



The Olive Branch

MAY 2017

Olive Branch Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Finding Time for Healing

Lent is over; Holy Week has ended; the sights and sounds of Easter are still fresh in my memory. The special services, created by our Worship Team, and the beautiful music from our chancel, bell, and chime choirs, were incredible. In addition to our services at Olive Branch, I found my spirit renewed and refreshed by our community Lenten services. Many of you have shared with me similar feelings. Our last service was held at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church on the night prior to Maundy Thursday. As part of worship, a service for healing was offered. Pastors representing the Ministerial Association stood in the chancel, and individuals needing prayer for personal healing, or the healing of loved ones, were encouraged to come forward and pray with a pastor. I prayed for several that evening, and left the service feeling humbled and blessed.

After all, who among us does not stand in need of healing? Physical healing, and the strength to cope with the after-effects when complete healing wasn't experienced? Relational healing, be they arguments with loved ones, or with others? Emotional healing from the pain of hurtful words, the death of a spouse or a loved one? Spiritual healing, as we seek freedom from wrestling with our doubts and fears, and seek ways to grow closer to our Lord? The truth is, that we all need healing.

Sounds as if it might just be time for a service of healing at Olive Branch.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard



Hardly Obsolete

Survey trends and articles and books during the past seven years indicate possibility that, in 20 years, 65% of protestant churches will be closed. Other trends seem to indicate that "white, American Christianity" cannot survive.

I don't see this trend as necessarily bad news. To me, they are wake-up calls. We must separate our faith in God and the practice of that faith from political causes and systems. A focus on the rule of God in all creation allows us to cross the boundaries of culture, race and politics.

The early church made its name by taking care of people, especially those on the fringes of society. In these difficult times for our nation, our community, and our church, we have the opportunity to change the way we see the world in which we live. Our children, especially, need to learn that our hope is not tied to financial progress, to good health, or to political success. It is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, who redeemed us and restored us to a living relationship with God.

Let's be a people of hope. Let's be faithful to God, and the Creator of everyone and all there is will take care of the rest.

Take Care,
~Fred



CFW NEWS

There is lots going on in CWF. Read these stories to see what the ladies are up to...and join in where you can!

God Bless!

~*Kay Ainsworth*, CWF Director



CFW COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER LOOKING FOR HUNGRY FOLKS:

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13, from 4-7 PM to help eat up a pile of pasta, a sea of salad, a boatload of bread and butter, and a deluge of dessert. Invitations extend to the community, so spread the word and bring friends. Costs are: Adults-\$10, Children 4-12-\$5, children 3 and younger-FREE. Proceeds will go toward the kitchen renovation project. Flyers will shortly appear around the community. Homemade and yummy!



CFW BOARD TO MEET: Monday, May 16 at 7 PM in the Education Building. Please feel free to join them!!



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Tuesday Circle met at Interlude April 11, with thirteen in attendance. What a variety of delicious food, including a birthday cake for Louise Smith and Ann Bradshaw, followed by a happy birthday song! Donna and Pastor Richard, went over the many upcoming events. Elaine's lesson was entitled "Jesus Teachings About The Holy Spirit", using scripture reading and a lot of good discussion. We missed those who were absent. Hurry back for food to enjoy, fun, fellowship and Elaine's wonderful lessons, Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 9, at 11:45. Everyone is welcome...regulars, as well as those who have never attended.

~*Donna Haulsee*



2017 VIRGINIA CWF RETREAT: is set for Friday, June 2, to Sunday, June 4. The theme for this retreat is *Make Us One!* The Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Christal Williams, is an author & Tennessee Regional Minister. Find the registration form in this newsletter or from the church office. Registration early bird discount deadline is 5/1/2017 (postmark). Final deadline is 5/22/2017 (\$151.00). These weekends are always inspiring and a great opportunity to spend time with a great bunch of women!



MONDAY CWF WILL MEET

on April 17th at 7 PM in the Education Building.

The group is a series of lessons on the Fruit of the Spirit. We are using a book called Golden Fruit. This book looks at the fruit of the Spirit as seen in women in the Bible. Our first lesson looked at love as seen in Ruth.

Please join us on the 3rd Monday of each month as we meet in Andy's Sunday School room at 7:00 pm.

~*Carole Kerr*



We are gearing up for our mission trip. This year we are experiencing something new by going to Leech Lake, Minnesota. We will be serving on an Indian Reservation. One of the main focuses is building relationships with the people we serve. Also, that spending time with someone is more important than being on time. Another new experience is quietness/listening. Their cultures values quietness and listening. Some of the service areas are painting, cleaning, yard work, or other simple work projects. We will also plan and lead kids programming for children in the community, including Bible lessons, games, crafts, and reading. We will plan and facilitate sports-based programming for community youth. Our evening activities include a cultural night, swimming in the lake community, a cookout, and a scavenger hunt. The theme for the summer is *The Good Life*. We will be staying at the High/Middle School. Our normal planned day is the same: 7-8:15 breakfast/prepare lunch, 8:15-9 morning devotions, 9-3 serving in the community, 3:30-5:30 showers free time, 4:45-5:15 adult leader meeting, 5:30-6:30 dinner, 6:30-8:30 evening activity, 9-10 large group gathering, 10-11 church group time. I am excited to see where this trip leads us!

~*Abby Matschke*



The next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 2nd at the Ann Bradshaw home. Dick Barber will share his thoughts on growing older....*Aging. Consider It Pure Joy!!*

Hope to see you!

~*Dick & Betty Barber*



Church Family: Pat Allred, Vicki Anderson, Charles & Betty Boy, Duie Brantley, Gertie Duke, Jackie Gardner (Bonnie Willard's sister), John Hill Gardner, Lucy Hall, Clay Harrison, Lena Jeffries, Ruby Jones, Bob Key, David Love, Val Mason, Ellen Sullivan, Richard Thiel, Sarah Waid, Dennis Williams, David Wolverton

Family and Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, our nation, Betty Boley Family (Cleve's sister), Caleb Brickhouse (Marney Brickhouse's husband), Judy Carter (Christy Jensen's Aunt), David Cooper (friends of Willards), Kim Dempsey (friend of Harbours), Charles Friend (Emily Friend's borther), Melissa Fulgham (Josh & Jessica Fulgham's mom), Mike Getsi (friend of Harbours), Tiena Griffith (Nancy Griffith's daughter-in-law), Mike & Christina Harvey (friends of Ruskeys), Carl Hendley (Family of Gene & Cheryl Johnson), David Hunt (Jim Hunt's brother), Allison Izzo (friend of Heslinks), Tish & Finn Jensen (Skip Jensen's parents), Laura Jessee Family (friend of OBCC), Barbara Johnson (Robin Moscati's mother), Lisa Johnson (daughter-in-law of Gene/Cheryl Johnson), Janet & Jim Marshall (sister & brother-in-law of Robin Moscati), Vince Mason (Judy Eley's brother), Jackson Moscati (Robin Moscati's grandnephew), Bryson Phenicie (Dallas & Joann Mitchell's nephew), Bill, Allie, Cecelia Raines (daughter-in-law family of Pat Dressler), Rose Ratcliffe (friend of Harbours), Theresa Robertson, (friend of DonnaHaulsee), Zoey Jane Rolfe (Vicki Anderson's grandniece), Bill Russell (friend of Doug Haulsee), Ralph Schwartz (friend of Willards, Jamie VanCleave (Jerry VanCleave's granddaughter), Marolyn (Carolyn Hunt's twin sister)

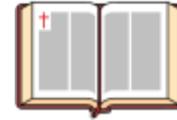


Worship and Wonder (Ages 3-8)

- May 7 Carolyn Hunt, Linda Williams
- May 14 TBD, Ann Bradshaw
- May 21 Harold/Patty Barker
Cindy/Robbie Robertson
- May 28 Jim/Paula Thacker, Josh Fulgham



- May 7 Marney Brickhouse
- May 14 Susan Fournier
- May 21 OPEN
- May 28 OPEN



SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS

The following scriptures will be used during the Sunday worship services this month. The **underlined passages** are the primary passages for Pastor Richard's sermons.

- May 7 Luke 24: 44-48; **Acts 8:26-39**
- May 14 Acts 15:1-5; **Acts 15:6-18**
- May 21 Galatians 1:13-17; **Galatians 2:11-21**
- May 28 Galatians 3:1-9; **Galatians 3:23-29**



SERVING THIS MONTH

Elders

- May 7 Ralph Hutton, Jim Thacker
- May 14 Joyce Allen, Skip Jensen
- May 21 Fred Rothermel, Robbie Robertson
- May 28 Donna Perger, Judy Eley

Deacons

- May 7 Lisa Day, Tracey Creech,
Tracey Hutton, Phillip Day
- May 14 Abby Matschke, Boyce Mason,
Danny Pitts, Elna Pitts
- May 21 Cindy Robertson, Lewis Williams,
Harold Barker, Patty Barker
- May 28 Will Hatcher, Jane Hatcher,
Mel Watson, Kaye Watson

Deaconess

Barb Nicholson



WELCOME TO THE PULPIT

May 7 Robin Moscati



GUEST PREACHING: A special thanks to Pastor Fred Rothermel and Josh Fulgham for preaching on April 23 and 30!



- 01 Ruby Jones
- 01 William (Sonny) Watson, IV
- 02 Heidi Holloway
- 03 Connie Cason
- 04 Martha Garrett
- 07 Ginny Hammack
- 08 Donna Haulsee
- 10 Michael Heslink
- 12 Christina (Katie) Lambert
- 13 Sarah Allred
- 14 Susan Pruitt
- 16 Duie Brantley
- 17 Viola (Vicki) Anderson
- 20 Lauren Morse
- 22 Evan Martin
- 24 Richard Thiel
- 25 Kimberlee Bartley
- 27 Curtis Morse
- 27 Paula (Mrs. Matthew) Tackett
- 29 Randy Houchens



- 04 Robert (Bob) & Gail Key
- 15 Travis Garrett
- 24 Richard (Dick) & Betty Barber



FOOD SHARING PROGRAM UPDATE

During the month of May, the blooms of your blessings will fill up our food sharing baskets. Our neighbors are grateful for your donations.

Love
~Jane & Will Hatcher



OUR DAY OUT

What an enjoyable day for all our Guests and Volunteers as we celebrated our biggest birthday day month yet, a total of six! It occurred to me that 2/3 of our celebrants are cancer survivors and 3 others chimed in that they, too, are survivors. What a wonderful day to celebrate LIFE, as we remembered our risen Lord and the new life He brings to all who love Him. We talked of how He prepared for His death in order to help his followers deal with what was coming on Good Friday. That served as an introduction into what our guest speaker, Bell Jo Rodgers of Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg would be sharing with us---preparation for our own end of life or the life of one we love. She proved to be an awesome speaker with a wealth of information to share, beginning with the long history of Hospice to include the current programs available in the area where we live.

Sheila served a wonderful lunch of ham, potato salad, tomatoes and cucumbers, followed by a bunny cake and ice cream. We left the table filled full by wonderful food and happy conversation. Then we headed over to Donna's Craft Corner to make a cross of beads, suitable for hanging.

BINGO proved to be a fun experience, once again, without too much complaining about Larry's calling or their cards that included too few of the numbers called! Not even Harold cried! The only complaint I heard was that it didn't last long enough! But I can tell you, many prizes were taken home, along with an Easter card and chocolate cross.

Our May 10th meeting will include Emily Friend teaching us the importance of herbs in our diets and how to care for them for best results. We'll get to plant our own to take home. I consider Emily and expert in this field, as it is one of her passions.

We are still accepting new guests to join in our fun, and volunteers are always welcome. Our guests may be anyone from our community who could use a fun day out with Christian friends. Call the office and leave information or contact me directly. Thank you.

In Jesus' Name,
Louise Smith, Christy Jensen
Co-coordinators



Our Day Out Birthday Fun



FAMILY NIGHTS TO RETURNS MAY 3:

For a study of Science and the Bible. Teacher, Roy Henk, will lead a study he calls *Our Entrusted Creation; Who Dunnit!* The fun, food, and learning begin at 6:30 PM in the New Fellowship Hall.



CAMPBELL CLASS CONTINUES STUDY- IN ITS NEW HOME:

of the Parables, making use of artistic journaling and the parable boxes from Worship and Wonder. The study is based upon the book Short Stories by Jesus: Enigmatic Parables by a Controversial Rabbi. The author, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine teaches New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School and is an Orthodox Jew. She offers a new perspective on the parables from the perspective of a first century Jew. Join us, and hear the parables again for the first time. The class meets at 9:45 each Sunday in the upstairs area of The Old Fellowship Hall.



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS:



BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE!

With Mother's Day approaching, let's buy a blanket in memory or honor of our loved ones and friends. Blanket is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world.

The compassion of our church family shows with each blanket donation for people in need. With our generosity, CWS responded quickly in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. With our help, they provided blankets and other emergency supplies to North

Carolina, Virginia, and other East Coast areas that were especially hard-hit. CWS also provided blankets and other materials to Le Puente, a ministry that provides vital resources and services to people in crisis in southern Colorado's San Luis Valley.

We are the hands of Christ through your actions, not just through your words. You are the hands and feet of Christ through your commitment to helping others in need.

I am thankful that our church family has decided to be these hands and feet through generous donations to the blanket program for CWS blanket Sunday.

Order forms will be inserted in bulletins on Sunday, April 30 and Sunday, May 7. A list of donors will appear on Sunday, May 14, Mother's Day & Blanket Sunday.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be." God has blessed us with so much that we can share.

In His Name & Blessing
~Sheila Yeatts



SUMMER CAMPS: Summer is fast approaching and the Camp, Conference, and Retreat Schedules are out. There are camps available for every age group, including seniors. Specialized camps are available for those with disabilities. See the Schedule posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board in the Education Building. Discounts for early registration end soon, limited funds are available for those unable to afford to go. Contact Andrew Pfister for further details.



May 18th marks two years of my service to the OBCC family. I am grateful to be here and be helpful to all of you in meeting your goals. Thank you for your confidence in me and for your constant support and love.

Blessings,
~Susan Campbell Fournier



LOOK FOR A NEW CROSS AND PLAQUE:

in the Sanctuary narthex. It is made from the old handrails that were once at the church entrance. Think about how many hands slid along their surfaces as generations of OBCC families came to church. Take a moment to look...and then thank Steve Perger for his thoughtful gift to the church family.



**MAY IS
MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS MONTH:**

Connect with the Mental Health and Congregational Care Affinity Group for resources at:

<https://www.nbacares.org/care-resources/search?q=mental+health>



GIVE THANKS!

•Even though numerous communities had been independently celebrating Memorial Day for years, the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo first celebrated the holiday on May 5, 1866.

•Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30 for decades, but in 1971, Congress established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May and a Federal holiday.

•Memorial Day originally honored military personnel who died in the Civil War (1861-65).

•Roughly 620,000 Americans died in the Civil War — making it the deadliest war in American history. More Americans died then than in all other conflicts combined.

•President Bill Clinton signed the National Moment of Remembrance Act on Dec. 28, 2000, designating 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day as a National Moment of Remembrance.

•It wasn't always Memorial Day — it used to be known as Decoration Day.

•Red poppies are known as a symbol of remembrance, and it's a tradition to wear them to honor those who died in war.

•Even though Memorial Day began as a holiday honoring Union soldiers, some states still have Confederate observances. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day on Jan. 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

•The crowd that attended the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was about the same size as those that attend today's observance: about 5,000 people.



**ELDERS WILL *NOT* MEET
ON THE MAY 29TH HOLIDAY.**



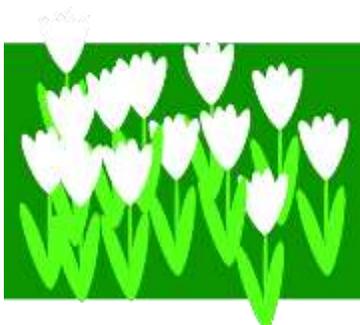
EASTER THANKS

Richard and I would like to thank those who helped out with the worship during the Lenten Journey and Easter services and events. There were several that you saw and noticed... but much of the help was behind the scenes. Thanks to the following:

- Emilio Pesante, the choir, and the quartet
- Steve Hall
- Ann Bradshaw and the Bells of Glory
- Irma Gustafson and the Handchimes
- Steven and Linda Garrett
- Jane Hatcher
- Judy Eley
- Andy and Ann Bradshaw
- Fred Rothermel
- Susan Campbell Fournier
- Robbie Robertson
- Diana Love
- The Men's Fellowship

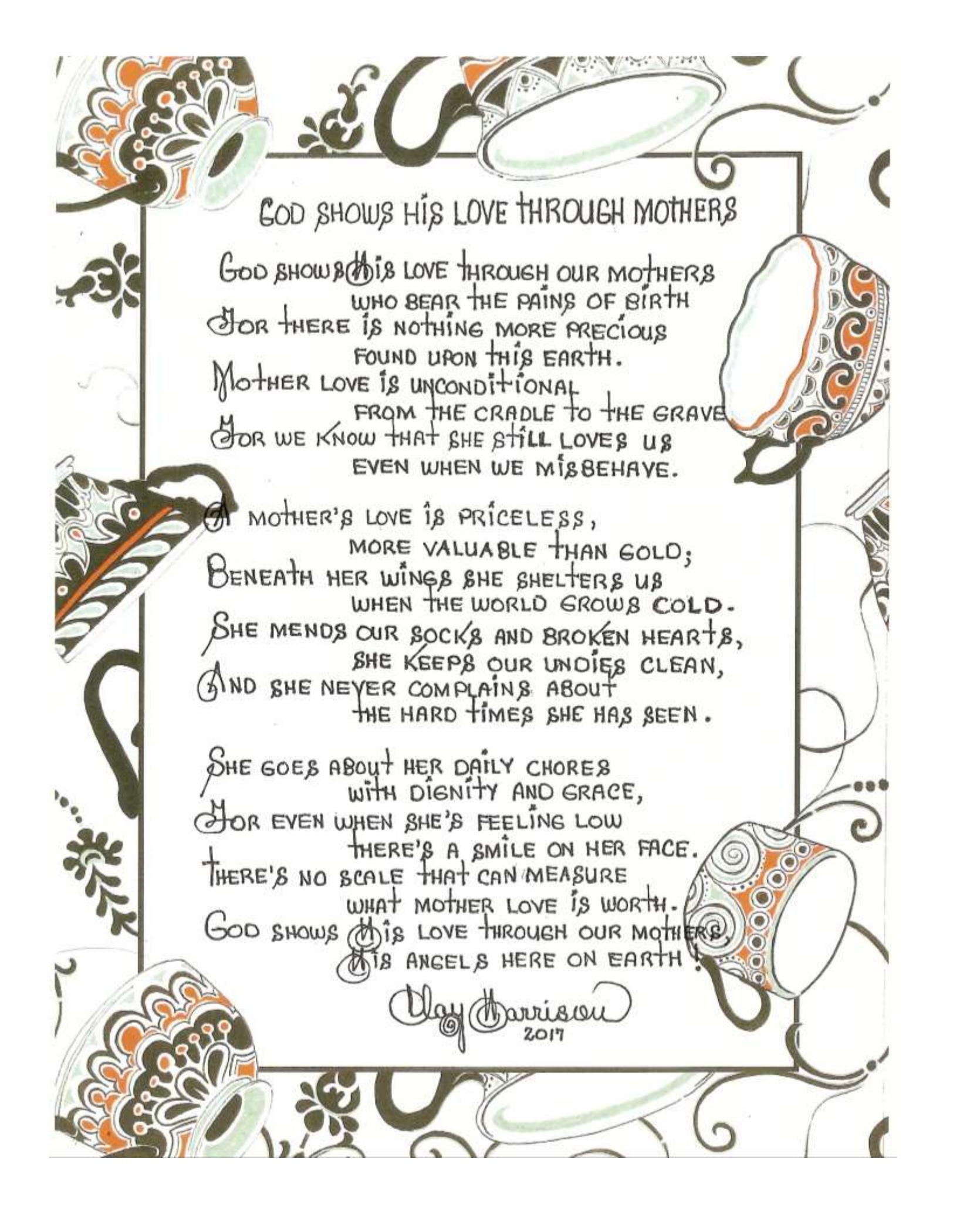
We thank you all for the teamwork which is what makes Olive Branch such a success!

~Susan Kohlman
PPT Worship Advocate



EASTER AT OLIVE BRANCH





GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE THROUGH MOTHERS

GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE THROUGH OUR MOTHERS
WHO BEAR THE PAINS OF BIRTH
FOR THERE IS NOTHING MORE PRECIOUS
FOUND UPON THIS EARTH.

MOTHER LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL
FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE
FOR WE KNOW THAT SHE STILL LOVES US
EVEN WHEN WE MISBEHAVE.

A MOTHER'S LOVE IS PRICELESS,
MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD;
BENEATH HER WINGS SHE SHELTERS US
WHEN THE WORLD GROWS COLD.
SHE MENDS OUR SOCKS AND BROKEN HEARTS,
SHE KEEPS OUR UNDIES CLEAN,
AND SHE NEVER COMPLAINS ABOUT
THE HARD TIMES SHE HAS SEEN.

SHE GOES ABOUT HER DAILY CHORES
WITH DIGNITY AND GRACE,
FOR EVEN WHEN SHE'S FEELING LOW
THERE'S A SMILE ON HER FACE.
THERE'S NO SCALE THAT CAN MEASURE
WHAT MOTHER LOVE IS WORTH.

GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE THROUGH OUR MOTHERS,
HIS ANGELS HERE ON EARTH!

Clay Harrison
2017

BELIEVING WITHOUT SEEING

Do you find it easy to believe what someone tells you, even if what they tell you seems impossible? Sometimes we must see something before we believe it, don't we?

On the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, his disciples were together in a locked room. They were afraid that those who had crucified Jesus would also want to put them to death.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared there in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard to believe, but they saw him and Jesus showed them his wounds in his hands and his side, so they knew it was him.

One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus came to them. When they told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, he did not believe them. He had seen him crucified and buried; how could he be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in his side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in his hands, I will not believe it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again and this time Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus, said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

"You and I have never seen Jesus with our own eyes. The question is, will we be a doubter, or will we be one of those who Jesus said were blessed because they believe, even though they have not seen? We, like Thomas, sometimes have to see to believe.

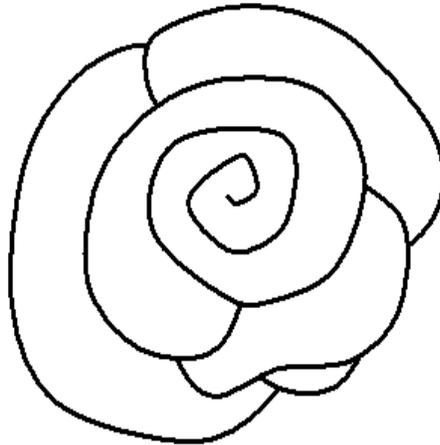




Mother's Day Word Search

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 O O H O L E P Z I C O D F E R
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 E O X S O P Y P E K R L G I A
 H O E L P M A X E C S O V A T
 I D N E T S I L I C I H F L I
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NFH=New Fellowship Hall
 OFH=Old Fellowship Hall
 EB=Education Building
 SANC=Sanctuary

May 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
	1 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB)	2 10:00 AM -1:00 PM Region 9 Mtg and Luncheon (NFH) 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 2:00 PM Small Group Mtg 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	3 6:30 PM Family Night (NFH)	4 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	5 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	6 10:00 AM Comfort Ministry (SS Room)																																																																																																	
7 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church	8 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB)	9 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 11:45 AM CWF Tuesday Morning Circle (All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Interlude-5395 Riverview Rd) 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	10 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Our Day Out (NFH) 6:30 PM Family Night (NFH)	11 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	12 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	13 6:00 PM CWF Spaghetti Dinner with area churches (NFH)																																																																																																	
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