



The Olive Branch

JANUARY 2018

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 1:30PM



MIGHTY TREES

As I write this article a week before Christmas, there is a work crew in the church cemetery taking care of some trees damaged by lightning earlier in the summer. Unfortunately, these are not young trees, but massive oaks that have presided over our cemetery for close to one hundred years. The men had started to trim and then cut the trees when I arrived at work. After about thirty minutes there suddenly came a massive thump, shaking the building and rattling the windows. It felt like a small earthquake. It was one of the trees, falling to the ground!

All of us have known men and women who have been giants in our lives. They may have been a parent, a favorite teacher, a mentor, a family member, or a close friend. Regardless of the connection, we learned something important from them about life and relationships. They helped to guide and mold us into the people we are today. And when they passed out of our lives, a void was created, that seemed impossible to fill.

However, there is a principle in life that nature abhors voids. No matter how deep our loss, the void will be filled; hopefully by others who step forward to fill it. Which is where we come in. Just as we were guided by people we saw as giants, so must we become to others around us. As a faith community, we must be aware of those who have had their lives disrupted and voids created, and step up to help heal and make whole. Some call it a caring ministry. No matter what it is called, it is part of the relationship that binds us to each other, as members of God's family.

In the shadow of that great tree that was removed, there stands a small tree that, if left alone, will grow to take the place of the tree cut down. In a hundred years, it will be one of the giants of the Olive Branch cemetery. May we as people of faith dare to reach out as and be giants to others.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard



Once again, Ann and I have been overwhelmed by your beautifully crafted gifts, sinfully delicious baked goods and treats, thoughtful cards, and your generous Christmas Love Gift. It is truly a blessing to serve as your pastor, and to be a part of this church family. Merry Christmas, and blessings on all in the New Year!

~Richard and Ann



CFW NEWS

NOTE:

As you pack up holiday decorations this year, it is the ideal moment to sort out things you will never use again for the CWF yard sale later this year. If you cannot store donation items yourself, please contact Sheila Yeatts (757-880-3317) to get them to OBCC.

God Bless!
~Kay Ainsworth, CWF Director



CFW TUESDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Tuesday morning circle met December 12 at Interlude with twelve attending. After another of our delicious lunches, we had a birthday cake for Kay Ainsworth, along with a happy birthday song. Donna went over upcoming events, one of which is the funeral of our sister in Christ Ruby Jones.

Elaine presented her lesson on the Universal Church. It was very interesting and generated alot of discussion.

Our next meeting will be January 9, at 11:45 at Interlude. Come join us for food, lesson, and fellowship.

I hope that you had a beautiful Christmas. See you in 2018.

~Donna Haulsee



MONDAY CWF WILL MEET

on January 15th. Please join us then and on the 3rd Monday of each month as we meet in Andy's Sunday School room. Right now the group is studying Ephesians.

CFW MONDAY CIRCLE WILL MEET AT 3 PM FOR JANUARY-MARCH:

This group meets on the third Monday of each month. It will return to its 7 PM evening time in April.

~Carole Kerr



It's a new year with new adventures to come!

~Abby Matschke



AFTERNOON DELIGHT

The next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 2nd. Come to enjoy the first gathering of 2018 at the Dombrowski home!

Hope to see you!
~Dick & Betty Barber



Church Family: Pat Allred, Vicki Anderson, Michael Ayers, Betty Barber, Charles & Betty Boy, Gertie

Duke, Nancy Griffith, Lucy Hall, Lena Jeffries, Skylar Jensen, Ruby Jones Family, Jeanne Lawrence, Mary Lee Leary, Diana & David Love, June Phillips, Charlie Pruitt & Family, Ellen Sullivan, Phyllis Taylor, Richard Thiel, Doris Turner, Sarah Waid, Brenda, Shannon (Starmer), Sheila White, Dennis Williams, Michelle Wright

Family and Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, our nation, Joan Barnes (Maralyn Carr's cousin), Linda Barnes (Maralyn Carr's cousin & Joan's mom), Susan Bookless (friend of Carole Kerr), Robert Born (Keeta Hodson's brother), Caleb Brickhouse (Marney Brickhouse's husband), Jeffrey Bullock Family (Pat & Rusty Bullock's son), Bonnie Burton (Robin Moscati's sister), Cynthia Dea (Kay Ainsworth's niece-in-law), Miles Deutscher (Richard & Barbara Thiel's grandson), Sue Dunfee (Susan Rinehart's friend), Linda Dupue (friend of Maralyn Carr), Libby Farmer (Emilio Pesante's grandmother), Charles Friend (Emily Friend's brother), David Hunt (Jim Hunt's brother), Robert & Wilma Jefferson, (friends of Irma Gustafson), Barbara Johnson (Robin Moscati's mother), Robert Key, Jr. (Gail Key's son), Gary Kidder (Joann Mitchell's son), Mary Mamaras (relative of Ryan Matschke's roommate), Ken McCrickland (friend of Thackers), Susan Moffatt (friend of Schmidts), Becky Mullins (Stacey Mullins' Aunt), Ken Parkin (Doug Haulsee's son-in-law), Bryson Phenicie (Dallas & Joann Mitchell's nephew), Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's twin sister), Charlie Tench (Larry & Louise Smith's son-in-law), Rosemary Thomasson (Emily Friend's mother), Dora Vass (cousin of Irma Gustafson), Jamie Ware-Jondreau (friend of Carol Pitts), Janis Wooge (Elaine Henk's niece), Noel (friend of Thackers), Denise (Jason Campbell's sister)



NOTE OF SYMPATHY AND LOVE:

Sympathies are extended to the Ruby Jones family. Ruby died on Friday, December 8th. Her funeral was on December 13, 2017 here at OBCC. Instead of flowers, the family requests donations in Ruby's honor and memory may be made to: St. Jude's; 262 Danny Thomas Place; Memphis, TN 38105-3678.





NOTE OF SYMPATHY AND LOVE:

Sympathies are extended to the Charlie Pruitt family. Daughter Susan Pruitt died unexpectedly on Friday, December 14th. Her funeral was on December 20, 2017 here at OBCC with burial in our cemetery. Gifts in honor of Susan can be sent to Olive Branch Christian Church Memorial Gift Fund.



SEND A CARD OR NOTE: June Phillips will be in Alexandria for 3-4 more weeks while she heals from some fractures. She will appreciate your notes and cards. Send to: June Phillips c/o Ashley Rhule; 106 E Alexandria Ave; Alexandria, VA 22301-2013.



Thanks to everyone for prayers for safe travel for me and my niece's recent travel to NW Montana & back. God answers prayers & will open your heart & eyes if you ask Him.

Blessings,
~Harold Barker



To my Church Family:
Thank you for all your prayers, kindnesses, food, cards, visits, and abundant love you have given Rudy and me while I have been sick.

In Christ's love,
~Cecelia Ruskey



Worship and Wonder (Ages 3-8)

- January 7 Landa Simmons, Ann Bradshaw
- January 14 Ann Bradshaw, Linda Williams
- January 21 Missy Harbour, Kim Riffle
- January 28 Linda Williams, Carolyn Hunt



- January 7 OPEN
- January 14 OPEN
- January 21 OPEN
- January 28 OPEN



Are Sunday flowers something you like to see? The 2018 calendar is up with many blank spaces. Show how much you like Sunday flowers by adding your name in a blank space or two (maybe more!).



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.

- January 7 Watch
- January 14 Bulletins
- January 21 for
- January 28 texts



SERVING THIS MONTH

Elders

- January 7 Missy Harbour, Norm Harbour
- January 14 Kim Riffle, Jim Thacker
- January 21 Joshua Fulgham, TBD
- January 28 Fred Rothermel, Landa Simmons

Deacons

- January 7 Val Mason, Sheila Yeatts
Andrew Pfister, Keeta Hodson
- January 14 Lisa Day, Tracy Creech
Tracey Hitton, Phillip Day
- January 21 Donna Haulsee, Boyce Mason
Danny Pitts, Elna Pitts
- January 28 Cindy Robertson, Lewis Williams
Stacey Mullins, Will Hatcher

Deaconess

Barb Schmidt



09 Danny & Elna Pitts



- 02 Bob Phillips
- 06 Kayla Walker
- 07 Elna Pitts
- 08 Phyllis Gardner
- 09 Chase Banks
- 09 Sheila White
- 11 Christine Banks
- 11 Harold Barker
- 11 Katy Speegle Henderson
- 11 Micki Meadows
- 12 Anne Darst
- 12 Travis Garrett
- 15 Erich Hodson
- 17 Shirley Ann Harrison
- 18 Amy Gilliam
- 21 Brittany Nice
- 26 Joshua Johnson
- 27 Clay Harrison
- 30 Linda Hutton
- 31 Skip Jensen



FOOD SHARING PROGRAM UPDATE

Your weekly food donations will make the New Year a better year for our neighbors who face daily food insecurity. Each day these households are faced with difficult choices of paying for basic necessities. The individuals/families we support sometimes run out of money to buy food or run out of food before they have the money. They may skip meals because there is not enough money for food. Never under estimate the difference you make in their daily lives. Your donations honor our Father!

Wishing you a Happy New Year
~Jane & Will Hatcher



OUR DAY OUT

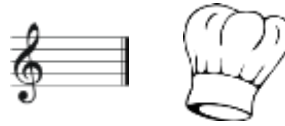
Our Christmas party was like all celebrations this time of year, with much joy and some sadness mingled together. We were delighted to say "Hello" to Michael but sad to say "Good-bye" to Ruby who is in the very presence of Jesus this Christmas, and Donna who has hosted our Craft's Corner since our inception in 2015. Donna deserves this time in her life to take on new opportunities for service and Jane is happy to step up and share her talents with us. Angie mentioned that this will be her first Christmas without Daddy and others in our group have also lost loved ones this year. At ODO, we laugh together, we cry together, we pray together, we sing together, giving us a special bond of love for each other. Did I mention that we also eat together? What would we do without Sheila and Marney and their elves to fill us with delicious food?

Santa (Jim) paid us a visit once again, passing our stockings to each Guest while their pictures were being taken by Barb. Susan quickly printed and cut them for framing, adding another "gift" to their bags to take home. We had mixed emotions as Lucy reported this was her first Christmas stocking ever! So glad our "Santa" was the one to add this simple joy to her life. Carole read us a poem of Santa's visit to a veteran and we gave "Thanks" for our service men and women who are away from home and family this holiday season.

We struggled with Irma's bells once again but we have confidence that we will eventually master them. Practice makes perfect after all...BINGO was a huge success with Larry as caller. Not too many complaints were heard as those who did not win were given prizes by those who had won multiple times. This group is awesome when it comes to giving and sharing with each other. What a blessing to be able to witness this special kind of

love that has evolved within this wonderful group of Guests and Volunteers. To God be the Glory! Happy New Year of Blessings to All.

Love in Jesus Name, Blessings,
~Louise Smith, ODO Coordinator



THANK YOU

MUSIC MAKERS & FOOD BAKERS!

During December our congregation received special gifts from our music makers that greatly enhanced our enjoyment of Advent and Christmas. Our Bell Choir under the direction of Ann Bradshaw filled our worship service with joyous sounds. Our Choir & music ensembles, under the direction of Emilio Pesante and accompanied by Steve Hall, bolstered our Christmas Spirit with their cantata and special music of the season.

Cooks baked and cooked for a host of events—both sad and happy. Their food nourished and sustained us.

Thank them all for their gifts to our worship!

~Pastor Richard



TO THE OBCC FAMILY:

I am so grateful for your very loving ways!! Thank you! Your hugs, wishes, goodies, and extremely generous gift brightened my holiday and remind me how lucky I am to be here. I cherish your support, acceptance, & love. I still smile every time I turn into the driveway. I look forward to a 2018 full of opportunity to help make what you do easier and smoother.

~Susan, your office secretary



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS



CHRISTMAS OFFERING REPORT

Thanks to your generosity, OBCC collected \$2,705 this year for Christmas offering (as of publication date). This money will join other collections and meet many needs around the world. Christmas is one of four special offerings each year.

~ Sheila Yeatts



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING OBCC EVENTS: (Save these dates & watch for details in newsletters and bulletins)
Office Closed: Monday, 1/1
Comfort Ministry: 1/6 10:00 AM
Installation Sunday: 1/7 11:00 AM
Elders Meeting: 1/29 6:30 PM
Life Line Health Screening: 2/9



FAMILY NIGHT RESTARTS ON JANUARY 17

Come join in the fellowship and food starting at 6:00 PM in the New Fellowship Hall! Watch for details in bulletin announcements and email.



VISUAL WORSHIP GROUP BEGINS JANUARY 21

Donna Perger will share a creative way to enhance your time spent in God's Word. Beginning on January 21, 2018, a Bible Journaling group will be forming. We will meet in the Youth Sunday School Room during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:45 AM. This class will be open to ages from 12 to adult and will meet regularly one Sunday of each month.

For examples and introduction, please search YouTube for videos about "Visual Faith", "Bible



SALVATION ARMY GIFT BAGS STUFFED AND PLENTIFUL:

Olive Branch came through again with flying colors, filling about 50 bags for children and adults.

Thank you from me and the Salvation Army. I know there were many smiling faces on Christmas Morning.

~Donna Haulsee

Journaling", or "Visual Worship". Our first meeting will be an introduction to the purposes, materials, tools and techniques of Bible Journaling. We will complete a journal page.

I will have materials for all participants who respond to this invitation by January 15th. Please let me know if you will be attending by emailing cardcraft@cox.net or calling 757-566-3145. Let's get together and release our pent up creativity to worship and praise our God!

In Christ,
~Donna Perger



UPDATED OBCC DIRECTORY TO BE PRINTED in January each year from now on.

If you have *revisions* to information for the 2018 edition, *please let the office know by January 8.*

Directories will list the names of member & friends for whom we have address, phone, and/or e-mail. It will include an updated list of leaders and committee members, as well as a variety of community resource contact information.

The directory should be available in late January for pick up at the church.



Let's Be Healthy Together!

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Olive Branch Christian Church on Friday, February 9, 2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word *circle* to 797979.

JANUARY

ABOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY

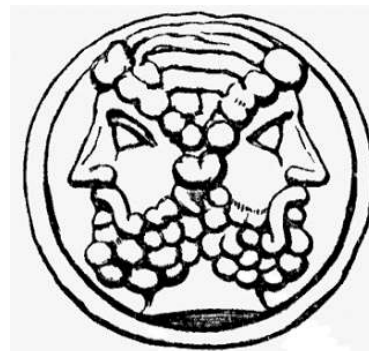
January is a cold, dark month. It is usually the coldest month of the year here, but equivalent to July in the southern hemisphere. This first month of the year does lead to longer days, as the Winter Solstice marked the slow return of daylight on December 21st.

A number of holidays & declared special recognitions occur this month:

- 1st New Year's Day
- 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 26th Australia Day
(celebrating the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788)
- National Book Month
- National Thank You Month
- National Eye Care Month
- Nat'l Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- National Soup Month

January's birthstone is the Garnet; its flower the carnation. The Zodiac signs coming in January are: Capricorn and Aquarius.

The name of this first month comes from the name of a Roman god, Janus. (Janus is the Roman word for door.) This God has two faces, allowing him to look into the new year and back into the past year. He often symbolized social and cultural change. Sometimes the Saxons called January the wolf month because hungry wolves would come into their towns searching for food this time of year. For a long period of European history, the start of the New Year occurred in March, since the old Roman calendar only had 10 months. (January & February were missing).



A NEW YEAR STANDS BEFORE US

It HAS BEEN A YEAR OF SORROWS,
WE'VE SHED A RIVER OF TEARS.
WE'VE SEEN SENSELESS ACTS OF TERROR
THAT WILL HAUNT US FOR YEARS.
WE THOUGHT IT COULD NOT HAPPEN HERE
WHERE EVERYONE IS FREE.
NOW WE MUST TRULY WALK BY FAITH
TO DEFEAT OUR ENEMY.

MAJOR HURRICANES AND WILDFIRES,
HAVE TAKEN A GREAT TOLL.
SO MUCH WAS DESTROYED OR BROKEN
THAT CANNOT BE MADE WHOLE.
It HAS BEEN A YEAR OF SCANDALS...
BREAKING NEWS EVERY DAY.
TOO MANY OLD FASHIONED VALUES
HAVE BEEN SLIPPING AWAY.

If WE'RE "ONE NATION UNDER GOD,"
WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO.
WE CAN'T REMAIN "A HOUSE DIVIDED"
AND RECEIVE HIS BLESSINGS TOO!

A NEW YEAR STANDS BEFORE US NOW,
A TIME TO START ANEW,
A TIME TO WORK AND PRAY TOGETHER
AND HAVE A DREAM COME TRUE.

Day Harrison
2018



NFH=New Fellowship Hall
 OFH=Old Fellowship Hall
 EB=Education Building
 SANC=Sanctuary

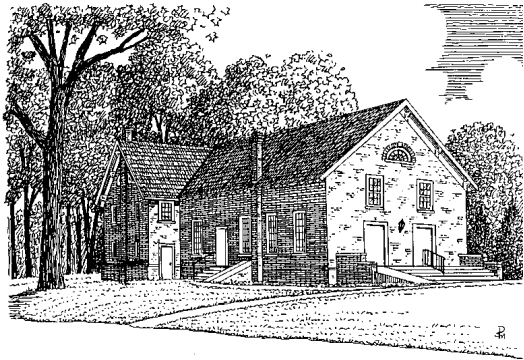
January 2018

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
	1 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB) OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	2 10:00 AM TCPS (OFH) 2:00 PM Small Group Mtg 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	3	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 INSTALLATION SUNDAY Store decorations	8 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB)	9 10:00 AM TCPS (OFH) 11:45 AM CWF Tuesday Morning Circle (All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. (Interlude- 5395 Riverview Rd) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	10 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Our Day Out (NFH)	11 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	12 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	13																																																																																												
14 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Dominion Village 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church	15 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB) 7:00 PM (3 PM JAN-MAR) CWF Monday Evening Circle (EB) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 10:00 AM TCPS (OFH) 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	17 6:00 PM Family Night (NFH)	18 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 5:00 PM Burnt Ordinary Meal 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	19 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	20																																																																																												
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Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!





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Olive Branch Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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Electronic Service Requested

*Note: No longer wish to receive our
newsletter? Address changed?
Please contact the church*



January

