



THE OLIVE BRANCH

DECEMBER 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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**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Leroy Roberts joined November 23, 2025
173 Sheppard Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185-5431
Phone: (757) 920-9812

Welcome!

the bonfires will start, the apple cider, sandwiches, and cookies will be ready to hand out, and the men and women will take their places as we present to the community our annual live nativity. So much work goes into this gift, from planning the schedule, preparing the food, and building the creche. Thanks to all who make this happen!

The picture above is from 2024. The earliest picture I have is from 2012, when we rebooted our live nativity. Here is what it looked like then:



FOLLOW THE STAR

As I write these words, Bethlehem (or a resemble facsimile thereof) is starting to rise at Olive Branch Christian Church. The final boards will be nailed, the lights prepared, and the star will shine once more at night. Then on December 20, the animals will arrive,



The building might have changed, the people are different, but one thing has remained constant: a reminder to our community that Christ is the center of all we do!

This Christmas season, follow the star to Bethlehem. Strive to put Christ as your focus. Read the Nativity stories from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Sing or listen to your favorite Christmas carols and hymns. Give gifts to those in need. Show kindness to your neighbors. Attend the Christmas Eve worship service. Share a Christmas story from your childhood with your children or grandchildren. But above all – be joyful!

Peace to one and all!

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 until June 3, 2026
6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

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

3rd Thursday DWM Circle of Grace: 3rd Thursdays;
11:30AM; Taylor Hall

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM;
Sandy's Restaurant

Family Nights: Wednesday evenings; 6PM; Branch
Hall; Please bring a dish to share



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



Deacon/Elder/Deaconess Meeting: December 15;
6PM; Branch Hall. This meeting is for all current and
newly elected Deacons, Elders, and Deaconesses

Branch Hall Reserved: December 11-14 for Gala
setup

Christmas Gala Dinner: December 14; 5:15PM doors
open; Branch Hall

Branch Hall Reserved: December 19

Christmas Special Giving: December 14 & 21

Live Nativity: December 20; 3-6PM

Christmas Cantata: December 21; 11AM

Christmas Eve Service: December 24; 5PM



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Kay Ainsworth, Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Jeanne Bell, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Norm Hall, Petra Hall, Keeta Hodson, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Susan Kohlman & Family, Lois Marshall, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Bob Sharp, Mike Smith, Brenda White, Ronald White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Rusty Copeland (Chuck Walker's friend), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Sean Dill (Teri Tench's grandson), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Clara Grace Goins (Patti Banks' granddaughter), Reilly Ruby Houchens (Connie Cason's great-granddaughter), Jimmy Hunt (Carolyn & Jim Hunt's son), Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), David Leatherman (Jim & Anne Holland's grandson), Ben Manning (Cheryl & Gene Johnson's friend), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Douglas Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Elizabeth Panzer, Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Rose Pitts (friend of David & Carol Pitts), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Phil Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith's son-in-law), Sheila Rinehart, Pam Swift (Susan Kohlman's friend), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Isabell White (friend of Carol & David Pitts), Harriet Wright (Cleve Wright's mother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Mo (friend of Cheryl & Gene Johnson)



14 Hunter & Tracy Creech
20 Jack & Ethel King
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
- 20 Ellen Sullivan
- 20 Joann Mitchell
- 20 Ronnie Yeatts
- 22 Bryant Walker
- 23 Jim Thacker
- 24 Keeta Hodson
- 27 Jack King
- 30 Amy Ferguson



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
12/07/2025	Ethel King	Danielle Kelley
12/14/2025	Trina Eber	Bob Eber
12/21/2025	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
12/28/2025	Linda Williams	Bob Williams



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Susan Simpson
12/07/2025	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Danny Pitts TBD Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	
12/14/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	
12/21/2025	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley Lois Marshall	
12/28/2025	Teri Tench Harold Barker	
	Linda Garrett Steve Garrett Patty Barker Jeremy Dill	



OBCC sends condolences to Susan Kohlman and family on the passing of her sister, Mary Brown. Mary passed away November 4, 2025. A Celebration of Life service was held at OBCC on November 24, 2025.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on December 24-26 and December 31-January 2 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.



DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mark your calendars! The annual Christmas dinner will be held in Branch Hall on December 8 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.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Christmas Cantata Sunday service will be 11AM on Sunday, December 21.

The Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at 5PM on Tuesday, December 24.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

Our Day Out in November was a wonderful celebration of this beautiful fall, Thanksgiving, and listening to our wonderful veterans. Christy Jensen recalled her challenging Thanksgiving celebration last year which reminded all of us of how blessed we are when life runs smoothly.

Our panel of veterans, Linda Williams, Danny Kelley, and Jim Hunt, shared their experiences of life in the military. Linda grew up in a military family but didn't decide to take that path until her second year of college. She captured our hearts with her incredible dedication and commitment to the Army. Navy man Danny made us laugh and smile as he told his story and shared his experiences.

One thing is for sure, he loved being in the Navy and would join again in a heartbeat. Jim shared his love of

the service and the dedication of his beautiful wife, Carolyn, who made his path easier by all that she organized and helped with. He considers her an Army veteran too. My personal thanks to all of them for sharing and as Bob Schmidt always told me, say "Thanks for your service" when you see someone wearing their hat or uniform.

Our chef Sheila delighted us with her grandmother's recipe for goulash which she always served on a cold fall day. It was delicious and her assistant Anita made sure desserts and drinks were flowing too.

Crafty Jane was on a family trip but left us some beautiful pictures with verses to color.

Closing our day with bingo is so much fun. The prizes are always interesting and most of them are delicious. Norm always has the best card and he picked out a special one for Anita to give her some luck. Sharing is always caring.

Next month is definitely Christmas-oriented and my hope is all who come will feel the blessings that our Lord gives us each and every day.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all who help me make this program so special!

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



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

The Salvation Army Angel Tree tags are available on the table outside the office. Gift bags are due by December 8.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEAVES

Thank you for your continued support and donations of leaves! We use them to fill in the woods as needed to cover up what was washed away. Your contributions to help keep up our beautiful Cemetery are very appreciated. Thank you!

~Steve White, Cemetery Chair



SPECIAL THANKS

Words cannot express our gratitude for your prayers and support of our beloved Samantha. I pray the Lord will cover Pastor Richard, our church family and friends with His grace and peace. We appreciate everyone who helped with Samantha's service and reception. Our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness.

~The Pipkin/Yeatts Family



SPECIAL THANKS

The Heslink Family would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the celebration of Jack's life. We greatly appreciate the prayers and support we have received and hope you will continue to hold fond memories of Jack in your heart as we will.



OBCC LIVE NATIVITY COMING DEC 20!

Our Live Nativity with live animals will be on December 20 outside from 3-6 PM. If you would like to help in any way, please Contact Bill and Susan Simpson. Email simpsonw474@gmail.com. We will be serving a variety of soups, sandwiches, and desserts along with hot chocolate and hot apple cider in Taylor Hall and the Sanctuary. Thank you for your willingness to help make this a great day for our community!



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS: CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS—DEC 14 & 21

This special giving opportunity occurs on December 14 & 21. 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!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

Thanks be to God for your magnanimous, sustaining generosity for our food sharing program. We delivered 833 food donations and \$2240 contribution to St. Olaf Pantry. We all share the JOY from the fruit of the spirit, associated with fulfilling our spiritual responsibilities by supporting our neighbors, faced with food insecurity. The joy we receive from our neighborly acts of kindness increases purposeful living and satisfaction in our lives.

Grateful for your joyful fruity sharing!

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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE- THANK YOU!

With your help, we sent 61 shoeboxes to help children in need around the world! Thank you for your support for this important ministry!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

The Christian Hospital Mungeli recently broke ground for its new college of Nursing building. Speakers included the Director of the School of Nursing, Ms. Sipora Kumar, hospital Director, Dr. Vinod Ekka, and the local pastor. Truly this Advent will be a time of great expectation for all of us!

~Landa Simmons



Olive Branch
GALA DINNER EVENT BY
CANDLELIGHT
Sunday, December 14th, 2025
6 o'clock in the Evening
In Branch Hall

Menu
Asparagus Stuffed Chicken Breast
Lemon & Herbs Infused Angel Hair Pasta
Field Green Salad with Beets, Shredded Carrots,
Candied Pecans, Red Onion & Blue Cheese Crumbles
Finished with a Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Dinner Rolls
A Medley of Fruit Pies & Chocolate Eclairs

Reservations Required by Monday, December 8th
Open to Church Family Members

Join us for a Festive Evening of Fellowship,
Musical Entertainment by "Lady and the Tramps"
Complimentary Door Prizes

Questions?
LindaBrownintheGardens@gmail.com
Or (Land Line)757-707-3907 (No Texting)

Attire: Coat & Tie

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT,
IS A TIME TO WATCH AND WAIT,
FOR THE COMING OF THE CHRIST CHILD,
THAT WE ANTICIPATE.**



**OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH HOPE,
FOR BETTER DAYS TO SEE,
AS PEACE COMES DOWN TO EARTH,
SINS' CAPTIVES ARE SET FREE.**

**JOY WILL BE ABUNDANT,
AS CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE,
THE PERFECT LOVE OF JESUS,
WHO COMES TO SEAL OUR FATE.**

**WE SEEK HIS FORGIVENESS,
FOR A DEBT WE CANNOT PAY,
HIS BLOOD WAS Poured OUT,
AND IN THANKFULNESS WE PRAY.**

**HE SAID HE'D COME AGAIN,
SO WE WATCH AND WAIT ANEW,
HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE,
OUR SAVIOR'S WORD WE HOLD TRUE.**

~Louise Smith

MARY WAS CALLED BY GOD,
TO BEAR HIS ONLY SON,
SHE WASN'T EVEN MARRIED,
HOW COULD THIS BE DONE.

THE FATHER IS CREATIVE,
AND HE HAD A PLAN,
HE HIMSELF WOULD BECOME,
THE FATHER OF THE SON OF MAN.

JOSEPH WAS AGREEABLE,
TO TAKE MARY AS HIS BRIDE,
HE TOOK HER TO BETHLEHEM,
STOOD LOVINGLY BY HER SIDE.

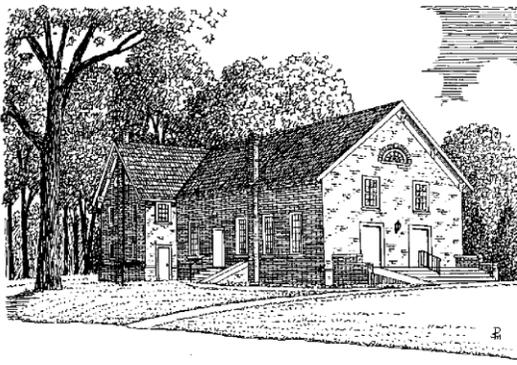
THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN,
PLACED IN A MANGER BED,
STILL GOD HAD ANOTHER PLAN,
TO SOMEDAY RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD.

YOU SEE JESUS WASN'T JUST A BABY,
HE IS IN FACT GOD TOO,
COMING DOWN TO EARTH,
TO RESCUE ME AND YOU.

SIN COMES WITH A PRICE,
THIS WAS THE GIFT HE GAVE,
THE BABY SURVIVED THE STABLE,
THE MAN OVERCAME THE GRAVE.

COME NOW LORD JESUS,
AS I GIVE MY GIFT OF PRAISE,
I AM THE ONE YOU PAID FOR,
I BELONG TO YOU ALWAYS.

~Louise Smith



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Olive Branch Christian Church
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Please contact the church office.*

