



HELLO FALL

Tuesday, September 22, at 8:05 pm Fall finally arrived. The sun crossed the celestial equator, an event known as the autumnal equinox, beginning a season of shorter days and longer nights in preparation for winter. I knew it was coming, no matter how hard I tried to ignore it, no matter how many times I wished to hold on to those summer days.

Not that I dislike Fall. The days are still warm, the nights comfortable, the leaves present their royal plumage, and the air has a crispness that it never has in summer.

Fall is a season of change. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote in his novel, *The Great Gatsby*, that "life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the Fall." The church certainly begins to start all over again in Fall. Our normal routines start back, the liturgical calendar begins to tighten up, Advent will soon be here, and then Christmas. Fall is a time to renew all over again our commitment to the one we have pledged to follow, the Christ who has called us to serve as His Disciples.

Yoko Ono, often remembered in connection with the Beatles' breakup, once reflected on autumn this way: "Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence. Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance. Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence." Good advice. As the leaves begin to turn and fall, as the temperatures lower and we reach for warmer clothing, remember that we and nature share in giving respect to the Holy One who made us. It is time to be reverent. It is time to come together as God's family. It is time to start life all over again.

Peace,
~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

Worship & Wonder:

Sundays 11:00 in the Education Building

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



SAVE THE DATE

Elder's Meeting: Monday, October 26, 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 p.m.
Annual Congregation Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 8



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Joyce Allen, Pat and son Jimmy Allred, Michael Ayers, Mary Bates, Jeanne Bell, J.C. Biggs, Melvin Braxton, Phyllis Gardner, Amy Gilliam, Nancy Griffith, Ron Grosso, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jim & Anne Holland, Nicki Hood, Linda Hutchens, Cheryl & Gene Johnson, Dallas Mitchell, Steve Perger, Leroy Roberts, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Herak Sherazi, Mike Smith, Roy Sullivan, Barbara Thiel, Ellen Waite, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Karen Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's daughter), Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Sharon Carr (family friend of Bob and Dianne Mongold), Jimmy Coady (brother-in-law of Joann Mitchell), Debbie Cook (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Deborah (friend of Bob Lawrence), Declan (great-grandson of Jim & Anne Holland), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Mason Ewing (grandson of Liz Ripley), Jeffrey Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's brother), Michelle Holdsworth and family (cousin of Karen Daniels), Susan Holton (friend of Liz Ripley), Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), Mo Mangilla (neighbor of Gene & Cheryl Johnson), Maylynn (Missy Harbour's friends granddaughter), Millie Mizelle (cousin of Louise Smith), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Millie Ptachick (Abby Matschke's friend's granddaughter), Sheila Rinehart, Sean (Teri Tench's grandson), The family of "Buggs" Tabb, Tara (Bob & Dianne Mongold's cousin), Brenda Walker (Chuck Walker's mother), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son)

***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
 give thanks in all circumstances;
 for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."***
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



ELDERS, DEACONS & DEACONESSSES

OCTOBER DEACONESS: Naomia Barker

OCTOBER 4 ELDERS	Sheila Yeatts, Hunter Creech
DEACONS	Mike Hebbard, Jody Hebbard, John Henderson, Jerry Henderson, Naomia Barker
OCTOBER 11 ELDERS	Linda Williams, Abby Matschke
DEACONS	Jane Hatcher, Edie Larkin, Judy Eley, Bill Simpson, Naomia Barker
OCTOBER 18 ELDERS	Teri Tench, Harold Barker
DEACONS	Linda Garrett, Steve Garrett, Patty Barker, Jeremy Dill, Naomia Barker
OCTOBER 25 ELDERS	Missy Harbour, Mel Watson
DEACONS	Maralyn Carr, Dennis Cotner, Patti Banks, Danny Pitts, Naomia Barker



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
OCT 4	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
OCT 11	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker
OCT 18	Linda Williams	Bob Williams
OCT 25	Teri Tench	Jeremy Dill



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



01 Kevin Waid	19 Linda Heslink
01 Sarah Whitehurst	21 Devon Watson
02 Steve Perger	23 Josephine Gardner
08 Nicholas Onesty	26 Melvin Braxton
12 Michael Garrett	27 Daniel Abid
14 Norm Larkin	27 Morgan Onesty
14 David Pitts	29 Nancy Griffith



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

10	Trina & Bob Eber
18	Joyce Allen & Mark Pfister





CONDOLENCES

OBCC offers their heartfelt condolences and prayers to the following,

- Curt Griffin on the passing of his sister, Helen Boyd. Helen passed on August 6, 2026
- The family of Charles "Charlie" Boy. Charlie passed on Wednesday, August 12, 2026.
- Connie Cason and family on the passing of her cousin, Meredith Garrett.
- The family of "Buggs" Tabb, who passed on September 16, 2026.



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

Meeting together and enjoying a delicious salad lunch is a wonderful way to enjoy my Christian sisters. A circle of friends laughing, listening, and joining together in prayer. Ann Bradshaw, who was a speaker at our DWM fall retreat, gave us a wonderful presentation on Hope. That small word opened up a huge conversation and spiritual awareness. We are truly blessed that so many women take the time out of their busy lives to get together and share their thoughts and feelings with each other.

Thank you, ladies!

~Marney Brickhouse



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

It was a beautiful day for ODO and quite a crowd of friends gathered amidst our colorful fall festival. We always spend our first half hour chatting and catching up with friends, its so much fun!

Louise started our morning with a heartfelt prayer and after our pledge of allegiance, a lovely chorus of voices sang, *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place.*

Cindy gave us some interesting information about our fall season! She shared an unusual Sunday morning incident at her church, which tickled memories of other similar happenings in our church.



Then our clever new secretary, Tanya delighted us with her amazing and creative endeavors and shared the history of how she got started with this pastime. She shared several items with us that were a delight to everyone present.

Our chef Joann, and her helpers Naomi and Betty, served a wonderful taco lunch and delicious desert cups with many choices of toppings, it truly was enjoyed by all. Crafty Jane brought back our flower drawings from last month and we had a chance to make them so colorful.

Finishing the day with bingo is everyone's favorite and there were a lot of unusual prizes. We are so grateful to all who graciously donate them.

Next month's theme is *Halloween Fun* and there will be prizes for clever costumes!

I can't say thank you enough to all who help make this day special, fun, and spiritually uplifting, may God bless each and every one of you!

~ Marney Brickhouse



REGIONAL MISSION TRIP

The 2027 Regional Mission Trip planning team has begun meeting. The trip will be in June 2027, we are not sure of the exact dates or location at this time, so keep a lookout for updates in upcoming newsletters. If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please speak with Abby Matschke.



ALL SAINT'S DAY

This year is a special one, for November 1 falls on a Sunday. As part of our worship, we will be remembering the saints of our church, our brothers and sisters in Christ who have passed since last year's observance. You will find a list of our members who have passed following this article. Please look it over and make sure no one has been missed. In addition, if you would like a friend or family member included, please call the church office and let Tanya know. As part of our November 1, 11:00 service, we are inviting family and friends to bring a picture or a memory object for each person who will be remembered. Don't fret, you have plenty of time to prepare. If you have questions, just call the church office.

List of All Saints

Mary Brown	
Nancy Alexander	Marlies Brantley
Karen Spangler	Phil Reynolds
Jim Romesburg	Carolyn Rodenberg
Elizabeth Panzer	Richard Bishop
Larry Smith	George "David" Barrow
Todd Meadows	Carita "Keeta" Hodson
Charles Boy	Helen Boyd
Harriet Gritzmaker	"Buggs" Tabb



OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY

The Olive Branch Men's group met on September 10 for our monthly breakfast meeting. We welcomed Dennis Cotner as a first-time attendee to our group. Nine men were in attendance.

Bob Mongold led us in prayer and we enjoyed a delicious

breakfast prepared by Doug Dill assisted by Naomi Barker and Betty Boley.

Danny Kelley led us in a devotion from the Psalms and a lively discussion followed.

We then reviewed the challenge Richard gave the congregation a few years back to 'BE Church' instead of 'Doing Church'. That challenge led to the restart of the OBCC Men's Group 4+ years ago. Our group decision at that point was to be project oriented and to focus on service-related projects. Our projects have included assistance to local missions assisting needy families, assistance with projects for OBCC events and activities, and maintenance of the Sanctuary Garden. We then discussed James 2, 14-26, Faith and Deeds. The project update was provided as is listed below:

- **Community Fun Day**-Josh Fulgahm

Will Hatcher has planned and executed the Scavenger Hunt the past couple of years. He will be joined by Josh this year. Thanks, Will and Josh!

- **Thanksgiving Dinners**-Bob Mongold

Bob reported he had contacted Faith-in-Action and they will supply the fifteen (15) names of those who will receive a thanksgiving meal. We purchase the food, assemble the meals in boxes and deliver them to the recipients. The assembly and delivery date will be Tuesday, November 24th. This is our fourth year of providing these meals. We started with 10 families, increased to 12 and last year and this year the number is fifteen families. Those making the deliveries receive blessings from experiencing the gratitude of those recipients. The total cost of the meals is estimated to be \$400-450. Thanks, Bob!

- **Nativity Scene**-Bill Simpson

Bill Simpson gave us an update on the planning for the Nativity Scene and some changes included in this year's production. The contract for the live animals has been signed and the deposit of \$300 paid. The Men's group pays for the animals. In late November, Steve White, Dennis Dasher, and Charles Barker will be erecting the stable structure. Actually, our major task is lifting the long pieces of bark used for the roof while Dennis or Steve nails them--tall guys needed! Thanks, Bill!

- **Fence around the Sanctuary Garden**-Steve Perger

Steve Perger is looking at options for replacing the wooden fence. He will get three ideas with estimates. We probably don't have the funds and will need to find a funding source if we decide to replace the existing fence. Thanks, Steve!

Bob Mongold closed the meeting in prayer, and we ask the following be lifted in prayer:

Dallas Mitchell, Ron Grosso, Rudy Ruskey, Jim Holland, Jim Herndon, Rev. Mike Smith, Safe travel for Richard and Ann.

DWM Retreat 2026 - Smith Mountain Lake



The special VDWM luncheon on Saturday was delicious and the speaker Dr. Kara Fleurizan, with her beautiful smile, touched us all with her message.

Fun activities on Saturday afternoon included a walk along the lake with Bill Spangler-Dunning as the guide, Sit & Stich, line dancing, and pontoon boat rides on the lake. Some of us chose rest, others engaged in reflection and fellowship, and many just enjoyed the fun and beautiful weather.

All the sisters were asked to make a basket for the drawing on Saturday evening. We were blessed with so many baskets! There was \$800 collected in ticket sales that went directly to our Spring Project, which locally is Turning Point in Roanoke and internationally the water wells in Kenya's refugee camps.

Evening fellowship after the sessions included singing and game night with delicious Root Beer floats and treats, like freshly popped corn and pretzels stuffed with peanut butter (very healthy!)

Sunday morning church service had a quiet elegance as our spirits had been lifted by a wonderful program and enhanced by the fellowship, kindness and caring of our Christian Sisters.



This was one of the best retreats I have had the pleasure of attending, and my prayer is that the spirit of what was learned and experienced will continue to touch our lives.

~ Marney Brickhouse



DWM RETREAT – SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

Ten Christian sisters; Kay, Lois, Joyce, Missy, Abby, Ann, Louise, Edie, Barb and Marney, from Olive Branch attended the 2026 DWM retreat at Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia. The weather was beautiful and the scenery was God's artistry at His best.

Sisters from all over Virginia, and a few from North Carolina, gathered to enjoy a weekend of spiritually uplifting activities. The facility was very welcoming, and the retreat committee members went all out to make our stay comfortable and enjoyable.

"Sprouting Our Faith" was the theme and the speaker, Rev. Dr. Erin Reibel, was absolutely wonderful. She touched our hearts and stimulated our minds. There were two workshop speakers, Dr. Ruth Duenez-Harrison who spoke on Immigration and our own Ann Bradshaw spoke about Hope. They both were very interesting and stimulated a lot of participation from all of us. The music provided by Sue Parker and Donna Cain was beautiful and inspiring.

What does a
jack-o-lantern
and a Christian
have in common??



They both have a
light inside!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's time again for Operation Christmas Child! Operation Christmas Child has distributed more than 244 million shoebox gifts worldwide since 1993 and disciplined more than 52 million children. They praise God that each year millions of children around the globe are coming to faith in Jesus Christ.



Shoebox gifts open doors: to share the Gospel all around the world.

Will you lift up this season's Operation Christmas Child outreach? Please pack a shoebox(es) and bring them to the church on November 15th, this is the latest they can be dropped off. I will need to deliver them the week of November 16-23.

We are praying for over 12 million shoeboxes this year – each one a Gospel opportunity.

May God bless you ~Sheila Yeatts



COMMUNITY FUN DAY!

What an amazing day! Saturday, September 26th OBCC held its annual Community Fun Day. It was an open invitation to the community to come out and join us for some fall fun! We provided a free meal for everyone, lots of games for the children, a fun bounce house, an incredible display of donations and prizes for a silent auction and lots of delicious bake sale treats to purchase and enjoy. We are thankful for our local community and feel blessed to share the love and joy that our Olive Branch church family has to offer.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" --Matthew 25:35



A Season of Rest

September 30, 2022



Fall. In the United States, it begins with the announcement of pumpkin spice lattes and takes us through Thanksgiving. For me, autumn has been a time filled with a flurry of activities—the kickoff of the school year, football games, fall festivals, and plans leading into the holidays. Honestly, if I am not careful, I will miss the beauty of autumn.

Like me, you may need a reset of rest built into your fall so you don't miss the season and how the Lord is wanting to work through it. Here are some reset ideas to help you slow down, relax, and reclaim some rest during fall and leading into the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Welcome the Season

Fall is the season associated with harvesting. It is the time to gather the ripe crops from the fields. Like harvesting crops, we need to take time to enjoy the reaping of what we have sown. Take time to look back over your year. How have you grown? Worshipped? Laughed? Instead of seeking to accomplish something new, take time to celebrate what has already been accomplished. Thank God for the abundance in your life—family, friends, church, job, food—the ways God meets your needs daily. Embrace the present. Savor it. Prepare your heart for Thanksgiving with a posture of gratitude for the provisions God has already provided.

Let's welcome the season of fall with these words from Psalm 95:1-7.

*Come, let's shout joyfully to the Lord,
shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!
Let's enter his presence with thanksgiving;
let's shout triumphantly to him in song.*

*For the Lord is a great God,
a great King above all gods.
The depths of the earth are in his hand,
and the mountain peaks are his.
The sea is his; he made it.
His hands formed the dry land.*

*Come, let's worship and bow down;
let's kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

*For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
the sheep under his care.*



Watch for Winter

In the fall, animals prepare for winter by storing food and creating cozy hibernation spaces. Farmers collect reserve crops so they have enough to eat during winter. How will you cultivate a safe, cozy, warm, and comforting space this fall in preparation for winter? Enjoy the present season as you await the winter by making those seasonal fall recipes or craft projects. Take time to read a good book with a warm drink. Enjoy a slower pace in your comfy space by journaling or spending time in prayer. Fall illustrates the beauty of letting go as we think about the outdoors, falling leaves, and the temporary nature of everything around us. Take time to pause and reflect as the year comes to a close. It is not easy to slow down and sit, but remember that rest is good for your mind, body, and spirit.

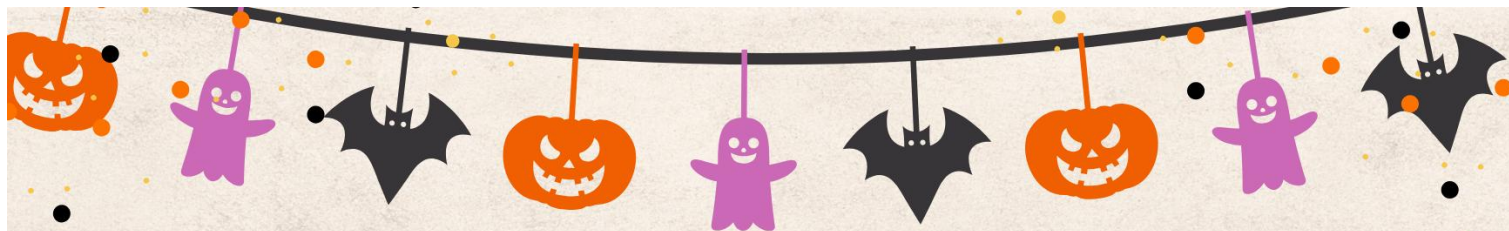
Just as the Lord protects, provides, and cares for the animals and crops as fall turns to winter, He cares, protects, and delivers His people in some of the most desolate seasons of life. The Israelites had received help from God, and they knew they had experienced His undeserved favor and grace. Psalm 107:1-9 records how God's people were thankful for His deliverance and grace.

Let's reset this fall and watch for winter by praising the Lord and thanking Him for salvation and grace through Jesus.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his faithful love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim
that he has redeemed them from the power of the foe
and has gathered them from the lands—
from the east and the west,
from the north and the south.*

*Some wandered in the desolate wilderness,
finding no way to a city where they could live.
They were hungry and thirsty;
their spirits failed within them.
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble;
he rescued them from their distress.
He led them by the right path
to go to a city where they could live.
Let them give thanks to the Lord
for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all humanity.
For he has satisfied the thirsty
and filled the hungry with good things.*





**Halloween is a happy time,
For children to pretend,
Some think of it as evil,
And want it to end.**

**I see it as harmless,
Little ones need some fun,
Soon enough they'll outgrow it,
Become teenagers on the run.**

**Adults try to hide,
So our sin doesn't show,
We can't fool our Savior,
There's nothing He doesn't know.**

**I know God clearly sees us,
Through the mask we put in place,
He knows us inside out,
He'll recognize our hidden face.**

**So come out in plain view,
No trick or treat does He play,
You will receive His prize,
When comes your Judgement Day.**

~Louise Gatling Smith





**Such a Season of beauty,
Is the Autumn of each year,
But when I think of Summer fading,
I shed a little tear.**

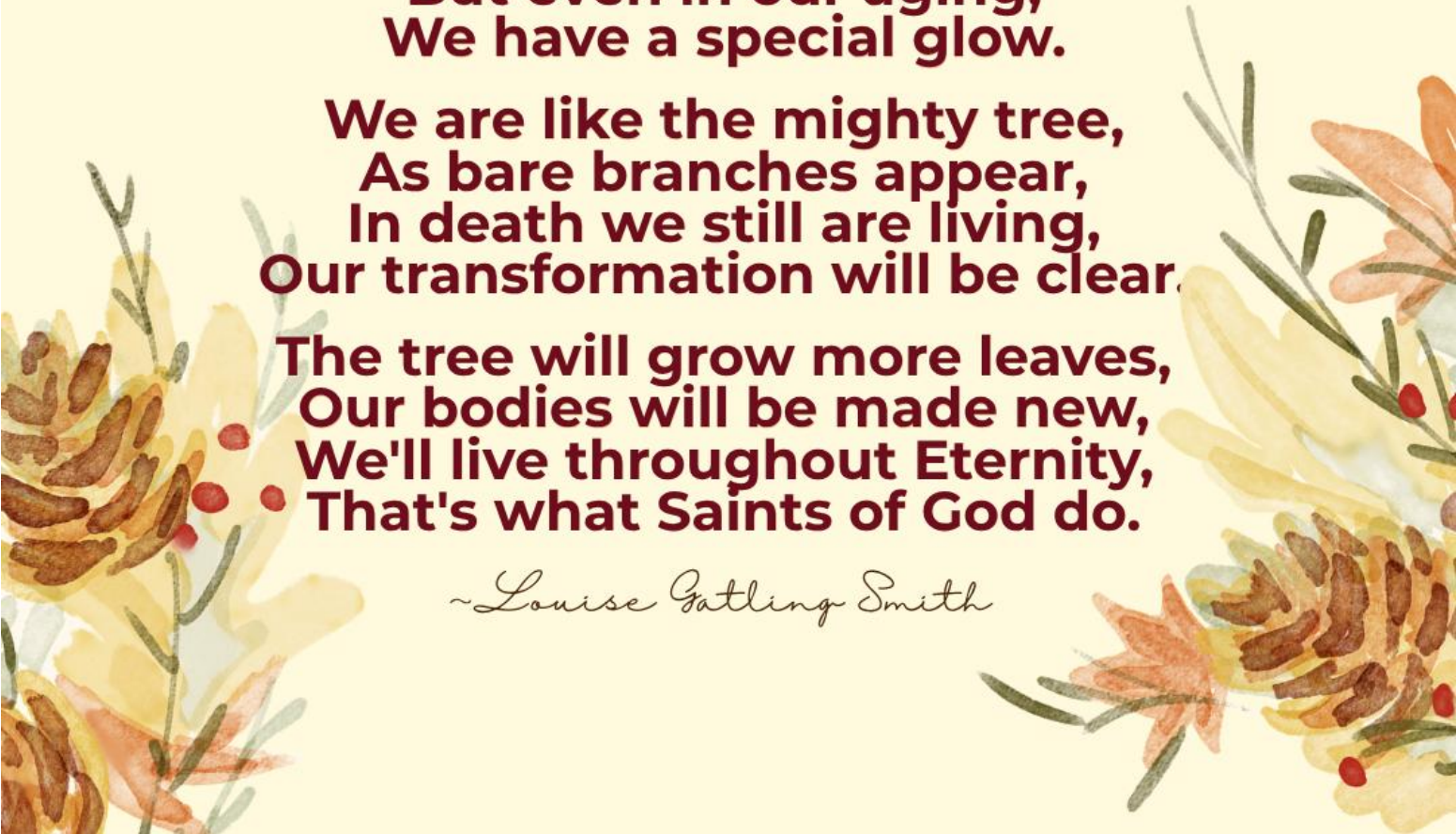
**The colors are amazing,
The bronze, the gold and red,
Even in their shedding,
I know the tree's not dead.**

**We too have change of Seasons,
As the years come and go,
But even in our aging,
We have a special glow.**

**We are like the mighty tree,
As bare branches appear,
In death we still are living,
Our transformation will be clear.**

**The tree will grow more leaves,
Our bodies will be made new,
We'll live throughout Eternity,
That's what Saints of God do.**

~Louise Gatling Smith





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The Olive Branch

© published by

Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024
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