



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MAY 2025

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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

 **Facebook: facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg**

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 **Instagram: [@obccwilliamsburg](https://www.instagram.com/obccwilliamsburg)**



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WALKING TOGETHER

On March 6 with Ash Wednesday, we started a spiritual journey. During our journey, we worshipped with our brothers and sisters of other denominations: Baptists, Mennonites, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Episcopalians. Our services, while similar, were not the same, yet all centered upon God's gift of love through Jesus the Christ. I am thankful for all the clergy in our Upper James City County Ministerium, and for the relationships I have established with them and members of their congregations. But I am especially thankful for the members of Olive Branch who walked this journey with me.

Every Wednesday our members showed up in the greatest of numbers, to the point that when I preached at the Methodist Church, the congregation did not look so different from what I see at Olive Branch on Sundays. What a comfort that was! Thank you for embracing and supporting our community Lenten services. Your support reflects our Disciple heritage and our love for ecumenism.

But I am always thankful for our faith community. Time and time again, members step forward to help with our different ministries and fellowship events. "No" is not a word often heard at our church. Be it cooking for meals, setting up the fellowship hall, donating time and talents, offering prayers, teaching Sunday School, leading our children in worship and wonder, providing music for our worship services, serving in worship, or just making our visitors feel welcome – Olive Branch is

far better than most. I admit to being biased, but you are the best I have seen in my 44 years of ministry.

But don't let it go to your heads. There is still work to be done. There are still journeys to take together! So, keep walking! I look forward to seeing you Sunday.

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



Oak Grove Joint Service: May 4; 11AM service in Sanctuary with luncheon to follow in Branch Hall

Mother's Day Blankets: Due May 5

Branch Hall Reserved: May 10; Oak Grove Baptist Church event

DWM Power of Grace: May 15; 11:30AM; Taylor Hall



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Family of Nancy Cates, Dennis & Anita Dasher, Janet Dombrowski, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jack Heslink, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutton, David Love, Liz Ripley, 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, Sean Dill (Teri Tench's grandson), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Fletcher (Cheryl & Gene Johnson's friend), Scott Fulgham (Joshua Fulgham's father), 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 Saltzgiver (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)



01 Jim & Anne Holland
04 Mike & Jody Hebbard
09 David & Colleen Wright
17 Dennis & Sharon Cotner



Birthday Blessings

01 Sonny Watson
03 Connie Cason
04 Martha Garrett
05 Wally Bowen
08 Donna Haulsee
10 Mike Heslink
13 Sarah Allred
17 Vicki Anderson
23 Katie Jones
25 Kimberlee Bartley
28 Janet Kowalchick
30 Melody Lambert



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Dennis Cotner
05/04/2025	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Marney Brickhouse Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
05/11/2025	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Danny Pitts Karen Barrow Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	
05/18/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	
05/25/2025	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley Lois Marshall	



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
05/04/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
05/11/2025	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill
05/18/2025	TBD	TBD
05/25/2025	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday, May 26, for the Memorial Day holiday.



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Nancy Cates. Nancy passed away on April 9, 2025. A graveside service will be held at Williamsburg Memorial Park Cemetery on Friday, May 9 at 3PM.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

On a beautiful sunny spring day, we celebrated April Our Day Out. The theme of Easter and springtime encouraged lots of smiles and beautiful laughter. Christy Jensen, with some helpful suggestions from Pat Allred, treated us to poems and biblical stories and verses. Barb and I used our thespian skills to bring fun and laughter to all. Our dear friend Pat from Oak Grove Baptist Church encouraged her husband to dazzle us with his magic fingers on the piano and everyone joined in to sing a true old favorite, "Amazing Grace".

I am always grateful that so many people share their God-given talents. Chef Sheila and her talented crew delighted us with both a potato and salad bar and, of course, a delicious chocolate desert. Although Jane wasn't feeling too off the line, her crafty skills helped us make beautiful Easter cards. The last hour of our day is always so much fun because our bingo-caller Tyler laughs and smiles and brings joy to all our hearts.

My thanks to all who come and share their kindness and love! Next month our theme is May flowers and as I look around, I know God has blessed us with a gorgeous spring and the flowers and trees are outstanding (anyone noticed yellow pollen?!).

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



OAK GROVE JOINT SERVICE

On May 4, Oak Grove Baptist Church will be joining us for a joint service at 11AM with a potluck luncheon to follow. Fried chicken will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.



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 we 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 bring it to share. For this year our theme will be the ladies of the Bible. 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. We look forward to seeing you then!

~Disciples Women's Ministry



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Epic Australia is coming our way on July 28 - August 1. We will have a planning meeting on Monday, June 2 at 6PM. If you are interested in volunteering to help with VBS, we would certainly love to have you come out and help! We can always use more helping hands. Registration will be up and running on the church website starting sometime in late June/early July. If you would like to register for VBS, please visit obcc.org or email/call the office. Watch for more information in your weekly email blasts, bulletin announcements, and in the next newsletter. Hope to see you there!

~Liz Ripley, Coordinator



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS

Moms make the world kinder. This Mother's Day blankets the world in love. Our Church family supports the CWS Blankets program because these blankets bring hope to people who need a reminder that someone cares about them. Just \$5.00 brings hope. Beginning April 27, look for blanket order slips in Sunday bulletins. These gifts help those in need around the world, given in honor of mothers everywhere. On May 11, a list of names the blankets were donated in honor of or in memory of will be inserted in Sunday bulletins. All orders must be turned in by Monday morning, May 5. Thank you!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



DWM JUNE DINNER MEETING

The DWM will be meeting Monday, June 9, beginning with dinner at 6PM at Kay Ainsworth's home (10134 Sycamore Landing Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188). Please bring a dish to share. Thank you!



2024 ROLLOVER FUND DISTRIBUTION

At the end of each calendar year, we compare our giving (income) and expenses with the annual General Fund budget. If the net income of that comparison is positive, we have what we refer to as Rollover funds. Because of a generous, faithful congregation and

excellent expense management, our General Fund had rollover funds of \$31,000 at the end of 2024.

Our policy on Rollover funds is to contribute 10% of that amount to Outreach. This year we selected three local, charitable organizations to receive the \$3,100. These three organizations are the Lackey Clinic, Child Development Resources, and Proclaiming Grace.

The rest of the rollover funds are kept in the General Fund.

~Jim Hunt



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

When Rambo Committee member, Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, visited CHM, she met and interviewed students from various classes. What follows is a summary of her interview with Vibha Marsih, age 22, a first-year student.

"Vibha is a single mother who has two sisters and one brother. She is grateful for being a Mom and being able to be a nursing student at the same time. She's aware that times have changed and are changing in India and that years ago, having a dual role would not have been possible. She is grateful for God and life. Vibha comes from a poor family that has experienced many problems, including the death of her father and grandfather from alcohol poisoning. Her mother and elder sister have struggled quite a bit recently. Most want to help each other but have been unable to get on their feet in many ways. So, she left home to obtain a good education. Her sister Deepti (24) continues to help her, so she feels guilty being in school and living this life removed from family. Her sister also helps her brother and other sisters to get an education and/or a better job and life for themselves.

Vibha feels inspired by this and to one day work near home so that she, together with her other siblings, can finally help the sister that helped all of them when she graduates. Vibha fights with the family sometimes because she does not wish to be married until she can see them strong and on their feet as well as getting along.

Vibha's happy place is CHM, and she loves to study. She is quiet and a bit shy, but has many friends and a big smile that lights up the room. She is gentle and kind. Her favorite things:

- Rules that help
- Drumsticks and potatoes
- Christmas

Vibha's dream is to graduate and to find a job locally at CHM. She wants to help her sister Deepti and to see her family thriving and behaving amicably and be relatively nearby. When asked what she might like to experience for herself, she said would also like to take

a flight. She has never flown before and says that she'd like to see Chennai."

~Landa Simmons



DWM SPA DAY

On Saturday April 5th, we were one of five Disciple churches hosting SPA Days. Our theme was The Promise of Grace.

S stands for Study and Kim Riffle treated us to a wonderful and inspiring lesson relating to that promise.

P stands for Prayer, and Teri Tench touched our hearts with her lesson on graceful prayer.

A stands for Action. We sang, prayed, interacted with someone there that we had never met, walked on the nature trail, and visited our beautiful sanctuary garden. We talked together as we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and delicious desserts prepared by our awesome chef Sheila and her helpers Joann, Anita, Naomia, and Jane.

We finished our day with a Zoom with the other four churches. Donna Webster, who coordinated SPA days, gave each church a chance to talk about their day and then related some helpful information about Disciple Women's Ministries.

We had ladies from four different Disciple churches in our districts attending and they all expressed their thanks for our hosting the event and what a beautiful, warm and friendly group we have.

My personal thanks to all the ladies from Olive Branch who helped make this day so special!



REGIONAL SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

See below to read through some of the many summer camp offerings provided by the Virginia Region Camping Ministry:

New Covenant Camp -July 20 - 24, 2025

Craig Springs, New Castle, VA

New Covenant Camp is catered for our younger campers. Open those who have completed 1st through 5th grade.

Camp Price - \$300.00

Triple Camp 1—July 6 - 11, 2025

Craig Springs, New Castle, VA

Triple Camp 1 offers the traditional church camp experience. Open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.

Camp Price - \$365.00

Triple Camp 2—July 27 – August 1, 2025

Craig Springs, New Castle, VA

Triple Camp 2 offers the traditional church camp experience. Open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.

Camp Price - \$365.00

For more information, or to sign up for any of these or other available camps, please visit

www.ccinva.org/virginiacampingministry



DWM YARD SALE THANK YOU

Thank you for your support to the DWM Yard Sale! We had a wonderful turnout and raised over \$4000! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, volunteering your time and talents for this wonderful ministry!



SPECIAL THANKS

Pastor Richard and I would like to thank the many participants in the Lenton and Holy Week services:

The Disciple Women for the Ash Wednesday meal.

Doug Dill and the Disciple Men for the Easter breakfast.

Steve Hall, Emilio Pesante and choir for all of the beautiful music.

Kim Riffle and elders for the Prayer Vigil and extra readings.

Dennis Cotner for the Palm Sunday and Good Friday monologues.

Marney Brickhouse, Naomia and Charles Barker for service set ups.

Chuck Walker and Richard Bradshaw for the Good Friday readings.

Andrew Pfister (music, banners, service set up, etc.!)

Andy Bradshaw for dulcimer music at sunrise.

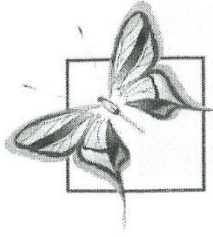
Steve and Linda Garrett for draping the cross and serving.

Sara Scungio for all of the extra bulletins and more!

We are blessed with a wonderful church family and all the teamwork the congregation is willing to do!

Thank you so much for helping make the services and Easter season special.

~Susan Kohlman



Proclaiming Grace Outreach

The mission of Proclaiming Grace Outreach (PGO), a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, is to provide a holistic approach to the needs of our community by providing food, clothing, and other services to help the disadvantaged and those with economic hardships. By loving all our neighbors, the world will see us reflecting the love and heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

April 15, 2025

Olive Branch Christian Church
7643 Richmond Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Olive Branch Christian Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Proclaiming Grace Outreach, we thank you for your recent donation of \$1,186.00 (check #7515) on April 1, 2025.

We are most grateful for your support. It is through donors like you that we can continue working hard to meet the ever-increasing needs of the residents of New Kent and James City counties.

Sincerely,


Melanie D. King
Executive Director
PGOVA.org

Your contribution is fully deductible. Proclaiming Grace Outreach has not provided any goods or services to you in consideration of your gift. This letter will serve as a receipt for your records.

A faith-based non-profit corporation - Tax ID#: 26-3540439

Mailing Address:


P.O. Box 224
Barhamsville, VA 23011

Office:

15730 Pocahontas Trail
Lanexa, VA 23089
(757) 741-5070

Food Pantry:

20051 Tabernacle Road
Barhamsville, VA 23011



*She is a Mother,
An Angel come to Earth,
To nurture her dear Children,
Even before their Birth.*

*God called her to the task,
To train her children in His Way,
To tell her precious ones of Jesus,
To teach them how to Pray.*

*She was Gentle and oh so Kind,
As she disciplined your strong will,
Submission to your Savior,
A challenge she prayed to fulfill.*

*God made her Special,
He designed yours just for you,
To grow you in His likeness,
Is what she aimed to do.*

*So Honor your lifelong Mother,
Her Love you always received,
She'll live on in your heart,
Long after her passing you grieved.*



~ Louise Smith





**ETERNAL PEACE, COURAGEOUS SOLDIER,
YOU EARNED YOUR FINAL REST,
YOU FOUGHT BRAVELY FOR YOUR COUNTRY,
YOU WERE AMERICA'S BEST.**

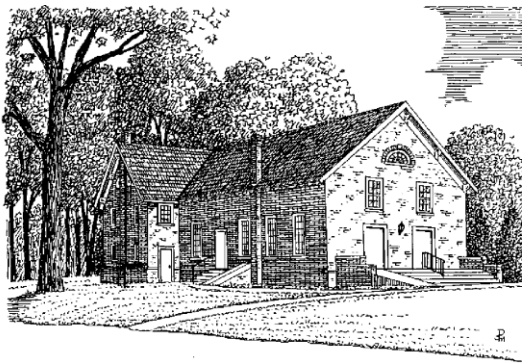
**FREEDOM IS OH SO COSTLY,
COUNT THE NUMBER OF BODY BAGS,
THEY WERE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILY IN COFFINS,
DRAPED IN AMERICAN FLAGS.**

**WE WEPT FOR YOU, DEAR WARRIORS,
WHEN YOUR FIGHT WAS OVER,
YOU NO LONGER STAND THE GUARD,
RATHER REST IN FIELDS OF CLOVER.**

**A FLAG IS BY YOUR GRAVESITE,
YOUR EARTHLY RESTING PLACE,
YOU TOUCHED AMERICA'S HEART,
AND NOW YOU'VE TOUCHED GOD'S FACE.**



~ Louise Smith



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The Olive Branch

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7643 Richmond Road
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(757) 566-8077

Electronic Service Requested

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

H A P P Y
Mother's Day
♥

May

HAPPY
Memorial
DAY