

May 2026



The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church

5223 Blackridge Road, Blackridge, VA 23950

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www.obbcbblackridge.com

From Your Pastor

Greetings To All:

I want to begin this newsletter by saying a big, heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your support in calling me to be your Senior Pastor. I especially want to thank the Pastor Search Committee under the leadership of brother Pete English and our Chairman of Deacons, brother Steve Carroll, for their tireless dedication to this church and the Kingdom of God. When you see Dale, Sarah, Daniel, Cheyenne, and Pete from the Search Committee and Steve as our Chairman of Deacons, please make sure you thank each of them for their service.

As we begin our new journey here at Olive Branch, please know that Pastor Roger and I covet your prayers. It is very obvious that God has brought us together for such a time as this. God has great plans for Olive Branch, and it will be exciting to see what He is going to do. However, we need to remember to continually place our church and one another before the Lord in prayer. I am a strong believer in prayer. Jesus taught us that we ought always to pray. If it was important for Jesus to pray to the Father, how much more important is it for each of us to pray?

As your new pastor, I see my role as one of exhibiting servant leadership. Jesus exemplified this perfectly in the New Testament. He tells us that he did not come to be served but to serve. I consider it an absolute joy to serve you as your pastor. As I minister to you, care for you, and love you, my prayer is that we can each become more like our Savior as we love and serve one another.

I look forward to serving you as a servant leader and helping you in any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

In His Name

Pastor Ronnie West
Senior Pastor
Olive Branch Baptist Church



OBBC NEWS

Attention all Seniors!!

METS will gather for their last time this season on Thursday, May 14th in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. We hope you will join us for a devotion, a celebration of our nation's 250th Birthday, and an all-American meal! To RSVP please sign up in the Welcome Center or contact the church office, via phone or email, by Sunday, May 10th!

Our first gathering of our 6th year of METS will be Thursday, September 10, 2026.

Monday, May 18 | 7 pm | Sanctuary
See Bulletin for Proposed Bylaw Change

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING



Lake Service

Sunday, June 7 @ 11 am

- Let Pastor Ronnie or Pastor Roger know if you want to be baptized by May 31.
- Sign up in Welcome Center with how many in your family will be attending.
- Lunch: If your last name begins with A-I please bring a side dish. If J-Z please bring a dessert.



Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

Teachers, Helpers, Substitutes

Help weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or just for the summer.

We have volunteers who are taking vacation, maternity leave, etc. for the summer.

SUNDAY: Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Church (Infant – 5th grade)

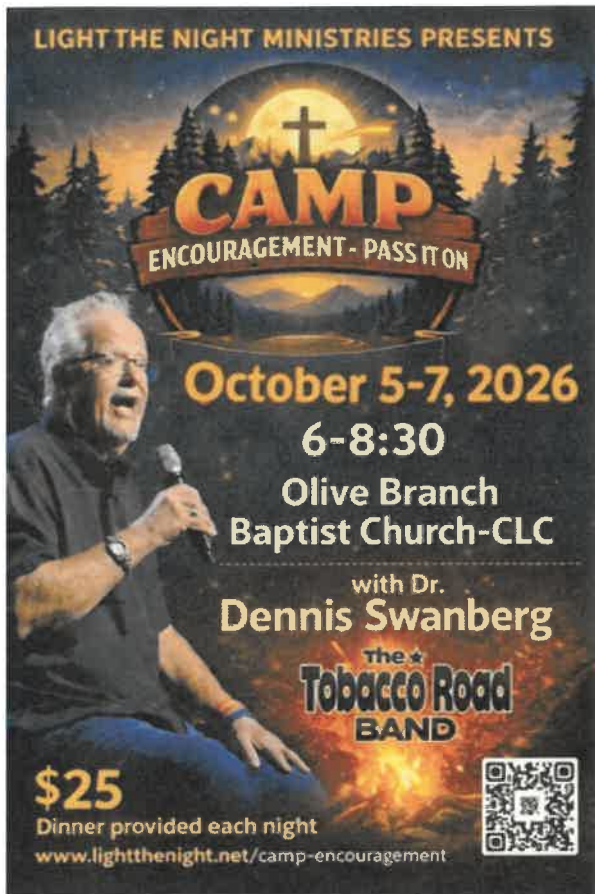
Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and **do not hinder them**, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Please contact Joanne Paynter our Sunday School Director & Director of Christian Education or Pastor Roger TODAY if you can help.

OBBC NEWS

LIGHT THE NIGHT MINISTRIES PRESENTS




CAMP
ENCOURAGEMENT - PASS IT ON

October 5-7, 2026
6-8:30
Olive Branch Baptist Church-CLC

with Dr. **Dennis Swanberg**
The **Tobacco Road BAND**

\$25
Dinner provided each night
www.lightthenight.net/camp-encouragement



Details on the on the OBBC App and Website



GRADUATION SUNDAY
Honoring OUR Students
May 17

We will recognize OBBC High School, College, and Military graduates on **Sunday, May 17, 2026**. If you are a graduate, please submit the following information to the church office or Pastor Roger by May 10th.

1. Graduate Name (First/MI/Last)
2. School or Branch of Service
3. Degree and Area of Study
4. Which worship service you plan to attend
5. Please submit a graduation photo (or equivalent) on a flash drive OR via email to Pastor Wayne at pastorwayne@obbcbblackridge.com We would like high school students to submit 6-12 photos panning across birth to your senior year of high school.

Worship Service Attendance

3/29	159
4/5	190 (Easter)
4/12	167
4/19	169
4/26	152 (Combined)

Sunday School Attendance

3/29	55
4/5	Easter
4/12	83
4/19	75
4/26	69

Wednesday
PRAYER GATHERING



Meets at 6:00 pm in Room 11

WOM/BGAV Updates



HAPPY
Mothers
DAY

Sunday, May 3rd
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm

Missions

YUGO
Mission 2026
Mexico House Build
July 19-25

Opportunities to help:

- Pray for the OBBC team, new homeowners, and YUGO staff!
- Brunswick Stew: January 24 – Pre-order form in Welcome Center
- Love Offering - Toward the mission trip, including for house materials costing \$7500+

Scan & select "YUGO Mission 2026" to give



IMPACT MISSION CAMPS - MECKLENBURG COUNTY 2026

Impact Mission Camps is a youth construction mission camp coming back to Mecklenburg County this summer! OBBC students who will complete 6th grade this spring through 12th grade are encouraged to participate. Adults are needed as well.

Ways to support: Adults may participate in Impact by preparing and serving meals to the students and workers through the Disaster Response Team. You can also support this mission through prayers and donations. First, we cannot do God's work without Him! Second, we ask for donations, so that missions in our community can continue. Donations can be made directly to the Concord Baptist Association. Envelopes are provided in the Welcome Center and Vestibule. For more information you can contact Laurie Wright, Team Leader, at lauriewright5749@gmail.com.

Come help make a difference in Mecklenburg County as we assist homeowners that are in need of help.

Children's & YC (Young Church) News



May 6th will be the last Awana meeting for this school year! We start back up in September!

**Meets each
Wednesdays from
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**



For children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Help is needed!



For more info or to help
please contact
Michael Smith



D3 Youth Ministry

Each

**Wednesday from
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

For youth in 6th through 12th Grade



For more info or to help please contact
Pastor Roger

Education Moment from Director of Christian Education & Sunday School

I Don't like to read the Bible, does that make me a horrible person?

No, not at all. If we're honest, we've all felt like that at some point. But have you thought it could be the translation that you are using. Look at what Scripture says about God's Word, read it in four different translations. And there are many more than those four, but we need to learn what translations are better for each of us at this time in our spiritual walk and know which ones are more reliable and ones to avoid.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, in order that the person of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. **[LEB]** *Formal translation* – a Word for Word of the original manuscripts written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **[NIV]** *Moderate (formal) translation* on the farther side of the formal scale, leans somewhat more towards functional than formal.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach what is true and to make realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. **[NLT]** *Functional translation* - Thought for Thought

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of make us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. **[TLB]** *Paraphrase* – rephrases and restructures sentences from the original text to promote clarity and understanding for today's readers / hearers. Some paraphrases versions are respected and enjoyed but they can be controversial due to straying too far from the original language of the Bible.

Bible translations are extremely valuable tools to help us understand God's Word, but we must remember it was the original manuscripts that were actually inspired by God. God's Word is perfect but not the translators. A translator's responsibility is to faithfully transmit God's Word – Scripture – and heed God's warning against adding or taking away anything from it. [Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19].

A translation like KJV may be a brilliant translation but if modern-day readers cannot understand it and even worse interpret it incorrectly, it is not as a valuable tool like it was for readers in the seventeenth century and beyond. No one speaks Old English anymore. Therefore, it is incredibly important to use a translation that meets the need of the situation at hand. For example, a new believer and a serious student of the Word will need different translations, perhaps a paraphrase version versus a formal version.

Let's start with Bible translations to avoid are as follows:

- The New World Translation (Jehovah's Witnesses -alters deity)
- The Joseph Smith Translation (distorted revision of KJV used by Mormon church).
- The Passion Translation (highly inaccurate, single-translator's work that adds content that's not found in the original manuscripts; it is more of a paraphrase version than translation.)
- The Message (Paraphrase by Eugene Peterson, not good for serious Bible study, lacks word-for-word accuracy, BUT good for reading.

Paraphrasing can skew scripture through the individual's interpretation. Some paraphrase version(s) can be closer to translation than just a retelling of the events and stories in the Bible.

For study use a Formal Translation such as these six that are frequently recommended:

- LEB is the Lexham English Bible that is modern and extremely literal English translation while maintaining the Original Greek and Hebrew word order. It is primarily digital – Bible apps such as Bible Gateway and integrated in the LOGOS Bible Software.
 - NASB is true to the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek manuscripts. It was a 1971 revision of the American Standard Bible of 1901 and has been updated in 1995 and 2020; remains a Bible for deep study.
 - CSB is a 21st century translation (2017) a revision of the HCSB (2004) either one is accurate
 - ESV is also a 21st century translation based on the RSV translation and manages to maintain a KJV feel while being readable and understandable.
 - NKJV is the modern update to the KJV while maintaining the beauty and poetic text. Easier to read and understand than the KJV.
 - NIV is a popular translation for decades due to balancing dynamic thought-for-thought with formal word-for-word translations.
- For the new believer and the serious student, it is highly recommended to find a reputable study Bible such as:
- Nelson Study Bible
 - Life Application Study Bible
 - MacArthur Study Bible – Just note that 5-point Calvinism is strongly applied in this Bible. Baptists teach and believe that salvation is for "ALL" for everyone and not just a few chosen people over the centuries.

At this time, I cannot recommend:

- The Tony Evans Study Bible (significant theological concerns r/t "Trans-dispensationalism" that are discussed in this study bible, and then there are critics with concerns around his teachings on original sin and salvation, teachings lean toward modalism -the idea that the Trinity exists in only one manifestation at a time rather than simultaneously. And he has stepped away from his role as a pastor due to falling short of the high standard of Scripture. A discussion for another day.)

I hope this has been helpful for you or perhaps something you can use to help guide a loved one or friend who is "stuck" or discouraged with personal bible time.

Because He lives,
Joanne Paynter - Sunday School/ Christian Education Director

Camp Concord NEWS

Camp Concord News

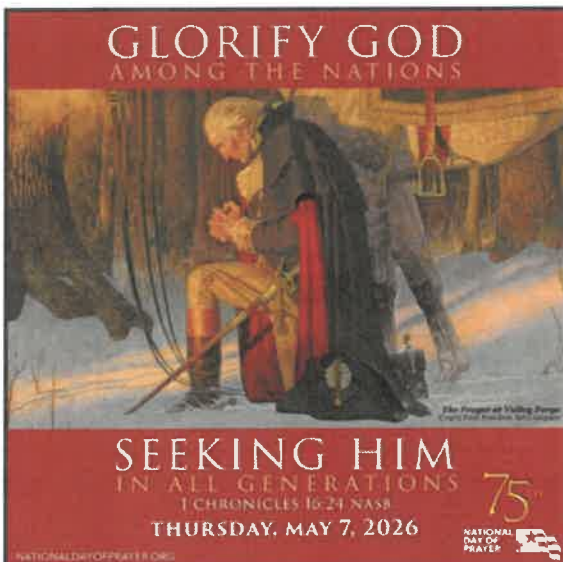
Brochures and registration forms are in the Welcome Center or you can go to the website www.campconcordva.com to register and pay online.



A sign for Camp Concord 2026 Schedule is posted on a wooden post. The sign lists various activities and their dates. The background shows a lake and trees.

Camp Concord 2026 Schedule	
Girls Week Grades 6-8:	June 7-10
Day Camp 1:	June 13
Boys Week Grades 4-5:	June 14-17
2nd & 3rd Grade Overnight:	June 19-20
Boys Week Grades 6-8:	June 21-24
Young Ladies Retreat (9-12 grade):	June 26-28
2nd & 3rd Grade Week 1:	June 28-July 1
Worship Week (6-12 grade):	July 5-8
Day Camp 2:	July 11
2nd & 3rd Grade Week 2:	July 12-15
Girls Week Grades 4-5:	July 19-22
Youth Week (6-12 grade):	July 26-29
Father/Son Weekend:	July 31-August 1

Area Happenings



A poster for 'Seeking Him' featuring a painting of a man in a dark robe kneeling in prayer. The text includes 'GLORIFY GOD AMONG THE NATIONS', 'SEEKING HIM IN ALL GENERATIONS', '1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB', 'THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026', and '75th NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER'.

GLORIFY GOD
AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM
IN ALL GENERATIONS
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

75th
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

La Crosse Baptist Church

**Thursday May 7, 2026
7:00 pm**

**All are Welcome to Pray for our Nation
Light Refreshments After**



A poster for 'Light the Night Spring Gathering' with a fiery background and a central cross. The text includes 'LIGHT THE NIGHT SPRING GATHERING', 'SUIT UP', and 'Thursday, May 28th from 6 pm - 9 pm New Hope Baptist Church in South Hill, VA'.

LIGHT THE NIGHT
SPRING GATHERING

SUIT UP

Thursday, May 28th from 6 pm - 9 pm
New Hope Baptist Church in South Hill, VA



Happy Birthday



- 1 Claudia Cropper
- 2 Bill Wells
- 3 Ed Smith
- 4 Georgie Rudd
- 4 Laurie Wright
- 6 Sarah Gergory
- 9 Mackenzie Gregory
- 9 Chloe Anderson
- 10 Carmyn Farmer
- 12 Stacy Jenkins
- 12 Don Parrott
- 14 Jackson Moody
- 14 Danny Newton
- 15 Richard Harris
- 18 Kayden Gittman
- 20 Kirsten Phillips
- 22 Camden Brown
- 23 Tammy Robinson-White
- 24 Brian Mosier
- 25 Hannah Powell
- 26 Jamie Murray
- 30 Camden Moody

Happy Anniversary

- 6 Denny & Cathy Hardee
- 14 Will & Brenda Gill
- 16 Stephen & Rebecca Clary
- 18 Rodney & Kathy Bledsoe
- 19 Brad & Sarah Jones
- 19 Don & Kathryn Parrott
- 25 Brady & Lora Bassett
- 27 Curtis & Jennifer Tylerr
- 29 Chris & Kim Brown



OBBC Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
May 3	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Janeva Hutcheson	Julia Braddy	Lynn Paquette
May 10	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Janeva Hutcheson	Sandra Ittner	Vance Wright
May 17	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Jessie Paquette	Wanda Watson
May 24	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Cindy Clevinger	Jessie Paquette
May 31	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Cheryl Parrish	Mackenzie Salmons

Staff & Officers

Senior Pastor

Rev. Ronnie West
rwest@obbcbblackridge.com

Associate Pastor of Youth and Families

Rev. Roger Stanley
pastorroger@obbcbblackridge.com

Church Secretary & Treasurer

Mrs. Sandra Ittner
office@obbcbblackridge.com
finance@obbcbblackridge.com

Choir Director/Pianist

Mrs. Jan Vaughan

Worship Leader

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor

Custodian/Maintenance

Mr. George Kidd

Chairman of Deacons

Mr. Steve Carroll

Personnel Officer

Mr. Michael Smith

Financial Officer

Mr. Jay Eubanks

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2

3
Baby/Child
Dedication
2:00 pm WOM
Meeting

4 5
7:00pm Choir

6
6:00 Prayer
Gathering
6:30-8:00pm
D3, Awana

7
9:00 am National
Day of Prayer (LBC)

8 9

10



6:30pm Deacons
Meeting

11 12
7:00pm Choir

13
6:00 pm Prayer
Gathering
6:30-8:00 pm -
D3 Youth

14 15
11:00am- 1:00pm
METS

16

17

Graduate
Recognition Day

18 19
7:00pm Choir

20
6:00 pm Prayer
Gathering
6:30-8:00 pm -
D3 Youth

21 22 23

24

25



7:00 pm Qtrly
Business Meeting

26
7:00pm Choir

27
6:00 pm Prayer
Gathering
6:30-8:00 pm -
D3 Youth

28 29 30

6-9pm LTN
Gathering @ New
Hope

D3 Youth Work
Day