

Senior Pastor
Dr. Wayne Guynn

Youth Pastor
Rev. Brady Bassett

Church Secretary
Mrs. Debbie Wilson

Treasurer
Mrs. Sandra Ittner

Choir Director/Pianist
Mrs. Jan Vaughan

Chairman of Deacons
Mr. Steve Carroll

Christian Leadership Director
Mr. Jimmy Murray

The Olive Branch

From Your Pastor

This past year has been like nothing we've lived through in our lifetimes. It certainly hasn't been the worst year in human history by any means. And it's likely you have personally had worse years in your own life. However, the global scale of the pandemic has made this year different for everyone. Furthermore, although there have been global pandemics in the past, none have happened during our lifetimes. One of the words I would use to describe this unique year is "loss." Tragically we have lost friends and family who have died from the virus. Many have lost income or employment. We've lost close human interaction because of isolation. We've lost freedom as government has restricted our activities and imposed curfews. We've lost civility as the response to the pandemic has divided our country even further. We've lost a host of experiences including vacations, family gatherings, movies, sporting events, church activities, and school. And even if the loss we've had was for the greater good to prevent more loss of life, it doesn't take away the emotional impact of the loss we've experienced.

With loss comes grief, anxiety, stress, and depression. I would imagine every person on the planet has felt these emotions multiple times in the last year. And even though we are more hopeful as vaccines exist and virus cases decline, grief, anxiety, stress and depression will be with us for quite a while. Why? There is still a lot of anxiety about the future. How quickly are governments going to drop all restrictions? How long will mask wearing and social distancing be the "rule" for human interaction - another year or two? Or maybe they will become the new normal "forever" to prevent flu and other contagious illnesses. How has our children's education been affected? What about the jobs, institutions, cultural norms, and ways of living that have been lost and will never come back? What will the new standards of communication, human relationships, public interaction, education, and church activity be? As things are getting better, none of us are naïve enough to believe a day is coming when this pandemic is over, and everything will go back to the way it was. So even now we anxiously wait for the future.

However, there is good news! When there is loss and uncertainty about the future there can still be joy! How? Because God gives joy regardless of the circumstances. Why? Because the things that can give Christians joy have nothing to do with the stressful and uncertain circumstances in which we may find ourselves. The apostle Paul was under house arrest in Rome when he wrote his letter to the Philippians. There was plenty Paul could have complained and stressed about. He was imprisoned. While he was imprisoned and couldn't visit the church's he planted, false teachers were visiting and trying to spread false doctrine. Also, in Paul's absence, people were preaching the gospel with the wrong motives. Furthermore, the church in Philippi had problems with unity. Yet with all this happening, the book of Philippians is an optimistic letter where Paul in four short chapters speaks of joy and rejoicing fourteen times including twice in 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" As we continue the joy of Easter's proclamation of Jesus' resurrection and anticipate the pandemic waning, I wanted to explore this gem of Christ-centered joy on Sunday mornings. For the next two months we will study the book of Philippians together and learn there is Joy in friendship, proclaiming the gospel, living for Christ, unity, serving, knowing God, knowing our future, God's peace and contentment. Join us Sunday mornings personally or virtually to be encouraged by this uplifting book!

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2021!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Easter 10:00 - Resurrection Svc. 10:30 - Easter Worship Service	5 [-----]	6 -----(MCPS	7 Spring Break -----]	8 -----	9 -----	10
11 2:00p - WOM (FH)	12 6:00p - Deacon Meeting	13	14 7:00p - 8:30p YC, BOC, SG	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 7:00p - 8:30p YC, BOC, SG	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 7:00p - 8:30p YC, BOC,	29	30	

Services each Sunday

- 9:00a Traditional Worship Service (in CLC)
- 10:10a Sunday School
- 11:00a Contemporary Worship Service (in CLC)

YC: Young Church (6th - 12th) BOC: Boys of Courage (1st - 5th) SG: Sunshine Girls (1st - 5th) GYL: God's Young Ladies (Girls 5th-12th) CLC: Christian Life Center (behind the main church building)

OBBC NEWS

Easter Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 4, 2021



- 10:00 AM Resurrection Celebration:** Come and join us in the church cemetery for a brief devotion and singing of traditional Easter hymns. *There will be no 9:00 AM Service or Sunday School this Sunday.*
- 10:30 AM Easter Worship & Communion Service:** Please join us in the Christian Life Center as we worship and celebrate our Risen Savior. We will also be celebrating with the Lord's Supper. The Living Cross will be displayed during the service. Please bring fresh flowers to add to the Living Cross.

HONORARY DEACON RECOGNITION

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Olive Branch is very thankful for the service deacons provide as they stay in contact and care for the families of the church. Many of our deacons have served the Lord and Olive Branch families faithfully for several years. Some deacons serve faithfully for many years but then are unable to serve because of health reasons or age.

Honorary



The church recognizes such men's long and influential service by bestowing on them the title "Honorary Deacon." According to the church by-laws, "It shall be appropriate for the church to promote to honorary life membership any Deacon who, by reason of age or infirmities shall, after honorable service, be no longer able to render active service. As an honorary Deacon, he will be consulted for advice; however, he will not have a vote."

In light of Travis Belcher's many years of service as a deacon at Olive Branch the church will recognize him as an Honorary Deacon during the 9 am service on April 11th. Also, during the 11 am service we will remember the late Honorary Deacon, Jim Hitson.

The title "Honorary Deacon" is for living deacons and is not a title in memory of deacons who have passed. However, because we are adding a picture of Jim with Travis' picture to our Deacon Picture Wall, we also wanted to recognize Jim's exemplary years of service as a Deacon and Honorary Deacon. Please make a special effort to attend these services to show your appreciation for the life and service of these godly men.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Sonshine Girls and Boys of Courage (1st—5th graders) are back in full swing on Wednesday nights from 7:00 pm—8:30 pm and will meet through the end of May. The kids have a fun evening of food, games, crafts, and are continuing Bible study with the Gospel Project's, "A Kingdom Provided" from 1st & 2nd Samuel and 1st & 2nd Kings. All kids are invited. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend! Please have kids wear a mask.



YC TO SEE SKILLET IN CONCERT

Thursday, May 6, 2021

YC (grades 5th—12th) will be going to see the American Christian rock band, Skillet, on Thursday, May 6th at Roanoke Rapids Drive-In Theatre. The cost is \$20 per student and we only have 20 tickets available so they will be first come, first serve. Money is due to Brady by **Wednesday, April 14th**. Students will be leaving the church between 5:00 pm—5:30 pm. Details of exact times and transportation will be announced soon.

NEW BIBLE SERIES FOR YC

YC will be starting their new series on Apologetics on Wednesday, April 28th. This series will teach students how to better defend their beliefs and will look at the historical and scientific evidence of Christianity.



OBBC NURSERY

We are making plans to open our Nursery and Toddler ministry for both worship services and Sunday School as soon as possible. Of course, we will make every safety precaution possible for our children and workers. We truly encourage you to volunteer for this valuable

"MISSION PROGRAM" at OBBC and especially if you plan to use it for your children.

Our current plan is to have volunteers serve in both Sunday School and the second service on the Sundays they serve. In doing this, volunteers will only have to work every other month or possibly only once a quarter instead of every month as they had to do before the pandemic.

We would also like to add a few hired workers with the volunteers. The hired workers would run the nursery and toddler ministry in the first service and serve alongside volunteers in Sunday School and the second service. They would also bring better organization and familiarity to the parents each Sunday.

To help us to move forward, please contact the church office at 434-636-2228 or email to office@obbcblackridge.com by **Sunday, April 11, 2021**, and let us know if:

1. Would you be willing to volunteer for the Nursery/Toddler ministry?
2. Would you agree with hiring staff in addition to volunteers for the Nursery/Toddler ministry?



No Lunch Buddies on Wednesday, April 7th - It's Spring Break!

Last Day of Lunch Buddies this year is Wednesday, May 12th



Sunday School Attendance

02/28	58
03/07	80
03/14	49
03/21	68
Average	63.75

The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline to submit information for the May 2021 newsletter, is April 20, 2021.



Contact Information

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APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Richard & Cheryl Parrish
- 2 Mae Jones
- 4 Roy Johnson
- 4 Heather O'Quinn
- 4 Bill Perry
- 5 Robert & Deborah Ezell
- 5 Jack & Shannon Griffin
- 7 Steve & Tammy White
- 9 Van, III & Traci Sykes
- 10 Kaci Brown
- 10 Steve Carroll
- 11 Mike Corwin
- 13 Robbie Smith
- 13 Traci Sykes
- 14 Mary Howerin
- 15 Elijah Tyler
- 16 T. J. Garnes
- 16 Amy Gosney
- 16 Raymond Singleton
- 18 Peggy Harris
- 21 Heather Corwin
- 21 Tracey Moseley
- 21 Mary Mosier
- 21 Claire Wright
- 22 Sam Gill
- 23 Tim & Sandra Ittner
- 23 Hannah Fowler (Priest)
- 24 Richard & Peggy Harris
- 24 Melanie Wright
- 27 Katherine Mosier
- 28 Sherry Stanbach
- 29 Wanda Bailey
- 30 Nellie Tolbert



OLIVE BRANCH
BAPTIST CHURCH

5223 Blackridge Road
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PROCLAIMING PEACE WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND TO THE WORLD / "Peace I leave with you." - Jesus - John 14:27