



THE OLIVE BRANCH

JULY 2023

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Linda Brown joined June 11
6458 Isabella Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188-4507
(757) 707-3907
lindabrowninthegardens@gmail.com

Welcome!

SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

I'm not sure of the grade, but at some point in elementary school, I was taught to write in cursive. I remember trying to write on the dotted lines the flowing letters that did not look anything like the printed letters we had learned earlier. Then I had to learn to sign my name, for my one-of-a-kind signature.

It was a lot of work. But I must admit that my signature today looks nothing like the one I had years ago. Today, it is more or less just a squiggle, indecipherable to anyone, sometimes even including me! After all, why is a signature so important? Fewer and fewer people write letters anymore, they text. If they do need to write a note, they just print it out.

But signatures can have consequences. On July 4th, we celebrate our Independence Day with cookouts, parades, waving flags, and fireworks. It is, for the most part, a lighthearted and festive American holiday. But for the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, declaring independence from England

carried with it great risk. When the 56 members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, they were, in fact, signing their death warrants. The British Crown considered a declaration of independence an act of treason, which meant that all signatories would be punishable by death.

The Continental Congress, our founding fathers, acknowledge this in the last sentence in the Declaration that reads, "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." If we take the Declaration of Independence seriously in terms of the words selected, through their signatures they placed all that they had, including their lives, on the dotted line – and trusted God for the outcome.

On this July 4th, if you can find the time, reflect upon the faith that those 56 men had in God when they signed their declaration of independence. Where does our faith in God stand in comparison to theirs? To what would we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our honor? Good questions to answer, now more than ever.

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

DWM Tuesday Bible Study: 3rd Tuesdays; 2 PM;
Taylor Hall; on hiatus until September

Afternoon Delight: On hiatus for the summer

OBCC Men's Meeting: 2nd Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch
Hall with breakfast

Community Picnic:
Wednesdays, July 5 & 12; 6 PM, Branch Hall
Bring a side dish to share

Vacation Bible School: July 17-21; 5:30-8 PM OBCC
Campus

Exercise Class: 1st and 3rd Thursdays in July; 3 PM;
Branch Hall

OBCC Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 25; 6 PM; Adult
SS Room



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



Community Picnic: July 5 & 12; 6 PM Branch Hall

Vacation Bible School: July 17-21; 5:30-8 PM
OBCC Campus

OBCC Board Meeting: July 25; 6 PM, Adult SS Room



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Janet Dombrowski, Phyllis Gardner, Curt Griffin, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Jean Lawrence, Diana Love, Dallas Mitchell, Joann Mitchell, Family of Bob Phillips, Elna & Danny Pitts, Susan Rinehart, Fred Rothermel, Louise Smith, Roy Sullivan, Barbara Thiel, Jerry Van Cleave, Sarah Waid, David Willard, Ronnie Yeatts

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Family of Barbara Avent (Cheryl Johnson's friend), Little Marne Bradley (Marney Brickhouse's daughter), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Denny Dasher (Dennis &

Anita Dasher's son), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Anne Finelli (Val Mason's sister), Danielle Hodson (Margie Dieleman's daughter-in-law), Louise and Buddy Holloman (Missy Harbour's friends), Renee Houchens (Connie Cason's daughter), Family of Chris Hunt (Cindy Robertson's son-in-law), Family of Barbara Cart

er Kendrick (Cheryl Johnson's sister), Steve King (Sharon Herndon's friend), Mrs. Malarkey (friend of Donald White), Jane Marshall (Val Mason's sister), Douglas Morse (Naomia Barker's brother), Melissa Norman (Anita Dasher's sister), Curt Norseman (Liz Ripley's friend), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Cindi Pere (Anita & Dennis Dasher's friend), Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's sister), Crystal Radford & son TJ (Doug & Emily Dill's friends), Tricia Rainone (Anita & Dennis Dasher's daughter), Zak Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith's grandson), Ray Riha (Watsons' friend), Logan Ripley (Liz Ripley's grandson), Arlean Rogers (Cheryl Johnson's friend), Lisa Schumann (Jeanne Bell's sister), William (Bill) Slauson (Maralyn Carr's brother), John & Gail Trumbower (Gene & Cheryl Johnson's daughter-in-law's parents), Darlene West (Elizabeth Ripley's sister), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Lola (Missy Harbour's friend's niece), Jimmy Barber and Donald Fleichman (Doug Dill's friends)



03 Will & Jane Hatcher
06 Pastor Richard Cline & Ann Simmons
12 Charles Rupe & Mary Bates
14 Andy & Ann Bradshaw
25 Bob & Barb Schmidt
30 Todd & Pam Anderson



06 Pastor Richard Cline
06 Robbi Hutton
07 Chuck Walker
13 Haley Creech
13 Jeanette McWilliams
13 Elizabeth Ripley
14 Richard Bradshaw
14 Will Hatcher
16 Carolyn Hunt
20 Paula Thacker
21 Ralph Hutton
22 Michael Ayers
22 Lindsay Huntsinger
28 Donald White
31 Jason Waltrip
31 John Waltrip



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Irma Gustafson
07/02/2023	Will Hatcher Ann Bradshaw	
	Jane Hatcher Andy Bradshaw Joann Mitchell Joshua Fulgham	
07/09/2023	Andy Bradshaw Roy Henk	
	Sheila Yeatts Karen Barrow Anita Dasher Maralyn Carr	
07/16/2023	Mel Watson Don White	
	Kaye Watson Devon Watson Tyler Watson Liz Ripley	
07/23/2023	Joyce Allen Andrew Pfister	
	Ann Bradshaw Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
07/30/2023	Richard Bradshaw Doug Dill	
	Judy Eley Tracy Creech Will Hatcher Lois Marshall	

to winning and sharing. Laughter, friendship, and love made the day perfect.

Next month our theme will be simply summer. Hoping to have a couple of really interesting speakers for our listening pleasure. Hope to see you next month!

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

What a beautiful day we enjoyed and the patriotic theme was so uplifting. Flag day was celebrated by us all. Patriotic songs, beautiful poetry from Clay, and warm, caring stories from all of the participants. Our resident cook Shelia was enjoying some time off with her granddaughter, but Anita and I whipped up some goodies and she made some delicious desserts and everyone seemed full and happy. Crafty Jane had some neat flags and stars for us to decorate and, talented as we are, they were beautiful. Bingo caller Tyler and his trusty sidekick Mary gave new meaning



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Please read the enclosed letter from St. Olaf Food Pantry, Donna Hamilton acknowledging your extraordinary generosity. Your good deeds glorify our Heavenly Father and your Christ-like response to: "His will be done on earth" personifies your faithful stewardship that sustains this Community Outreach Program.

Grateful for the Blessings you provide for our neighbors!

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



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS

Thank you for your generous giving to CWS this year. We gave \$1190.00 to Mother's Day & Father's Day projects.

Your contributions provide warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbors near and far. Because of you, CWS is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed.

Thank you for your compassion. It changes lives!

~Sheila Yeatts



DWM MISFITS BIBLE STUDY POSTPONED

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Misfits Bible Study has been cancelled for July and August meetings. Misfits Bible Study will resume in September.



BOARD MEETING

The OBCC Board will be meeting on Tuesday, July 25, at 6 PM in the Adult Sunday School Room.



FAMILY NIGHTS ON HIATUS!

Family Night is on hiatus! New dates will be announced later in the year. Join us for our Community Picnics, July 5 and July 12 in Branch Hall at 6:00PM. Please bring a dish to share.



OBCC extends its condolences to June Phillips and family as they mourn the passing of Bob Phillips, who passed on June 5, 2023. A graveside service and reception was held at OBCC on June 30, 2023.



OBCC extends its condolences to Cheryl Johnson and family as they mourn the passing of Cheryl's sister, Barbara Carter Kendrick, who passed on June 11, 2023. The service was held at Midwood Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC on June 24, 2023. Cheryl is also mourning the passing of her friend, Barbara Avent, who passed on June 16, 2023.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REQUEST

From July 17-21, VBS will need fresh fruits & vegetables for its supper meals. Please consider how you can provide something for that July week. There is a particular need for corn, potatoes, tomatoes, melons, and berries. Any and all veggies are welcome! With your help, this will be a great week! Plan to drop off your donations on Sunday, July 16 or throughout the week of VBS.

Contact Sheila Yeatts with any questions.



NEW ONLINE DIRECTORY

We have a new online directory! This directory will give us the opportunity to view members' addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses online. Any updates that are needed, such as change in address or change of phone number, are automatically synced to the online directory. You can even download the free app on your device to access the directory. Just search for *Instant Church Directory* on your device's App Store. If you would like to view the directory online, simply go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. You will need to create an account to set up a login if you have not already done so in order to access the directory. The email address associated with your account must be the email address that is listed under your name in the current OBCC directory. There has been an email sent out with more information. We do ask that you would please upload a photo of you or your family once you have completed the "create login" process. This will be very helpful for newcomers to put a face to your name! Please contact the office if any changes need to be made or if you have any questions. Thank you for your patience as we learn and acclimate to this new technology together!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS HERE!

Hero Hotline is coming our way on July 17-21st. Olive Branch VBS 2023 includes sessions for kids & adults.

VBS at OBCC is open to everyone.

Please register for VBS online or on paper prior to starting. There is a form attached to this newsletter.

VBS is Monday through Friday, July 17-21st, beginning at 5:30PM for dinner followed by all the other fun things starting at 6:00PM and lasting until 8:00PM. Registering helps get a count for meal preps, how many adults and kids are coming, and organizing the kids into groups. We are working hard to get everything organized for a successful VBS.

We will be decorating on July 14th and 16th. I will send an email closer to let everyone know the details.

Hope to see you there.
~Abby Matschke, Coordinator



COMMUNITY PICNICS

We started having our Community Cookouts, and since I am writing this prior to our first one, I am claiming that it has been a success!!!

Flyers have been put up in the Norge and Toano post offices, in front of Burnt Ordinary, at the bus stop in Norge by CVS, in Lightfoot near the Hotel by Hardee's, and at the stop sign coming out of Food Lion and CVS. We also have a banner in front of the Church.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with preparing for this event, especially Pastor Richard, Dennis Dasher, and Steve White for getting and putting the grill together. Thank you also to Missy for helping with the grocery shopping and hanging the signs. Your support is greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at our last two cookouts, July 5th and 12th at 6PM!

~Abby Matschke, Coordinator



SPECIAL THANKS

Dallas and I would like to say thank you so much for all of the prayers, food, cards, and visits during my recent surgery. We are so blessed to have such a warm and loving church family. We love each and every one of you. We cannot express our appreciation enough. God bless each of you for all of your heartfelt kindness.

~Joann & Dallas Mitchell



BRIDGES OF CHANGE

You may have noticed baskets/tubs for Bridges of Change. It is a domestic violence shelter in New Kent. They have an ongoing need of the following items: Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Black ink Pens, Small notebooks for Journaling, Dryer Sheets, Talc-Free Baby Powder, Hair Spray, Shampoo and Conditioner, Napkins, Toilet Paper, Air Freshener Spray, Lysol Spray, Foil, Baggies, Baby wipes, Diapers,

Dishwashing Detergent, Hand and Body Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products (not bladder leakage pads), and Razors. If you are out shopping and think about picking up some of these items, just drop them off at Church and I will arrange a pickup. Thank you!

~Abby Matschke



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE

Congratulations to Skylar Brooks Jensen, daughter of Skip and Christy Jensen, on her graduation from Jamestown High School. Skylar will be attending Elon University as a Presidential Scholar. She was selected into the inaugural class of Vocal Scholars, open to only 15 freshmen. Congratulations, Skylar!



FALL FAMILY FUN DAY

Mark your calendars! Our Fall Family Fun Day will be on Saturday, October 14 from 12 PM—4 PM. There will be live music, food, raffles, baked goods, and a silent auction. Contact Sheila Yeatts with any questions.



DID YOU KNOW?

The United States of America is not the only country celebrating an Independence Day this month. While we celebrate our freedom with fireworks on July 4, other countries throughout the world are celebrating their independence in various ways. Burundi Independence Day is July 1, Belarus Independence Day is July 3, and Independence Day in Algeria and Venezuela are both celebrated on July 5. There are several more Independence Days, including Malawi on July 6, Solomon Islands July 7, Argentina July 9, Bahamas July 10, Colombia July 20, Belgium July 21, Liberia and Maldives on July 26, Peru July 28, and Vanuatu (formerly called New Hebrides) on July 30. That's a lot of freedom!

Independence Day in America has some fun facts of its own. John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 4 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other." By an extraordinary coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as presidents of the United States, both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another

Founding Father who was elected as president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was Calvin Coolidge, who was born on July 4, 1872.



Bible School 2023 is Coming!!!

WHAT: 5 weekday evenings of food, bible study, and fellowship.

HERO HOTLINE-everyone's gifts are valued, and every hero has a role to play!

Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call and join the Professor and veteran hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, to provide solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

There will be classes for adults and children (grouped by age).

WHEN: July 17-21, 2023 **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 school supplies:
backpacks, glue sticks, pencils, pens, markers, tissues, wide-ruled and college-ruled paper

Bible School 2023

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 _____

~SAVE THE DATE~

2023 DWM WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

HILTON GARDEN INN; LYNCHBURG, VA

Questions? CONTACT: Marney Brickhouse

cbrickhouse6@cox.net; 757-880-2545



FAITH

LOVE



HOPE

JESUS



THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
Virginia Disciples Women's Ministry (VDWM)
2023 Fall Retreat October 6-8
Hilton Garden Inn, 4025 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA

REGISTRATION

Registration Deadline August 31, 2023

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Phone (Cell)_____ (Home)_____

Email_____ Home Church_____

Registration Fee: \$155.00

includes all programs, 3 Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast

Dietary restrictions_____

NOTE: Your registration fee provides a significant conference room discount.

*Please make checks payable to & mail check & registration form directly to:
Christian Church in Virginia; 1290 Enterprise Dr; Lynchburg, VA 24502-5744*

Hotel Reservations must be made on your own.
Hotel Discounted Rate Deadline: September 6, 2023

The VDWM rate: \$151/night, including all taxes.

Phone Reservations-Call: 434-239-3006 (front desk)

Use group code VDW or Virginia Disciples Woman's Retreat for discounted rate

Book Online-use the following link to get the discounted rate:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=LYHLVGI&groupCode=VDW&arrivaldate=2023-10-06&departuredate=2023-10-08&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Please let the hotel know of any mobility challenges that may require attention.



St. Olaf Food Pantry

104 Norge Lane

Williamsburg, VA 23188 • 757-903-2868

Olive Branch Christian Church – Pastor Cline

7643 Richmond Rd

Williamsburg, VA 23188

June 13, 2023

Dear Pastor Cline,

On behalf of St. Olaf Food Pantry Ministry, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to you and your congregation. Your continued commitment in helping those in our community who face food insecurities daily is evident to us at St. Olaf; you are a true blessing to our pantry and those we serve.

Your recent food drive and monetary donation of \$7,405.00 is a living testament of Christ's work through you and your community. James 2:14-17 states, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Your congregation continuously displays faith and works for those in need, you show you are Disciples of Christ by the works you do. What a blessing to have you as partners in providing for those in need. Thank you again for your continued support and commitment to St Olaf Food Pantry.

Donna Hamilton

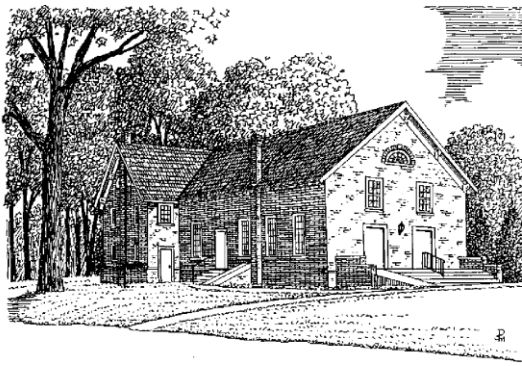
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Hamilton".

Director - St. Olaf Food Pantry

St. Olaf Catholic Church

As a faith community working together, we will continue to bridge the gaps in the lives of the hungry; we can continue to show our love for our neighbors in part because of our commitment to making a positive change in our world.

Mark 12:31 Love your neighbor as yourself.



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The Olive Branch

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Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

7643 Richmond Road
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Electronic Service Requested

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

