



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

## OCTOBER 2024

# 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](https://facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg)**

**Web Address: [www.ob-cc.org](http://www.ob-cc.org)**  
**Office Email Address: [obcc1833@gmail.com](mailto:obcc1833@gmail.com)**  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

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



### CORN MAZE DAZE

October is a month filled with activities centered around the Fall season. There are pumpkin patches to visit and day trips to the mountains with their Fall foliage to take. There are outdoor bonfires, hot cider drinks, pumpkin-carving contests, and seasonal foods to make. The weather usually cooperates with our outdoor excursions; not too hot, not too cold. Which is a good thing when it comes to an activity you can really lose yourself in: the cornfield maze.

Shortly after my arrival to Olive Branch, I went with Don Morse and several of our youth to a giant corn maze in Charles City County. We were given a simple map with various places to find. As we went deeper into the maze, we lost our orientation. The paths cut through the dry cornstalks started to all look the same. At that point, I felt what it was like to be lost deep in a giant corn maze with no easy way out.

The poet David Barber wrote a poem about being lost in a corn maze. Here are a few lines:

Here is where  
You can get nowhere  
Faster than ever  
As you go under  
Deeper and deeper  
In the fertile smother  
Of another acre  
Like any other  
You can't peer over  
And then another

And everywhere  
You veer or hare  
There you are  
Farther and farther  
Afield than before

Barber is writing about more than a journey through a corn maze. He is relating being lost in a corn maze to being lost in life and being unable to find "true happiness, a sense of belonging, and where you belong... Don't ever get lost in life because it can be difficult finding your way back".

Fall can also be a time of return to the community of faith, where you can no longer feel adrift in a world that increasingly makes little sense. Life may feel at times like a confusing maze, but here at Olive Branch you will find brothers and sisters to walk beside as together we create a place where everyone is welcomed – and no one is lost.

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays; 10 AM  
Sandy's Restaurant

DWM Tuesday Bible Study: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays; 2 PM;  
Taylor Hall

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch  
Hall with breakfast

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays; 11 AM;  
Sandy's Restaurant

Oak Grove Event: October 12; 11AM-2PM; Branch  
Hall



### 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



Celebration of Life Service for Bruce Kerr: October 5;  
11AM

Reconciliation Giving: October 6

Regional Minister Visit & Luncheon: October 6

OBCC Board Meeting: October 28; 6PM; Adult Sunday  
School Room



### PRAYER LIST

**Church Family**: Michael Ayers, Mary Best, Wally Bowen, Linda Brown, Connie Cason, Dennis Cotner, Janet Dombrowski, Steve Garrett, Nancy Griffith, Petra Hall, Jack Heslink, Jim Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, David Love, Keith McMurdo, Dallas Mitchell, David Nunn, Susan Rinehart, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Rudy Ruskey, Bob Schmidt, Rev. Mike Smith, Barbara Thiel, Brenda White, Donald White, Gabi Wolverton

**Friends**: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Natasha Angel (Bob & Sharon Herndon's friend), Brian Bruno (Michelle Wright's friend), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy

Fletcher (Cheryl & Gene Johnson's friend), Kourtney Haake (Heidi & Keith McMurdo's daughter) Stephen Humphries (Liz Ripley's son), Ken Kunde (Barbara Thiel's brother), Kimberlee Nunn Magrill (David Nunn's daughter), Terry McCloud (Sheila Yeatts' friend), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Family of Zak Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith's grandson), Eileen Saltzgeber (friend of the Pesantes), Bud Smith (Larry & Louise Smith's son), Howard Thackston (Cheryl Johnson's nephew), Brenda Walker (Chuck Walker's mother), Rebekkah Warhol (Linda Hutchens' granddaughter), Mac Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Lola (Missy Harbour's friend's niece), Paulette & Judy (Lyn Medina's aunts)



18            Joyce Allen & Mark Pfister



- 01            Sarah Whitehurst
- 02            Steve Perger
- 08            Nicholas Onesty
- 12            Mike Garrett
- 14            David Pitts
- 14            Norm Larkin
- 15            Nancy Cates
- 19            Linda Heslink
- 21            Devon Watson
- 23            Josephine Gardner
- 27            Morgan Onesty
- 29            Nancy Griffith



### ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Edie Larkin
10/06/2024	Teri Tench Richard Bradshaw	
	Amy Ferguson Karen Barrow Anita Dasher Danny Pitts	
10/13/2024	Abby Matschke Sheila Yeatts	
	Liz Ripley Jason Teagle Marney Brickhouse	

	Tyler Watson (Kaye Watson)	
10/20/2024	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Jane Hatcher Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
10/27/2024	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Tracy Creech Will Hatcher Jeremy Dill	

have forgotten something and if I have, please forgive me. See you all in March!!! You all are in my prayers each and every day.

*Truly blessed,  
Susan Rinehart*

ALL SAINTS  
ODU



**ALL SAINTS' DAY---HEADS UP!**

This service will be on Sunday, November 10th. On that day, we will remember our loved ones, friends, and church members who have passed away since last year's service. If you wish to have someone's name listed, please call or e-mail the church office by the end of Tuesday, November 5th. Please include a full name, month of death, and relationship.



**WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE**

	<b>Leader:</b>	<b>Greeter:</b>
10/06/2024	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill
10/13/2024	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
10/20/2024	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill
10/27/2024	Linda Williams	Bob Williams

Names already on the list are:

- Bruce Kerr
- Clay Harrison
- Diana Love
- Jeanne Lawrence
- Betty Barber
- Sarah Waid
- Peter Kowalchick
- John Heslink, Jr.
- Jimmie Biggs, Sr.
- Donald Kline
- Zak Reynolds



**REGIONAL MINISTER VISIT**

Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, our Regional Minister, will be visiting and preaching for us on Sunday, October 6. He will also be joining us for a luncheon following the 11AM service. Please join us for this special occasion!



**BOARD MEETING**

The OBCC Board will be meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 6 PM in the Adult Sunday School Room.



**CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE**

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Bruce Kerr on Sunday, October 5, 2024 at OBCC at 11AM. There will be a reception to follow in Branch Hall.



**SPECIAL THANKS**

There are no words to express how much I miss everyone and love you all very much. I am truly blessed beyond measure. You all humble me, and I am grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you all for the wonderful luncheon. Missy, thank you for organizing it. A big thanks to everyone who prepared the awesome food. Also, thank you to everyone who helped set the tables and put the food out. I know I



**OUR DAY OUT-2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAYS**

September ODO's theme was fall fun and the beautiful cool day was a wonderful welcome. Everyone enjoyed Christy's information about the events of fall including back to school, Grandparents Day, and remembering 9/11. The lovely stories that were shared about being a grandparent made us all smile and laugh. It was also interesting to hear the stories about what we were doing on that fateful day 9/11.

Janet Dombrowski finished out our morning with a game of Bible Trivia; it's amazing how many questions we were all able to answer. Elaine Henk won but Janet had a sweet prize for all of us.

Chef Sheila always makes lunch so special and delicious. Our crafty Jane is still recovering from her recent surgery, but she rounded up Carol Sharp and Ethel King who delighted all of us with a chance to paint rocks. Carol's clever examples lent inspiration to everyone, and cute lady bugs, bees, and sayings were made by all. A picture of their artistic endeavors is featured below.

Bingo master Tyler finished our day, and everyone was a prize winner. Candy is usually the first thing selected. My thanks to all who contributed to the prize table!

Next month is a Halloween celebration and all who come are encouraged to wear a little touch of a fun outfit.

The beautiful spirit of a church family is always so special when we are together and hopefully when you are able, you will join us!

May God Bless You Always,  
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator



### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX/CHRISTMAS CHILD COMING!**

Our next effort will be the Shoebox Project. *Distribution day is October 13. Due date for all boxes is November 11.* Boxes will be available in the lobby & narthex with a sheet of instructions with boy/girl label.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children

in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than 198 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

This whole process is made possible by caring individuals who pack shoeboxes full of quality gifts for children in need. Many of these shoebox packers also use our Follow Your Box feature to discover the country where their gift will be delivered.

More than 9,000 year-round volunteers also get the word out about the Samaritan's Purse project across the U.S. In addition, some 80,000 short-term volunteers serve in more than 4,000 drop-off locations open across the country every year during National Collection Week, the third week in November. Each shoebox collected then travels to one of our processing centers to be inspected and prepared for international shipment by 90,000 volunteers. All of this is supported by the 30,000 volunteers in our prayer network.

I would like to challenge people who are preparing shoebox gifts to also write a letter showing God's love. What's written there may be very simple, but those simple words could completely change somebody's life.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator

## SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS



### "WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



### TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Small water bottles



### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



### ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)



### DO NOT INCLUDE

candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans



## OBCC LIVE NATIVITY COMING DEC 21!

Our Live Nativity with live animals will be December 21 outside from 3-6 PM. We will be serving a variety of soups, crackers, and desserts along with hot chocolate and hot apple cider in Taylor Hall and the Sanctuary. If you would like to help, please Contact Bill and Susan Simpson. Thank you for your willingness to help make this a great day for our community!



## WORLD OUTREACH NEWS: RECONCILIATION SUNDAYS—OCT 6

Your Reconciliation Ministry gifts help support pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs through camp, education, conference, and relationship-building in each expression of our Church. Thank you in advance for your support.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



## SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our loving thanks for prayers you offered on Zak's behalf over these 2+ years. You continued to lift us in prayer, send cards, and expressed your care and concern since he passed away. Our family is grateful for our Church Family, for the ways you became one with The Smith-Reynolds Families through this difficult journey.

Blessed by your presence,  
~Larry & Louise Smith & Family



## HOLIDAY ITEM YARD SALE SET

On November 23 from 8 AM-1 PM, holiday décor and holiday gift items along with baked goods will be on display in Branch Hall. Holiday décor & holiday gift items are being accepted beginning November 1.

Be sure to check out your unused items to donate to this important fundraising effort. Thanks!

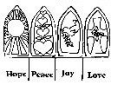
~Sheila Yeatts



## BRING YOUR LEAVES

If you have bags of leaves that you are planning on taking to the dump, please bring them to OBCC! We will use them to fill in the woods as needed to cover up what was washed away. Thank you!

~Steve White, Cemetery Chair



## SHARE YOUR ADVENT MEMORIES

*"Like the Biblical characters that have thousands of stories spanning the emotional spectrum, the members and friends of the Olive Branch Christian Church have stored memories from years gone by. Several of those memories are shared in this devotional book and represent but a mere sampling of events that make us who we are."*

The above words framed the beginning of the 2001 Advent Devotional of shared memories from our church family. Twenty years later, coming off a year of COVID and shut-downs, we printed the 2021 Advent Devotional book that included memories from that first book, with new memories and words from present members and friends. This year the Worship Committee invites you to share your words in a 2024 Advent edition.

This devotional will be printed and distributed to our congregation in time for the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, December 1. Please share your gifts of memories, traditions, drawings, and poetry as guides to the celebration of this "most wonderful time of the year". Send your gifts to the church office or drop them off.

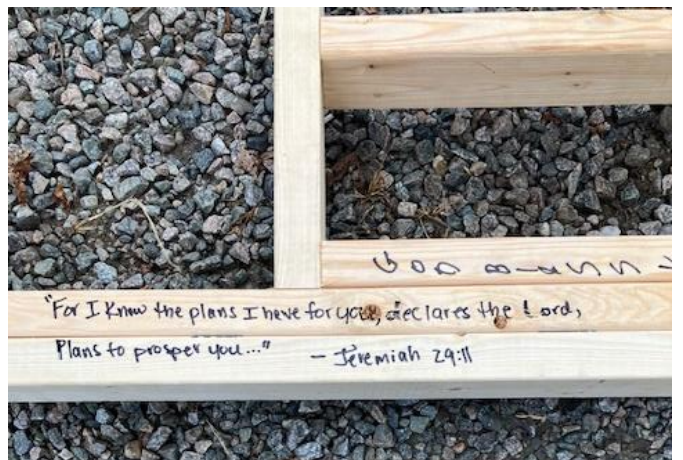
As we share our gifts, may this devotional guide stir up Christmas memories from our past, and create new memories for Christmas 2024.



## BON AIRE CHURCH PROJECT

Approximately 120 of us met at Bon Air Christian Church. God used the hands of many to make light work. All of the walls were built for a three-bedroom, two-bath home. The walls were then loaded and sent to the foundation in Hillsville, where a family of four will reside. This ministry was blessing for all involved. God is good!

*~Missy Harbour & Abby Matschke*





## FALL COMMUNITY FUN FAY

What a great day we had! My heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered to make this a special day!

I appreciate all the time that people gave to make this happen and for all the donations of food and drinks; they were very helpful and greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to our kitchen staff for all the help- our soups, hot dogs, and sloppy joes were a hit!

We made \$2003.50 for our pew cushions in our Sanctuary. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to all our volunteers for manning the Country Store and the silent auction.

Thanks goes out to Abby for all the games!

Thank you also to Will Hatcher for the great work on the scavenger hunt.

The winner of the Quilt raffle was Liz Ripley, and Pat Allred won the Afghan raffle.

Many, many thanks to Steve White and Dennis Dasher for getting the Nature Trail ready!

This was a job well done, OBCC Family! Thank you for all your help in making this such a successful day!

*~Sheila Yeatts*



### SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to our visitors from Minnesota who came from a Lutheran church to visit OBCC and support us! Luke and Rebecca visited and joined us for Sunday worship on September 22 and donated a gift to us for our pew cushions in our Sanctuary. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you again soon on your next Sunday off!



**Timothy 4:2 "Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season,  
correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful  
instruction."**

**Our Pastor is a Godly man,  
With a servant's heart,  
Soothing over differences,  
New programs he wants to start.**

**He encourages every layman,  
To actively participate,  
To share important responsibilities,  
The love for God to demonstrate.**

**Our Pastor is our leader,  
Taking his instructions from the Lord,  
Opening up the Holy Word,  
Which is this Warrior's sword.**

**He counsels those who are down,  
Offers them a helping hand,  
He visits the lonely and sick,  
Following Jesus' Love Command.**

**One thing we should remember,  
He needs a Pastor too,  
Olive Branch has many of these,  
Sometimes it's me or you.**

**Let him know you love him,  
By extending well-earned care,  
And when he needs a helping hand,  
Let us covenant to be there.**

**We thank him for his service,  
He daily renders here,  
Richard was sent to us by God,  
To be the Pastor we hold dear.**

*~Louise Smith*



**World Communion Sunday**  
**October 6, 2024**

**Christians around the World,  
Are invited to The Table,  
To come and share the sacraments,  
That Jesus' death enabled.**

**He, Himself is the Host,  
Who invites us all to come,  
It is open to everyone,  
Not limited just to some.**

**It is His body, broken,  
That He might mend our life,  
The blood that He spilled for us,  
Will absolve our sinful strife.**

**We look into ourselves,  
Our sins identify,  
As we confess, repent,  
Remembering why He had to die.**

**But He was resurrected,  
Assuring us rebirth,  
We honor Him for His gift of grace,  
As we participate around the Earth.**

*~ Louise Smith*

# Save the Date!



★★★ VIRGINIA DISCIPLES WOMEN PRESENTS ★★★

## SOWING

# SEEDS OF FAITH

### *A Women's Retreat*

## OCT 11-13, 2024

W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center  
at Smith Mountain Lake



*I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.'*

Hosea 10:12

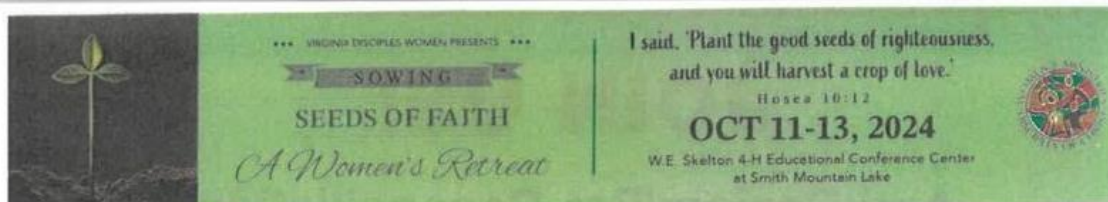


Email [2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com](mailto:2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com) to join email list  
Join our Facebook group to get updates:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/415828094313416>

## Disciples Women

- Email 2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list for all future updates.
- Join our private Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415828094313416> - to get all updates and meet other Disciples Women interested in attending.

Register On-line for the 2024 Fall Retreat at:  
<https://www.ccinva.org/disciple-women>



### *Registration*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any specific dietary requests or allergies:

Please list any specific lodging/mobility accommodation requests:

### *Costs*

Registration costs vary only by number of people occupying the same room. The retreat will begin at 3pm on Friday October 11 and run through 12pm on Sunday October 13. The registration fee includes:

- Two (2) nights of lodging accommodations (Oct. 11 and 12) in room that includes private bathroom
- Linen for each person in room
- Dinner on Friday 10/11; Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday 10/12, Breakfast on Sunday 10/13
- Facility fees and taxes, speaker honorariums

Circle your requested lodging accommodation:

Single Occupancy  
(one person in room / limited availability)

\$293.45 per person

Double Occupancy  
(two people in room)

\$214.83 per person

Triple Occupancy  
(three people in room)

\$188.62 per person

If you selected double or triple occupancy, please list the full names of the people who want assigned to the same room as you.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Want to bring your child with you? Contact us (email below) about costs and parent/child opportunities.

### *Payment*

At least 25% of total cost is required at time of registration, with remaining balance due by August 31, 2024.

Checks should be made payable to Christian Church in Virginia and mailed to:  
1290 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501

- A limited number of partial scholarships are available to assist with retreat costs. Check to receive information on how to apply. Scholarship applications are due June 30, 2024.

Email 2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com with any questions on the retreat or the registration process.





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## The Olive Branch

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**Electronic Service Requested**

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

