



THE OLIVE BRANCH

SEPTEMBER 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



NAMES

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father."

The above passage is from the tenth chapter of John's gospel and from Jesus' discourse on how he is the good shepherd who will watch over and protect his sheep, even to the point of giving his life for their protection. It is an image of Jesus we often use, especially when we – the sheep – are in need of help and renewal. I usually focus upon Jesus' words near the end, when he declares that, as our shepherd, he will lay down his life for his sheep, but will take it up again – references to the crucifixion and resurrection that await him in Jerusalem. But there is something else here, not as significant as the passion, but still important. Jesus declares that he knows us, which to me, also means he knows our names.

At the risk of sounding like the theme song to the sitcom comedy, "Cheers," and its lyrics about the need to go, "Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came", I think knowing names is important, especially in our community of faith. We should make a dedicated effort to learn each other's names. Why? Because it promotes relationships, and just as we relate to God through the loving relationships of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we can only become a community of relationships when we become the place where everyone knows each other's names.

Knowing each other starts with knowing names. The Good Shepherd knows each of us by name. Jesus

knows his sheep's birthdays, their passions and longings, their wounds and fears, their sins and failures, the hairs on their heads and their length of days. And while we will never know each other at that level, we can help shepherd each other – and it all begins by knowing each other by learning names.

I challenge you to begin learning names. It all starts with someone you don't know. Don't be embarrassed to ask someone's name, and don't be offended if someone asks for your name. Learning names requires courage, you have to be willing to risk looking foolish at times. It is all part of taking that step toward becoming the faith community God desires. Even more important, it is much easier to "rejoice with those who rejoice" and "weep with those who weep" when we know each other's names.

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

Afternoon Delight: 1st Tuesdays; 2 PM; hosted in homes; Janet Dombrowski, Coordinator

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

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

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM; 501 Galley (formerly Jimmy's Oven & Grill)

Lifeline Screening: Thursday, September 21; 8 AM—5 PM; Branch Hall



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

Fall Family Fun Day: Saturday, October 14; 12PM—4PM

Reconciliation Giving: September 24 & October 1

Lifeline Screening: Thursday, September 21; 8 AM—5 PM; Branch Hall



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, Robin Moscati, Danny Pitts & Family, Susan Rinehart, Cecelia Ruskey, Roy Sullivan, Family of Dale Teagle, 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, Natasha Angel (Bob & Sharon Herndon's friend), Family of Barbara Avent (friend of Cheryl Johnson), Family of J.B. Broughman (friend of Liz Ripley), Family of Brandon Capezio (Andrew Pfister's friend), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's mother), Holden Family (Tyler Watson's friends), Jane Marshall (Val Mason's sister), Douglas Morse (Naomia Barker's brother), Jesse Moseley (Kaye

Watson's father), 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), 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)



09 Steve & Linda Garrett
13 Roy & Ellen Sullivan
19 Jim & Carolyn Hunt
27 Robert & Sharon Herndon



08 Sheila Yeatts
10 Chris Hutton
10 Reagan Jones
13 Kaye Watson
17 Linda Hutchens
21 Anne Holland
22 Dale Cason
23 Ann Simmons
24 Tami Swanenberg
26 Mary Collamore
26 June Phillips
29 Val Mason



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Edie Larkin
09/03/2023	Roy Henk Andy Bradshaw	
	Ann Bradshaw Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
09/10/2023	Richard Bradshaw Doug Dill	
	Judy Eley Tracy Creech Will Hatcher Lois Marshall	
09/17/2023	Marney Brickhouse Linda Williams	

	Missy Harbour Ryan Matschke David Love Janet Dombrowski	
09/24/2023	Will Hatcher Ann Bradshaw	
	Jane Hatcher Andy Bradshaw Joann Mitchell Joshua Fulgham	



OBCC extends its condolences to Danny Pitts and family as they mourn the passing of Elna Pitts, who passed on August 12, 2023. Visitation and service were held at Nelsen Funeral Home in Williamsburg on August 17, 2023.



OBCC extends its condolences to the family of Dale Teagle as they mourn her passing. Dale passed on August 26, 2023, and a service and reception will be held at Olive Branch Christian Church on September 3, 2023.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday, September 4, for the Labor Day holiday.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

Even with vacations and health challenges prevailing, a lively group of twenty enjoyed our ODO experience. Christy Jensen opened our minds and hearts with an interesting presentation entitled, "Filling our Cups". It was amazing to watch how a coffee cup, glass, or water bottle triggered beautiful memories. Barb and I did a short skit, and she was awesome.

Chef Joann Mitchell gave us a delicious Taco Wednesday which was topped with her delicious Red Velvet cake.

Crafty Jane made a drawing game with the roll of a dice and smiles and laughter.

Our resident bingo caller, Tyler, was enjoying a Myrtle Beach vacation with his family, so Barb and I filled in. Candy seemed to be the most sought-after prize.

Next month will be Dot Day, so please wear dots and come out and join us!

Stay safe, well, and happy and May God fill your hearts with love, joy, and hope.

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator





the committee to keep our cemetery one of the most beautiful in the county.

~Cemetery Committee



LUNCH BUNCH REBIRTH

Recently the old Jimmy's Grill began to take on a new life. Soon a new sign went up; 501 Galley would be opening before long. Some of us who had been a part of the Naomi's Lunch Bunch thought it was time for us to begin a new life with a new name as well. Newcomers to our church didn't have the privilege of knowing our beloved Naomi Marrow, unfortunately. Those of us who were so blessed will never forget her sweet spirit.

It was decided we should be known as "4th Thursday Lunch Bunch", helping to remind us each month when we will be gathering for fun, food, and fellowship without any agenda.

Our first meal together will be on Thursday, September 28 at 11 A.M. at the 501 Galley on Richmond Road in Norge.

We welcome new faces to come and grace us with their presence, giving us the opportunity to get to know each other better. Sunday morning greetings at Worship and/or Sunday School just isn't enough time to spend with church family.

Please text me at 757-603-1907 to let me know if you can attend this month. I need to give Mo an approximate number so wait staff can be prepared for us. He assured me there will still be ample room to accommodate us in his newly remodeled space.

Looking forward to seeing everyone after a long interval.

Blessings,
Louise Smith



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS: RECONCILIATION SUNDAYS—SEPT 24 & OCT 1

Your Reconciliation Ministry gifts help support pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs through camp, education, conference, and relationship-building in each expression of our Church. Thank you in advance for your support.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



DWM BACKPACK MISSION

The Disciples Women's Ministries and Sharon Sun Eagle want to thank everyone in our church family for your generosity in supporting our mission of filling backpacks for our Back to School Mission. These school supplies will make a difference in the children's



FAMILY NIGHTS ON HIATUS!

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



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Your sustaining acts of kindness make a big difference when you donate food and/or checks to OBCC with the notion of Food Sharing in the check note line. Food donations can be dropped off in Branch Fellowship Hall or in the box outside our pastor's office. You provide nutritional support to our neighbors to get through periods of slim pickings with caring emotional support. Your generosity inspires others to do the same; that creates a ripple effect of kindness in our neighborhood.

Grateful for your shared blessings!

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



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

lives as they are a special gift from a special church family. Sharon Sun Eagle stated just how special this project was. Sharon wrote, "This is God at work through people. This carries the love and kindness from your hearts to the children and parents". Thank you!

~Sheila Yeatts, DWM Director



DISCOVERING DISCIPLES

Discovering Disciples is an adult Sunday school class that meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM in Branch Hall.

We will be starting our Fall session on Sunday, September 3rd, Staying True in a World Far from God.

Using the Bible Studies for Life curriculum, we will be studying from the book of Daniel. We will learn from Daniel's example, that though we are constantly pressured to give in to the values of our culture, by prayer and obedience, we can stay true to the will of God.

We invite you to come and study the Word of God with us. It not only provides the opportunity for fellowship, but also to grow in our faith together. We hope you will join us!

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly."

Colossians 3:16

~Kim Riffle



ONLINE DIRECTORY: PICTURES NEEDED

The OBCC Directory is now online! You can access your account at members.instantchurchdirectory.com. We would greatly appreciate any pictures you could add to the directory to help our newer members put faces to names. 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.



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: RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

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, Raney the clown, face painting, and a silent auction. Tickets are now on sale for handmade quilts and Afghans by Disciples Women's Mission. You can get tickets to sell now—contact Marney Brickhouse, Barb Schmidt, or Sheila Yeatts. Thank you!



SANCTUARY GARDEN

A special thank you to Linda Brown, and all who have helped in creating a lovely, meditative garden space, now known as the Sanctuary Garden. Linda and friends have spent many hours mulching, planting, and fashioning a beautiful, peaceful atmosphere to sit and pray, read, or enjoy the nature of God's beautiful creation.





humans suffering from certain ailments, disabilities, or mental health issues. Therefore, the sole purpose of their life becomes to aid their human companion and make their lives easier. This is why it is essential to honor these hard-working pups by dedicating the entire month of September to them.

The purpose of service dogs is to provide companionship, protect, and serve their humans. To bring to light how important service dogs are, National Service Dog Month was formed in 2008.

The idea of this appreciation month was the brainchild of actor Dick Van Patten, who was awestruck by the tremendous help service dogs had given to humans with certain ailments. To further the cause, he also launched a fundraising initiative to benefit these dedicated pups who worked hard every day in service dog training schools. He also became an honorary board member of the Guide Dogs Of The Desert. This led to a chain reaction and gradually, fundraising efforts during National Service Dog Month were made across the U.S.

Dog training schools not only help in creating helpers for humans but also save the lives of many dogs who would otherwise spend their entire lives trapped in shelters. Service dogs are also protected under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

It all started when a blind man was being led by his dog through Ancient Rome in the first century A. D. and continued in the 1750's with a hospital in Paris kept dogs as helpers for their blind patients. Johann Wilhelm Klein published a manual for coaching guide dogs in 1819, and dog guides for the visually impaired appeared in the U.S. in the 1920's. There are now 8 types of service dogs: Autism Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Diabetic Alert Dogs, Seizure Response Dogs, Guide Dogs, Allergy Detection Dogs, Mobility Assistance Dogs, and PTSD Service Dogs.

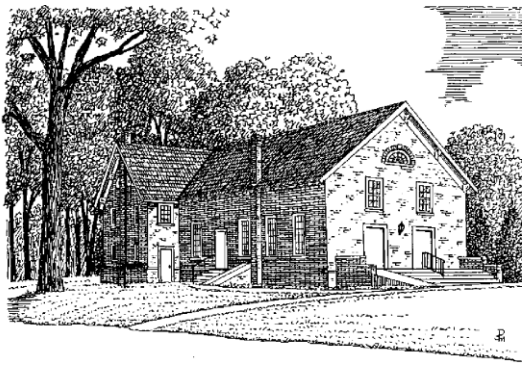
Their training begins when they are just two-day-old puppies! Most service dogs are Golden Retrievers or Labradors. Nowadays, there are over 500,000 service dogs throughout the U.S. What a wonderful blessing these dogs are to so many people! Be sure to offer some petting to a service dog you may see this month—they provide so much comfort for us, and now we can show our appreciation by providing a little bit of comfort for them, too.



SEPTEMBER IS SERVICE DOG MONTH

Did you know that September is National Service Dog Month? National Service Dog Month, celebrated every September, takes place to show appreciation to our four-legged friends who often play a huge role in the lives of human beings. Yes, service dogs are more than just pets since they have been trained to take care of





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**7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024
(757) 566-8077**

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*Note: No longer wish to receive our
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SEPTEMBER
with two autumn leaves below the text.

