
Pat Wilson
Jean Fulk
Barbara Lancaster
Jim LeMaster
Mark Cave
Mike Wheeler
Jeremy Duke
Mike Shipe
Peggy Workman
Carol Wilson
Max Corbin
Brenda McDaniel
Kathryn Ford
Carol & Bucky Hensler
Betty Ann Keiter Tabler
Darlene Robertson
GENERAL PRAYER CONCERNS:
Peace in the world, Homeless in our community, Families touched by violence, National, State & Community Leaders, Police officers and all First responders, Martinsburg Rescue Mission, CCAP/Loaves & Fishes, TYCE Ministry

THOSE LIVING WITH CANCER:

Carolyn Betke
Dave Betke
Sandra Biner
Vanessa Bishop
Buck Browning
JoAnn Cave
Amy Chapman
Patty Cooper
Lee Cutlip
Mark Day
Mike Emery
Mary Ann Fields
Frank Harrison
Tammy Hatfield
David Hoffman
Pamela Jones
Davis Keller
Joyce Kulb
Patty Lemaster
Eunice Lloyd
Bill Miller
Cathy Potts
Melissa Shade
Robert Shank
Kimberly Sisk
Lisa Thompson
Becky Weaver
Mindy Wilmer
Clinton Wright
Wilson Youngblood
Carolyn Zdziera

MILITARY MEMBERS:

Joshua Brining, Nick Foster, Brett Richards, Christopher Riser, Connor Waters

St. Luke's UMC

Contact the Prayer Team

By phone, contact Bobbi Rogers (304-263-8746)

By phone, contact Pat Isner (304-754-9644)

By email, contact Nancy & Allen Barr
(nanal69@frontier.com)

Please remember to contact the Prayer Chain with updates on your prayer requests. They love to know how they can continue to pray or celebrate a praise with you!

Thank you.

You may also leave a message on the church phone (304-263-2788) or email (stlukesumc700@comcast.net)

Extended Prayer Concerns: Michelle McDonald, Isabella Munoz, Cooperative Parish Teamwork, Emily Nagley, The Owens Family, Davis Owens, Jay Parlett, Marvin Parlett, Eddie Roy, Josh Roy, Jeanne Tederick, Joyce Triggs, Roy Tucker, Mary Ann Wright.

Please update the church office with any changes to the extended prayer list.

Martinsburg Healthcare Center: Sue Sims

Willow Tree Healthcare Center: Doris Dick

Countryside Assisted Living: Emily Nagley,
Jeanne Tederick

Celebration Villa: Sonny & Susan Boyd, Joyce Triggs

Harmony at Martinsburg Assisted Living:

Anne Lea Rannels, Joanne Feathers

Trinity UMC

Please pray for...

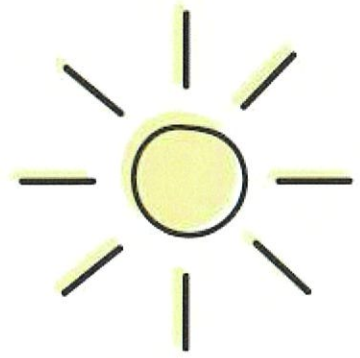
Those unable to attend worship: Anne Keller (Celebration Villa), Iris Tutwiler & Mildred Wilson (Celebration Villa).

Those in our congregation: Ashley Albright, Sandy Barron, Jean Eriksen, Hannah Diamond, Naomi Diamond, Geneva Hollida, Barbara Humes, Linda Humes, Sue Leatherman, Jackie Morgan, Diana Ropelewski, Mary Snyder, & Lana Tonalli.

Friends & Family of our congregation: Catlett Family, Dr. Barry Dutton, Chuck Fouke, Kerrigan Gill, Ed Grove, Maggie Jackson, Carole Newsome, Larry Walls, Henry Wendt, Susan Wiltbank, Larry Winegarden, Vanville Church of Christ.



April



St. Luke's UMC

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes sent in 2023 went to Namibia, Mauritius, and The Dominican Republic. We have boxes available, if you'd like to fill one or more. Contact Sandy Van Metre or the church office. Sandy will deliver them to the collection center. The shipping for each box is \$10.00.



For the month of April, we will collect adult toothbrushes and toothpaste. No child size. We will add these to the hygiene kits we are building for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Please put your donations on the stage in the Social Hall. Thank you for your support.

Missions collected **106** cans of soup for the Berkeley County Backpack Program.
Thank you for your contributions.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Be sure to check out the prayer page in this newsletter. Let's come together and pray for our church family and others in our community and beyond. Contact the prayer team if you have a need or an update to report.

AROUND ST. LUKE'S

Keep an eye on the table outside of the church office and the bulletin board. If you see something missing, please be sure to contact the church office. Our intention is always to keep you informed. The communication page is printed each week with upcoming events and meetings. We are always willing to help. If you need something, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, (304) 263-2788 or by email, stlukesumc700@comcast.net

When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.



When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to His work in that area.

—Janna Firestone



**“THINGS YOU CAN’T EAT”
FREE GIVEAWAY**

**Wednesday,
April 27, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

549 N. Queen Street

1 BAG PER CAR

**IF MORE THAN 1 BAG IS REQUESTED, PROOF OF ADDRESS WILL BE
REQUIRED TO PROVE YOU ARE IN DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLDS.**

We will be giving out “Things You Can't Eat” but really need!
Items that we all use every day such as: Laundry Detergent, Soap, Toothpaste, and
Paper Products will be available to our neighbors in the community.

Anyone who has a need for any of these items is welcome.
Come to the back entrance of the church (off Pennsylvania Avenue).

Thank you,
Otterbein UMC

(Must be 18 or older to participate in the free giveaway.)

Join us for Worship at 9:00am on Sunday mornings!



Graduates

If you have graduated from high school, college (Bachelors, Masters, or PhD), or vocational school since June 2023, please notify Debbie Glover(304-240-4588) or the church office (304-263-9215) by May 1st. Please provide the name of the school from which you graduated and degrees earned. Please send a graduation or senior picture to Debbie or the church office by May 19th. We will honor our graduates during a church service in June.

Scholarship Applications for Fall 2024

Applications for scholarships for the fall semester will be mailed soon. Please notify the church office if you are interested in receiving a scholarship application to pursue your Bachelors, Masters, or vocational degree. You must be a member of Trinity to apply.

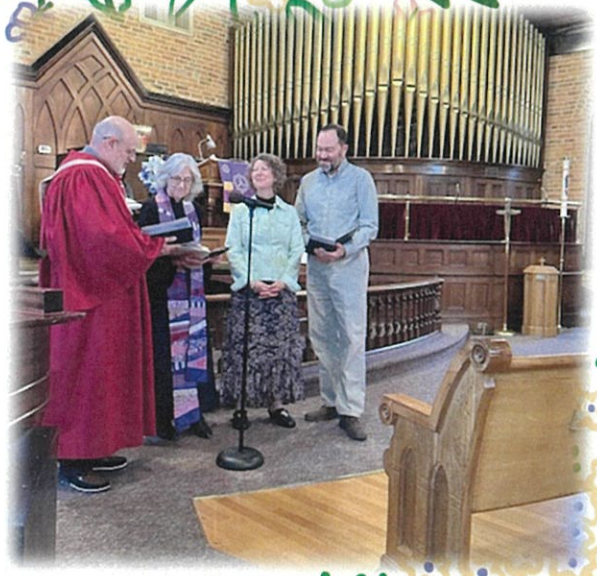
Applications will be due by May 15th.



John & Reba Collins were brought into membership on Sunday, March 17th.

Welcome to Trinity!

We are blessed to know you both!

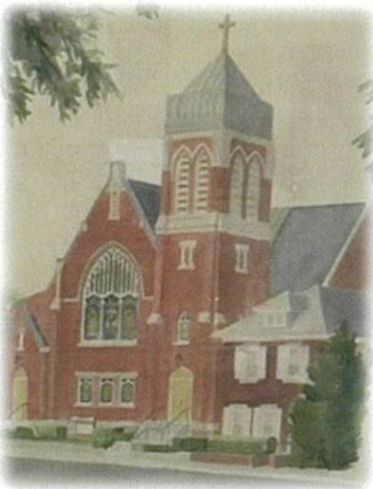


	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	Easter Sunday 8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC 11:50am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts OA Lodge Meeting @ TUMC	1 Easter Monday 4:00pm MCP Serving our Neighbors @ Immanuel's House 6:30pm District Boy Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Potomac Chapter Boy Scouts @ TUMC	2 6:30pm MCP Steering Committee @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC	3 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:00pm TUMC Ad Council 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC	4 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House	5	6
7	8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC 11:50am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC	8 11:00am MCP Arts & Crafts Meeting @ SLUMC 6:00pm MCP Worship Meeting @ OUMC 6:00pm Sleep in Heavenly Peace Team Meeting @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Cub Scout Committee @ TUMC	9 5:30pm Girl Scouts @ SLUMC 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC 7:00pm TUMC Finance Meeting	10 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:30pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC	11 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 11:00am MCP Camping Ministers Nacho/Taco Fundraiser @ SLUMC 12:00pm Twigg Baby Shower @ TUMC
14	8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC 11:50am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts OA Lodge Meeting @ TUMC	15 3:15pm MCP Book Club @ St Luke's	16 5:30pm Girl Scouts @ SLUMC 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 6:00pm TUMC Trustees Meeting 6:30pm SLUMC One Board Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC	17 12:00pm MCP Monthly Prayer Service @ OUMC 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 5:00pm YoungLives Spaghetti Dinner @ TUMC 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm MCP Coaching Participant Virtual Meeting	19	20 9:00am SLUMC Adopt-a-Street
21	8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC 11:50am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC	22	23 10:00am Pack for TYCE @ OUMC 5:30pm Girl Scouts @ SLUMC 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC	24 6:00pm Horses with Hearts Board Meeting @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC	25 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28	8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC 11:50am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts OA Lodge Meeting @ TUMC	29	30 5:30pm Girl Scouts @ SLUMC 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC	1 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC	2 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal	3	4

*The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish
Of United Methodist Churches*

Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

Pastor Mary Jo Sims



Otterbein UMC

**549. N. Queen Street
Martinsburg, WV 25401**

304.263.0342

Sunday Worship –9 AM

secretary@otterbeinumc.net

St. Luke's UMC

**700 New York Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25401**

304.263.2788

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sunday Worship—11 AM

stlukesumc700@comcast.net

Trinity UMC

**220 W. Martin Street
Martinsburg, WV 25401**

304.263.9215

Sunday School 8:45 AM

Sunday Worship—10 AM

umctrinity@comcast.net