November 2026

The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church
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From Your Pastor

Greetings To Everyone:

Thanksgiving: A Heart of Gratitude

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting." — Psalm 107:1 (NASB)

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of the importance of pausing amid our busy lives to reflect on the goodness of God. Thanksgiving is more than a holiday filled with family gatherings, delicious meals, and cherished traditions. From a biblical perspective, Thanksgiving is an opportunity to recognize God's faithfulness, celebrate His blessings, and express our gratitude for His unfailing love.

The Bible teaches us that gratitude should be a way of life, not simply something we practice one day each year. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, the apostle Paul writes, **"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."** Notice that Scripture calls us to give thanks in every circumstance. This does not mean that every circumstance is good or that we will never experience sorrow, disappointment, or hardship. Rather, it means that even in difficult seasons, we can trust that God remains faithful, His promises remain true, and His presence never leaves us.

Remember the Goodness of God

One of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is becoming so focused on what we lack that we forget what God has already provided. We can become consumed with our problems, our worries, and our plans for tomorrow while overlooking the blessings that surround us today.

The psalmist declared in Psalm 103:2, **"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."** We must intentionally remember God's goodness. Every breath we take, every opportunity to serve, every expression of love, and every day of His sustaining grace reminds us that we have much for which to be thankful.

As a church family, we can thank God for His Word, the fellowship of believers, the privilege of worship, and the opportunity to share the gospel with others. We can also thank Him for the ways He has carried us through seasons of uncertainty and strengthened us when our faith was tested.

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Give Thanks in Every Season

It is easy to give thanks when life is going well. However, genuine faith learns to trust God even when the road is difficult. Some families may celebrate Thanksgiving this year with empty chairs around the table. Others may face financial concerns, illness, loneliness, or the loss of someone they love.

For those experiencing difficult circumstances, the message of Thanksgiving is not that we must pretend everything is fine. Instead, we can bring our pain to God while remembering that He is still our refuge, strength, and hope.

Habakkuk 3:17–18 describes a time when the prophet faced the possibility of losing his crops and his livelihood. Yet he declared that he would rejoice in the Lord and take joy in the God of his salvation. His circumstances were uncertain, but his confidence in God remained firm.

Our gratitude is not based solely on what God gives us; it is also rooted in who God is. He is faithful when life is uncertain, loving when we feel alone, and present when we walk through difficult valleys.

Let Our Thanksgiving Lead to Generosity

Biblical thanksgiving should move beyond our words and become visible in our actions. When we recognize how generously God has blessed us, we should become more willing to bless others.

Jesus taught us to love our neighbors, care for those in need, and serve with compassion. Thanksgiving provides a wonderful opportunity to reach out to a lonely neighbor, encourage a struggling family, provide a meal for someone in need, or offer a word of hope to someone who is hurting.

As Christians, we are called not only to count our blessings but also to share them. Our gratitude becomes a testimony when others see the love of Christ demonstrated through our lives.

Above All, Be Thankful for Jesus

Of all the blessings we could name, none compares with the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Because of His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, we have the opportunity to be forgiven, reconciled to God, and given the hope of eternal life.

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Second Corinthians 9:15 declares, **“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”** The greatest expression of God's love is found in Jesus Christ. Our homes, families, health, and material possessions are precious gifts, but the gift of salvation reaches beyond this life and into eternity.

This Thanksgiving, let us make room at the center of our celebrations for the One who has given us every good thing. Let us thank Him for His mercy, praise Him for His faithfulness, and commit ourselves anew to serving Him.

A Thanksgiving Challenge

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, take a few moments to share one thing for which you are thankful. Then consider how you can express that gratitude through an act of kindness, a word of encouragement, or an opportunity to serve someone in need.

May we never allow Thanksgiving to become merely a date on the calendar. Instead, may it remind us to cultivate grateful hearts throughout the year.

A thankful heart recognizes God's goodness, trusts His faithfulness, and shares His love with others.

From our church family to yours, may you have a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving, filled with gratitude for God's abundant grace and the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.



OBBC NEWS



Olive Branch Baptist Church
Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon
for Adult Group Homes
Christian Life Center
Wednesday, November 25th, 2026
Lunch at 12 noon

Fall is here! Time to show some love to our local adult group homes!

It should be a great morning of serving and sharing the love of Christ through this act of kindness. Be looking out on FB, OBBC App/Website and the church bulletin for details. We will be preparing meals from 8am to 12am on the morning of Wednesday, November 25th in the CLC and begin serving around noon. We need volunteers to set up, serve & clean up. We also need preparers in the kitchen, to cut up turkeys & hams, preparing potatoes & green beans, as well as set up drink & dessert tables.

Here are the guests who have been invited to participate:

- Alberta Day Support Group
- Ashley Manor
- Brunswick Day Support Group
- Holly Haven, SBH
- Hope House, SBH
- Northview Group Home
- Palmer Springs Group Home
- Palmer Springs Hazel's Home
- Palmer Springs Asst. Living Home
- South Hill Group Home
- Southside Behavioral Health Community Support Center
- Raven's Nest, Chase City
- OBBC Shut-Ins

How Can I Help?

- **Turkeys** --- We need church members to provide 14 cooked and ready to go turkeys. Please have at the CLC by 9:00 am, on Wednesday. We can slice the morning of the luncheon.
- **Hams** --- We need church members to provide 11 spiral cut fully cooked hams. Please have at the CLC by 9:00 am.
- **Side Dishes --- We are NOT asking for side dishes**. The church will be providing potatoes, gravy, dressing, green beans & rolls.
- **Desserts --- Yes We NEED them!** Any dessert you care to bring, make plenty! Please have dessert in disposable containers and bring to the CLC by 9am.
- **Volunteers:** We need people to provide the food items above, preparers in the kitchen, set up & clean up teams, table servers, and drivers to deliver meals to OBBC shut-ins.

RSVP to: Patti Smith for bringing food and/or volunteering.
Her cell phone number is: 434.774.0602
Email: pattismith_123@yahoo.com
EVENT COORDINATOR: Steve Carroll, Director of Missions
If you have any questions,
His cell phone number is: 434.247.9930
Email: scarroll1957@gmail.com

OBBC NEWS

METS Senior Ministry!!

Our next METS gathering for our Seniors will be **Thursday, November 12th, from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in th eFellowship Hall.** After our devotion we will hear from Kelly Hancock from the American Civil War Museum about the history of Richmond's involvement in the Civil War. This will be an interesteing journey back in history. We hope you will join us. Also, we will have our annual collection of non-pershiable food fo rthe Bracey Food Pantry, so you may bring a few items for donation. Our winter excursion will be Sunday, December 6th to a 3:00 pm showing of the Nutcracker at the McGregor Center in Henderson. More details and sign-up will be at the November gathering. The cost will be $10/person. Space is limited. Last but not least we will have a sign-up for those inmterested in giving their time to ring a bell for the Salvation Army at the Walmart store on December 19th. Please sign up to attend the November METS gathering in the Welcome Center or contact the church office by Sunday, November 8th.

Toys for Bland County Ministry Center

Dedication Sunday, November 29, 2026

The WOM is sponsoring the collection of toys and other items for Bland County Ministry Center in Bland County, VA. Each Christmas the center reaches out to families in need providing toys and gifts for the children and teens, and food boxes for the families. WOM is supporting this ministry by collecting new donated toys and other items to help fill Wish Lists of the children and teens. Below are some suggested items. Please place donated items in the collection boxes located in the Welcome Center by **Sunday, November 29th.**

Any Age:

- Lego Sets
- Art/Science Kits
- Sports Balls
- Board/Card Games
- Plush Blankets

For Little Kids:

- Barbies
- Action Figures
- Baby Dolls
- Hot Wheels/Match Box Cars
- Puzzles
- Books
- Dress up sets
- Anything with characters the kids see on TV shows

For Teenagers:

- Make Up & Hair Stuff
- Scarves, beanies
- Purses
- Tools
- Hoodies (Small to XL adult)
- Car Wash
- Fishing Stuff (boys & girls)
- Large size water bottles (non-insulated)
- Age-appropriate things from the "Any Age" list.



OBBC NEWS







Do not forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday night, October 31st





Sunday School Attendance

10/4	94
10/11	82
10/18	72
10/25	73

Worship Service Attendance

10/4	173 (Swanberg)
10/11	134
10/18	160 (Baby Ded.)
10/25	147

Children's & D3 - Youth News

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

Awana Clubs

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

T&T

For more info or to help please contact
Michael Smith

Sparks

D3 Youth Ministry

Each
Wednesday from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

For youth in 6th through 12th Grade

Olive Branch Baptist Church
D3
Discover Discern Disciple

For more info or to help please contact
Pastor Roger

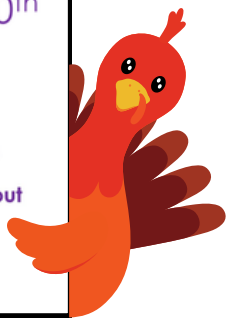
God's Young Ladies

Friday,
November 6th & 20th

Every other Friday
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Girls in 5th – 12th grades

Focus on issues that girls face, and what the Bible says about dealing with them.

Also - Fellowship, Snacks, Crafts, Special Events





D3 Youth will be helping with the Thanksgiving Luncheon on **Wednesday, November 25th in the CLC. We'll prepare meals from 8:00 am until noon in the CLC and begin serving around noon.** We need volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up. and set up drink and dessert tables.






LIGHT THE NIGHT PRIME
PRESENTS
ERNIE HAASE &
SIGNATURE SOUND
LIVE IN SOUTH HILL
LIGHT THE NIGHT
LN
MINISTREES
APRIL 18, 2027


Happy
Thanksgiving

Happy Birthday



3 Donna Coleman
4 Aidan Gregory
5 Conner Watson
7 Elizabeth Smith
8 Shirley Gittman
8 Linda Parham
12 Megan Ittner
12 Elaine Jonas
12 Bernard Robinson
12 Owen Toler
13 Kitty Basham
14 Glen Robinson
14 Morgan Uribe
15 Gretchen Robinson
16 Gloria Patterson
17 Susie Tolbert
19 Adrienne Robinson
21 Brenda George
23 George Kidd
23 Rickelle Murray
25 Roger Stanley
26 Dell Conner
29 Jackson Moseley
29 Kelsey Moseley
29 Lillian Murray
29 Joanna Powell

Happy Anniversary

12 Randy & Mackenzie Salmons
23 Tony & Kathy Rivera



OBBC Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
November 1	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Daniels	Sandra Ittner	Lynn Paquette
November 8	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Daniels	Jessie Paquette	Vance Wright
November 15	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Julia Braddy	Sarah Ittner	Wanda Watson
November 22	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Megan Ittner	Cheryl Parrish	Mackenzie Salmons
November 29	Cindy Clevinger	Jessie Paquette	Jessie Paquette
	Elizabeth Daniels	TBD	Lois Finch

Staff & Officers

Senior Pastor
Rev. Ronnie West
pastorronnie@obbcblackridge.com

Associate Pastor of Youth and Families
Rev. Roger Stanley
pastorroger@obbcblackridge.com

Church Secretary & Treasurer
Mrs. Sandra Ittner
office@obbcblackridge.com
finance@obbcblackridge.com

Choir Director/Pianist
Mrs. Jan Vaughan

Worship Leader
Ms. Elizabeth Taylor

Custodian/Maintenance
Mr. George Kidd

Chairman of Deacons
Mr. Tim Ittner

Personnel Officer
Mr. Michael Smith

Financial Officer
Mr. Jay Eubanks