

The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

Otterbein
St. Luke's
Trinity

May
2025

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.

Dear Beloved,

May is Stewardship Month in our parish, and we are excited to explore this important topic together. Stewardship is an act of worship, and we are called to give our all to God. This includes our time, talents, and treasures, all dedicated to our loving Lord. This month, we will engage in a sermon series "Exploring Stewardship in the MCP," accompanied by a Bible study. These sessions will teach us how to utilize our resources effectively to honor and glorify the Lord.

Additionally, we will incorporate stewardship moments into our services to encourage and enhance our giving. We look forward to growing spiritually and learning to be responsible stewards of what the Lord has entrusted us. Let's embark on this journey together!

In Christ,

Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

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



A special shoutout to our church and parish administrators, and custodians for all the extra effort and work they put in during the Lenten season to make certain our publications were excellent and our buildings and grounds looking their best!

-Pastors Mayden and Sims

You are invited to participate in a two-part Bible Study series

Where: St. Luke's Fellowship Hall

Dates: Wednesday, May 21st & 28th

Time: Noon

In Person with Zoom option

Teacher: Pastor John Mayden, Jr.

Stewardship Focus: A Way Forward

Goal: To better understand how we can use our resources wisely as stewards of what God has bestowed upon us.



Parish Info



Compassion Sunday @ SLUMC

Compassion Sunday will be Sunday, May 4th, 2025, at St. Luke's. For anyone

wishing to sponsor a child, packets will be displayed in the social hall.

Anyone that would like a sponsor packet can contact me (Clifton

Brooks) at 304-671-9174 and I can get a packet to you. Or, you may go online to

www.compassioninternational.com anytime to sponsor a child.

Summer Camp @ SLUMC

A summer camp is being planned at St. Luke's UMC, June 30th—July 19th, for a production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame, with show performances on July 18th & 19th. For ages 10-20 with an additional adult choir.

For more information, contact Anthony Brooks at 304-886-2394, or visit www.brooks-productions.com

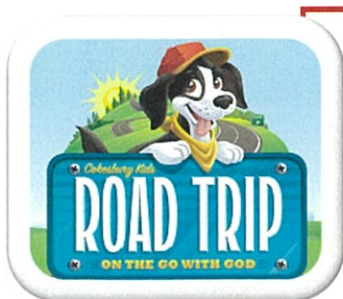
Confirmation Sunday is June 1st!

This year, during morning worship on June 1, Trinity UMC of the MCP will confirm four youth, Patrick and Peyton Edwards, Claire Mulledy, and Nate Rinard. Over the past few months, our youth, along with four youth from Arden UMC and four youth from Mt. Zion, have met for an hour and a half most Sunday afternoons. Six different pastors, Ed Hall, Bob Kells, John Mayden, Katie Mossburg, Dawn Reidy and Mary Jo Sims, have led some of the sessions. A special shout out to Pastors Mossburg and Reidy, who, although there were no confirmands from the churches they serve (Bunker Hill and Paynes Chapel, respectively), each lead one session.

During the ten session Confirmation class, we covered such topics as What is the Bible and how do we read and study it?; an overview of the biblical story of God; the doctrine of the Trinity; Jesus as God with us who restores humanity's broken relationship with God; What is the Church?; Prayer; the call to carry out God's mission and to witness to others; and Why be a part of the Church?

The Confirmation group also participated in a field trip to Strawbridge Shrine on either April 26 or May 10. The Shrine is located in New Windsor, Maryland and is the original home of Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge. It was there that Methodism in America was first established as Robert Strawbridge rode a circuit and planted the seeds of what would become the Methodist Church in our country.

We will have a reception of our confirmands and their families after worship on June 1. Come celebrate with our confirmands and their loved ones.



SAVE—THE—DATES

MCP Vacation Bible School

July 20th—24th

Special Celebration on July 25th

Time: 6:30 PM—8 PM

Where: Trinity UMC's Orchard House

4599 Shepherdstown Road, Martinsburg, WV 25404

Parish Ministries

Share the Bread of Life: A New MCP Ministry

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life . . ." (John 6:35, NRSV)

Jesus said, ". . . for I was hungry, and you gave me food, . . . just as you did it to one of the least who are my family did it to me" (Matthew 25:35b, 39c, NRSV).

When it was evening, the disciples came to [Jesus] and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away, you give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:15-16, NRSV)

Share the Bread of Life with others on Communion Sundays

Do unto others as you would do unto Jesus by **bringing a loaf of bread to church the first Sunday of every month**. There will be a collection basket for the bread near the sanctuary entrance. The bread will be blessed during the prayer of dedication. The loaves of *sliced* bread will then be taken to CCAP/ Loaves and Fishes for distribution to those in need. **Recommended bread types: sandwich bread; sliced bread, wheat or white.**

Things You Can't Eat Giveaway

**Wed., May 28th, 2025
9:30 AM at Otterbein UMC**

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 items such as Laundry detergent, soap, toothpaste, and paper products.

Anyone who has a need for any of these items is welcome! Must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Please come to the back entrance of the church off Pennsylvania Avenue.

Thank you!



For the month of May, we are asking folks across the MCP for donations of dishwashing liquid—small bottles (5.8 fl. Oz.).

Donations may be dropped off at your campus' church office, Reenie & Gary Raines will collect before May's TYCE giveaway.

For more information on TYCE, you may contact OUMC's church office or parish administrator, Ashley Albright.

Celebrating Our Members...



On Palm Sunday, April 13th, Trinity celebrated the baptisms of Nathan Thomas Rinard and Natalie McKenna Rinard. Patrick Thomas Rinard reaffirmed his faith and was brought into membership. Congratulations Rinard family! We are so blessed to know all of you!



Otterbein Birthdays

May 6 John Kesecker
 May 10 Craig Ashenfelter
 May 12 Brad Sponaugle
 May 20 Marcus Day
 May 25 Gary Sponaugle
 May 31 Maggie McDaniel

Anniversaries

May 17 Craig & Kirsten
 Ashenfelter

St. Luke's Birthdays

May 3 Bill McDonald
 May 6 Jim Curry
 May 13 Judy Pugh
 May 20 Margaret Bane
 May 22 Doris Dick

Anniversaries

May 14 Matt & Cassie Tiffner
 May 20 Tom & Deb Hartley
 May 27 Phil & Trudy Chrisman

Trinity Birthdays

May 4 Mark Diamond
 May 7 Susie Dell
 May 9 Jimmy Barron
 May 10 Cindy Johnson
 May 17 Xavier Adams
 May 23 Michael Mulledy
 May 25 Jo Diamond

Bethany Diamond

Anniversaries

May 5 Mark & Heather Diamond
 May 14 Matt & Karmen Fair
 May 24 Danny & Susie Dell
 May 31 Steve & Erin Jarabeck



Celebrating Our Ministries...



From Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday morning has been an intense journey for those within the parish. Besides the yearly Wednesday evening Lent services (we hosted four of them across the parish), we had a special combined service where the bishop preached and celebrated Holy Communion. We want to thank two groups of lay ministers within the MCP—our worship teams and our hospitality teams.

Our MCP Worship Team, our accompanists, choirs, our choir director, song leaders, those who provided special music, liturgists, providers of children's messages, communion stewards and helpers, those who decorate our sanctuaries, church worship committee members and leaders, ushers, those who make sure our candles are filled with oil and our paraments are the liturgically appropriate color, all contributed to the sense of gratitude, awe and wonder that we experienced during Lent and on Easter Sunday. Our liturgical experiences truly are the work of the people. Thank you! Likewise the pastors would like to express their gratitude for the time and service of our MCP Hospitality Team and those in our three churches who coordinated, planned and carried out the many potlucks, receptions, and the Soup and Sandwich fundraiser for camping ministries, that were held during the Lenten season, including the Bishop's Day. May God continue to bless you for your commitment to ensuring that everyone is welcome and feels at home during these special gatherings. We appreciate your warm greetings and gentle spirits, which make us feel comfortable in our parish.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John Mayden, Jr.
Pastor Mary Jo Sims

Immanuel's House

The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish helps to provide a meal on the first Monday of each month at Immanuel's House (713 Buxton Street, Martinsburg). They are **open Mondays, 12 PM—6 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 AM—1 PM**. They serve **lunch every day**, usually provided by Sister Acts or another church.

On **Monday's**, Immanuel's House delivers a hot meal to about 150 people. People gather there in the winter to get a hot meal and get out of the cold; they always have hot chocolate & coffee available.

Immanuel's House also provides assistance with paperwork, getting a driver's license/ID cards, financial, etc., to people in need. The MCP has about **8-10 volunteers** that make the meals and help serve them. Menus are completed for the remainder of the year.

Volunteers to help with this ministry are always needed!

If you are interested, please contact Parish Administrator, Ashley Albright at umctrinity@comcast.net or 304-263-9215, ext. 4.



MCP Camping Ministries held a Soup & Sandwich fundraiser at SLUMC and raised \$945.00! These funds will be used to send our MCP children to Camp Manidokan this summer! Thank to you all who have donated and support this ministry.

St. Luke's UMC

(304)263-2788

stlukesumc700@comcast.net

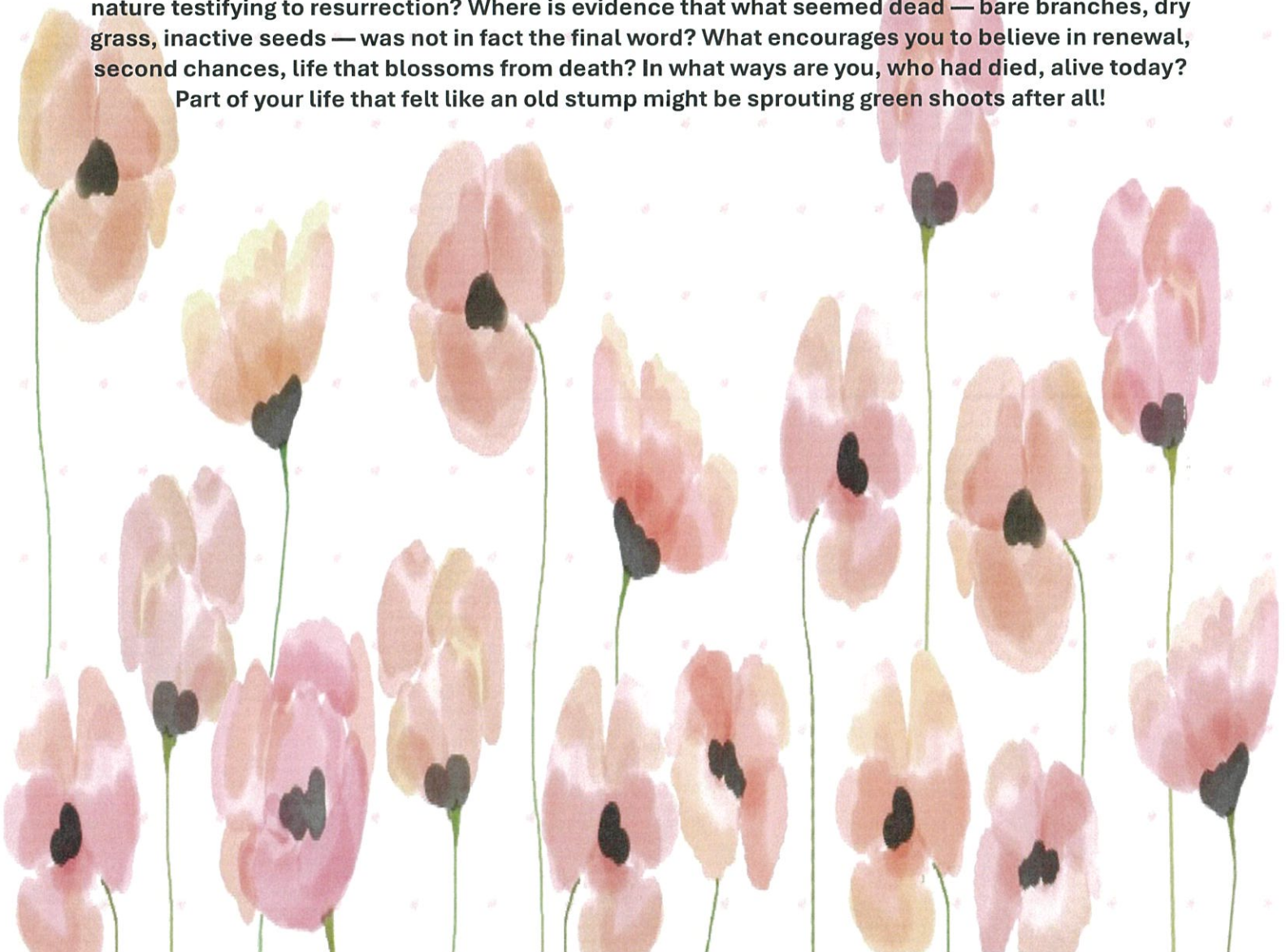
Church Office Hours

M – Th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Reflecting on Resurrection

In *Rest Your Dreams on a Little Twig*, poet Joyce Rupp finds in spring flowers the proclamation of the gospel: “we who have died / are alive today.” In another poem in the same volume, she writes: “A green shoot grows / out of an old tree stump, / announcing to the world / that power lies within death.”

As you move about outdoors these springtime days in the northern hemisphere, where do you see nature testifying to resurrection? Where is evidence that what seemed dead — bare branches, dry grass, inactive seeds — was not in fact the final word? What encourages you to believe in renewal, second chances, life that blossoms from death? In what ways are you, who had died, alive today? Part of your life that felt like an old stump might be sprouting green shoots after all!





MCP Prayer List

Otterbein UMC

Marsha Spickler	Pat Wilson
Marvin Ashby	Barbara Lancaster
Bill Queen	Jim LeMaster
Larry Clemons	Mike Wheeler
Randy Hess	Jeremy Duke
Nancy Kief	Mike Shipe
Jean Fulk	Carol Wilson
Arlene Mauck	Brenda McDaniel
Mike Emery	Kathryn Ford
Gary McDaniel	Carol & Bucky Hensler
Carol Shimel	Betty Ann Keiter Tabler
Lester Brining	Darlene Robertson
Christie Heaton	Sadie Marie Waters
Susan Cookus	Connor Waters
John Kesecker	Whitney Waters
Gisler Girls	Lucy Greenfield
Janice Dodson	Vanessa Bishop
Catherine Neel	Stephen McBee
Candi Keiter-Johnson	Julie Dietz

Trinity UMC

Those unable to attend worship:

Anne Keller (Celebration Villa), Mildred Wilson (Celebration Villa).

Those in our congregation: Sandy Barron, Jean Eriksen, Geneva Hollida, Barbara Humes, Linda Humes, Sue Leatherman, Diana Ropelewski, & Mary Snyder, the family of Lana Tonalli, the Cooperative Parish.

Friends & Family of our congregation: Dr. Barry Dutton, Barbara Elliott, Maggie Jackson, Ava Mae Lillard & family, Ben Manning, Carole Newsome, Henry Wendt, Susan Wiltbank, Larry Winegarden, friends of Lana Tonalli.

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, 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: Tony Albright

Willow Tree Healthcare Center: Doris Dick

Countryside Assisted Living: Emily Nagley,
Jeanne Tederick

Celebration Villa: Joyce Triggs

Harmony at Martinsburg Assisted Living:

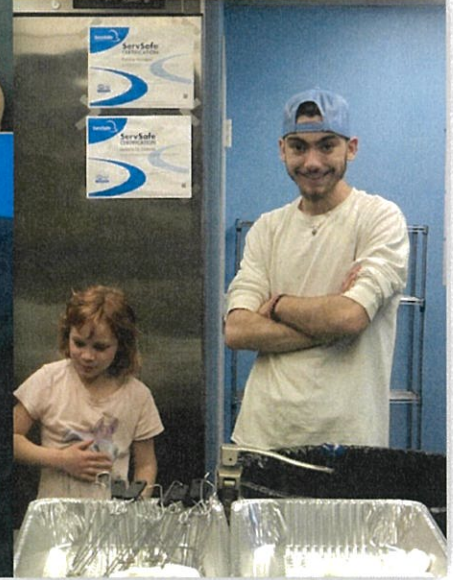
Anne Lea Rannells, Jean Watson

Williamsport Retirement: Sonny Boyd

Homewood: Margaret Bane

Heavenly Father, we pray for continued love and strength for those in our parish family who are listed above, and for those that are unable to worship in-person with us. Help them to remember that they are the apple of your eye, wonderfully made and precious in your sight. We pray they know they are loved and cherished. In your precious name, Amen.

MCP Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt & Youth Activities





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 6:00pm NarAnon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>28 10:30am Arts & Crafts Meeting at SLUMC 7:30pm Potomac Chapter Boy Scouts @ TUMC</p>	<p>29 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p>30 12:00pm Horses with Hearts Leadership Workshop Set Up @ TUMC's Orchard House</p>	<p>1 8:00am Horses with Hearts Leadership Adventures Training @ TUMC's Orchard House 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 8:00am Horses with Hearts Leadership Adventures Training @ TUMC's Orchard House</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Martinsburg High School Prom Overflow Parking @ TUMC</p>
<p>4 Compassion 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 Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 6:00pm NarAnon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>5 4:00pm MCP Serving our Neighbors @ Immanuel's House 6:30pm District Boy Scouts @ TUMC</p>	<p>6 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p>7 5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC</p>	<p>8 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 8:00am Horses with Hearts Leadership Adventures Training @ TUMC's Orchard House</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC 9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC 11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC 11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 6:00pm NarAnon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>12 7:00pm TUMC Ad Council</p>	<p>13 11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p>14 7:00pm BSA Order of the Arrow Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>15 6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 8:00am Horses with Hearts Board Retreat @ TUMC's Orchard House 9:30am A Gathering of Hearts & Minds @ TBD</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>18</p> <p>8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC</p> <p>11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC</p> <p>11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 12:30pm Blood Pressure Checks @ SLUMC</p> <p>6:00pm NarAnon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm MCP Worship Meeting @ OUMC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00am Pack for TYCE @ OUMC</p> <p>11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House</p> <p>5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC</p> <p>6:00pm OUMC Single Leadership Board</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House</p> <p>7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am MCP Things You Can't Eat Giveaway @ OUMC</p> <p>12:00pm A Way Forward Bible Study @ SLUMC</p> <p>5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC</p> <p>6:30pm Dove's Landing Ministries in Fellowship Hall @ TUMC</p> <p>6:30pm SLUMC One Board Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm BSA SAC Coordinated Program Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30pm STEM @ SLUMC</p> <p>6:00pm MCP Business Admin. Meeting @ OUMC</p> <p>6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:45am Sunday School @ TUMC 9:00am Early Morning Worship @ OUMC</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School @ SLUMC 10:00am Mid-Morning Worship @ TUMC</p> <p>11:00am Late Morning Worship @ SLUMC</p> <p>11:15am Youth Meeting @ TUMC 6:00pm NarAnon Meeting @ TUMC</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Memorial Day - MCP Church Offices Closed</p> <p>7:30pm Potomac Chapter Boy Scouts @ TUMC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00am Homeschool Co-Op @ TUMC's Orchard House</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts @ TUMC's Orchard House</p> <p>7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous @ OUMC</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00pm A Way Forward Bible Study @ SLUMC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00pm TUMC Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00pm TUMC Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

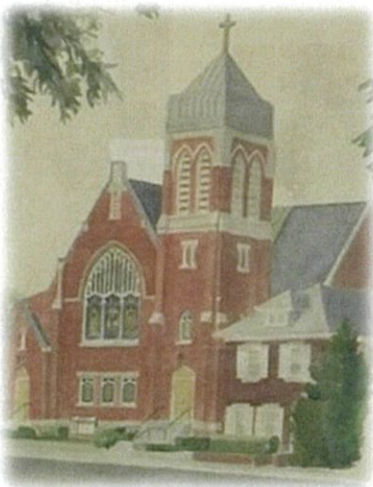
Remember and Honor
Memorial Day



The Martinsburg Cooperative Parish Of United Methodist Churches

Pastor John C. 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