



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2016

PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

CHUCKIN' ALONG for the LORD

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH FOR LOVERS! Our enthusiastic celebration of St. Valentine's Day is off and running as early as early as New Year's Day. Close to the end of this month, we will still be able to find left over Walgreens and CVS Anyway, I hope we can still pick them up since I ate my last Russell Stover Christmas Trees last week of January.

Of the five words that the Greeks had for love, Hallmarks and Russell Stover have zeroed in on Eros, the word for romantic love, to help sell their wares in February. I wonder which type of love that St. Valentine had in mind all those many centuries ago?

ACCORDING TO TRADITION, Valentine was sentenced to death by an anti-marriage Roman Emperor in the late 3rd century, for performing Christian marriages. One of his judges had a blind daughter for whom Valentine prayed for her sight to be restored. She was healed and the whole family became Christians. It is said that Valentine left the girl a note written on red paper the day of his death signed, "...from your Valentine."

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FACTS which call the legend into question, but here we want to look at the type of love that Valentine was demonstrating, fact or fiction.

JESUS SAID, "Greater love has no one than he lays down his life for a friend." Valentine knew that by marrying these couples in a Christian ceremony, he was giving them the best possible setting in which to celebrate their Eros love. He also knew that he was endangering his own life, but he did it anyway.

IN SO DOING, he demonstrated the all-encompassing, totality of love that Jesus showed for us when he laid down his life on the cross for our sins, that we might have eternal life.

AGAPE LOVE is the word that the Greeks have for that kind of love. The love that knows no end and that expects no reward. AGAPE is love that we can strive for, but in this life, probably never achieve. So let's love one another even better this month and always.

Shalom, Chuck

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

In the first chapter of the Bible, we see God creating a perfect place for us to live in and enjoy. Life was good for Adam and Eve. They had no worries, problems, or concerns until Satan arrives on God's turf to bring sin into the perfect world. Turn ahead to the first chapter of the New Testament. In Matthew 4:1-11, we see the new Adam (Jesus) arriving on Satan's turf (the barren desert) to bring salvation and restore hope to fallen mankind. These accounts show us that regardless of where we are at in our spiritual walk; whether it be when all is good and right in our life, or when we are tired, broke, and hungry, Satan will be at work to lure us to him. The same tempter who once entered God's garden now welcomes God to his wilderness. The barren desert can be a picture of what the world –and life - becomes when Satan has his way. Joe Stowell from RBC Ministries puts it this way, "With one decisive blow, the joy of Eden was replaced with the barrenness of shame. But Jesus was victorious on Satan's home court!"

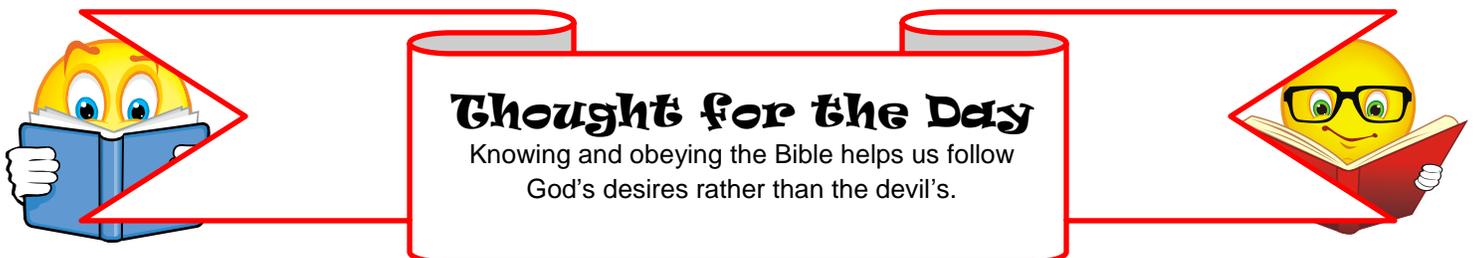
My footnote in the Life Application Bible says, 'Jesus wasn't tempted inside the temple or at his baptism, but in the desert where he was tired, hungry and alone. He had just finished fasting for 40 days, but he chose not to use his divine power to satisfy his natural desire. The devil's temptations focused on three crucial areas: (1) physical needs and desires (2) possessions and power and (3) pride. But Jesus did not give in. In this way, Jesus knows first-hand what we experience and even to a greater degree that we normally experienced it.'

He wants us to lean on Him and wants us to know that He feels our pain! In His victory over Satan, Jesus gives us hope that we too can have victory. A victory that shows us the enemy no longer owns us. A victory that assures us that a day is coming when we no longer toil in Satan's wilderness but will be ushered into heaven, where the joy of Eden will be ours!

Notice another contrast in the Matthew story, both Satan and Jesus knew the scriptures well. The difference is that while both knew the scriptures well, only Jesus obeyed them! As we journey together through the wilderness of temptation, we can stand firm knowing that Christ's victory is also ours! Hallelujah!

In His Grip

Butch Hackett



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING – January 21, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Chuck Trent, Jim & Carolyn Craig, Jim Hackett, Bill Harrison, Rex and Joan Johns, Lisa & Ian McDaniel, Larry & Melody McGrath, and Jerry Payne.

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Craig at 6:30 pm, and Pastor Chuck Trent gave a devotional based on scripture from Exodus 16:1, and offered the opening prayer.

Minutes of the previous 10/08/15 Ad Council meeting, and a sheet listing the “2016 Official Church Roll” (*as determined by Charge Conference*) as well as “Others” (*meaning other positions within the church as determined by OUMC*), were distributed and reviewed. The following matters were discussed regarding the 2016 Official Church Roll sheet: 1) Removal of Jane Cox's name on the Finance Committee and add another name (*Rose Snider suggested, since she is listed as Financial Secretary in lieu of the fact that she has authority to transfer funds within the church accounts*); 2) More names needed on the Trustees Committee; 3) Add Communion Steward under “Others” and consider names to fill that vacated position (*Betty Potts, Paula Dennis, Alice Seeley... Update 1/24/16: Phyllis Hackett has taken this position*); 4) List Lisa McDaniel's name only under Sunday School Superintendent; and 5) Add P.P.R.C. Chairperson's name once it has been decided at their next meeting. Jerry Payne made a motion, seconded by Melody McGrath, to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting as printed, and the 2016 Official Church Roll sheet with changes. Motion carried.

REPORTS: Detailed reports submitted by Chairpersons are attached to the original Minutes. Highlights of those reports are shown below:

Nurture, Joan Johns – (Easter season) 1) On Ash Weds, (02/10/16), the church will be open with the pastor present from 7 to 9 am with literature and ashes available; and a 6:30 pm Ash Weds service as well; 2) Melody McGrath will order and pick up the palms for Palm Sunday; 3) On Easter Sunday (03/27/16) Sean Hackett will be in charge of an Early Easter Service (*likely 8 AM*), with Fellowship Time between this service and the regular worship service; 4) Betty Potts will take orders and make arrangements for Easter flowers. **(Church Camp, Sunday School & Youth Mission Trip)** - *discussed in other reports.* **(Service Projects & Missions)** - Still thinking on future service projects as well as how to support mission work, hoping to once again become a 5-Star Church.

Finance, Jim Hackett– The Finance Committee met on 01/04/16 where Jim Hackett accepted the 2016 Finance Chairperson's position. The church's financial status was reviewed. No financial reports were available at this meeting. Jim Hackett stated that he is going to need help with setup, Quick Books, and procedures once the financial

records have been turned over to him. He also needs the passwords to the church office computer. Suggested names were offered from within the congregation to take the vacated church bookkeeper's position: Rose Snider, Mary Hennig. Another option is to offer the position to Michelle Price, the church secretary (*adding extra compensation to her salary*). The pastor and Melody McGrath are to work on follow-up regarding this matter.

Trustees, Jim Hackett/Bill Harrison – The Trustees Committee met on 01/05/16, but there was not a quorum present, so they met on 01/19/16 and elected Bill Harrison as the 2016 Trustee Chairperson. Following is a list of trustee-related matters that Bill Harrison and his committee addressed at that meeting: 1) Noted that Ian McDaniel too young to serve on Trustees, according to Conference By-Laws; and presently have 7 names for Trustees and the By-Laws request 9 (*Nominations Committee needs to meet/select 2 more*); 2) Locks and/or doorknob replacement of external doors at parsonage because of past church break-in, and consider outstanding keys; 3) Schedule a Spring Work Day; 4) Work on tile replacement of Fellowship Room chipped tiles; 5) Paint push-pin damaged walls & add an additional bulletin board by the elementary classroom; 6) Make Soup Stop sign more visible, moving it closer to the street; 7) Fire extinguisher maintenance to be scheduled (*\$403.25 quote*); 8) Landscaping matter (*later*); 9) Snow removal estimates being gathered--currently have contracted Gayland Swango--GO MOW LAWN & SNOW REMOVAL (*Soup Stop may help with the cost of this*); 10) Water Bill issue (*may be toilet stool leaky valves*); 11) Rehanging of a Richard Dennis wooden cross; 12) Work on outside lights/positioning (*The pastor had requested a motion light installed at the south entrance*); 13) Outside lights in portico need replaced; 14) Soffit & fascia damage; 15) Furnace repair (*on west side of sanctuary*); 16) Work on additions to the memorial board(s)—(*names to be added when money has been donated in memory of someone*); 17) Parking lot and driveway issues (*may not have to take immediate action as the rock parking lot should be considered "Grandfathered in" before particular city ordinances were established*); 18) Positioning of sanctuary spotlights.

Pastor-Parish Relations, reported by Melody McGrath – A combined meeting of P.P.R.C. persons from both the Oakland UMC and the Otterbein UMC was held 01/17/16. They introduced themselves to each other; discussed the pastor's strong/weaker points; tabled the matter of choosing a P.P.R.C. Chairperson until the next meeting; and set their next meeting date for 04/21/16, 6 pm, at OUMC.

Youth Ministry, reported by Ian McDaniel – Sean Hackett and Ian McDaniel have spent some time researching a possible mission trip to Washington D.C. July 15-18, 2016, connecting with a particular Christian organization for their work on July 16-17. Also may be included are a couple of possible side trips (*i.e.—the White House and to the*

Smithsonian). If there are just guys going on this mission trip, it will be OK to have male chaperones only, but there does need to be 2 chaperones. A Super-Subs fundraiser is on the calendar, but will likely not happen this year. Follow-up with Sean is needed.

Church Camp, Lisa McDaniel – At the 01/17/16 Nurture Team meeting, it was determined that any child/youth wanting to attend camp will be encouraged, and all fees will be paid for him/her to attend. A minimum \$50 per camp/per person is required, with balance due 3 wks prior to start of camp. To receive the Early Bird Fee, full payment and registration must be received by 04/15/16 (*this deducts \$25 of the camp cost*). There are 3 pricing options: 1) Tier #1 – Assisted Cost (*funded in part by conference apportionments*); 2) Tier #2 – Actual Cost; 3) Tier #3 – Actual Plus (*generally \$25 greater than the actual cost*). The Tier #1 cost has been used in the past.

Sunday School, Lisa McDaniel – After communication with each of the current remaining Sunday School teachers and participants, it was suggested to try an Intergenerational Sunday School Class. It is a class where children and adults learn together and encourage each other. The theme chosen is *“The Righteous Shall Live By Faith”* (*a study on the 10 Commandments*). Carolyn Craig has offered to lead the class to run from Feb 21 thru the end of May. She showed a bulletin insert sheet that will be used the first two wks of Feb. Information about the class is also to go in the Feb newsletter. After approval from the Nurture Committee, and Jim Hackett, Finance Chairperson, the material was ordered by the church secretary (*Cost: \$95.57*). Classes will continue as they are until Feb 21st.

Family Night, reported by Carolyn Craig – The Family Night participants gathered and decided to continue meeting together and encouraging one another even though we are now small in number. The meals will continue, preparing for 10 to 12, rather than the 18 to 20 number. Carolyn, at the recommendation of the Nurture Team, will be circulating a Family Night Meal Signup Sheet to recruit help with the entrée and/or desserts for the next 6 wks. She will also include an envelope where money can be placed to help with miscellaneous expenses or for pizza on evenings where we have no one signed up to help. Sean Hackett is continuing to meet with the youth, and hoping to recruit more youth. The adults have decided to discontinue the Advent study that was not completed. The pastor is looking into a possible DVD-driven Lenten study that can be enjoyed by both youth and adults should we decide to join together on any given evening. If more children start attending in addition to Sandy's two, she will step in to lead J4J on Weds evenings.

Jerry Payne made a motion, seconded by Joan Johns, to approve the Reports given. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Church Letterhead, Carolyn Craig – Michelle Price now has the finalized version of the new church letterhead in a PDF format that the Ad Council had approved. Joan Johns volunteered to take care of the letterhead printing. Melody McGrath made a motion, seconded by Jerry Payne, to have 50 to 100 sheets of the new letterhead printed by Paap Printing, asking them to keep this on file for future minimal edits and ordering as needed. Motion carried.

Membership Cultivation, Bill Harrison – The pastor and the church secretary are currently working on a letter, to be printed on the new church letterhead, to be mailed to those persons who were on the church cultivation list approved at the October 25, 2015 Charge Conference.

NEW BUSINESS:

Church Security Matters, Jerry Payne – Jerry Payne, who has taken a couple of security-readiness trainings, brought before the Ad Council his concerns that OUMC needs to have an action plan for how to respond in case our safety is compromised at a Sunday morning worship service or Weds Family Night gathering. Jim Hackett made a motion, seconded by Melody McGrath, for Jerry Payne to put together a Church Security Plan of Action to be presented to the congregation at a specially-called Ad Council meeting of the church body in the near future. Motion carried. Jerry Payne will let Carolyn Craig know when he is ready to make this presentation.

Eagle Scout Project, Ian McDaniel – Ian McDaniel presented his Eagle Scout project idea to build an elevated walking bridge from the parsonage to OUMC at a proposed cost of \$400. Ian also presented ideas for how to cover the cost of the project: 1) Possible undesignated memorial money; 2) Give the congregation the opportunity to contribute; and 3) Through various Boy Scout suggested fundraising ideas. A motion was made by Jim Hackett, and seconded by Bill Harrison, to approve the elevated walking bridge Eagle Scout project presented by Ian McDaniel, to move forward. Motion carried. Once Ian has turned in his paperwork and has the approval from the Scouting officials, then he will present the proposal at a specially-called Ad Council meeting of the congregation.

Upcoming Calendar Dates

1) **02/07/16 – Boy Scout Sunday** *(The pastor will be in discussion with Ian McDaniel and Kenny Smallhorn about leading the worship service)*

2) **02/07/16 – Transfiguration Sunday**

3) **02/07/16 – Soup-er Bowl Soup Can Collection** *(the pastor and Sandy Smallhorn are working to make this happen. Collected cans will be donated to the Food Pantry)*

4) **Feb - Black History Month**

5) **02/10/16 – Ash Weds, 7-9 am, ashes at the church; 6:30 pm Ash Weds service**

6) **02/11/16, 5:30 pm - NEW Calendar Planning Date** *(Bring your own fast food/sack lunch)*

7) **02/13/16 – Annual Pancake Day**

8) **04/07/16, 6:30 pm – Ad Council Meeting**

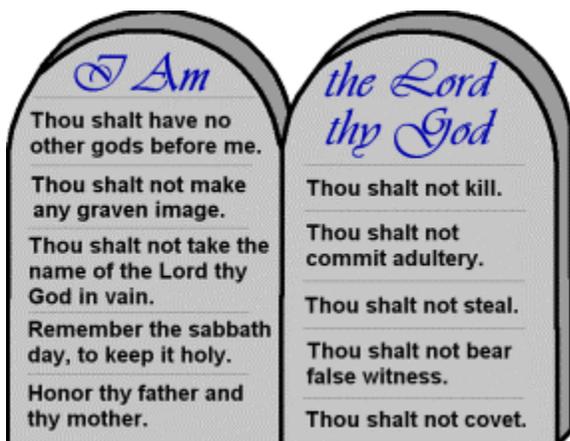
PASTOR'S REPORT, Pastor Chuck Trent –

1) He is pleased that the apportionments are caught up;

2) **02/06/16, 9 am to 3 pm, in Arthur, IL** – *“Reaching New People”, Evangelism Training (the pastor would like to recruit 3 lay people to go with him).*

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT: Carolyn Craig shared an excerpt about “Changes”, from a newsletter article written by Sid Davis, Jr, an IGRC pastor the Craigs know well. This paragraph spoke not only to life changes, but also to changes that churches may experience. A motion was then made by Jim Hackett, seconded by Melody McGrath, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Carolyn Craig closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Craig – Recording Secretary



**JOIN US FOR SOMETHIING NEW...
INTERGENERATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL!!**

Beginning **Sunday, Feb 21, 10:45-11:30 am**
in the Fellowship Room

“The Righteous Shall Live By Faith”

A study for children & adults on

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Consider what might be gained by offering an intergenerational class, where children and adults learn together and encourage each other. We will have the opportunity to be the church—a body, united, not divided by age levels. As all ages meet together, the awkward barriers between adults and children, teens and seniors, crumble. The studies begin with illustrations and visuals of a key truth, followed by discussions, practical applications, and a game or two to bring home the teaching of the day.

Submitted by Carolyn Craig



FEBRUARY 7, 2016

**JOIN US TO COLLECT SOUP CANS
FROM NOW THROUGH
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!!!**

**CANS WILL BE DONATED TO THE
CHARLESTON FOOD PANTRY**

**PLACE YOUR SOUP CAN DONATIONS IN THE BOX PROVIDED IN THE
ENTRYWAY OF OUMC! THANKS!**

Let us continue to remember our shut-in and homebound members.
Please remember them in your prayers and feel free to visit or send a card ☺

Francis Adkins

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home
201 Lafayette E
Mattoon, IL 61938
Birthday: 5/25

Jim & Bertha Anderson

13250 E Cty Rd 210N
Charleston, IL 61920

Joan Hutton

Hilltop Conv. Center
910 W. Polk Rm. 209
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 4/21

Tom Watson

2200 Madison Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 8/10



Eleanor Rice

Heartland Christian Village
101 Trowbridge Rd
Neoga, IL 62447
Birthday: 2/9

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer concern that you would like on the prayer list or prayer chain, please contact Michelle (549-7285) or email the church (charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com) with the name and info to include. I will include the name on the prayer list (on bulletin) or it can be sent out in a mass email. Please also remember to update when the names are to be removed from the list. If it is an emergency prayer request please text or call Michelle. I only work 3 days a week (Tue-Thur)



Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*Mar 2016*) will be printed and distributed around the first week in March. The deadline to submit articles or information in the March newsletter will be **Thursday, Feb 18th.** Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.

Family Night

Every Wednesday

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30 Sessions for all ages

9 ~

Please Note

If you need to reach
Pastor Chuck Trent

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com



FINANCE REPORT

Please note the following figures and reports provided by the Finance Team.

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.



— John Wesley

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 495.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 26.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 93.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,062.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 494.04
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
Chuck Trent	\$ 2,380.26
Chuck Trent TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 49.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozine	\$ 27.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 285.15
TOTAL	\$ 7,779.45
Weekly	\$ 1,245.00

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55



Celebrations



Birthdays



- Darla Rol /01
- Mackenzie Wilson 2/10
- Michael Payne 2/14
- Dan Bircher 2/19
- Kimberly Rice 2/21
- Debra Bircher 1/22
- Krista Snider 2/25

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Carolyn Craig 2/12

Rick & Sharron Waltrip 2/14

Bill & Judy Harrison 2/15



PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DAY

Saturday, February 13

6:00am - 2:00pm

You can't beat an ALL You Can Eat Breakfast while Sharing in a time of fellowship with good company!

Open to the public

Invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors!

Love offering accepted





February 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	3 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6-7:30 pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6
7 <u>Worship</u> 9:30- 10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30 am	8 <u>Finance Meeting</u> 6:30 PM <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm NO Family Night <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	13 Pancake & Sausage Day 6am-2pm 
14 <u>Worship</u> 9:30 -10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30 am	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6-7:30 pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Newsletter Articles Due	19 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	20 Hennig Baby Shower
21 <u>Worship</u> 9:30-10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30 am	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6-7:30 pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28
29 <u>Worship</u> 9:30-10:30 am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30						

- 2/6 9am-3pm Arthur, IL "Reaching New People" Evangelism Training (see Pastor Chuck if you can join him)
- 2/7 Transfiguration Sunday / Soup-er Bowl Soup Can Collection
- 2/10 **NO Family Night in lieu of Ash Wednesday Service** 7-9 am Ash Wed literature & ashes available (Pastor Chuck present) 6:30pm Ash Wed Services
- 2/11 Spring Calendar planning 5:30pm (bring your own fast food /sack lunch)
- 2/13 Boy Scout Sunday / Annual Pancake Day at OUMC

Otterbein United Methodist Church
2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920



THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2016



Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	10:45 a.m.

Otterbein United Methodist Church
2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920

CONTACT US:

(217) 345-5843 (phone)
charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com (email)
www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)

www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC

All are welcome!