



THE OLIVE BRANCH

NOVEMBER 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**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Joe & Mary Margaret Fisher joined October 20, 2024

3108 Windy Branch Dr
Toano, VA 23168-9626

Mary: (757) 303-6427

Mary Email: mmfisher60@gmail.com

Joe Email: jfisher7590@gmail.com

Welcome!

NEVER ALONE

"We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Everything in-between is a gift."

I have always credited this quote to Yul Brynner, but I suspect some variation of this sentiment has been expressed by people for centuries. It is an observation on the human condition, and a particularly bleak one.

I prefer the one presented by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., the author of the book, *Life's Little Instruction Book*. He puts it this way: *"Everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something."* I would add one more thing: everyone you meet is searching for answers as to why.

On Sunday, November 10, we will gather to remember loved ones and friends that we have lost over the last year. We will honor them with a roll call of the saints, and sing together the traditional hymn for the day, *"For All the Saints"*. And while we might not be able to

fully satisfy why we have lost the ones we loved, we will begin to heal.

Our healing will be found in worship by being in fellowship with our church family, through prayer, singing hymns, sharing the bread and cup at the Lord's table, and seeking God's presence in quiet reflection. I have found, time and time again, that it is in the church's words and deeds that the questions that come from living on this planet find their answers – and most importantly, their purpose.

So, as you gather in worship, look at the faces of those around you. We all share things in common. We are all afraid of something; we all have loved; and we all have lost something. All of which makes us vulnerable, fragile, and broken – but most importantly, never alone.

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

Branch Hall Use: Saturday, November 9; 12PM-8PM

Branch Hall Use: Friday, November 29; 12PM-6PM

Branch Hall Use: Saturday, November 30; 10AM-5PM



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



Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon:

November 10; following 11AM service

Thanksgiving Special Giving: November 17 & 24

Community Thanksgiving Service: November 17;

4PM; St. Olaf Catholic Church

DWM Yard Sale: November 23; 8AM-1PM; Branch

Hall



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, Anne Holland, Jim Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, David Love, Family of Keith McMurdo, Dallas Mitchell, David Nunn, Susan Rinehart, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Rudy Ruskey, Family of Bob Schmidt, Mike Smith, 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), McKayla King (Ethel King's granddaughter), 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)



10 Dennis & Anita Dasher



- 01 Curt Griffin
- 02 Andy Bradshaw
- 02 Sanford Wanner
- 06 Cheryl Johnson
- 06 Hunter Creech
- 08 Irma Gustafson
- 08 Jeremy Dill
- 09 Danny Pitts
- 10 Elaine Henk
- 15 Abby Matschke
- 15 Linda Brown
- 16 Anita Dasher
- 18 Becky Owens
- 20 Mary Apperson
- 22 Caitlin Rutherford
- 25 Doug Dill
- 25 Patricia Allred
- 28 Sara Scungio
- 30 Naomia Barker



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
11/03/2024	Richard Bradshaw Andy Bradshaw	Karen Barrow
	Missy Harbour Dennis Cotner Ryan Matschke David Love	

11/10/2024	Will Hatcher Linda Williams	Edie Larkin
	Judy Eley Lois Marshall Joann Mitchell Joshua Fulgham	
11/17/2024	Teri Tench Ann Bradshaw	Karen Barrow
	Amy Ferguson Karen Barrow Anita Dasher Danny Pitts	
11/24/2024	Abby Matschke Sheila Yeatts	Edie Larkin
	Liz Ripley Jason Teagle Marney Brickhouse Tyler Watson (Kaye Watson)	

away on Monday, September 30, 2024. A Celebration of Life service will be held at OBCC on Saturday, November 16, 2024 beginning at 11AM with a reception to follow in Branch Hall.



OBCC sends condolences to Heidi McMurdo and family on the passing of Keith McMurdo. Keith passed away on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.



SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Church Family,
Many thanks for the prayers, visits, cards, and food that you have provided while Rudy was recovering from neck surgery and me from my accident. You are all so appreciated.

*Blessings,
Rudy & Cecelia Ruskey*



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
11/03/2024	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
11/10/2024	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
11/17/2024	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
11/24/2024	Linda Williams	Bob Williams

ALL SAINTS
DAY



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.

Names already on the list are:

Bruce Kerr
Clay Harrison
Diana Love
Jeanne Lawrence
Nancy Ferguson
Betty Barber
Sarah Waid
Peter Kowalchick
John Heslink, Jr.
Jimmie Biggs, Sr.
Donald Kline
Linda Duff Ray
Zak Reynolds
Bob Schmidt
Keith McMurdo



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to turn your clocks back November 3 or before bed on November 2!



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on November 10 after the 11AM service.

The main issues that will require congregational approval will include the following:

- * 2025 Budget
- * Election of new officers & positions

During the annual meeting the congregation will also entertain new business brought forward.



OBCC sends condolences to Barb Schmidt and family on the passing of Bob Schmidt. Bob passed



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

The theme this month for Our Day Out was Halloween Fun and Branch Hall looked like it had been invaded by witches, bats, pumpkins, and a laughing skeleton.

Many of those who came were dressed in clever and scary costumes. I hope you all will enjoy the pictures this month in the newsletter. We awarded Bob Lawrence, the vampire, a prize for the men and Maggie, Pokémon, for the ladies but the green outer space lady, Joann, was a close second!

To test everyone's visual skills, they had to guess how many candy corns were in a small jar. Clever Anita guessed the closest without going over.

The morning was filled with lovely and heartwarming stories as we remembered the tragic event on September 11. A special thanks to all who shared.

As our regular chef Sheila was out of town, we were treated to a delicious taco bar, great salads, and clever pumpkin and Halloween candy made by the chef for the day, Joann, assisted by Anita.

Our crafty Jane was back and welcomed by all. She is still trying to get back to full speed but looked great. We made beautiful cards and I carried those cards to the DWM retreat in October. They were the first ones picked to send to ladies who weren't able to come or were having challenges physically.

Again, my thanks to all for sharing your talents. Bingo Tyler kept us all laughing, including the skeleton as we enjoyed all the wonderful prizes on the bingo table.

Next month, the theme will be blessing and thanksgiving and we look forward to all who are able to come!

May God be with you always and know that ODO is just a wonderful way to enjoy the day and be with friends who really care.

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator





COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year's community Thanksgiving service will be Sunday, November 17 at 4PM at St. Olaf Catholic Church.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Look out for news on the 30 Salvation Army Angel Tree tags that will be hung! The tree tags will be hung likely by November 17 and gift bags will likely be due by December 1. Updates will be posted via OBCC Reminder e-mails and bulletin announcements.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX/CHRISTMAS CHILD COMING!

Our next effort will be the Shoebox Project. Due date for all boxes is November 11. Instructions are available in Branch Hall, outside the office, or in the narthex.

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



CHURCH DECORATING PARTY

Come and help get the church ready for Christmas on November 30 at 10AM. Please contact Sheila Yeatts, Missy Harbour, or Abby Matschke to say yes. Thank you!

~Sheila Yeatts, Missy Harbour, Abby Matschke



REGIONAL MINISTER VISIT

On Sunday, October 6, we welcomed our Virginia Regional Minister to Olive Branch. Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning preached at both of our worship services and shared in a luncheon in his honor. What a great day it was, as our church members had the opportunity to hear Bill's message and interact with him over a meal. We are so blessed as a region to have him as our Regional Minister!



OBCC LIVE NATIVITY COMING DEC 21!

Our Live Nativity with live animals will be on 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:

THANKSGIVING SUNDAYS—NOV 17 & 24

This special giving opportunity occurs on November 17 & 24. Use a special giving envelope found in the pews. Write Thanksgiving Offering in the memo line of your check. This offering is one of 6 special offerings throughout the year. Giving thanks for your generosity!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



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



DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mark your calendars! The annual Christmas dinner will be held in Branch Hall on December 9 at 6 PM. No need to bring a dish. All food will be provided. Bring your appetite and plan for an enjoyable evening of good food and fun.



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. ALL contributions to the devotional are due by Monday, November 18.

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



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Thanksgiving represents the spirit of our Food Sharing Program. As we prepare for the traditional Thanksgiving meal, we give thanks we have the resources to support our neighbors who need food assistance in the preparation of their meal. We know,

"No one has ever become poor by giving". It is all about giving and being thankful and you are an essential ingredient in the preparation of our neighbors' Thanksgiving meal. Your monetary contributions and food donations emphasize the giving in Thanksgiving.

Food donation boxes are outside Pastor's office and in Branch Hall. Your food donations will be delivered to St. Olaf on Nov 28th.

Money contributions: Make check to OBCC. Designate Food Sharing on the check memo line. Please make contributions before Nov. 28th.

May your Thanksgiving (emphasis on GIVING) be as wonderful as the kindness you share with our neighbors' need for food assistance.

~Steve Perger, Jane & Will Hatcher,
Andrew Pfister, Joyce Allen



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We took 15 buckets to Bon Air Christian Church. As of now there are 106 buckets headed to North Carolina. Every bucket will make a huge difference in someone's life. We want to thank everyone who helped in this mission project.

We also thank you for your support and generosity for helping us partner with our community at Faith Fellowship as they took supplies down to NC. You helped make a difference by helping those in need. Thank you for your support!

~Missy Harbour & Abby Matschke



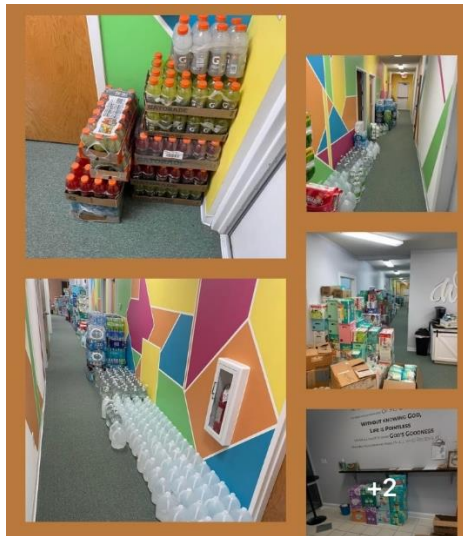


Valdosta, GA, and 3 more in the NC mountains in Boone, Asheville, and Burnsville.

Because so many roads were washed out, Samaritan's Purse coordinated a fleet of 10 helicopters (including Army Chinooks, Blackhawks, and NASCAR team choppers) to airlift food, water, medical supplies, and hundreds of generators to those who were stranded. We set up emergency medical facilities, installed dozens of Starlink satellite devices to restore communications, and operated water filters in towns where municipal water systems were wiped out.

Experts say the Southeast was deluged by 40 trillion gallons of rain. Landslides crashed into homes, houses washed off their foundations, and people were stranded on rooftops. Near Boone, not far from our headquarters, several neighbors were trapped by a landslide and rising waters. Among those neighbors were members of our team who helped rescue the group, including a 10-day-old newborn and other children. Those affected broke down in tears witnessing team members cleaning out their homes. "I've never experienced God's love like that," one neighbor said. "We're not crying because of what we lost. We're crying because love showed up."

We thank God for the thousands of volunteers who have already responded. Boone and Asheville were blessed with the largest single-day turnouts in the history of Samaritan's Purse. We're going to need lots more volunteers in the weeks and months ahead, as we help our neighbors in the Name of Jesus Christ. It will take a long time for these places to recover, and Samaritan's Purse is doing all we can to get them back on their feet. Please lift up these families and communities in prayer. Thank you for your prayers and generous support for Samaritan's Purse. May God bless you!



FRANKLIN GRAHAM UPDATE

Samaritan's Purse responded on an unprecedented scale following the disasters left by Hurricanes Helene & Milton. We deployed 6 Disaster Relief Units, 3 toward the Gulf Coast working in Tampa and Perry, FL, and

Hebrews 11:13

These all died in their faith, not having received the promise, but having seen them from afar off, and were persuaded of them and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth.

When immigrants landed at Ellis Island,
They were filled with hope and vision,
The people united in their quest,
And made the hard decision.

Their sights were fully set,
Religious freedom was their aim,
Along with economic opportunities,
Political liberty they sought to gain.

Soon they were blessed with prosperity,
With beautiful homes and a new life,
They received the right to vote,
They welcomed relief from former strife.

We all are wandering pilgrims,
In search of a perfect land,
If we are to find such a place,
Our vision must expand.

Christians know that Heaven is that place,
A city with streets of gold,
The Prince of Peace is dwelling there,
He's marked our mansions "Sold".

"Let us give thanks"!

~Louise Smith



2 TIMOTHY 2:4

NO SOLDIER IN ACTIVE SERVICE ENTANGLES HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF EVERYDAY LIFE, SO THAT HE MAY PLEASE THE ONE WHO INLISTED HIM AS A SOLDIER.



WE SALUTE OUR MILITARY, SACRIFICES THAT THEY'VE MADE, TO ENSURE AMERICA'S FREEDOM, SO MANY TIMES THEY WERE AFRAID.

THEY GAVE UP MANY COMFORTS, SOME GOING OFF TO WAR, TO FACE THE VAST UNKNOWN, WAS THE FATE THAT THEY BORE.

THEY HAD MADE A COMMITMENT, TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY WELL, SOMETIMES THE CALL OF FREEDOM, WAS A LIVING HELL.

WE KNOW ONE THING FOR SURE, THEY ARE THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE, WILLING TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES, AMERICA'S GREAT HONOR TO SAVE.

YES, FREEDOM HAS A PRICE, LET US NEVER FORGET, WE OWE IT TO OUR VETERANS, TO ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS DEBT.

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA, THE LAND OF THE FREE, IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR VETERANS, THAT STATEMENT CAME TO BE.



"WE REMEMBER ALL WHO SERVED, WITH LOVING GRATITUDE."

~Louise Smith



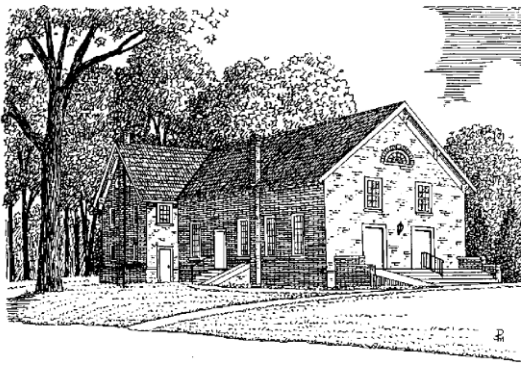


Olive Branch
Christian Church

Christmas
YARD SALE

7643 RICHMOND ROAD,
WILLIAMSBURG

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
8AM-1PM



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(Disciples of Christ)**

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Electronic Service Requested

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

