



THE OLIVE BRANCH

APRIL 2025

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Sara C. Scungio, administrative assistant
757-566-8077 (Church Office)

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**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

"I PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED, BUT GOD GAVE THE GROWTH."

On March 16 we had a bon voyage celebration for Fred and Dana Rothermel, as we thanked them for their ministry among us, and asked God's blessings upon them as they move to be near their family in Northern Virginia. Fred served as the minister of this congregation prior to my arrival and did so with his wonderful gifts of preaching and pastoring. He led this congregation with passion and compassion and continued to serve as our Pastor Emeritus. At the celebration, many members shared how blessed they are to have Fred and Dana as part of their lives. I think we can all agree that they will be greatly missed.

Sometimes having the former minister stay as a member of the congregation is hard on the new guy, which is why the ministerial code of ethics discourages the former minister from staying. Fred and Dana avoided us for three months, until I called and asked, "When are the two of you coming back to your church home?" They showed up the next Sunday.

I, for one, will always be thankful for Fred and Dana's support of my ministry. From the beginning, Fred made it clear that his objective was to support me and be my advocate. He did this well. From his sound advice, his steady encouragement, and his willingness to serve, my ministry here was made that much easier. Fred lived out Paul's words to the Corinthian church: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

Ministry builds upon ministry. My ministry stands upon the shoulders of those who have preceded me. Each

of us with our special skills and talents added to the church ministry we have today. But whatever we contributed, the true strength of our ministry was God's power through the gospel.

God provided special gifts to Fred. He is a gifted leader who has never forgotten that it isn't his educational degrees or his keen intelligence or any other human attributes that have made him a good minister. It is his ability to let the word of God lead him so that all he says and does points beyond himself to the Christ who called him.

In every generation, God raises up witnesses and messengers. Some will plant, others will water, but it is God who gives the growth. Thank you, Fred and Dana, for nourishing us. May God continue to bless you every step of your journey.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard



MEETINGS & BUILDING USE

T.O.P.S.: Tuesdays; 9:30AM; Taylor Hall

Seekers Prayer Group: Tuesdays; 11:30 AM
Adult SS Room

Our Day Out: 2nd Wednesdays; 10AM-2PM;
Branch Hall

Comfort Ministry: 2nd Saturdays; 10 AM
Sandy's Restaurant

Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:

Alternate Wednesdays; September 4, 2024 until June 11, 2025

6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

OBCC Men's Meeting: 2nd Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch Hall with breakfast

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM; Sandy's Restaurant



SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Services:

8:30 AM Branch Hall 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Sunday School:

NFH Sunday School following the 8:30 service

Andy's Sunday School at 9:30

Nursery:

Open on Sundays: 8:15AM-12:15PM

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30AM-1:30PM



DWM SPA Day: Saturday, April 5; 10AM-2PM; Branch Hall

Maundy Thursday Worship: April 17; 7PM

Good Friday Worship: April 18; 7PM

Easter Sunrise Service: April 20; 6:30AM with breakfast to follow

Easter Giving: April 13 & 20



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Linda Brown, Dennis & Anita Dasher, Janet Dombrowski, Family of Allen Eberly, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jim Holland, Linda Hutton, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Barbara Thiel, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Rev. Tim Dice, Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Fletcher (Cheryl & Gene Johnson's friend), Kourtney Haake (Heidi McMurdo's daughter), Ken Kunde (Barbara Thiel's brother), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), Terry McCloud (Sheila Yeatts' friend), Lynette Mills (Joann Mitchell's sister), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Douglas Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Randy & Stephanie Phaup (Carol & David Pitts' friends), Sheila Rinehart, Eileen Saltzgeber (friend of the Pesantes), Riley & Brooks Sinclair (Liz Ripley's great-grandchildren), Howard Thackston (Cheryl Johnson's nephew), Harriet Wright

(Cleve Wright's mother), Mac Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Christian (Missy Harbour's friend), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son)



- 17 Harold & Patty Barker
- 17 Doug & Emily Dill
- 19 Dallas & Joann Mitchell
- 19 Richard & Lynn Onesty
- 29 Mel & Kaye Watson



- 01 Jeanne Bell
- 02 Corey Hooker
- 02 Shaun Hooker
- 03 Jonathon Griffin
- 06 Larry Smith
- 08 Judy Jones-Wanner
- 11 Ann Bradshaw
- 16 Louise Smith
- 16 Nancy Sheppard
- 17 Chuck Sheppard
- 19 Dr. John Speegle
- 20 Marney Brickhouse
- 21 Brett Matschke
- 22 Kathy Kidd
- 24 Donna Perger
- 25 Jack Heslink
- 26 Lynn Onesty
- 26 Maggie Sheppard
- 26 Tyler Hutton
- 30 Christy Jensen



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Naomia Barker
04/06/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	
04/13/2025	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley	

	Lois Marshall	
04/20/2025	Teri Tench Harold Barker	
	Linda Garrett Steve Garrett Patty Barker Jeremy Dill	
04/27/2025	Missy Harbour Mel Watson	
	Liz Ripley Jason Teagle Joshua Fulgham Joann Mitchell	



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
04/06/2025	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
04/13/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
04/20/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
04/27/2025	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

It was a beautiful day filled with sunshine and beautiful daffodils to enjoy our first Our Day Out experience this year.

St. Patrick's Day decorations illustrated our theme and a visit from a delightful leprechaun (thank you, Haley) made the day even more enjoyable. Steve Hall entertained us with his musical talent and a fun game of name that 50's tune and then Sara Woodward from Commonwealth Senior Living delighted us with her beautiful voice and guitar playing with an Irish musical bingo game.

Chef Sheila and her trusty partner Joann delighted us with delicious tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches and of course dessert treats galore.

Crafty Jane had a wonderful time helping everyone make a cute heartfelt memory and included a tasty treat. We missed our Bingo magician, Tyler, but Joann used her powerful voice and great spirit to be sure everyone won lots of treasures from the prize table.

I am blessed to be the director of this great time in the life of our church and thank all who come out and make it so special.

Our theme for next month is Easter and I hope to see all who just enjoy being together join us. God Bless us and keep us safe and happy!



May God be with you and keep you safe always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator



OBCC sends condolences to Dennis & Anita Dasher and family on the passing of their son, Denny Dasher and on the passing of Anita's aunt, Julie Painter.



OBCC sends condolences to the family and friends of Allen Eberly. Allen passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2025. His graveside service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk on Monday, March 24, 2025.



DWM SPA DAY: THE POWER OF GRACE

Join us Saturday, April 5 for a SPA Day (Study, Prayer, Action, and Self-care). Lunch and program will be \$20 and activities begin at 10AM and end at 2PM in Branch Hall. Registration forms can be found in this newsletter and in the office in the ODO mailbox. Questions? Contact Marney Brickhouse for more information.



FAREWELL LUNCHEON

We had a lovely farewell luncheon for Fred and Dana Rothermel, sending them off with good food, fellowship, singing, and a gift to remind them of all the wonderful memories and blessings shared at OBCC! We wish them well as they move to Northern Virginia to be closer to family.





bring it to share. For this year our theme will be the ladies of the Bible, and I will be the first leader. It is our hope that each month we will have a new leader to introduce the amazing ladies of the Bible.

So please mark your calendar for May 15th, 11:30AM in Taylor Hall. I look forward to seeing you then!

~Marney Brickhouse



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HELP

We are looking for a director to head up VBS, along with a team of volunteers. Please contact Missy Harbour or Abby Matschke if interested. Thank you!



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

As many of you know, Dr. Victor Rambo served as a Disciples of Christ missionary in India for his entire career— his parents also were missionaries in India, and he was born there. Now the Rambo Committee continues his work through prayerful and financial support. Recently, one of our board members, the Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, of NJ visited and shared firsthand news from the hospital and nursing school.

Currently 90 students study for a General Nurse Midwife degree at our school and come from all over Chhattisgarh and as far away as Uttar Pradesh. Our student body includes Christians, Muslims, and Hindus and male as well as female students. Dr. Carson visited all three class years who enjoy the family-like atmosphere on campus. We give thanks for the leadership of a wonderful School Principal, Ms. Sipora Rani Kumar, who graduated from the Christian Medical College School of Nursing in Vellore, one of the best nursing schools and medical schools in all of India. (Photo below is Ms. Kumar)



REGIONAL MISSION TRIP

The mission trip is full! Thank you for signing up!



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

Thanks again to all the ladies who came out to the DWM luncheon and planning session and especially for filling out the questionnaire!

It is with great delight that I would like to invite any lady who is available to our newest DWM circle which will be meeting every month on the third Thursday starting in May. We have named this circle the Circle of Grace.

We will meet on Thursday, May 15th at 11:30AM in Taylor Hall. We will have a salad lunch before starting our Bible study; if you have a favorite salad, please



Did you know that a Disciples of Christ missionary, Dr. Ida Scudder founded this major medical center, in the early 20th century? Her grandparents and parents were all missionaries to India. After witnessing three Indian women die in childbirth in one night, she vowed to go into medicine in order to help save lives. She graduated from Cornell Medical College in 1899 and returned to India. When she invited applications to attend a new all female medical school, she had to turn away applications. Her medical school became so famous that a Disciple child once mailed a letter to India addressed only to Dr. Ida, and it found its way to her in the then small town of Vellore in south India.

The support of American Disciples of Christ mission dollars and support have made-- and continue to make a huge impact. Thanks be to God! The photo below is Dr. Ida Scudder in 1899.

~Landa Simmons



DWM ORGANIZATION MEETING

Our meeting on March 1st was a very exciting meeting with an attendance of 30. The purpose was to introduce our women to the concept of the Disciples Women Ministries and encourage participation in our ministry to OBCC and the DWM of Virginia and all over the world.

The meeting was opened by Kay Ainsworth with the DWM Prayer. Forms were given out with an opportunity to express what your desires would be as an active participant of the DWM.

Missy Harbour gave us an inspiring devotion on Lent. Sheila Yeatts discussed the many events coming up at OBCC which are great opportunities to contribute your help. We also encourage information of anyone who is in need of help so that we may be there for them.

A wonderful luncheon was provided to enjoy as well as time to visit with others in attendance.

Kay gave us much more information on the DWM activities, and had us looking forward to our Annual Retreat which will be held at Smith Mountain Lake on October 10th through the 12th. More information will be coming.

Marney Brickhouse spoke to us about our next opportunity to be together which will be April 5th for our District SPA day. SPA stands for Study, Prayer, and Action. The theme is the Power of Grace. Kim Riffle and Teri Tench will lead us in studies.

We look forward to continuing this wonderful group of women! If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask any of us!



OLIVE BRANCH
Lenten Services

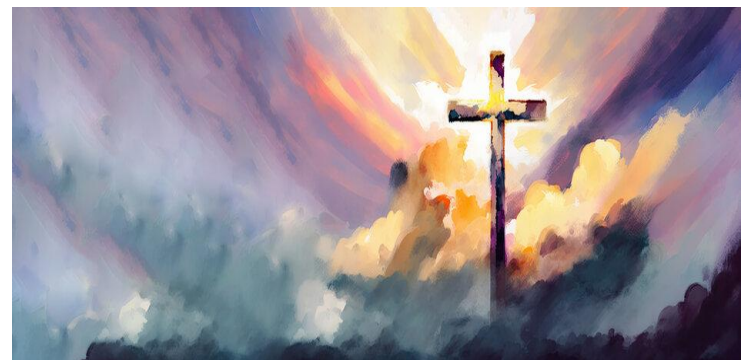
LENT SERVICE SCHEDULE

On the next page is the updated schedule for the remainder of the community Lenten services. The schedule is also posted on the bulletin boards in the Sanctuary and the Education Building. Please check emails and bulletin announcements for any schedule changes that may take place throughout the Lenten season.



PRAYER VIGIL

Prayer vigil signup started on March 30. 24 hours of prayer will be on April 17-18. As usual there will be a signup sheet, so you can select your time. You are able to pray at home or at church. It's a time to devote yourself to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

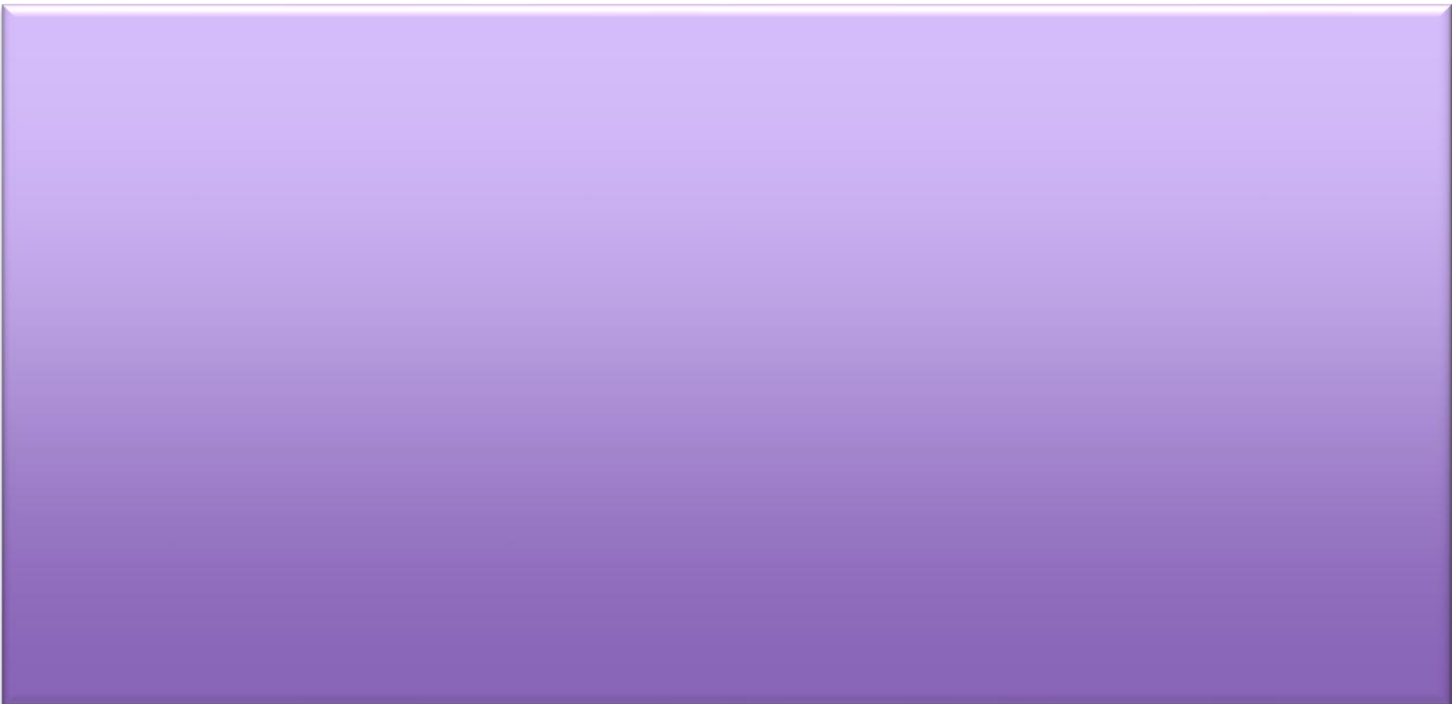


Happy Easter



2025 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES – 7 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS – 6 P.M.



April 2, 2025: Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, 7801 Church Lane, Toano
757-566-0162 Rev. Dennis Morgan

Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MtVernonUMCToanoVA>

Speaker – Rev. Richard Cline, Olive Branch Christian Church

April 9, 2025: New Zion Baptist Church, 3991 Longhill Road, Williamsburg
757-258-0491 Dr. Rob Whitehead, Sr.

Livestream Link: <https://www.newzionwilliamsburg.org/live>

Speaker – Rev. Gerry Johnson, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

April 16, 2025: Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, 8300 Richmond Road, Toano
757-566-0276 Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@hncwebminister540>

Speaker – Rev. Kristin Reinhold, Stone House Presbyterian Church

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

**I LOOK AT THE CROSS,
BUT DO I REALLY SEE,
DRIED UP IN THE GRAIN,
THE BLOOD SHED FOR ME.**

**I SEE DEEP INDENTATIONS,
WHERE THE NAILS HAD BEEN,
EMBEDDED FLESH WITHIN THEM,
CONCEALS MY HIDDEN SIN.**

**FLUNG UPON THE TOP,
AN UGLY CROWN OF THORNS,
WHAT A MOCKING REMINDER,
OF WHAT MY SAVIOR HAD BORNE.**

**THE CROSS IS NOW EMPTY,
AS IS THE ONCE-FILLED TOMB,
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN,
I WILL BE FOLLOWING SOON.**

~ Louise Smith

WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL,
COME AND STUDY GOD'S WORD,
IT IS A LOVE STORY,
THE TRUEST EVER HEARD.

OUR TEACHERS ARE WELL PREPARED,
GOD HAS CALLED THEM TO THE TASK,
ANYONE WITH QUESTIONS,
SHOULDN'T BE EMBARRASSED TO ASK.

NO ONE HAS ALL THE ANSWERS,
IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO TRANSLATES,
FOR HE IS IN FACT GOD,
WHO DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES.

SO COME LET'S LEARN TOGETHER,
FOR THAT IS HOW WE GROW,
IT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH,
TO SHARE WITH OTHERS WHAT WE KNOW.



~ Louise Smith

Please see the message below from Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly:

Thank you so much Women's ministry!! Your donation is so special to me - both in need, but also in your support of our neighbors of an ecumenical goal to share the Good News of God in Christ. I'll be sure to put on my best boots for you!!
Much love,
Jennifer

Thank you so much for making a donation to support my work with Dancing with the Williamsburg Stars! Your contribution will help Literacy for Life and Big Brothers / Big Sisters as they support learning and mentorship in our community. The impact of your gift creates generational change for countless people. I am so grateful for your willingness to join me in this effort!

With dancing shoes and love,
Jennifer

And this letter from Week of Compassion:

Dear Pastor Cline and friends at Olive Branch Christian Church,

The generosity of the members and friends at your vibrant church is inspiring - placing you in the top 100 donor congregations. Your gifts have touched the lives of people you may never meet - and whose thanks you may not hear, but we know the power of your compassion brings hope to many in very tangible ways.

As an outreach focused congregation we all serve together as the body of Christ to care for one another. Thank you for leading the way.
With grateful blessings
Judi Frost

Virginia Disciple Women
Spring 2025 SPA+ Days

(Study, Prayer, Action, and Self Care)

Saturday, April 5, 2025

THE POWER OF GRACE

This annual event provides a “time away” for women to gather to pray, study, encourage one another, care for oneself, and fellowship together. Women’s resources are introduced and events for the upcoming year showcased.

Registration

Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Church: _____
City: _____ Phone number: _____
State: _____ Emergency contact: _____

Fees and Resources

\$20: Lunch and Program Food Allergies _____

DEADLINE: Form and fees must be received at the Regional Office by March 28, 2025 to hold your place. Return reservation form with check payable to: Christian Church in Virginia, 1290 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502. You may also register and pay online at www.ccinva.org.

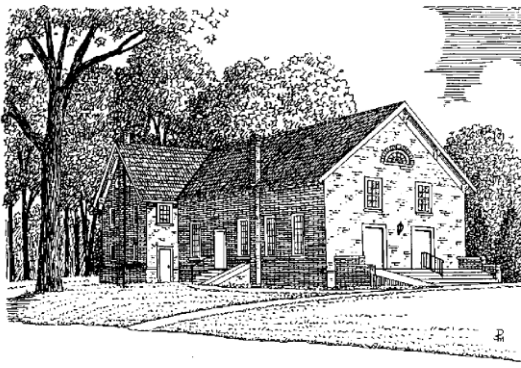
ALL SPA DAYS WILL BE HELD ON THE SAME DAY IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Saturday, April 5, 2025- Timberlake CC-20261 Lynchburg Hwy, Lynchburg, VA
Saturday, April 5, 2025-Olive Branch CC-7643 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA
Saturday, April 5, 2025-Pembroke CC-513 Snidow Street, Pembroke, VA
Saturday, April 5, 2025-Antioch Christian Church, 555 Spencer-Preston Rd, Martinsville, VA
Saturday, April 5, 2025- Bon Air CC- 2071 Buford Road, North Chesterfield Richmond, VA

SPA SCHEDULE

9:30 A.M. -Gathering and Registration
10:00 a.m. -Study and Self Care
12:00 p.m. -Dedication of Blessing Boxes and other offerings
12:30 p.m. -Lunch
1:30-2:00 p.m. Pass It On-What’s happening this year for women in the Virginia Region

- Register me for Lynchburg, VA
- Register me for Williamsburg, VA
- Register me for Pembroke, VA
- Register me for Richmond, VA
- Register me for Martinsville, VA



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

