



THE OLIVE BRANCH

FEBRUARY 2026

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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

 **Facebook: facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg**

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

 **Instagram: [@obccwilliamsburg](https://www.instagram.com/obccwilliamsburg)**



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Elizabeth Panzer joined January 18, 2026
609 Indian Springs Ct
Williamsburg, VA 23185-3937
Phone: (757) 903-1228
Email: ewpanzer@cox.net

Welcome!

FORTY DAYS

For the romantically inclined, the month of February exists only to give us St. Valentine's Day, a day in which we shower those we love with gifts of chocolates, flowers, and cards. I'm all for such a day, especially when I am on the receiving end of chocolates. But this year February has another special day. Ash Wednesday will take place on February 18th, and with it the beginning of Lent. In the belief that Lent is important in the life of the church, I would like to share some things about Lent you always wanted to know but perhaps were afraid to ask.

Lent is a season of preparation and conversion. Think of it as being a retreat where we focus upon God and what God has done through Jesus Christ. But instead of a weekend, this retreat lasts for a period of forty days, not counting Sundays. But why forty days? Because forty is an important number in the Bible. How long did the rains last in the flood of Noah? Forty days and nights. When Moses went up to the top of Mount Sinai to receive God's commandments, he was there for forty days. When Jesus started his ministry, he first

spent forty days in the wilderness praying and fasting. In the Bible, forty days is a period spent preparing a person for something important. So, we spend forty days preparing ourselves to rejoice at the resurrection of our Lord at Easter.

In our local community, Lent is also a time when we join with people of faith from other denominations in Lenten worship services. That schedule is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Many of you talk about how visiting other churches during Lent brings a special joy. I feel the same way. As we worship together, we give visible witness to the unity Jesus prayed when he said, "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." (John 17:20-21)

Join with your brothers and sisters in Christ this Lent. It all begins at Stonehouse Presbyterian Church on February 18th.

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



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

Kids Sunday School upstairs Education Building 9:30

Nursery:

Open on Sundays: 8:15AM-12:15PM

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30AM-1:30PM



Cemetery Cleanup: February 1-10, 2026

Directory Update Deadline: February 9

Week of Compassion Giving: February 15 & 22

Shrove Tuesday Dinner: February 17; 6PM; Branch Hall

Chili Cookoff: February 22; after 11AM Worship; Branch Hall

DWM Luncheon Meeting: February 28; 11AM; Branch Hall

DWM Dinner: March 9; 6PM; Branch Hall

DWM Yard Sale: March 21; 8AM-1PM; Branch Hall



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Jeanne Bell, Betty Boley & Family, Jo Gardner & Family, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Norm Hall, Petra Hall, Keeta Hodson, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Barbara Nicholson, Carolyn Rodenberg, Jim Romesburg, Fred Rothermel, Chuck Rupe, Cecelia Ruskey, Bob Sharp, Mike Smith, Ellen Waite, 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), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Amy Gilliam (Marney Brickhouse's daughter), Clara Grace Goins (Patti Banks' granddaughter), Reilly Ruby Houchens (Connie Cason's great-granddaughter), 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), Rae Meriaux (Jim & Carolyn Hunt'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, John and Michelle Troy (friends of the Pergers), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Mo (friend of Cheryl & Gene Johnson), Carolyn (friend of James & Pat Tabb)



- 05 Norm Hall
- 08 Barbara Thiel
- 09 Andy Bell
- 12 Beverly Walker
- 13 Kelsey Creech
- 18 Barbara Nicholson
- 21 Robin Moscati
- 22 Doug Haulsee
- 23 Barb Schmidt
- 24 Andrew Pfister
- 24 Steven Ainsworth
- 25 Tonya Meadows
- 25 Virginia Dare Waltrip
- 26 Gail Key
- 26 Rosa Griffin
- 27 Steve Garrett
- 28 Grace Gardner
- 28 Tracey Hutton



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Carol Sharp
02/01/2026	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Jane Hatcher Edie Larkin Judy Eley	

	Bill Simpson	
02/08/2026	Teri Tench Harold Barker	
	Linda Garrett Steve Garrett Patty Barker Jeremy Dill	
02/15/2026	Missy Harbour Mel Watson	
	Maralyn Carr Dennis Cotner Patti Banks Danny Pitts	
02/22/2026	Bob Herndon Chuck Walker	
	Betty Boley Jason Teagle Anita Dasher Amy Ferguson	

I challenged everyone to roll an empty paper towel roll on the table with only one push and see who could go the farthest; if it went off the table you were out. Naomia was the winner and Anita was second. Then we brought out a tray of glasses filled with a delicious touch of fruit and bubbly, and we toasted the New Year together.

Chef Sheila delighted us all with a breakfast brunch which was delicious. We took a moment at twelve o'clock to say a silent prayer for our nation and then sang "This is the Day".

Crafty Jane decided to challenge us with the making of a winter bird, either a cardinal, blue jay, or chickadee. What a great job everyone did!

Bingo was so much fun, and everyone went home with a prize or two. I want to say a special thanks to those who give me wonderful treasures to put on the prize table.

Next month our theme will be Valentine's Day, so please come and, if you have a special shirt, tie, or blouse, share it with us!

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



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
02/01/2026	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker
02/08/2026	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
02/15/2026	Teri Tench	Jeremy Dill
02/22/2026	Ethel King	Danielle Kelley



OBCC sends condolences to Josephine Gardner and family on the passing of her sister, Nancy Alexander. Nancy passed away December 21, 2025. A Celebration of Life service will be held in Victor, NY on March 7, 2026.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

January ODO was a delightful gathering of church family and friends. It was a beautiful way to welcome the New Year. I really enjoy the time before we start the program as everyone gets a moment to chat, renew friendships, and make some new ones.

I asked everyone if they would share a special moment or memory of this past Christmas since because of snow we didn't have ODO in December. Our special church activities, the live nativity, the Gala, the beautiful cantata, and the very special Christmas Eve service were mentioned as highlights of the season.

Christy Jensen with her wonderful smile and great knowledge gave us tidbits for starting the New Year off right. It is so interesting to listen as we share traditions or habits.





DWM THANKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Church Family, for stepping up with food and serving it at the Live Nativity. We are a very blessed family at Olive Branch. A big thank you also to everyone for helping with setting up and taking down the Christmas decorations.

Disciples Women's Ministry is hosting a luncheon meeting on Saturday, February 28, beginning at 11AM in Branch Hall. We will be discussing what our goals for the coming year will be. Please call or text Missy, Sheila, or Marney if you plan to come. Lunch will be provided.

Disciples Women's Ministry is hosting a special dinner in Branch Hall that all friends of OBCC are invited to attend. We will have a special guest speaker from Meals on Wheels to lead a presentation for us on their important ministry to our community. Come join us for dinner beginning at 6PM on Monday, March 9.



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS

Week of Compassion Sundays are February 15 & 22. Thank you in advance for giving as you can.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



DIRECTORY UPDATE

The OBCC Directory is still online! You can access your account at members.instantchurchdirectory.com.

We will be supplying hard copies of the 2026 OBCC Directory beginning in mid-February. The hard copies will be available at the office. If you are unable to stop by the office and would like a hard copy mailed to you, please contact the office and Sara will be happy to send you a copy. If you have any updates to add to the directory, please send them to Sara by Monday morning, February 9.

We are still looking for pictures for our online directory. 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!



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The semi-annual clean-up will occur between February 1 & 10, 2026. 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



CHILI COOKOFF

Come join us for a chili cookoff after the 11AM worship service on Sunday, February 22. Please consider signing up and bringing your famous chili recipe! It's \$5 to come eat chili and vote for your favorite! 1 vote equals \$1. Money raised helps with the regional mission trip and new floor fund. Questions or like to sign up to bring your favorite chili recipe? Contact Abby Matschke.



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

It was a chilly Thursday morning, but a beautiful day for our Circle of Grace meeting. Betty's soup was warm and delicious and sandwiches, fruit, muffins, and deviled eggs provided a great lunch for all. Normally we would have a presentation about another interesting Lady of the Bible, but instead Marney treated us to several excerpts from the Chicken Soup for the Soul series. We have all had an occasion when God helped us by sending an angel our way or a sign that changed our path. Next month, Jan Smith will be sharing her Lady from the Bible and perhaps it will be just a little warmer. Hope you will be able to join us!



What does construction of a new College of Nursing look like in India? Look below and see the foundation being laid and the first rebar installed. Our new College of Nursing will be the only four-year RN nursing program for miles and miles. With your help, the Rambo Committee, a recognized partner of Disciples of Christ Global Ministries, has provided 2/3 of the monies needed so far for construction, books, and furniture. Now we must fund staffing for the first year of operation—about \$18,000. Accreditation and inspections begin in April. Please keep the "little hospital that could" in your prayers for a successful journey.

~Landa Simmons



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

Thanks again to the Disciples Women's Ministry of OBCC! With your help, we have raised almost \$30,000 of the \$65,000 needed for the first year of the College of Nursing at the Christian Hospital Mungeli. The \$65,000 includes building a new floor and classrooms on our existing school of nursing (a General Nurse/Midwife program) and the salaries of the Nursing Staff for one year! They broke ground in late November.

Below are pictures from December's Christmas Gala:



OLIVE BRANCH Lenten Services **LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Below is the schedule for the Lenten services beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18. The schedule is also posted on the bulletin boards in the Sanctuary and the Education Building. Please check emails and bulletin announcements for any schedule changes that may take place throughout the Lenten season.



**2026 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES – 7 P.M.
HOSPITALITY TIME - 6 P.M.**

With Livestream Links

February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday: Stone House Presbyterian Church,
9401 Fieldstone Parkway, Toano, 757-565-1130 Rev. Kristin Reinhold
Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@stonehousepresbyterianchur4512>
Speaker – Rev. Zach Dey, Williamsburg Mennonite Church

February 25, 2026: Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, 7801 Church Lane, Toano
757-566-0162 Rev. Dennis Morgan
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MtVernonUMCToanoVA>
Speaker – Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

March 4, 2026: New Zion Baptist Church, 3991 Longhill Road, Williamsburg
757-258-0491 Rev. Brenda Christian
Livestream Link: <https://www.newzionwilliamsburg.org/live>
Speaker – Rev. Richard Cline, Olive Branch Christian Church

March 11, 2026: Olive Branch Christian Church, 7643 Richmond Road, Williamsburg
757-566-8077 Rev. Richard Cline
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg>
Speaker – Rev. Kristen Reinhold, Stone House Presbyterian Church

March 18, 2026: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Williamsburg
757-564-3745 pending assignment
Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@OSLCNorge>
Speaker – Rev. Dennis Morgan, Mt. Vernon U.M.C.

March 25, 2026: Williamsburg Mennonite Church, 7800 Croaker Road, Williamsburg
757-566-3026 Rev. Zach Dey
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97175861664?pwd=NFhDOG11T0RQbHBMRWIXdjRRL3dYUT09>
Speaker – Rev. Dennis Morgan, Mt. Vernon U.M.C.

April 1, 2026: Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, 8300 Richmond Road, Toano
757-566-0276 Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@hncwebminister540>
Speaker – Rev. Brenda Christian, New Zion Baptist Church

MY PERFECT VALENTINE

MY LOVE IS NOT PERFECT,
FOR THE ANCIENT OF DAYS,
BUT I TRY TO PLEASE HIM,
IN DEMONSTRATIVE WAYS.

I MUST PLACE HIM FIRST,
IN EVERYTHING I DO,
I MUST SEEK HIS GUIDANCE,
TO KEEP MY LOVE TRUE.

DO I SPEND TIME WITH HIM,
IN SINCERE DAILY PRAYER,
GIVING PRAISE AND ADORATION,
OR DO I SIT AND BLANKLY STARE.

HE IS MY EVERYTHING,
TOTAL ATTENTION I NEED TO GIVE,
SEEKING HIS LOVE THROUGH SCRIPTURE,
TO LEARN HOW I'M TO LIVE.

FATHER, YOU I LOVE MOST DEARLY,
WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL,
I KNOW THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP,
IS THE ONE THAT MADE ME WHOLE.

~Louise Gatling Smith

**OUR WEEK OF COMPASSION,
REACHES FAR AND WIDE,
EVEN INTO WAR-TORN COUNTRIES,
WITHOUT CHOOSING ANY SIDE.**

**WE GO TO OFFER RELIEF,
TO A HURTING WORLD,
AS THE RESULTS OF WAR,
WHERE BOMBS HAVE BEEN HURLED.**

**WE TAKE FOOD TO THE STARVING,
WHO HAVE NOT EATEN IN COUNTLESS DAYS,
OFFERING BANDAGES AND BLANKETS,
WE LOVINGLY GIVE IN MANY WAYS.**

**IN OUR OWN COUNTRY,
WE HAVE CATASTROPHES OF EVERY KIND,
WE GO TO OFFER AID,
WITH ANY NEED WE MIGHT FIND.**

**OUR MISSION HAS ONE GOAL,
JESUS' HANDS AND FEET TO BE,
SERVING ALL GOD'S CHILDREN,
NO CULTURAL DIFFERENCES DO WE SEE.**

**GOD BLESS OUR CARING EFFORTS,
WE GO IN JESUS' NAME,
MANY SOULS ARE HURTING,
AND THEY BEAR NO BLAME.**

Louise Gatling Smith



Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Norge, VA
Permit No. 2

The Olive Branch

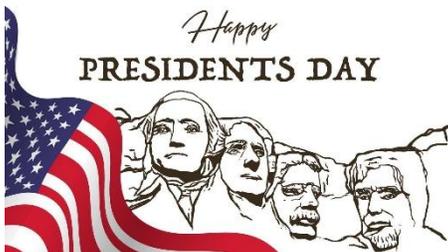
© published by

**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.*



February

