



The Olive Branch



JULY 2026

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Tanya O. Weyland, administrative assistant
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Office Email Address: obcc1833@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Facebook: facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg

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



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

ROAD MAP FOR LIFE

It is strange and wonderful how the mind works! In June at our first Wednesday Community Cookout and Study, Steve White and his daughter Dr. Shannon White presented a history of the surrounding area focusing upon Olive Branch Christian Church. Steve shared remembrances of members, and Shannon showed, through a series of old maps, the changes in this part of James City County, and the importance of roads. One thing she mentioned that I grew up with was the folded paper maps given out at state welcome centers and gas stations. I remember them well! Laying them out flat, tracing the route I would take to get from point A to point B, writing out the directions, and then trying 2 or 3 times to fold the map back to its original size! What joy!

But now we have navigation systems in our cars, or different map programs on our smart phones, so that all we have to do is listen and be told when to turn. Yes, maps are certainly different today! But there is still one map that has not changed. Here is how one country song recorded by Porter Wagoner described it:

I'm using my Bible for a road map

*Then Commandments they tell me what to do
The twelve disciples are my road signs
And Jesus will take me safely through*

CHORUS

*There'll be no detours in heaven
No rough roads along the way
I'm using my Bible for a road map
My last stop is heaven some sweet day*

Yes, we have a road map for our lives, as the Bible directs us with wisdom, spiritual insights, and guidance for our present as well as our future. Every Sunday we sing how God's word is "a lamp to my and feet and a light to my path." We confess that God's Word is essential and provides a trusted road map for our journey. After all, God has mapped out our lives from the beginning, and has promised to be with us, always, even to the end of time. God knows the way, and that way is good. Are you using your Bible for a road map?

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

Community Cookout: July 1 & 8, 6PM

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, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Elaine Henk, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutchens, Cheryl Johnson, Heidi McMurdo, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Barbara Nicholson, Steve Perger, Danny Pitts, Leroy Roberts, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Herak Sherazi, Mike Smith, Barbara Thiel, 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), Lynda Clark (Patti Banks mother), Debbie Cook (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Davvon Davidson (daughter of Emily Dill's friend), Family of George Eber (Bob Eber's father), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Mason Ewing (grandson of Liz Ripley), David Held (Andrew Pfister's friend), Michelle Holdsworth and family (cousin of Karen Daniels), Susan Holton (friend of Liz Ripley) Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), Maylynn (Missy Harbour's friends granddaughter), 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), Millie Ptachick (Abby Matschke's friend's granddaughter), 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), Terrell Wynne

(friend of Carol & David Pitts), Earl Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Carolyn (friend of James & Pat Tabb)



ELDERS, DEACONS & DEACONESSSES

JULY DEACONESS: Liz Ripley

JULY 5 ELDERS	Kim Riffle Dianne Mongold
DEACONS	Ethel King, Jan Smith, Danny Kelley, Betty Bennink
JULY 12 ELDERS	Linda Williams Abby Matschke
DEACONS	Mike Hebbard, Jody Hebbard, John Henderson, Jerry Henderson
JULY 19 ELDERS	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts
DEACONS	Patti Banks, Edie Larkin, Judy Eley, Bill Simpson
JULY 26 ELDERS	Teri Tench Harold Barker
DEACONS	Linda Garrett, Steve Garrett, Patty Barker, Jeremy Dill



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
JULY 5	Bob Eber	Trina Eber
JULY 12	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
JULY 19	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker
JULY 26	Linda Williams	Bob Williams

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 06 Pastor Richard Cline | 07 Chuck Walker |
| 13 Haley Creech | 13 Jeanette McWilliams |
| 13 Elizabeth Ripley | 14 Richard Bradshaw |
| 14 Will Hatcher | 16 Carolyn Hunt |
| 20 Bonnie Willard | 21 Ralph Hutton |
| 22 Michael Ayers | 28 Donald White |
| 30 Charles Barker | 31 John Waltrip |
| 31 Jason Waltrip | |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- July 3: Will & Jane Hatcher
 July 4: David & Carol Pitts
 July 6: Pastor Richard & Ann Simmons
 July 12: Charles Rupe & Mary Bates
 July 14: Andy & Ann Bradshaw



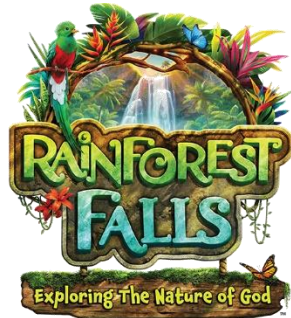
OBCC sends condolences to the family of Bob Eber on the passing of his father, George Eber. George passed away on May 25, 2026.

Next month we will be picnicking and reminding ourselves of God's blessings. Hope to see you there!
~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!



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.



VBS DONATIONS NEEDED:



We are asking for donations of any type of fresh vegetables and fruits to be served at VBS. These items can be dropped off on July 12th and July 15th. Thank you for your generosity and help!



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

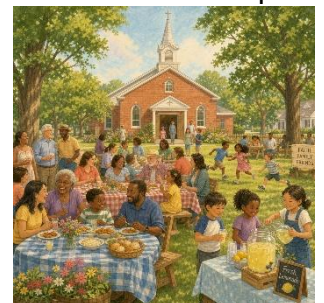
Our Day Out was blessed with a beautiful day to celebrate the coming of summer with an Italian flair. Gathering time is really special and gives us a chance to relax and enjoy our friends. Our speaker, Laura Kinsman was absolutely delightful and gave all of us a lot of helpful information on "Downsizing". Anita's Italian themed decorations stimulated our appetites for the delicious spaghetti, garlic knots, salad, pineapple fluff and cookies prepared by our chefs Naomia and Betty. Crafty Jane really went all out with so many choices to stimulate our imagination. Please enjoy the picture of our talents. Bingo is always a fun way to end our day and everyone seems to enjoy selecting things from the prize table. Because of personal or family events many of my regular ODO helpers were not able to be there but still helped to make the day special, thank you, Sheila, Joann, and Anita.



COMMUNITY COOKOUT

The free community cookout is back for summer! We will have a community cookout starting at 6PM on Wednesday, July 1 & 8. We are asking for donations of side dishes and desserts to be dropped off at 6:00PM to Taylor Hall.

This leads up to our VBS which will be July 13-17. Join us for good food, fun, and fellowship! Following each cookout, at 6:45 p.m., there will be a special educational program in Branch Hall and on the last Wednesday night, July 17th, Abby Matschke will be offering an art class. This event is free of charge and open to the public.



We hope to see you there!

MEN'S
ministry **OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY**

On Thursday, June 11th, the Men's Ministry of Olive Branch Christian Church gathered for a special breakfast fellowship. The delicious meal was prepared by OBCC's talented chef, Doug Dill, and provided a wonderful opportunity for the men to come together and enjoy time with one another.

Throughout the morning, the gentlemen shared meaningful conversation, encouraging discussion, and a time of prayer. The gathering offered an opportunity to strengthen friendships, support one another in their faith journeys, and grow in Christian fellowship.



MISSION TRIP-BLACK MOUNTAIN

During the week of June 15-19, the OBCC mission team - Abby Matschke, Jeremy Dill and Perry Yeatts, traveled to Black Mountain, North Carolina, where they joined 78 other Disciples of Christ volunteers to serve the local community through hands-on ministry and outreach.

During their time there, they partnered with Habitat for Humanity efforts by helping construct walls for a new home for a family in need. Through their hard work and dedication, they were able to make a meaningful impact on the construction project while demonstrating Christ's love through service.

In addition to their construction work, the team helped by distributing fresh local fruits and vegetables to community members. These interactions provided opportunities to share kindness, build relationships, and reflect the love of God in tangible ways.

The mission trip was a wonderful reminder that serving others is an important part of our Christian calling.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:16



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE



A beautiful cloudy day was the perfect setting for our Circle of Grace meeting. We were all challenged just getting to church due to accidents, roadwork, and general snarls of traffic. Lunch was delicious and we all enjoyed chatting and catching up with our busy lives.

"Grace" was the topic for discussion, I really enjoyed telling the meaning of Grace in the Bible. There are no women named Grace mentioned in the Bible. The discussion following my presentation was most interesting and several ladies talked about a relative or friend named Grace. We welcomed Elaine's friend Betty as well as our new secretary Tanya. Elaine will be our speaker next month and told us she has a most interesting, but perhaps not well known "Lady of the Bible" to introduce to us. My special thanks to all who join us as a circle of friends is a blessing. See you next month ~ Marney

NOTES OF THANKS

"Thank you so much for your support of WCRC. Your gifts allow all of us to be the hands and feet of Jesus reaching out to folks in Williamsburg and beyond."

— Bob Briscoe, Executive Director, Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

"Thank you for your generous gift, received on May 29. Your contribution is already at work empowering more than 10,000 children and families across our

community and the state to reach their full potential."

- Jud Crihfield, Director of Advancement,
Child Development Resources

"We are most appreciative of your contribution. Your gift brings peace and comfort to beloved community members who come to us during one of their greatest times of need. Gratefully yours"

- Brandon Randall, Executive Director,
Hospice House of Williamsburg.

"Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening can bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative. We look forward to working together again!"

-Paula Massara, Health Service Coordinator,
Life Line Screening



COMMUNITY COOKOUT PRESENTATION

Following the Community Cookout on Wednesday, June 17, attendees were invited to enjoy a special presentation by Steve White and his daughter, Dr. Shannon White. The evening provided a fascinating look into the history of transportation and mapping in our local area, highlighting how both have played an important role in connecting people and communities.

Steve White shared engaging stories and historical insights about the many ways people have traveled throughout the years to reach their destinations, including church. His display of memorabilia, to include his great-uncle's POW camp, handmade, cigarette packet photo frame, were enjoyed by all.



Dr. Shannon White complemented her father's presentation with an informative exploration of local maps from different periods in history. Through her

collection of maps, attendees were able to see how the area has changed and developed over time. She emphasized the important role maps have played in helping people navigate their communities, understand their surroundings, and ultimately bring people together.

The presentation was both educational and enjoyable, providing valuable insights into our local heritage while reminding us of the many ways transportation and maps have helped build and strengthen community connections throughout the years.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

In Andy Bradshaw's Sunday School class, we are investigating difficult Bible passages. Early June, we looked at Luke 12:1-12. Our strongest questions focused on verse 10.

"Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God, but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him, but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him. Now when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

The big question we asked in class was "why is it okay to speak against Jesus, the Son of Man?" Jesus' statement is astonishing. It confounded the original disciples as much as it did us.

What do you think? Come to Andy's Sunday School and let's dig deeply together.

~ Roy Henk



Although Independence Day is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV).

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12)



INDEPENDENCE DAY

Prayer



On this Independence Day, we pause in prayer,
with grateful hearts for the freedom we share.

For every blessing, seen and unseen,
for the strength of a nation, steadfast and keen.

We remember the courage of those who stood,
who gave their all for what is right and good.

For sacrifice made and battles endured,
we thank You, Lord, for freedoms secured.

Guide us to walk in truth and grace,
to live with kindness in every place.

Let justice, mercy, and love remain,
as we honor Your name above all gain.

Yet beyond the freedom this world can give,
is the gift through Christ that teaches us to live,
redeemed, restored, and rotover made new.

So today we lift our praise on high,
with thankful hearts beneath this sky.

Happy 4th of July

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 _____

PROCLAIMING GRACE OUTREACH PRESENTS

19TH ANNUAL JENNA BASH FESTIVAL



LifePointe Christian Church
8841 Richmond Rd., Toano

AUGUST 1, 2026
11AM-4 PM



Scan for
details



11am National Anthem & Welcome

Live Music by Foxfire, Lady & the Tramps & Griffin Lane

Huge Silent Auction, 11am-3pm (must be 16+ to bid)

Delicious Food by Holy Smoke, Bake Sale & Sno-To-Go Onsite

Games, Waterslide, Dunk Tank - \$5/child all day!
bring suit-towel-sunscreen!

New Kent Humane Society Animal Adoptions

Vendors, Restaurant Wheel & Door Prizes!

Parking - \$5 DONATION Suggested, benefiting the Food Pantry

Adopt a Dove in memory of a loved one
Release at 1pm
Call for details



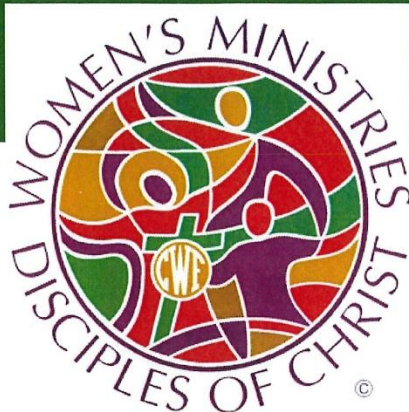
Want to be a vendor?
Spots start @ \$25 for Outdoors
Email: admin@pgova.org

All proceeds to benefit the building & operations fund

(757) 741-5070

pgova.org/jenna-bash-festival

**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



Why does America,
Mean so much to me,
History does proclaim,
It's the Nation that is free.

The Declaration of Independence,
Was signed in 1776,
Freeing us from England,
And her taxation tricks.

Freedom from repression,
Free press to hear the truth,
Freedom to Worship,
Since the days of my youth.

With God as our Creator,
Unalienable Rights are ours, you see,
With His Divine Providence,
Under His protection we will be.

Many people came along,
To add to America's success,
Making our Country great,
And by God we are blessed.

Long May Freedom Ring!

~ Louise Gatling Smith





**In this Summertime of year,
Vacation Bible School comes to mind,
Flooding it with many memories,
Of the endearing kind.**

**I think of all my teachers,
Who loved me as their child,
Trying to tame unruly ones,
Who sometimes acted wild.**

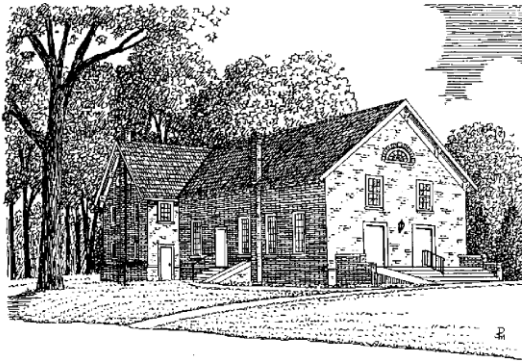
**Funny thing, our Rainforest Falls,
Reminds us of Creator God,
Meeting His many wild animals,
On the journey we will trod.**

**We'll see His vivid colors,
Hear all the differing sounds,
As we head through His jungle,
And know His love abounds.**

**For all of it belongs to Him,
That means that we do too,
Every single one who comes,
Are special ---me and you!**

**We'll enjoy family fellowship,
Dinner, crafts, and recreation,
Music, snacks, and new friends,
The Triune God's visitation.**

~Louise Gatling Smith



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The Olive Branch

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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.*

