



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MARCH 2025

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Sara C. Scungio, administrative assistant
757-566-8077 (Church Office)

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FEAST, THEN FAST

There are traditions in the church which may seem a little strange, such as two significant days which despite being side by side in the Christian calendar, could not be any more opposite in their message. The days are Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. At Olive Branch, we know all about Shrove Tuesday! It's the day when we come to church and consume massive amounts of bacon and pancakes and then play Bingo for prizes. We know about Ash Wednesday: it's the day we come to church and have ashes marked on our foreheads and then decide what to give up for Lent.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, one a day to feast, the other a day to start fasting. In the tradition of the church, Tuesday was originally about confessing one's sins before the start of Lent. But it eventually became the last day to party before the serious season of Lent began. Think of all the celebration that goes with the Mardi Gras in New Orleans! In the Middle Ages Lent meant fasting from "luxuries" like meat, eggs, sugar, and butter. The best way to use up these items and get them out of the house for Lent? Pancakes.

On Ash Wednesday we worship with a service of repentance, as we confess our need to return to the Lord. As part of the service, we come forward to receive a cross of ash on our foreheads, with these words said: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We are reminded of our mortality, and our dependence upon the One who gives life and forgiveness.

So, there you have it, two days, one of feasting, one of fasting. Yet both are opportunities for you to join your church family and be in the good company of millions of Christian brothers and sisters across the world and over the centuries. Our Shrove Tuesday will be held in Branch Hall on March 4, with the Ash Wednesday service in our sanctuary the next day. Are you ready to feast... and fast?

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



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

Ash Wednesday: March 5; 6PM dinner in Branch Hall; 7PM service in Sanctuary

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

Maundy Thursday Worship: April 17; 7PM

Good Friday Worship: April 18; 7PM

Easter Sunrise Service: April 20; 6:30AM with breakfast to follow

Easter Giving: April 13 & 20



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
Spring
FORWARD

DST STARTS ON MARCH 9

Don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead for Daylight Saving Time either the night of March 8 or midnight on March 9.



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Linda Brown, Dennis & Anita Dasher, Emily Dill & Family, Janet Dombrowski, Allen Eberly, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jim Holland, Linda Hutton,

Dallas Mitchell, Joann Mitchell, Donna & Steve Perger & Family, Liz Ripley, Fred Rothermel, Barbara Thiel, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), 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), Terry McCloud (Sheila Yeatts' friend), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), 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), Harriet Wright (Cleve Wright's mother), Mac Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Christian (Missy Harbour's friend), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son)



- 13 Wally & Noreen Bowen
- 22 Rudy & Cecelia Ruskey
- 31 Curt & Rosa Griffin



- 01 Patty Barker
- 04 Anthony Griffin
- 05 Ethel King
- 10 Linda Garrett
- 12 Marlies Brantley
- 16 Jane Hatcher
- 16 Carol Pitts
- 16 Maralyn Carr
- 20 Mel Watson
- 22 Emily Dill
- 22 Tammy Rutherford
- 27 Lois Marshall
- 27 Lewis Williams
- 31 Richard Griffin



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Kaye Watson
03/02/2025	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	

	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley Liz Ripley	
03/09/2025	Teri Tench Harold Barker	
	Linda Garrett Steve Garrett Patty Barker Jeremy Dill	
03/16/2025	Missy Harbour Mel Watson	
	Liz Ripley Jason Teagle Jan Smith Joann Mitchell	
03/23/2025	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Marney Brickhouse Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
03/30/2025	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Danny Pitts Karen Barrow Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	



OBCC sends condolences to Emily Dill and family on the passing of Emily's mother, Alva Clary. Alva passed away on Saturday, February 15, 2025. There was a graveside service held for Alva on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at Rosewood Memorial Park in Virginia Beach.



DWM YARD SALE

DWM will hold a yard sale from 8 AM-1 PM on Saturday March 22 in Branch Hall. Items from your home and baked goods are needed. The DWM committee will take donations beginning after church on Sunday, March 16, and set up all week in Branch Hall.

We are in need of volunteers to help work the sale and provide baked goods. Interested in helping out? Contact Sheila Yeatts to see how you can get involved!



REGIONAL MISSION TRIP

Last summer, 29 faithful disciples from the region of Virginia went to Charleston, SC for our second annual Virginia Region Multi-generational mission. We were able to serve in many ways and were planning on returning for a second year. However, with the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Western, NC, we are now planning on going to Western North Carolina from Monday, June 15 to Saturday, June 20, 2025.

All are welcome to register, ages 11-111! If you are interested, registration is now open at this link:

<https://www.ccinva.org/missioncamp>

Thanks to your gracious donations from the chili cookoff, we raised \$1150 to help with 4 members of OBCC to go on the regional mission trip!

Questions? Contact Abby Matschke for more info.



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, made phone calls, and prayers! They and you are all truly appreciated.

~Jim Holland



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Every Sunday, when we worship together, we pray "YOUR will be done on earth". On Monday, February 17th your Valentine gifts of 306 food donations and \$1250 contributions was delivered to St. Olaf Food Pantry. Your diligent, consistent, support of our community outreach Food Sharing Program is a



Worship & Wonder

WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
03/02/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
03/09/2025	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
03/16/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
03/23/2025	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill
03/30/2025	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

It would seem that Snow and ODO do more than rhyme. Again I had to cancel the program because the safety of our congregation and friends is so important. I am saying a big prayer that the leprechauns of March will be able to keep the clouds and sky clear and we will have a beautiful day for our March ODO celebration. Steve Hall said he will be there to add a little Irish flair to the beautiful music he was going to play for valentine hearts and Sheila assured me the food will be delicious. We are so blessed to be surrounded with serving hearts!

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

faithful, encouraging response to doing God's work on earth (our neighborhood). The supplemental food support we give to our neighbors, provides physical, emotional, and spiritual support for their daily lives. We believe doing God's will glorifies our Heavenly Father and gives us a joyful beatitude.

Grateful for your faithful servant spirit!

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HELP

We are looking a director to head up VBS, along with a team of volunteers. Please contact Missy Harbour or Abby Matschke if interested. Thank you!



OLIVE BRANCH
Lenten Services

LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

On the next page 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.

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SPRING YARD SALE

**7643 RICHMOND ROAD
WILLIAMSBURG**

***Saturday, March 22
8AM - 1PM***



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

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97112587962?pwd=Olh31GINbNclb92fufEnbeeFSvxMZV.1>

Speaker – Rev. Dennis Morgan, Mt. Vernon United Methodist 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. Gerry Johnson, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

April 16, 2025: Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, 8300 Richmond Road, Toano 757-566-0276 Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@hncwebminister540>

Speaker – Rev. Kristin Reinhold, Stone House Presbyterian Church

PLEASE READ MATTHEW 6:16-18

**FORTY SEVEN DAYS BEFORE EASTER,
IS KNOWN AS SHROVE TUESDAY,
REMINDING US OF LENT,
WHEN FASTING WAS A DEBT TO PAY.**

**AS STAPLES LIKE FAT AND EGGS,
WOULD ALL BE FULLY COOKED,
PANCAKES WERE CONSUMED,
BEFORE FOOD WAS FORSOOK.**

**CONFESSIONS WERE MADE,
FORGIVENESS HANDED DOWN,
PREPARATION FOR THE DAY,
WHEN JESUS WORE A CROWN.**

**JESUS FASTED FORTY DAYS,
AS HE PREPARED FOR THE CROSS,
SO IN COMMISSION OF OUR SINS,
OUR SOULS WOULD NOT BE LOST.**

**WHILE WE SEE SIMILARITIES,
SHROVE TUESDAY IS MEANT FOR FUN,
JESUS' FASTING, PRAYING WAS,
FOR GOD'S WILL TO BE DONE.**

**SO DON'T CONFUSE THE TWO,
AS YOU ENJOY YOUR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,
WHEN GOOD FRIDAY COMES IT'S DARKNESS,
AS CHRIST DIES FOR OUR SINS.**

~Louise Smith

ISAIAH 35:1

**THE DESERT AND THE PARCHED LAND WILL BE
GLAD! THE WILDERNESS WILL REJOICE AND
BLOSSOM. LIKE THE CROCUS IT WILL BURST INTO
BLOOM; IT WILL REJOICE GREATLY AND SHOUT
WITH JOY.**

**SPRING IS THE TIME OF YEAR,
WHEN EARTH IS REVITALIZED,
LIKE MY OWN LIFE WAS IN CHRIST,
WHEN I WAS BAPTIZED.**

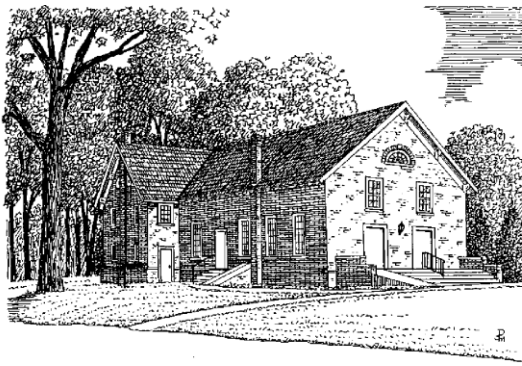
**THE CROCUS POKES OUT ITS FACE,
TO REVEAL A LOVELY FLOWER,
AS IT MERGES FROM THE BULB,
REMINING ME OF GOD'S POWER.**

**JUST AS HE CAN TAKE A LIFE,
DARK AND HARDENED BY SIN,
FORGING A WAY TO CHANGE,
SO INNER BEAUTY CAN BEGIN.**

**HE RAINS DOWN THE HOLY SPIRIT,
GOD PROVIDES THE SHINING LIGHT,
THE TRANSITION IS DIVINE,
SUCH A HOLY, AWESOME SIGHT.**

**ENJOY THE DAYS OF SPRING,
AS A TIME OF REFORMATION,
GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF IT ALL,
BASK IN HIS TRANSFORMATION.**

~ Louise Smith



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The Olive Branch

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Olive Branch Christian Church
(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.*

