



THE OLIVE BRANCH

APRIL 2026

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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THANK YOU, SARA

In Luke's account of Jesus healing the possessed man of Gerasene, the evil spirits that tortured the man were sent into a herd of pigs. This herd immediately rushed into the lake and drowned. When the people of the town saw what had happened and saw the once violent man now sitting calmly at the feet of Jesus, they were so afraid that they asked, or better, begged Jesus to leave. So, Jesus got into a boat and left.

I know I am speaking for all our church family when I say that no one has asked Sara Scungio to leave us. The truth is many of us have begged her not to go – including me! But she will be leaving this month to take a position at the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – International Center in St. Louis, Missouri. We know this is a wonderful opportunity for Sara to use her training as a Deaconess in the Missouri Synod in her denomination's international ministry. We are sad for us but thrilled for Sara.

Over the last three years, Sara has been the first face people see when coming by the church office. She has greeted us with her beautiful smile, as she has helped with countless projects in our church. She has talked to us, calmed and advised us, yes; but most importantly, in the process she became part of our lives. Thank you, Sara, for sharing your gifts with us.

In the scripture I referenced earlier, when Jesus was asked to leave, the healed man wanted to go with him. Jesus told him no. "Return to your home," Jesus told the man, "and declare how much God has done for you." I hope that Sara knows how much she is loved

by our church family and will smile often as she remembers her days with us. I especially pray that she will remember how together we have declared in this place called Olive Branch the love of God for all his children.

Sara, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard

Appreciation DINNER AND THANKS

A congregation dinner is planned for Wednesday, April 22, at 6 PM in Branch Hall to express appreciation for Sara's three years of service to OBCC. All food and drink will be provided. Please plan to attend to give Sara a great sendoff.

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 until June 3, 2026
6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

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

3rd Thursday DWM Circle of Grace: 3rd Thursdays; 11:30AM; Taylor Hall

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

Kids Sunday School upstairs Education Building 9:30

Nursery:

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

Office Hours:

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



Maundy Thursday Worship: April 2; 7PM

Good Friday Worship: April 3; 7PM

Easter Sunrise Service: April 5; 6:30AM with breakfast to follow

Easter Giving: April 5

Appreciation Dinner for Sara: April 22; 6PM; Branch Hall



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Family of David Barrow, Mary Bates, Jeanne Bell, Phyllis Gardner, Amy Gilliam, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Norm Hall, Petra Hall, Keeta Hodson, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Barbara Nicholson, Danny Pitts, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Family of Larry Smith, Mike Smith, Betty Speegle, Stanley Stefancic, Ellen Waite, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Jim Allred (Pat Allred's son), Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Zully Dasilva (Rosa Griffin's niece), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Reilly Ruby Houchens (Connie Cason's great-granddaughter), Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), David Leatherman (Jim & Anne Holland's grandson), Ben Manning (Cheryl & Gene Johnson's friend), Rae Meriaux (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Douglas Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Rose Pitts (friend of David & Carol Pitts), Mike

Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Hannah Rideout (Perry Yeatts' friend), Sheila Rinehart, Caden Thomas (John & Betty Speegle's grandson), John and Michelle Troy (friends of the Pergers), Deb Walton (Patti Banks' friend), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Mo (friend of Cheryl & Gene Johnson), Carolyn (friend of James & Pat Tabb), Marney (Marney Brickhouse's daughter)



- 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
- 03 Tiena Kusmira
- 08 Judy Jones-Wanner
- 11 Ann Bradshaw
- 16 Louise Smith
- 16 Nancy Sheppard
- 17 Chuck Sheppard
- 19 John Speegle
- 20 Marney Brickhouse
- 21 Brett Matschke
- 22 Kathy Kidd
- 24 Donna Perger
- 26 Lynn Onesty
- 26 Maggie Sheppard
- 26 Tyler Hutton
- 30 Christy Jensen



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Naomia Barker
04/05/2026	Bob Herndon Chuck Walker	
	Betty Boley Jason Teagle Anita Dasher Amy Ferguson	
04/12/2026	Kim Riffle Dianne Mongold	
	Ethel King Jan Smith	

	Danny Kelley Betty Bennink	
04/19/2026	Linda Williams Abby Matschke	
	Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard John Henderson Jerry Henderson	
04/26/2026	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Jane Hatcher Edie Larkin Judy Eley Bill Simpson	



ROOF WORK

We are getting a new roof installed on the Education Building during the first two weeks of April (April 6-17). During these two weeks, all activities that take place in the Adult Sunday School Room or Branch Hall will be moved to Taylor Hall. No one is permitted in the Education Building during the roof installation- everyone is encouraged to stay safe! The office will be closed during this time, but Sara will still be available to be reached by phone and email. As things currently stand, the only events impacted by this are the Seekers Prayer Group (Tuesdays), ODO (April 8), and Men's Ministry breakfast (April 9) which will all take place in Taylor Hall. Thank you for your understanding!



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
04/05/2026	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
04/12/2026	Trina Eber	Bob Eber
04/19/2026	Ethel King	Danielle Kelley
04/26/2026	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

It was a beautiful Wednesday morning, and everyone was enjoying the warm sunshine and the beautiful flowering trees and bushes. We started a little later than usual but that was because visiting and catching up with friends made the day more special. Christy's program included lots of interesting information about the saints of Ireland including St. Brigid who is loved as much if not more than St. Patrick. She then turned her mic over to Pat Allred who shared some interesting facts and stories about Ireland. Pots of gold and candy were shared after some interesting coin tosses. The leprechauns were busy helping us laugh but not getting into mischief.

Chef Sheila served a delicious Irish Stew, cabbage and Irish sweet bread, not to mention an incredible dessert. We then surrounded crafty Jane and proceeded to make the cutest Irish gnomes. Truly she comes up with the cleverest projects.

The bingo table was full of neat gifts and food, and again may I say thanks to all who provide these treasures. I think Val got Norm's lucky card as she was on a winning streak. We have so much fun and laughter.

Next month because of the new roof being put on the administrative building, ODO will be over in the church fellowship hall (Taylor Hall) and we hope to see you there!

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



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Marlies Brantley. Marlies passed away on January 9, 2026.



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Elizabeth Panzer. Elizabeth passed away on February 23, 2026. A Celebration of Life service was held at OBCC on Sunday, March 8, 2026.



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Jody Hebbard on the passing of her father, Richard Bishop. Richard passed away on February 25, 2026. A service was held in Richmond on Friday, March 6, 2026.



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Carolyn Rodenberg. Carolyn passed away on February 20, 2026. A service was held at OBCC on March 14, 2026.



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Larry Smith. Larry passed away on March 1, 2026. A Celebration of Life service was held at OBCC on Saturday, March 14, 2026.



OBCC sends condolences to the family of George "David" Barrow. David passed away on March 15, 2026. A Celebration of Life service will be held at OBCC on Saturday, May 2, 2026.



DWM YARD SALE

Thank you to everyone who came and helped out with our spring yard sale! We made a total of \$3335.57. We appreciate all your support for this important ministry!



SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Friends at Olive Branch,

If you whispered prayers for Larry's healing or comfort for me in his passing; if you sent a card or made a visit; if you prepared food for or participated in Larry's Celebration of Life Service; anything you did to help me and my family in our time of profound sense of loss, I thank you with all my heart. I have every confidence that you will continue to be there for us and minister to us through this journey that does not end but rather changes over time. I love each of you and am so blessed to call Olive Branch my Home, filled with Family that I love.

~Louise and the Smith Family



SPECIAL THANK YOU

Some of you may have heard that I have recently accepted a job offer to work for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in St. Louis and will be moving there the last week of April. I will be the Gift Planning Coordinator for the Mission Advancement office in the International Center, all of that a fancy way of saying

I will be coordinating support for our missionaries out in the field.

As I prepare to step into a new chapter and relocate halfway across the country, I find myself holding both gratitude and sadness in equal measure. It has been such a gift to serve as your administrative assistant and to be part of this church family these last three years.

Thank you for all the love, encouragement, kindness, and warmth you have shared with me—you have made this place feel like home. I will truly miss each of you and the joy of being part of this church family.

While this goodbye is bittersweet, I am hopeful and excited for what lies ahead, trusting in God's guidance in this transition. Please know how deeply grateful I am for you all—you will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will be keeping you all in my prayers, especially as you search for a new administrative assistant who will be willing to help and serve all your needs. I know whoever serves in this position next will be truly blessed by all of you as I have been.

May the love, hope, peace, and blessings of our risen Savior be with you all!

~Sara Scungio



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

The Christian Hospital Mungeli School of Nursing recently celebrated its 12th graduation and 15th lamp-lighting program in which first year students receive their caps. I was honored to be present for the very first lamp-lighting and the first graduation ceremony three years later.

In addition, Global Ministries Executive for Southeast Asia, Dr. Sarosh Koshy, visited Mungeli in early March bringing greetings from Disciples of Christ Churches across America.

~Landa Simmons



MATTHEW 28:6

**HE IS NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID.
COME AND SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE LAY.**

+++

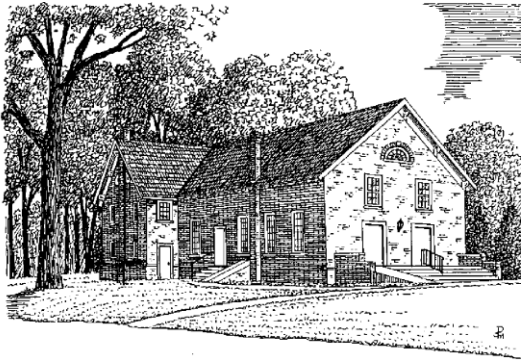
**JESUS HAD TAUGHT MANY LESSONS,
WITH MIRACLES IN PLAIN VIEW,
BUT HIS MOST IMPORTANT MISSION WAS,
PAYING SIN'S DEBT FOR ME AND YOU.**

**HE WAS COMPLETELY SINLESS,
NO GUILT HE ACCEPTED WAS HIS OWN,
HE WILLINGLY BORE THE CROSS,
OUR SINS TO ATONE.**

**HIS BODY WAS PREPARED WITH SPICES,
IN A BORROWED TOMB HE WAS LAID,
HIS FINAL ACT OF LOVE COMPLETE,
OUR DEBT HAD BEEN PAID.**

**ON SUNDAY THE TOMB WAS EMPTY,
THE RESURRECTION HAD BEGUN,
HE'D SOON RETURN TO HEAVEN,
THE FINAL JOURNEY OF GOD'S SON.**

~ Louise Gatling Smith



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The Olive Branch

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Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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