

# The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

Otterbein  
St. Luke's  
Trinity

MAY 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.*

### Faith Unlocks the Door

Faith unlocks the door to our prayers. We must believe that God will answer our requests according to the divine path. This is trusting that the Lord knows what is best for us.

What is faith? Faith means believing in the unseen. It helps us endure trauma, trials, and tribulations. Our focus shifts from our problems to God's promises.

MCP, we need to operate in faith. The goal is to be governed by faith and not fear. This means that we should not look at the severity of a situation but rely on God's promise that things will get better. God has a flawless track record of coming through with what we need.

Stepping outside of our comfort zones demonstrates faith. We must step away from the familiar to showcase God's love to

people outside of the four walls of the church. I envision parish-wide outreach, evangelism efforts, and prayer walks to engage members of the community.

More will be shared later about these amazing opportunities. Let's strive to "walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)".



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

In Christ,  
Pastor John Clark Mayden, Jr.



We have “made it” this far into the Christian Year—through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and now into the Sundays following Resurrection Sunday, the season after Easter Day. Several of our Sunday morning scripture readings in this current liturgical season come from the Book of Acts. Luke, the writer of the gospel that bears his name, was also the author of the Acts of the Apostles, what we commonly refer to simply as the Book of Acts. Luke begins Acts with a recap of the forty days from the Resurrection to the Ascension. After the ascension of Jesus Christ, the apostles return to Jerusalem from Mt. Olivet. Once again, they gather in an upper room.

They continue in constant prayer, along with certain women, among them Mary, Jesus’ mother. Through the casting of lots, the eleven apostles choose Matthias to take Judas Iscariot’s place among them. On the Day of Pentecost, originally a harvest festival day that fell fifty days after Passover, these apostles and women remained together “in one place” (Acts 2:1, NRSV).

And then it happens—the church is born. Bobby Cross in *Living the Christian Year* describes it this way: “For those first hundred-plus followers of Jesus waiting together in Jerusalem as instructed [by Jesus], Pentecost breaks on them in stunning fashion. A roar like a windstorm. Bright flames dancing in the air. Ecstatic outbursts in unlearned languages. An inundation of presence and power. Extraordinary!”\*

In the New Testament, Acts comes immediately after the four gospels. It is Luke’s account of the history of the early church. The focus is on those who are both the followers (disciples) of Jesus Christ and those sent by him (apostles). The themes we find emphasized in Luke’s gospel (and the other three)—the reign of God, communal life in the Spirit, and the necessity of bearing witness, are found in Acts as well. And these are the very emphases the church in all ages needs to keep before it. As the church, we follow Jesus, we strive first for the Kingdom and its righteousness (here on earth as in heaven), and we bear witness to the power of God through the Holy Spirit working in our lives and the life of our faith communities.

*Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
blow as you always do; create us anew.*

*Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.*

*Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (The Faith We Sing #2117)*

~ Pastor Mary Jo Sims

\*Gross, Bobby. *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God* (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2009), p. 223





# MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## OTTERBEIN BIRTHDAYS

5/6 JOHN KESECKER  
 5/12 BRAD SPONAUGLE  
 5/20 MARCUS DAY  
 5/25 GARY SPONAUGLE  
 5/31 MAGGIE McDONALD

## ST. LUKE'S BIRTHDAYS

5/3 BILL McDONALD  
 5/6 LYNNE BROWN  
 JAMES CURRY  
 5/8 JAY FIELDS  
 5/10 MIKE CANTLEY  
 5/13 JUDY POUGH  
 5/20 MARGARET BANE  
 5/28 CAITLYN BROWN

## TRINITY BIRTHDAYS

5/4 MARK DIAMOND  
 5/7 SUSIE DELL  
 5/9 JIMMY BARRON  
 5/10 PASTOR MIKE CANTLEY  
 CYNTHIA JOHNSON  
 5/17 XAVIER ADAMS  
 5/23 MICHAEL MULLEDY  
 5/25 JOANNA & BETHANY DIAMOND  
 5/31 CLAIRE MULLEDY



## ANNIVERSARIES

5/14 MATTHEW & CASSIE TIFFNER  
 5/20 DEBORAH & THOMAS HARTLEY  
 5/27 TRUDY & PHIL CHRISMAN  
 CEDRICE & COLE MOYER

## ANNIVERSARIES

5/5 MARK & HEATHER DIAMOND  
 5/14 MATT & KARMEN FAIR  
 5/24 DANIEL & SUSIE DELL  
 5/25 SOL & JILL TROTTER  
 5/31 STEVE & ERIN JARABECK

### May Preaching Schedule

**5/5/2024**

**OUMC (9 AM)** - Pastor Mary Jo Sims  
**TUMC (10 AM)** - Pastor John Mayden, Jr.  
**SLUMC (11 AM)** - Pastor Mary Jo Sims

**5/12/2024**

**OUMC**—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.  
**TUMC**—Pastor Mary Jo Sims  
**SLUMC**—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

**5/19/2024**

**OUMC**—Pastor Mary Jo Sims  
**TUMC**—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.  
**SLUMC**—Pastor Mary Jo Sims


**5/26/2024**

**OUMC**—Pastor Mary Jo Sims  
**TUMC**—Pastor John Mayden, Jr.  
**SLUMC**—Pastor Mary Jo Sims

Pastors Mayden and Sims will be leading a study of Adam Hamilton's book *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. In the book, Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church. The study will consist of six sessions; the day of the week, time, and place are still to be determined. If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Ashley Albright, [umctrinity@comcast.net](mailto:umctrinity@comcast.net) or 304-263-9215. Please let her know by Monday, May 6th.

### FYI

Pastor Mary Jo has been leading a service of Holy Communion at Harmony Senior Living Community at 3 PM on the first Sunday of each month. On April 7th, there were nine participants!



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

**Wednesday,  
May 22, 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).

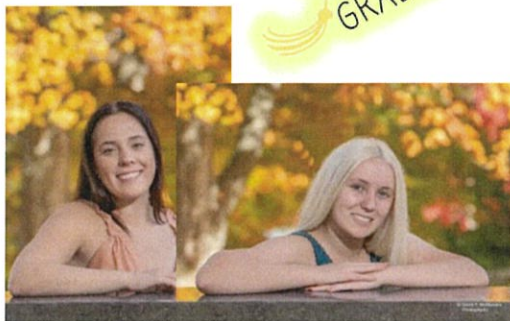
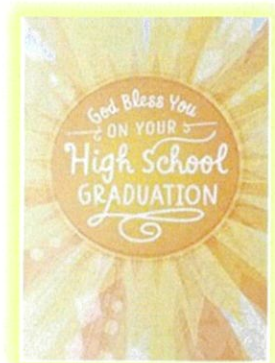
Thank you,  
Otterbein UMC

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

Join us for Worship at 9:00am on Sunday mornings!  
Like our page on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/otterbeinumcmartinsburg](http://www.facebook.com/otterbeinumcmartinsburg)

# St. Luke's UMC



**GRADUATES SPOTLIGHT**  
Be sure to congratulate our high school graduates this month, **Chloe Gregory, Sophie Gregory,** and **Emerson Stark.** Keep these young people in your prayers as they embark on a new season of life; mentor them, speak truth to them, listen to them, enjoy them, and always pray for them.



## **MISSION NEWS**

For the month of May, we will collect hand towels, not wash cloths or bath towels. 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.

We have Operation Christmas Child 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.

## **IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

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.

## **NEED HELP?**

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](mailto:stlukesumc700@comcast.net)

## **Aflame with faith**

In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."





Congratulations to Kay Barkwill, TUMC's Director of Christian Ed. She is the 2024 recipient of the Stefani Pierson Champion for Youth Award.

We are so proud of you, Kay!



## 2024 YOUTH ENGAGING POWER (YEP) ELECTRIFYING EVENT

### U-TURN TO THE FUTURE!

Join us!

#### WHEN

June 7th - 9th

#### WHERE

Spring Mills High School  
499 Campus Drive  
Martinsburg, WV 25404

#### TIME

Fri. 7-9p; Sat. 10-9p;  
Sun. 10-11:30p

#### TARGETING

Rising Middle - Sr. High School Age

YOUTH LEADERS/CHAPERONES REQUIRED

#### Cost

\$25 Per Person

T-Shirt & Saturday  
Meals Included

SPECIAL MUSIC BY:



MOTIVATIONAL YOUTH  
GUEST SPEAKER  
FEATURING  
REGGIE DABBS

POWERFUL  
&  
YOUTH MESSAGES  
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Stay Tuned

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: MAY 1ST - MAY 15TH

BREAKOUT SESSIONS & REGISTRATION DETAILS WILL DROP APRIL 30TH

PRESENTED BY: YOUNG DIFFERENCE MAKERS (YDM) YOUTH GROUP  
OF THE MARTINSBURG COOPERATIVE PARISH

## Healing Prayer Service

The MCP monthly prayer service for healing will be held in the sanctuary at Trinity UMC on Wednesday, May 15th , at noon.

### *Otterbein UMC*

Mike Emery	Jean Fulk
Gary McDaniel	Barbara Lancaster
Bob Brining	Jim LeMaster
Terri and Joe Rotunda	Mark Cave
Mandy Page	Mike Wheeler
Gary and Reenie Raines	Jeremy Duke
Lester Brining	Mike Shipe
Christie Heaton	Peggy Workman
Susan Cookus	Carol Wilson
John Kesecker	Max Corbin
Gisler Girls	Brenda McDaniel
Janice Dodson	Kathryn Ford
Catherine Neel	Carol & Bucky Hensler
Candi Keiter-Johnson	Betty Ann Keiter Tabler
Pat Wilson	Darlene Robertson

### *Trinity UMC*

**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, Blaine Holliday, Barbara Humes, Linda Humes, Sue Leatherman, 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, family of Jackie Morgan, Larry Walls, Henry Wendt, Susan Wiltbank, Larry Winegarden, Vanville Church of Christ.

### *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](mailto: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](mailto: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, Barbara Benson

**Harmony at Martinsburg Assisted Living:**  
Anne Lea Rannells, Joanne Feathers

Heavenly Father, we pray for those individuals listed above. Please hold them in your hands and grant them love, healing and understanding. Guide them along your path of righteousness. Keep them safe from harm and let them rest in your peace & comfort. Their church family holds them near & dear, and wishes them well. They are loved & thought of often!

In your precious name, Amen.

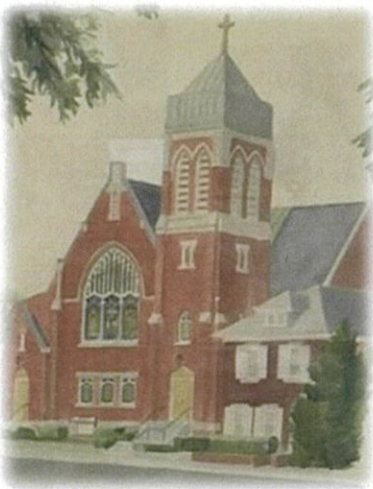
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>28</b> 8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 11:30am TUMC Trustees Meeting @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts OA Lodge Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>1</b> 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:00pm TUMC Ad Council 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>2</b> 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 12:00pm Sutherland Family Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall @ TUMC</p>
<p><b>5</b> 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 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>6</b> 4:00pm MCP Serving our Neighbors @ Immanuel's House 6:30pm District Boy Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Potomac Chapter Boy Scouts @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>7</b> 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>9</b> 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</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 8:00am Sutherland Family Board Retreat @ TUMC's Orchard House 9:00am SLUMC Adopt-a-Street</p>
<p><b>12</b> 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 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>13</b> 3:15pm MCP Book Club @ St Luke's 6:00pm Pack 25 Planning Meeting @ TUMC 6:00pm Sleep in Heavenly Peace Team Meeting @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Cub Scout Committee @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>14</b> 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC 7:00pm TUMC Finance Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:00am Horses with Hearts Leadership Adventures Training @ TUMC's Orchard House 12:00pm MCP Monthly Prayer Service @ TUMC 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 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</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:00am Horses with Hearts Leadership Adventures Training @ TUMC's Orchard House</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8:00am Horses with Hearts Board Retreat @ TUMC's Orchard House 9:00am SLUMC Adopt-a-Street</p>
<p><b>19</b> <b>Pentecost</b> 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 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 10:00am Pack for TYGE @ OUMC 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 6:30pm SLUMC One Board Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>22</b> 9:30am MCP Things You Can't Eat Giveaway @ OUMC 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>23</b> 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</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 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 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 12:00pm Assembly Room Use by Sylvan Glen Shires @ OUMC 6:00pm Naranon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>BWC 2024 Annual Conference</b> 7:00pm Cub Scouts @ TUMC 7:30pm Elim Church Service in Chapel @ OUMC</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>BWC 2024 Annual Conference</b> 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</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>BWC 2024 Annual Conference</b> Homeschool Co-Op Dance @ TUMC's Orchard House</p>	<p><b>1</b> Relay for Life @ Martinsburg High School</p>



## The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish Of United Methodist Churches

Pastor John C. Maiden, Jr.

Pastor Mary Jo Sims



**Otterbein UMC**

549. N. Queen Street  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

304.263.0342

Sunday Worship –9 AM

[secretary@otterbeinumc.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:umctrinity@comcast.net)