



THE OLIVE BRANCH

FEBRUARY 2025

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**

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

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



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Noreen Bowen joined January 5, 2025
115 Portland
Williamsburg, VA 23188-6455
H: (757) 208-0336
C: (610) 613-7989
Email: nmbowen618@gmail.com

Betty Bennink joined January 19, 2025
3446 Foxglove Dr
Toano, VA 23168-9547
C: (757) 713-2005
Email: edb12193@gmail.com

Welcome!

IT'S ALL JUST CHILI TO ME!

This past Sunday we enjoyed a Chili Cookoff after the 11:00 service. It was one of our fundraisers for the Regional Mission Trip to be held later this year. Special thanks to Abby Matschke for the wonderful job she did organizing the cookoff, and thanks to all of you who participated with your chili recipes. We raised over \$1000 for the mission trip! Congratulations to Joann Mitchell for winning the contest with her "General's Chili".

I admit to being amazed by the rich variety of entries. Some were made with beef, others with sausage or chicken. Some were tomato-based while others had a white sauce. The ingredients were all over the place, with one entry containing sweet potatoes! Yet at the

core of each presentation, all the entries were one hundred percent chili. I know, because I sampled each one, and some more than once!

All of which led me to think how chili is like how our faith should be. I did not hear one contestant condemn another as a false prophet of chili. I did not hear the tomato-based crowd claim to be the only authoritative interpretation of chili truth. No one dismissed another as being weak in the chili tradition. No one was chased out of the hall as a heretic. I heard none of these things. What I saw was a perfect ecumenical coming together in celebration of chili.

There just may be a lesson here. Christianity at its core is following Jesus. Jesus is the one who reveals to us God. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Just as the chili participants did their best to fine tune their pot of chili, yet never compromising chili's essential soul, so are we to serve Jesus without compromising who Jesus is. To present Jesus as the one to whom we made our simple confession of faith: "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God, and I accept him as my Lord and personal Savior". At the core of our faith, is Jesus.

Just something to think about, as we warm ourselves with our favorite chili recipe, and wait for the return of Spring.

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



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



Cemetery Cleanup: February 1-10, 2025

Directory Update Deadline: February 10

Week of Compassion Giving: February 16 & 23

Shrove Tuesday Dinner: March 4; 6PM; Branch Hall

DWM Yard Sale: March 22; 8AM-1PM; Branch Hall



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Linda Brown, Janet Dombrowski, Nancy Griffith, Petra Hall, Jim Holland, Linda Hutton, Dallas Mitchell, Family of David Nunn, Donna & Steve Perger & Family, Fred Rothermel, Family of Mike Smith, Barbara Thiel, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Brian Bruno (Michelle Wright's friend), Alva Clary (Emily Dill's mother), Mary Collamore, Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Rev. Tim Dice, 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), Ken Kunde (Barbara Thiel's brother), Kimberlee Nunn Magrill (David Nunn's daughter), Terry McCloud (Sheila Yeatts' friend), Douglas Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Randy & Stephanie Phaup (Carol & David Pitts' friends), Sheila Rinehart, Eileen Saltzgeber (friend of the Pesantes), Riley & Brooks Sinclair (Liz Ripley's great-grandchildren), Howard Thackston (Cheryl Johnson's nephew), Rebekkah Warhol (Linda Hutchens' granddaughter), Mac Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Christian (Missy Harbour's friend), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son)



- 04 Allen Eberly
- 05 Norm Hall
- 08 Barbara Thiel
- 09 Andy Bell
- 12 Beverly Walker
- 13 Kelsey Creech
- 18 Barbara Nicholson
- 21 Robin Moscati
- 22 Doug Haulsee
- 23 Barb Schmidt
- 24 Andrew Pfister
- 24 Steven Ainsworth
- 25 Tonya Meadows
- 25 Virginia Dare Waltrip
- 26 Gail Key
- 26 Rosa Griffin
- 27 Steve Garrett
- 28 Grace Gardner
- 28 Tracey Hutton



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Carol Sharp
02/02/2025	Missy Harbour Mel Watson	
	Liz Ripley Jason Teagle Jan Smith	
02/09/2025	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Marney Brickhouse Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
02/16/2025	Kim Riffle	

	Donald White	
	Danny Pitts Karen Barrow Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	
02/23/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

Due to inclement weather, we were not able to meet in January, but we look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with you all at ODO on Wednesday, February 12!

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
02/02/2025	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
02/09/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
02/16/2025	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
02/23/2025	TBD	TBD



OBCC sends condolences to the family of David Nunn. David passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. There was a service held for David on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at OBCC.



OBCC sends condolences to Donna and Steve Perger, Ryan Massengale and family on the passing of Steve & Donna's daughter, Stephanie Massengale. Stephanie passed away on Monday, January 13, 2025.



OBCC sends condolences to Jan Smith and family on the passing of Mike Smith. Mike passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2025.



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS

Week of Compassion Sundays are February 16 & 23. Thank you in advance for giving as you can.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



FAMILY NIGHTS WILL RETURN

Watch for announcements and messages so you can join in the fun & fellowship.



4TH THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Our lunch group started meeting several years ago as Naomi's Lunch Bunch to honor our own Naomi Marrow. Some in our group were companions and helpers as well as friends, as she bravely battled cancer. She always enjoyed meeting at Jimmy's Oven and Grill, having lunch, sharing, laughing and praying together. When she earned her rest in Glory, we continued to meet and eat until Covid sent us into hibernation. After it ran its course, we were forced to choose a new restaurant and decided a new name was in order.

I thought 4th Thursday Lunch Bunch served to identify and remind, all in the same breath! Our original group of folks are a little older now so the new name helps and the new faces we have added don't know our history. (Now they will!)

We continue to average between 17-20 people, men, women, older, and not so old. In January, there were four generations from my family with Larry and me, daughter Teri, grandson Jeremy, and great-granddaughter McKenna. What a blessing!

We have a separate room at Sandy's Pancakes and Waffles at 6459 Richmond Rd. at 11AM. We order from the menu, the staff is efficient and friendly, the prices are very reasonable, and good fellowship seasoned with love and fun is free.

Come out and join us and I will add your name to my email reminder list.

~Louise Smith



DIRECTORY UPDATE

The OBCC Directory is now online! You can access your account at members.instantchurchdirectory.com.

We will be supplying hard copies of the 2025 OBCC Directory beginning in mid-February. The hard copies will be available at the office. If you are unable to stop by the office and would like a hard copy mailed to you, please contact the office and Sara will be happy to send you a copy. If you have any updates to add to the directory, please send them to Sara by Monday morning, February 10.

We are still looking for pictures for our online directory. If you would like to have your picture taken, Sara will be happy to take your picture in the office and upload it to the directory for you. Alternatively, you can bring in a picture or request to use the picture from the old pictorial directory. If you have any questions regarding how to access your account or add a picture, please contact the office and Sara will be happy to help. Thank you!



DWM FELLOWSHIP RETURNING

We would like to start a new monthly Women's Fellowship and Bible Study Group. All women are invited to attend. Some preliminary thoughts are to hold it on a Saturday to allow those who work to be able to attend. We will begin at 11:00am with our program and study for the day. Discussion is always encouraged. Following will be a light luncheon of soup, sandwiches and dessert. Our target date to begin would be Saturday, March 1st.

We are encouraging all women, who are able, to come. We have missed not being able to be together and are especially excited to get to know the new women who have joined OBCC.

We would really appreciate your response about your interest in attending this group. Please let Sheila Yeatts know either in person, email (seyeats@gmail.com) or phone (757) 903-5845 or Barb Schmidt in person, email (barb.schmidt72@gmail.com) or phone (757) 903-9996.

We are excited about getting our women together again. We look forward to hearing from you!



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Our Food Sharing Program offers us the opportunity to sacrifice our wants for the needs of our neighbors. Let us reboot Valentine's Day and the month of February as generosity month. Let us make it about love, food bouquets, and connecting to needy families in our community. We know, when we place our Valentine Food Bouquets in the food box outside Pastor's office or the basket in Branch Hall or make a monetary contribution to OBCC, indicating on the check's memo line Food Sharing Program, it will lift our spirits and honor those special Valentines in our lives. It honors God's work in the lives of neighborhood families in need of supplemental food support. I know you will be our neighbors' Valentines. Thanks be to God for your

generous donations to the OBCC St Olaf Food Sharing Program.

Happy Valentine Month, in service to a loving Shepherd.

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



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The semi-annual clean-up will occur between February 1 & 10, 2025. If you would like to save anything, please remove it before then. Non-perishable items left in place will be moved near the shed area next to the parking lot. Thanks for helping the committee to keep our cemetery one of the most beautiful in the county.

~Cemetery Committee



FUNDRAISER INVITATION

Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly from Hickory Neck Episcopal Church has invited the Olive Branch community to support her at the Dancing with the Williamsburg Stars event on Saturday, February 22.

This fundraiser event begins at 7PM with doors opening at 6PM. More info can be found at the event's website: <https://williamsburgstars.com/>

Jennifer is asking for your support to help her raise funds for the two agencies this event supports: Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Literacy for Life. She set a goal for \$5000 to be raised, and if you wish to support her, you may do so by visiting this link: <https://williamsburgstars.com/campaigns/jennifer-andrews-weckerly/>

She thanks you for your consideration and support of this powerful work and hopes to see you there as she dances for Jesus!



LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule for the Lenten services beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5. The schedule is also posted on the bulletin boards in the Sanctuary and the Education Building. Please check emails and bulletin announcements for any schedule changes that may take place throughout the Lenten season.



2025 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES – 7 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS – 6 P.M.

March 5, 2025, Ash Wednesday: Olive Branch Christian Church, 7643 Richmond Road, Williamsburg 757-566-8077 Rev. Richard Cline
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg>
Speaker – Rev. Zach Dey, Williamsburg Mennonite Church

March 12, 2025: Williamsburg Mennonite Church, 7800 Croaker Road, Williamsburg 757-566-3026. Rev. Zach Dey
<https://zoom.us/j/94842270788?pwd=UGZHcUZwOFZ3d1BTeENsNFFFMmdCZz09>
Speaker – Rev. Gerry Johnson, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

March 19, 2025: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Williamsburg 757-564-3745 Rev. Gerry Johnson
Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@OSLCNorge>
Speaker – Dr. Rob Whitehead Sr., New Zion Baptist Church

March 26, 2025: Stone House Presbyterian Church, 9401 Fieldstone Parkway, Toano 757-565-1130 Rev. Kristin Reinhold
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/stonehousepc>
Speaker – Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

April 2, 2025: Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, 7801 Church Lane, Toano 757-566-0162 Rev. Dennis Morgan
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MtVernonUMCToanoVA>
Speaker – Rev. Richard Cline, Olive Branch Christian Church

April 9, 2025: New Zion Baptist Church, 3991 Longhill Road, Williamsburg 757-258-0491 Dr. Rob Whitehead, Sr.
Livestream Link: <https://www.newzionwilliamsburg.org/live>
Speaker – Rev. Dennis Morgan, Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

April 16, 2025: Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, 8300 Richmond Road, Toano 757-566-0276 Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/Hickory.Neck>
Speaker – Rev. Kristin Reinhold, Stone House Presbyterian Church

**A VALENTINE FOR ALL
AGAPE, EROS, STORGE, PHILEO**

**THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOVE,
YET ALL INVOLVE THE HEART,
IT REQUIRES THE LIKE-MINDED RECIPROCATE,
EACH PLAY A VITAL PART.**

**THERE IS THE AGAPE OF GOD,
THE UNCONDITIONAL KIND,
IT IS FOR ALL HIS CHILDREN,
THAT GIVES US PEACE OF MIND.**

**THERE IS THE LOVE OF ROMANCE,
WHERE TWO BECOME AS ONE,
EROS IS A UNION BLESSED BY GOD,
AND WITNESSED BY HIS SON.**

**THERE'S FAMILY THAT WE'RE BORN INTO,
PARENTS PROVIDE THE LOVE WE NEED,
GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, AND UNCLES,
KEEP PLANTING THE STORGE SEED.**

**PHILEO IS THE LOVE OF FRIENDS,
WHO WILLINGLY SHARE WHAT THEY OWN,
PICKING US UP WHEN WE'RE DOWN,
WE ALWAYS KNOW WE'RE NOT ALONE.**

**THANK YOU FATHER FOR YOUR LOVE,
WE GIVE OURS BACK TO YOU,
WE KNOW WE CAN DEPEND ON YOURS,
AS WE PLEDGE OUR HEARTS SO TRUE.**

~Louise Smith



THE WEEK OF COMPASSION,
ENABLES DISCIPLES TO HELP THEIR FELLOWMAN,
SHOWING CHRIST'S LOVE TO THOSE WHO SUFFER,
OFFERING ALL A WILLING HAND.

THIS IS THE CHURCH'S MISSION,
TO BE CHRIST'S HANDS AND FEET,
TO LIFT THE DOWN AND OUT,
FROM THEIR FEELINGS OF DEFEAT.

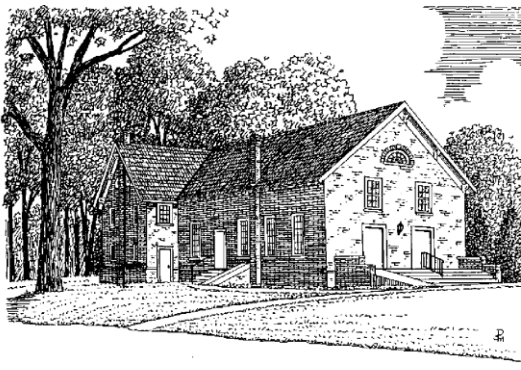
IT'S EASY TO SAY WE CARE,
BUT ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS,
SO LET'S ALL GET TO WORK,
AS CARE AND ACTION ARE BOTH VERBS.

WE'RE STRONGER WHEN WE UNITE,
WITH OTHER CHURCH FOLKS WHO CARE,
JOINED HANDS WILL FORM A CIRCLE,
WILLING FEET MARCH ANYWHERE.

SOME CAN ONLY CONTRIBUTE MONEY,
AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED,
TO GET THE WORK OFF THE GROUND,
WITH MANY HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED.

GOD WILL BLESS EVERY EFFORT,
MADE LOVINGLY ON HIS BEHALF,
ALL THAT WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE,
IS WELCOMED BY A GRATEFUL STAFF.

~ Louise Smith



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The Olive Branch

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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.*



* HELLO *
February *

