



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

## DECEMBER 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](http://www.ob-cc.org) (with Facebook link)**  
**Office Email Address: [obcc1833@gmail.com](mailto:obcc1833@gmail.com)**  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**



### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year! What? Too early? Yes, it is a little hasty for such a greeting – we need to get through Christmas first! But as far as the church calendar is concerned, our new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent: December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Advent is a period of four weeks, four Sundays, prior to Christmas. It is a time of expectant waiting, for the Word which is becoming flesh, when God, in the form of Jesus, comes along beside us.

Our January 1<sup>st</sup> new year is a time of fresh starts and new beginnings. Resolutions are made, gym memberships purchased, diet plans are implemented. We make commitments to be more engaged with our families, to reach out to people we have lost contact with, to be a better friend. We recognize the need for individual moments for self-reflection, to satisfy our emotional needs, to define a purpose for our lives. It may be a resolution to finally travel to that place we have dreamed of visiting, so as to scratch one more item off our bucket list.

Advent's new year is also an invitation, not to make travel plans or check off bucket lists, but to discovery and renewal. It is an invitation to discover who truly matters in our lives. We are invited to renew our relationship with the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords, with Immanuel, God with us. Christ is more important than all the fanfare and the noise in our pursuit of being a holiday glamer, where things have to look as good as it feels. We want to experience the presence of Immanuel, of God with us, in the everyday moments of our lives – and not just on a Christmas morning. We

want him to meet us every day, right where we are – knowing he will never leave us.

Make this new year of Advent the beginning of awakening to holy moments, where we embrace with all that we are the truth of Immanuel: Jesus came to be with us. Once we embrace this truth, life becomes much simpler. He is what truly matters.

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays; 10 AM  
Sandy's Restaurant

DWM Tuesday Bible Study: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays; 2 PM;  
Taylor Hall; NOT meeting in December

Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:  
Alternate Wednesdays; September 6 until June 5,  
2024  
6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

Family Night: Wednesdays at 6PM; Branch Hall. Watch  
email for details

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

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays; 11 AM; 501  
Galley

Live Nativity: December 23; 3-6PM



**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



Christmas Giving: December 10 & 17

Live Nativity: December 23; 3-6PM

Christmas Cantata Sunday: December 24; 11 AM

Christmas Eve Service: December 24; 7PM



**PRAYER LIST**

**Church Family:** Kay Ainsworth, Karen Barrow, Mary Best and her son, JC Biggs, Anita Dasher, Janet Dombrowski, Phyllis Gardner, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Clay Harrison, Keeta Hodson, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Bruce Kerr, Carole Kerr, Jean Lawrence, Diana Love, Dallas Mitchell, Joann Mitchell, Dianne Mongold, David Pitts, Bob Schmidt, Barbara Thiel, Jerry Van Cleave, Sarah Waid, Ronnie Yeatts

**Friends:** The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Natasha Angel (Bob & Sharon Herndon's friend), Dave Archibald (Larry & Louise Smith's son's friend), Bill Caldwell (Liz Ripley's brother), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's mother), Jane Marshall (Val Mason's sister), Sue Martin (Michelle Wright's sister-in-law), Lynette Mills (Joann Mitchell's sister), Jesse Moseley (Kaye Watson's father), Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's sister), Zak Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith's grandson), Logan Ripley (Liz Ripley's grandson), Andrew Smith (Mary Louise Rich's son-in-law), Darlene West (Liz Ripley's sister), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Lola (Missy Harbour's friend's niece)



14     Hunter & Tracy Creech  
23     Larry & Louise Smith



- 04     Dana Rothermel
- 06     Kay Ainsworth
- 08     Skylar Jensen
- 08     Fred Rothermel
- 08     Taylor Bloom
- 09     Virginia Wright
- 10     Sharon Herndon
- 12     Robert Hutton
- 13     Tracy Creech
- 13     John Stall
- 14     Steve White
- 15     Teri Tench
- 16     Karen Marrow
- 16     Cleve Wright
- 16     Rich Jones
- 17     Lauren Ries
- 20     Ellen Sullivan
- 20     Ronnie Yeatts
- 20     Todd Meadows
- 22     Bryant Walker
- 23     Jim Thacker
- 23     Patrick Gormus
- 24     Keeta Hodson
- 29     Janet Morris
- 29     Ashleigh Daniels
- 30     Amy Ferguson



**ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES**

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Linda Hutchens
12/03/2023	Richard Bradshaw Doug Dill	
	Judy Eley Tracy Creech Will Hatcher Lois Marshall	
12/10/2023	Marney Brickhouse Linda Williams	
	Missy Harbour Ryan Matschke David Love Janet Dombrowski	
12/17/2023	Will Hatcher Ann Bradshaw	
	Jane Hatcher Andy Bradshaw Joann Mitchell	

	Joshua Fulgham	
12/24/2023	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Sheila Yeatts Karen Barrow Anita Dasher Maralyn Carr	
12/31/2023	Mel Watson Don White	
	Kaye Watson Devon Watson Tyler Watson Liz Ripley	

your heart happy to hear the blessings others are grateful for and I was so glad to be a part of those memories.

Next, Steve Hall entertained us, not only with his awesome keyboard skills, but also with his great voice. He played some oldies which we all enjoyed and some lovely hymns in which we all joined in. Music makes us smile and there were lots of big smiles and grins in the room.

Our resident chef Sheila was Christmas decorating, so Joann and Anita dazzled us with delicious sloppy joes, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni salad, and scrumptious deserts. Judging from the silence during lunch, everyone ate with gusto and enjoyed socializing with others.

Crafty Jane then delighted us with a chance to make the cutest hedgehogs. Mine is on my kitchen table and greets everyone when they come in. Tyler was in great humor and guided us through bingo with laughs and smiles. Of course, having a beautiful young lady to look at always helps a fellow to act really cool.

Next month will be a special ODO Christmas celebration. Please come and join us and, if you are able, bring a fun Christmas gift under \$10.00, wrapped, so you can participate in an unusual gift exchange. Food will be great, there will be clever crafts and fun bingo, but most of all, you get to enjoy the company of your fellow friends in Christ. Please plan to come on Wednesday December 13th.

May God Bless You Always,  
*Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator*



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Christmas Cantata Sunday service will be 11AM on Sunday, December 24. Sunday School will be held at 10AM. There will be NO 8:30AM service.

The Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at 7PM on Sunday, December 24.



### HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.



### Worship & Wonder **WORSHIP AND WONDER RETURNS**

Worship and Wonder, our Biblical storytelling program for children, resumes on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Children ages 3-8 are invited to leave the sanctuary after the children's message and travel with an adult to our sacred Worship and Wonder Space in the Education Building. There they will remove their shoes and be admitted into a place filled with wonder and dedicated to the worship of God in an age-appropriate setting. Each week, a different biblical story will unfold before them. They will have an opportunity to play, sense, see, hear, and smell the presence of God and conclude their time together with a feast. After each child receives an individual blessing, he/she will reunite with a parent in the hallway outside the Worship and Wonder space. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Linda Williams, Landa Simmons, or Ann Bradshaw. Training for all volunteers will take place on Saturday, January 6th.



### OUR DAY OUT-2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAYS

It was a cool but beautiful morning for Our Day Out. We always gather in Branch Hall on the second Wednesday of the month and enjoy about thirty minutes of chatting and catching up with each other while enjoying goodies which were made this month by Anita Dasher. One of the thanksgiving traditions in the Dasher family is passing a spoon with a beautiful orange bow and asking each person to say what they are thankful for, so that's how we started. It makes





## **MEN'S MINISTRY & FAITH IN ACTION: THANKSGIVING MEALS**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Men's Group assembled and delivered Thanksgiving Meals to 12 families identified by Williamsburg Faith In Action. The meals consisted of a 12-14 lbs. turkey, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner rolls and a pumpkin pie. Last year we provided 10 families with meals and this year we increased to 12 families. All recipients were extremely thankful for the meals and those who delivered were blessed with the experience of helping people with real needs.

Our December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be breakfast at 9am in Branch Hall followed by a field trip to Steve Perger's home where we will see Steve's forge and his train he displays each Christmas season.

We regularly have between 10 and 15 men attend the meetings. The group has been successful in the goals we established to "doing" Church instead of "being" church and getting to know each other better. We look forward to more service projects and possibly a social in the spring.



## **WORLD OUTREACH NEWS: CHRISTMAS GIVING—DEC 10 & 17**

This special giving opportunity occurs on December 10 & 17. Use a special giving envelope found in the pews. Write Christmas Offering in the memo line of your check. This offering is one of 6 special offerings throughout the year. Giving thanks for your generosity!

## **SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOXES**

Thanks for your continuing dedication to this essential project. 52 boxes were collected and delivered to the depot in November. Your efforts will be appreciated around the world.

*~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator*



## **DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The annual Christmas dinner will be held in Branch Hall on December 11 at 6 PM. No need to bring a dish. All food will be provided. Bring your appetite and plan for an enjoyable evening of good food and fun.



The OBCC Family extends condolences to Bonnie Willard and Family. David Willard passed away on October 24, 2023.



## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Dear Olive Branch friends, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I miss all of you. Thank you for all the cards!

*Much love,  
Betty Barber*



## **CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE**

The tree tags are hung! They are located on the table in Branch Hall. Gift bags are due on or before December 8. Gifts can be taken directly to the Salvation Army at 216 Ironbound (M-F 8:30-4:00). Thank you for your help with this ministry!

*~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator*



## **OBCC LIVE NATIVITY COMING DEC 23!**

Outside from 3-6 PM. Help to make this the best one ever! We are still looking for volunteers to help out. Please Contact Ann Bradshaw if you can participate or help.



## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SHOP**

Are you a youth who attends Sunday School at OBCC? Are you looking for a Christmas gift for your parent(s) and/or sibling(s)? During Sunday School on Sunday, December 17, you can pick a gift from our Christmas shop! Abby Matschke will have gifts available for you during Sunday School and during the 11AM service. Be sure to stop by to get a gift!



## **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



### ONLINE DIRECTORY: PICTURES NEEDED

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

We are hoping to have a pictorial directory available by February 2024. We need more pictures in order for this to happen.

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!



### SPECIAL THANKS

Below are a few of the letters received from area organizations that OBCC has provided generous donations to this year. Thank you, OBCC Family, for your generous contributions and your willingness to serve our community!



## 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

October 19, 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 monetary donation of 2,000.00, check #7292 is a living testament of Christ's work through you and your community. Now more than ever we are in need of your support and partnership; we are truly blessed to have Olive Branch as our partners in this mission to feed those in need.

Thank you again for your continued support and commitment to St Olaf Food Pantry and our community.

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.*





# Williamsburg Area Faith In Action

Volunteers Serve. Seniors Thrive.

354 McLaws Circle, Suite 1 | Williamsburg, VA 23185 | 757.258.5890

[WWW.WFIA.ORG](http://WWW.WFIA.ORG)

October 26, 2023

Olive Branch Christian Church  
7643 Richmond Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024


Dear Pastor Cline,

Thank you for your gift in support of Williamsburg Faith in Action (WFIA). Your donation and generous support of \$1,500.00 on 10/17/2023 helps the seniors of the Greater Williamsburg area age safely while living in their own homes.

With support of donors like you, we are able to provide free support services with a personal touch to greatly benefit seniors in our community. We appreciate your support and your commitment to Williamsburg Faith In Action.

Once again, thank you for choosing WFIA as a recipient of your generosity and support and for making a difference every day in the lives of seniors in our community.

Sincerely,

  
Wendy K. Satchell  
Executive Director

In compliance with the tax code of the IRS, we confirm that you received no goods or services of monetary value from WFIA in connection with this gift, making the above donation fully deductible for tax purposes.

*Thank you for having  
me attend the men's breakfast  
again this year. I love  
sharing how WFIA is touching  
seniors lives. I appreciate  
your congregation  
helping with Thanksgiving  
meals. So appreciative!  
Thank you also for this generous  
financial contribution! W.K.S.*

Williamsburg Area Faith In Action is a non-profit organization under IRS Section 501c(3).



4445 Powhatan Pkwy.  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
(757) 253-1220  
info@williamsburghospice.org

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**Brandon E. Randall**  
Executive Director  
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Jonathan Weiss  
Linda Wenger

October 23, 2023

Pastor Richard Cline  
Olive Branch Christian Church  
7643 Richmond Rd  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024

Dear Pastor Cline,

I am so grateful for your contribution of \$1,000.00. Your support brings the priceless gift of care, comfort, and compassion to guests of Hospice House and their loved ones as they share their final days together.

We do not charge a fee for our services to individuals and families, so we thank you for helping remove that burden from those we serve. Your gift also allows loved ones to be just that - loved ones - without also having to be caretakers.

Having served our community for the past 40 years, we are appreciative of the support from individuals like you. Thank you again for your generous contribution.

Gratefully yours,

Brandon Randall  
Executive Director

Gift Date: 10/17/2023

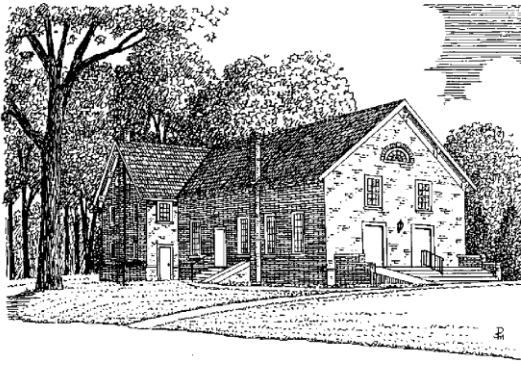
Gift Purpose: General

Thanks to the Olive  
Branch church family!  
God bless you!!

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS RECEIPT FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS**

*For your tax purposes, this receipt will serve as our official acknowledgement of your contribution, in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. Hospice House of Williamsburg did not provide any goods or services in whole or partial consideration for this contribution. Thank you again for your support. (EIN 52-1289657)*

**We give care, comfort, and compassion through and beyond end of life.**



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## The Olive Branch

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**Olive Branch Christian Church**

(Disciples of Christ)

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.*



**DECEMBER**

