



The Olive Branch



JUNE 2026

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Tanya O. Weyland, administrative assistant
Church Phone: 757-566-8077

 **Facebook: facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg**

Web Address: www.ob-cc.org
Office Email Address: obcc1833@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

 **Instagram: @obccwilliamsburg**



HONORING OUR HEROS

On May 30, 1868, the then General and future President James A. Garfield addressed a crowd of 5,000 people from the porch of the Arlington Mansion at the Arlington National Cemetery on the first Decoration Day. Before him were the graves of 15,000 men who had lost their lives in the Civil War. In his speech he said these words about them:

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

The commemoration of Decoration Day, or, as it increasingly became known, Memorial Day, continued through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century as an informal patriotic holiday. After World War I, the event was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday by an act of Congress. It was designed to be a day of remembrance and honor, a time to consider the freedoms and values preserved through the ultimate sacrifices of our military men and women.

Throughout Olive Branch's almost 200-year history, members of our congregation have served in the wars of our country. Some have served and made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives.

As our way of recognizing them, we would like to establish a Memorial Plaque to be placed in the Narthex of our Sanctuary. On this plaque we will record the names of men and women in service who have perished as a direct result of war, so that it will be a constant reminder to us that the freedoms we enjoy, including the freedom to worship, is a result of their heroism and service.

We are in the process of developing the list of names to be included on this plaque. If you know of a member of Olive Branch Christian Church who perished on the battlefield or whose death was a direct result of war, please call the church office or give me the information. Thank you for helping us honor their sacrifice.

Peace,
~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 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

 **SAVE THE DATE**

Father's Day Tools: Names due June 15

DWM Dinner at Kay Ainsworth's House: June 8

Community Cookout: June 17 & 24, July 1 & 8, 6PM

Lifeline Screening: June 18, 8AM-6PM; Branch Hall

Vacation Bible School: July 13-17

Community Fun Day: September 26

 **PRAYER LIST**

Church Family: Joyce Allen, Pat and son Jimmy Allred, Michael Ayers, Mary Bates, Jeanne Bell, J.C. Biggs, Melvin Braxton, Judy Eley, Phyllis Gardner, Amy Gilliam, Nancy Griffith, Petra Hall, Elaine Henk, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutchens, Cheryl Johnson, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Steve Perger, Danny Pitts, Fred Roethermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Kelsey Sherazi, Mike Smith, Ellen Waite, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Karen Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's daughter), Debbie Cook (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), George Eber (father of Bob Eber), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), David Held (Andrew Pfister's friend), Michelle Holdsworth and

family (cousin of Karen Daniels), Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), John Morefield (Nicki Hood's godfather), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Sheila Rinehart, Family of Richard Tholl (Andrew Pfister's co-worker's father), Lisa Vallandingham (Nicki Hood's mother), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Earl Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Carolyn (friend of James & Pat Tabb)

 **ELDERS, DEACONS & DEACONESSES**

JUNE DEACONESS: Susan Simpson

06/07/2026 ELDERS	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts
DEACONS	Jane Hatcher, Edie Larkin, Judy Eley, Bill Simpson
06/14/2026 ELDERS	Teri Tench Harold Barker
DEACONS	Linda Garrett, Steve Garrett, Patty Barker, Jeremy Dill
06/21/2026 ELDERS	Missy Harbour Mel Watson
DEACONS	Maralyn Carr, Dennis Cotner, Patti Banks, Danny Pitts
06/28/2026 ELDERS	Bob Herndon Chuck Walker
DEACONS	Betty Boley, Jason Teagle, Anita Dasher, Amy Ferguson

 **WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE**

	Leader:	Greeter:
06/07/2026	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker
06/14/2026	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
06/21/2026	Teri Tench	Jeremy Dill
06/28/2026	Ethel King	Danielle Kelley

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|---------------|
| 01 | Missy Harbour | 28 | Rachel Weavil |
| 08 | Janet Neal | 30 | Susan Kohlman |
| 12 | Tracie Heslink | 27 | Judy Eley |
| 14 | Jim Hunt | | |
| 15 | Dennis Dasher | | |
| 18 | James Holland | | |
| 18 | Noreen Bowen | | |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



09 Ralph & Tracey Hutton
09 Steve & Donna Perger



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

Beautiful flowers and bright sunshine greeted us on Wednesday May 13th for Our Day Out.

Chatting with friends, enjoying some nibbles, and checking out the bingo prize table is always a nice, relaxing way to start the day.

Our theme this month was "Mother's Day". Anita and I really enjoyed adding some special touches to the lovely flowers left from the celebration of life service for Keeta on Saturday. Melvin provided a touching quote from Isaiah which I read and opened with prayer. Our speaker, Christy reminded us of our dear departed friend Keeta who loved coming to ODO and being a caregiver for those in need. Her limericks and poems for Mothers gave laughs and smiles to us all. Sharing stories, both funny and touching, about our own mothers was very special.

Chef Sheila and her helpers delighted us with a delicious lunch and topped it off with strawberry shortcake, YUM! Crafty Jane helped us create a clever note pad project. Maralyn brought us some lovely tomato plants to add to our bingo prizes, they were a real hit!

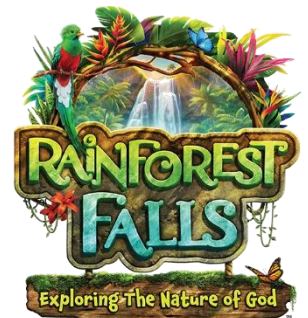
My hope is that ODO gives all who come a peaceful and uplifting day as I know our lives are full of challenges and not so quiet ones.

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Rainforest Falls" is coming our way on July 13-17 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Get ready to embark on a wild, creature-filled adventure at Rainforest Falls where kids learn that God is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love and Forever! If you are planning to attend, please register online at www.ob-cc.org/vbs-2026 or email/call the church office. 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! Watch for more information in your weekly email blasts and bulletin announcements. Hope to see you there!





CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

The temperature in Mungeli hits 114 daily, but it's a dry heat, don't you know? Monsoons this summer will break the heat, but the humidity will soar. Even so, the walls are coming up on our new College of Nursing. Here's the latest snapshot:



ART CLASS WITH ABBY

On May 3, we had a very talented group who gathered for an afternoon of art. It was a good time with conversation, creative space and fellowship.



SAMARITANS PURSE MISSIONS

OBCC will be going on a mission trip in June to continue to assist clean up and rebuilding efforts in western North Carolina, who was hit hard by Hurricane Helene in 2024.

Samaritan's Purse recently started a new initiative to meet the medical needs of U.S. communities, like western North Carolina, where many struggle to access and afford medical treatments such as dental and vision care. Recently, almost 300 people have received care, free of charge, from the Samaritan's Purse team of volunteer doctors, dentists and eye specialists.

You can read more about their medical efforts at [samaritanspurse.org/cmo](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/cmo). Donations to Samaritan's Purse can be made at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/donate-online/> or by calling 1-800-665-2843.

"I thank my God...because of your partnership in the Gospel" ~Philippians 1:3-5, ESV



COMMUNITY COOKOUT

The free community cookout is back for summer! Beginning June 17, we will have a community cookout starting at 6PM on Wednesday nights through July 8. This leads up to our VBS which will be July 13-17. Join us for good food, fun, and fellowship!

Please bring a side dish to share.





CHURCH HISTORY ROOM

We would like to invite you to come explore the new church history room, located upstairs (to the left, front) of the main church building.

On Sunday, June 7th, we invite you to stop by after worship service for a reception and to take a look at some of our church historical items on display.

A lot of time and effort has been put into cleaning, organizing and decorating this room to archive and display historical documents and old pictures of events at Olive Branch Christian Church. We would like to thank Sheila Yeatts, Joann Mitchell, Charles & Naomia Barker, Steve White, Dennis Dasher, Jeremy Dill and Andy Bradshaw for all their hard work and donations to make this beautiful room possible.



GIVING
what we can

FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Please mark your calendar for a scheduled food drop-off event on Saturday, June 13 from 9:30-11:30 in our church parking lot.

During the school summer break, Saint Olaf provides additional support to registered families who have school-age children living in the home. Your cash/checks and food donations to the summer food pantry program provides additional food support for those eligible families. In addition, your generous

donations will provide support for the Greater Williamsburg food pantries.

The mission is to collect contributions and food donations by September 19th to provide 250,000 lbs. of food for our neighbors in need of assistance.

"In 1776, a revolutionary idea was given birth, we are continuing that legacy by proving that our greatest strength is how we care for one another."

If you will be contributing by check, please make the check payable to OBCC, and add a note in the memo to say, "Food Sharing". If you are contributing cash, please place your cash donation in a sealed envelope with your name, "Food Sharing" and the amount included written on the outside. You can place your contributions in the offering plates before June 13th, or you can give your monetary donation on food Drop-off Day. (6/13)

"Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." When we place food into the hands of our neighbors, Jesus says we are placing it into HIS hands. Your essential support is more than charity, it is worship, obedience and love expressed to CHRIST HIMSELF.

Look forward to seeing your wonderful smiling faces!
~Jane & Will Hatcher and Andrew Pfister



PICKIN' & PULLIN' BBQ and BLUEGRASS

Featuring the Sassafras Warthog Band

June 13, 2026 (5-8 pm)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

7479 Richmond Road, Norge, VA

757-564-3745

Freewill Offering will go to



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Andy Priestley
757-566-0009
Come Join US!



The monthly OBCC Men's breakfast took place on May 14th in Branch Hall. The event featured another outstanding breakfast, graciously served by Shelia and Carolyn. A total of eleven men attended the gathering. Danny Kelley led a spirited devotional, focusing on the current lack of civility in our country. The topic sparked an excellent discussion among those present, making it a timely and relevant conversation for the group.

During the meeting, a brief review was given of the book, *The Work of His Hands—A View of God's Creation in Space*; by COL (Ret) Jeffery Williams. The reviewer, Jim Hunt shared a personal connection to Colonel Williams, having served with him in Germany in the early 1980s. Colonel Williams later became an astronaut, contributing to the inception of the International Space Station (ISS) and participating in the Astronaut Program. Over the course of his career as an astronaut, Colonel Williams spent 534 days in space across four missions to the ISS. His book details the rigorous training and preparation required for space travel, the work conducted on the space station, and his experiences as an avid photographer—having taken over 500,000 photos during his time in orbit. Additionally, he completed five spacewalks during his missions. The group also watched a segment of an interview between Colonel Williams and Kirk Cameron on TBN, highlighting how Williams' time in space deepened his faith and appreciation for God's creations.

We were also presented with an update concerning the Williamsburg Christian Academy. As a follow-up to the January presentation by Williamsburg Christian Academy, Will Hatcher shared insights from his recent visit to the school. He provided valuable information about opportunities to assist with funding for prospective students who are unable to afford tuition at the academy. WCA is open to visits and tours of their facilities, Will encouraged anyone that is interested contact him and he will provide contact information.

~ Jim Hunt



DWM BLESSING BOXES

Please pick up a blessing box today. Blessing boxes are an above-and-beyond offering meant to be a daily reminder of the many blessings God gives us every day. Put the box in a place that it is easy to add a coin or two each day as gratitude to God for the many blessings we witness every day. Suggested places to

keep your box: on the table where you eat, beside your bed, or anywhere that it is easy to add a coin to it daily as you witness God's blessings. We will be collecting the boxes on Sunday, September 13th.



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

What a beautiful day we had for our Circle of Grace meeting on Thursday, May 21st. All of the delicious salads and goodies always make our dining experience fantastic.

Mary Louise celebrated her 93rd birthday with us by sharing a beautiful, and scrumptious, cake brought by her daughter. Everyone enjoyed this very much! Singing happy birthday and blowing out the candles brought the biggest smile to her face! This was followed with Richard and several others singing the North Carolina state song. It was very impressive and reminded her of home.

Elaine shared the story of Queen Vashti, a brave woman in the Bible. She defied her husband's unseemly order to dance, almost naked, before his drunken male friends and visitors. This was followed with an excellent discussion of her choices and what they could have meant.

Next month we will talk about Grace, discussing the fact that there are no women named Grace in the Bible. Please come join us!

*May God Bless You Always
~ Marney Brickhouse*



VBS 2026 - Rainforest Falls

Get kids ready to embark on a wild, creature-filled adventure at Rainforest Falls where kids learn that God is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love, and Forever.



WHAT: 5 weekday evenings of food, Bible study, and fellowship.

There will be classes for adults and children (grouped by age).

WHEN: July 13-17, 2026 **TIME:** 5:30 to 8:00 pm

WHERE: Olive Branch Christian Church; 7643 Richmond Rd; Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dinner will be at 5:30 pm followed by classes and activities from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Classes will be held for preschoolers (age 3 to those who will enter kindergarten), those *who will enter* grades 1 - 3, grades 4 - 6, middle school, and high school. There will also be an adult class.

HOW TO REGISTER: Fill out the form below and return it to the church office or just drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Online submission is available at www.ob-cc.org.

NOTE: We are collecting canned goods

Bible School 2026

Registrant Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ **E-Mail** _____

Class (Please circle) Preschool (age 3 to those who will enter kindergarten in the fall)
Students who will enter grades 1 – 3 in the fall
Students who will enter grades 4 – 6 in the fall
Students who will enter/be in Middle school in the fall
Students who will enter/be in High School in the fall
Adult

Please exclude me/my child from identifiable photography

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Phone number, same as above or _____

Church affiliation _____

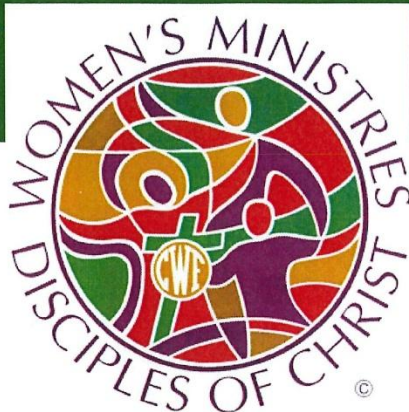
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY IS THERE ANOTHER PERSON WE CAN CONTACT?

Name _____ **Relationship** _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Allergies NONE KNOWN or list _____

**Virginia
Disciples
Women
Regional Retreat**



**September
18 - 20,
2026**

"Sprouting Our Faith"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erin Reibel

"For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as the garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations"

Isaiah 61:11 ESV

Dr. Reibel is a dynamic, thoughtful and inspirational speaker who has served in multiple church settings.

The VDWM Retreat means fellowship with old and new friends, learning and growing our faith through worship and study, and having fun together. Bedrooms are single to triple, twin or full beds, with a private bathroom.

The retreat is Friday dinner through Sunday morning worship.

LOCATION:

W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center
at Smith Mountain Lake, Wirtz, VA

Registration opens May 1st, 2026 and closes Aug. 15, 2026



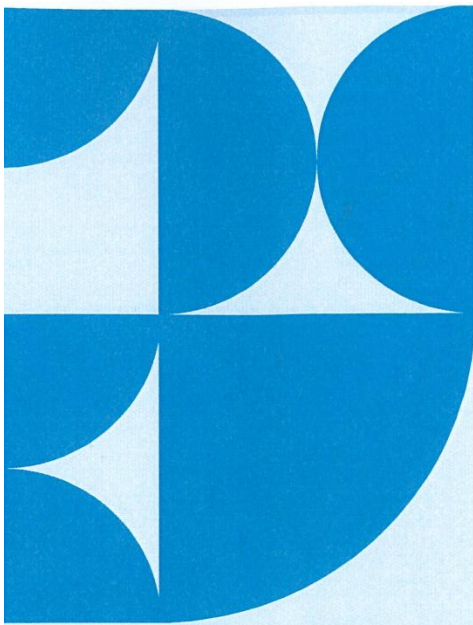
Please see registration form for cost details.

To register, use the QR code or link below:

<https://bit.ly/48hO3Pe>



Questions? Email ccinvaoffice@gmail.com or call the
Regional Office 434-846-3400



Sara's STL Saga

Side Stories:

I have a long list of churches that I plan to visit each Sunday. I have visited 4 so far, one of which has the potential to be my new church home. It's an ongoing quest, and I know it will take time and patience to find the right fit.

For those concerned about dear Solomon, he has started a new chemotherapy treatment and is doing very well. His energy is returning, and he is happily enjoying his new pool that my parents bought him for the summertime (even without any water in it). 😊



I miss you all dearly, OBCC Family, and you remain in my prayers and heart always. ❤️



The Move

Thanks be to God, we made it to St. Louis all in one piece! We left Tuesday, April 28th, and after a long delay due to traffic in Charlottesville, we finally made it to our stop for the night in Lexington, KY. The next day, we made it to my new home in Oakville. The apartment was in a bit of a state upon arrival, so...I've gotten to know the maintenance crew pretty well right from the start. The moving company ended up arriving a day early, so they moved everything into my apartment and we started the unpacking process sooner than anticipated. My friend and coworker, Hannah, helped me settle in and took me shopping to find some much needed items to start turning the apartment into a home. She continues to be a blessing to me each day and it has been wonderful reconnecting with her since our time together in college. Now that all my maintenance requests have been fulfilled and all is mostly unpacked and decorated, I do feel a homier atmosphere in the apartment just two weeks in which is lovely to come back to at the end of the day. I do have to say though, Missouri license plates do not all have "Show Me State" written on them; the majority of them have "Bicentennial 1821-2021" written on them now, Pastor Richard. 😊

The Job

The first week was mostly uneventful as my manager is what we call a "deployed employee". He lives in Phoenix and travels to several churches and individual families all over the country to work through gift planning with them, so he's a busy traveling man! My manager did visit for in-person training with me for a couple days during my second week which was very appreciated. I learned a lot and certainly felt the proverbial firehose of information at full force, but it was very helpful to have a better idea of what my job will entail moving forward. He will return to spend more time training me hands on soon. I had my official LCMS employee pictures taken and have gotten to know fellow coworkers in the Mission Advancement (MADV) office. They're a fun group! One of the best parts of working here so far is the fact that there is a worship service in the Chapel every morning. It's the perfect "brain break" as well as time to receive some spiritual nourishment and be refreshed in the Word of God.



**While we have a Heavenly Father,
Who guides us from above,
He gave us Earthly Dad's,
As an extension of His Love.**

**Some men are of good character,
While others struggle with Worldly pain,
The kind of leader in each home,
Affects on their children will remain.**

**I hope your Daddy taught you of Jesus,
All the things He did for you,
He is the Cornerstone,
He'll determine how well you do.**

**We all struggle in the flesh,
Remember your Dad struggled too,
So never cease to honor him,
For his gift of life to you.**

**Thank You Father God,
Abba is who You are,
It is You who sets the standards,
I want to "reach the bar".**

~Louise Gatling Smith

**WE BLESS OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN,
A GIFT FROM OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,
THOUGH AS PARENTS WE FACE
CHALLENGES,
WE NEVER CONSIDER THEM A BOTHER.**

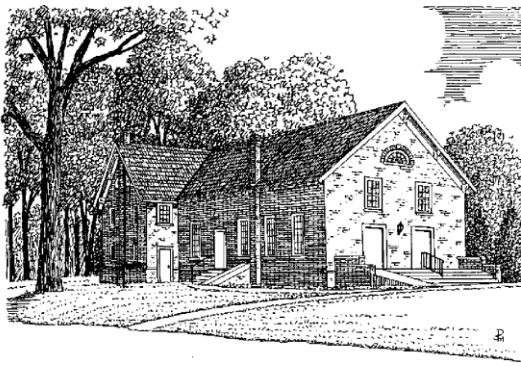
**FOR THEIR SMILE CAN MELT A HEART,
AND THEIR TEARS MAKE US CRY,
WE CHERISH THEM IN OUR HOMES,
DON'T LOOK FORWARD TO GOOD-BYE.**

**WE TEACH THEM HOW TO FLY, ✨
SO THEY CAN SOAR SOMEDAY, ✨
WE SHARE OUR LOVE FOR JESUS,
AND WE TEACH THEM HOW TO PRAY.**

**WE TELL THEM TO LOVE OTHERS,
NO THOUGHT OF NATIONALITY,
THAT THEY ARE NOT TO JUDGE,
THAT'S GOD'S BUSINESS, YOU SEE.**

**WHEN PARENTS WORK SEEMS ENDED,
WE SOON COME TO REALIZE,
OUR CHILDREN WILL ALWAYS NEED US,
TO CARE AND EMPATHIZE.**

~Louise Gatling Smith



Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Norge, VA
Permit No. 2

The Olive Branch

© published by

Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024
(757) 566-8077

Electronic Service Requested

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

