



THE OLIVE BRANCH

AUGUST 2023

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Sara C. Scungio, administrative assistant
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Ronald "Gipsy" Smith, a British evangelist who conducted campaigns in the United States and Great Britain for over 70 years around the turn of the 20th century, said of this song, "Men sing it, boys whistle it and women rock their babies to sleep to it." The song is "Count Your Blessings." It was written by Johnson Oatman Jr., just one of the more than 5000 religious songs he wrote during his life. Of all the songs Oatman wrote, he claimed two as his favorites: "No, Not One" and "Higher Ground." But I suspect you, like me, might agree that a reminder to count our blessings is timely and needed.

All too often we seem to lapse into a state of thanklessness, taking for granted all of the blessings and securities we enjoy. We slip into an attitude of self-satisfaction, smug in the security and comfort we have achieved, expecting that peace and bliss will always follow us. Why be thankful for that which we will always have? But life can change in the blink of an eye, which lends truth to that old saying, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone." I suggest we not wait until they are gone – but with humbleness and sincerity, count our blessings every day – and give thanks to God.

So here is my list of the blessings Ann and I have counted over the last month. We received so many wonderful cards wishing us a happy anniversary and me a happy birthday. We received a wonderful gift from the church for our 13th anniversary serving Olive Branch. We received special gifts from members of the congregation. All we can say is, thank you. Thank you for the privilege I have to serve as your pastor, thank

you for your friendship, your support, and your kindness. So many blessings to count!

But I have more! I am thankful for the leadership of this church, for its Elders and Deacons, for the church officers, for the cemetery and property committees, for Steve and Emilio and the choir, for Abby and Missy's leadership for VBS, for all those who prepared the hundreds of meals during VBS, for Sunday School teachers, for Sara our administrative assistant, and for all those who do the things that need to be done at our church that no one sees.

There is a member of our church when asked how he is doing, always replies, "I'm blessed." I think that is what I will adopt as well. For we are all blessed, time and time again. Thanks be to God!

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: NOT MEETING IN AUGUST

Exercise Class: Cancelled for August



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 Clean Up: September 20-30, 2023



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Anita Dasher, Janet Dombrowski, Phyllis Gardner, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Keeta Hodson, Cheryl Johnson, Jean Lawrence, Diana Love, Dallas Mitchell, Joann Mitchell, Dianne Mongold, Elna & Danny Pitts, Susan Rinehart, 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 (friend of Cheryl Johnson), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's mother), Jane Marshall (Val Mason's sister), Douglas Morse (Naomia Barker's brother), Melissa Norman (Anita Dasher's sister), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Cindi Pere (Anita & Dennis Dasher's friend), Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's sister), Tricia Rainone (Anita & Dennis Dasher's daughter), Zak Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith's grandson), Ray Riha (Watsons' friend), Logan Ripley (Liz Ripley's grandson), 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)



- 04 Bruce & Carole Kerr
- 05 Skip & Christy Jensen
- 27 Johnny & Lisa Johnson

- 01 Scott Boyd
- 06 Eliza Morse
- 10 Sarah Howard
- 11 Ellen Waite
- 12 Christina Jones
- 13 Loretta Garrett
- 13 Madison Williams
- 18 Macy Morse
- 21 Todd Meadows, Jr
- 23 Kim Riffle
- 25 Bruce Kerr
- 26 Tyler Watson
- 27 Susan Rinehart
- 28 Joyce Allen
- 28 Arayna Lambert



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Teri Tench
08/06/2023	Marney Brickhouse Will Hatcher	
	Missy Harbour Ryan Matschke David Love Janet Dombrowski	
08/13/2023	Linda Williams Ann Bradshaw	
	Jane Hatcher Andy Bradshaw Joann Mitchell Joshua Fulgham	
08/20/2023	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Sheila Yeatts Karen Barrow Anita Dasher Maralyn Carr	
08/27/2023	Mel Watson Don White	
	Kaye Watson Devon Watson Tyler Watson Liz Ripley	



GENEROSITY OF TIME APPRECIATED

Thanks to our guest preachers on July 9 (Bob Mongold) and July 30 (Fred Rothermel). Their generous contributions allowed Pastor Richard to take a well-deserved vacation and assist his daughter with moving. Thanks also to Joshua Fulgham for preaching on July 16.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

The theme for July was a lazy summer day with some cute flamingos adding some whimsy. The warm weather lends itself to staying inside cool surroundings and just chilling. Instead of reading or watching a movie, we were entertained by two great speakers. The first was Sheila Yeatts who delighted us with her special tour of the White House and the Secret Service Headquarters. Her son, Cole, has been a part of a special program for the secret service and was able to arrange the tour. Complete with pictures although none allowed in the SS headquarters, her enthusiastic and animated story left us all smiling and ready to take a tour on our own. Then Allen Eberly entertained us in his laid back manner detailing his climb up the ladder to be a vital player in Universal Studios. His interactions with movie stars and producers gave us some insight to their human side. Allen's humor made us laugh and smile. When I was introducing him, I realized I didn't know his last name. He then told me it was "Buckwheat". Chef Sheila served summer fare with hotdogs, salad, and a delicious gooey dessert. Crafty Jane helped us put together a small summer gift bag which we filled with candy.

We always end our day with bingo and Tyler with his trusty side-kick Elaine made sure everyone went away with lots of prizes.

In August, we are going to celebrate "Dot Day". Should be interesting and I hope everyone will come out and join us.

Staff safe, cool, and happy!

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator





DWM BIBLE STUDY POSTPONED

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



FAMILY NIGHTS ON HIATUS!

Family Night is on hiatus! New dates will be announced later in the year.



MISSION IN KENTUCKY

On July 5th, I arrived in Princeton, KY. We put down flooring in his home that day. The second picture you can kind of see where other homes once stood.



~Abby Matschke



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The semi-annual clean-up will occur between September 20 & 30, 2023. 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



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



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.



OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY

It has now been one year since the OBCC Men's Group began to meet regularly again following the "Covid Pause". Over 20 men have attended one or more of our meetings. During this first year we have exceeded our expectations and been actively involved in "Being Church". Our monthly meetings have provided fellowship and the opportunity to hear several of our men describe some of their life's experiences. Our goal of getting to know each other better has been very successful.

Mike Smith gave us a very interesting presentation about his experiences with Prison Ministry. Bob Herndon talked about he and Sharon's missionary work in their multiple trips to Belize. Allen Eberly provided a fascinating talk on his experience in the entertainment industry with Universal Studios in Orlando and California. Bob Mongold arranged for Williamsburg Faith in Action's new Executive Director, Wendy Satchell, to talk with our group about the services provided by that organization. Wendy gave us an excellent presentation about this organization and acknowledged the significant role Olive Branch played in the formation of Williamsburg Faith in Action and our continuing financial and volunteer support.

Projects to support Olive Branch facilities, programs and local charities were a primary focus of our group.

We assisted Steve White and Dennis Dasher in over-seeding in the cemetery and painted the white fence behind the church. The group helped with the Nativity Scene at Christmas, the meal for Shrove Tuesday, the Easter Sunrise Breakfast, the Community Cookout, and Vacation Bible School. In support of charity, the men purchased and delivered meals to 10 local needy families identified by Faith in Action. While helping the 10 families, our men delivering the meals were blessed by the experience and the comments of those families. Working together, meeting together and sharing experiences has given us the opportunity to get to know each other better and form strong bonds of fellowship. Our group has been truly blessed by these opportunities.

The Men's Group would like to thank Sheila Yeatts for the delicious breakfasts for each of our meetings. What a blessing the breakfasts have been! Sheila also painted the fence with us along with 4 or 5 other women. She is an angel and her breakfasts have made a huge contribution to the success of our meetings.

At our July meeting we discussed several ideas for the next year. We also decided not to meet in August but at our next meeting in September, lay out our plans for the next year. We will also consider how we can provide those men still working to participate in the group. We look forward to build on the successes of this past year and find new opportunities.

~Jim Hunt



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANKS!!

Gratitude and thanks to the army of folks who supported VBS this year. We share the Lord in many ways during our week together.

It was evident that the Holy Spirit was moving among us. I appreciate all who helped to prepare, plan, shop, decorate, make meals & snacks, and teach lessons, share music & song, make crafts, clean up, and provided fun and games in recreation. The donations of fruit, vegetables and other items were a great help to make a successful week.

God bless you all,
~Abby Matschke



DID YOU KNOW?

August 1 is National Homemade Pie Day! It's a day to celebrate pie, a dish that has existed since the era of the ancient Egyptians. The ancient Egyptians are the earliest-known civilization to have had a pie dish. It typically consisted of a crust made from wheat, oats, rye, or barley and filled with honey.

In Great Britain, pies were often referred to as 'coffyns.' They were mainly used as a covering to

preserve meat, especially on long sea voyages as fresh meat could not be obtained. During medieval times, these pies became more elaborate as cooks tried to outdo each other in presentation. At grand banquets, pies were often the centerpiece of the food table as the pie cases were removed to reveal the delicious fillings underneath. Sometimes, live actors or musicians were hidden inside pies to burst out as a surprise.

Until the 15th century, pies usually only contained meat or fish, but they soon included fruits and custard. It is reported that the very first cherry pie was baked for Queen Elizabeth I during the 16th century. As English settlers arrived in America, pies came along with them. Early versions often had thick, heavy crusts of rough flour and suet. Pies soon became a trademark American dish and today are heavily associated with traditional American life. When soldiers were asked why they were going off to war during World War II, they replied, "For mom and apple pie."

August celebrates a variety of pie days from National Raspberry Cream Pie Day on August 1 to National Braham Pie Day on August 4. Braham Pie Day is celebrated on the first Friday of August every year.

The town of Braham was named the 'Homemade Pie Capital of Minnesota' by Governor Rudy Perpich in 1990. The town gathered fame for its pie in the 1930s and 1940s when tourists and locals would drive to their lake homes while taking the "shortcut to Duluth through Braham." The long drives would often tempt the hungry and tired travelers to make a stop at the Park Cafe for pie and coffee. In fact, Park Cafe became so popular that travelers eagerly waited to exit the Twin Cities to finally have a taste of Braham's much-loved pies.

The celebrations for Braham Pie Day began in July 1990. It started as a pie and ice cream social event and was funded by a Celebrate Minnesota tourism grant. In 1992, it was decided that the celebration should have a fixed day and from July the day was moved to the first Friday in August. The event has grown to include competitions, parades, and other exhibitions. Today it is not uncommon to find crafters, small quilt displays, recycled pie tin art contests, antique bicycles, and car shows as a part of the Braham Pie Day celebrations. You can find up to 1,100 homemade and artisan pies in the town of Braham.

Don't forget National Lemon Meringue Pie on August 15, National Ice Cream Pie Day on August 18, National Chocolate Pecan Pie Day on August 20, or National Peach Pie Day on August 24. Celebrate August with a slice of some delicious homemade pie!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FUN





~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.

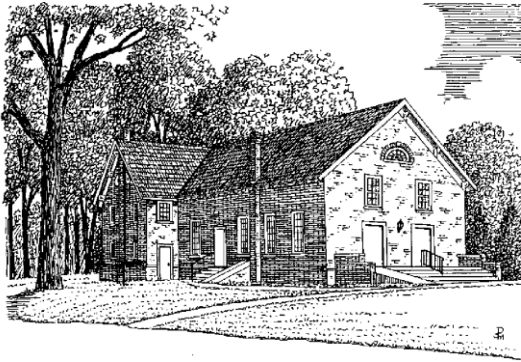
Phone Reservations-Call: 434-239-3006 (front desk)

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.



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The Olive Branch

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newsletter? Address changed?
Please contact the church office.*

