

September 2026



The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church

5223 Blackridge Road, Blackridge, VA 23950

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www.obbcbblackridge.com

From Your Pastor

As we step out of the 2025-2026 church year and begin a new church year by God's grace, I want to first begin by thanking each and every one of you in making this a very successful year. On behalf of Pastor Roger and myself we say thank you. Also, I want to welcome our new 33 church members to the family. God has been so generous to us. Therefore, today I want us to look for a few moments at the signs of a healthy church. We see that a healthy church is not necessarily a large church, a wealthy church, or a church with impressive programs. A healthy church is one that is growing spiritually, loving genuinely, serving faithfully, and reaching people with the gospel. The early church in Acts 2 gives us a picture of what God desires His church to be.

A Healthy Church Is Grounded in God's Word

Acts 2:42 "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." In other words, a healthy church is a Bible-centered church. It is a church where the Word is preached faithfully, not man's opinions, but God's truth. We are told in 2 Timothy 4:2 – "Preach the word." It is also a church where the Word is taught consistently through Sunday School, small groups, Bible studies and discipleship. In addition, the Word is lived practically. It isn't enough to know the Bible; we must obey the Bible. A healthy church doesn't simply have the Bible in its pews—it has the Bible in its people.

A Healthy Church Practices Genuine Fellowship

Acts 2:42 "...and fellowship..."

Christianity was never intended to be lived alone. In a healthy church: people know one another, people care about one another, people encourage one another, people carry one another's burdens. **Galatians 6:2 says: "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."** A healthy church becomes a family, not merely a gathering. When someone walks through our doors, do they feel like a visitor—or like family?

A Healthy Church Is Devoted to Prayer

Acts 2:42 "...and in prayers..."

Prayer isn't something the church does before the real work begins, Prayer is the work. We pray for God's will. We pray for the lost. We pray for our families. We pray for our community. We pray for revival. Acts 4:31 gives us a powerful picture: **"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken..."** A healthy church is a praying church.

A Healthy Church Has a Heart for Worship

Acts 2:46-47 "Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." Healthy churches don't simply attend worship. They worship God. We worship God for who He is. We worship Him for what He has done. We worship Him even when circumstances are difficult. True worship isn't determined by how we feel when we walk into church. Worship is our response to the greatness of God.

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A Healthy Church Loves People

Acts 2:44–45 "And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need." The early believers demonstrated their love through action. A healthy church doesn't merely say: "We love people." It demonstrates that love. We care for people who are hurting. We help people who are struggling. We welcome people who are searching. We forgive people who have failed. We reach people who are far from God. Jesus said in **John 13:35** "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

A Healthy Church Serves

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus didn't come to be served. He came to serve. Therefore, healthy Christians don't continually ask: "What can the church do for me?" They ask: "What can I do for Christ and His church?" Everybody has a place to serve. Every believer has spiritual gifts. Everybody can make a difference. **1 Peter 4:10** reminds us that each believer has received a gift to use in serving others.

A Healthy Church Reaches the Lost

Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

A healthy church has an evangelistic heart. We tell people about Jesus. We invite people to church. We reach our community. We support missions. We pray for those who don't know Christ. The church isn't a holy huddle. We are called to go into the world. **Matthew 28:19**: "Go you therefore, and teach all nations..."

A Healthy Church Produces Spiritual Growth

Ephesians 4:15 "but speaking the truth in love, [we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ." The goal isn't simply to get people saved. The goal is to help people grow. A healthy church produces Christians who are:

- More loving
- More faithful
- More forgiving
- More generous
- More obedient
- More prayerful
- More Christlike

The question isn't simply, "How many people attend?" The better question is: "How many people are becoming more like Jesus?"

A Healthy Church Has Unity.

Ephesians 4:3 "being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Healthy churches don't agree about everything. But they agree on what matters most: **Jesus Christ**. We don't allow preferences to become divisions. We forgive one another. We put Christ above personal agendas. We work together for the kingdom. Satan wants to divide what God wants to multiply

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A Healthy Church Has a Kingdom Mindset

A healthy church doesn't exist merely for itself. It exists for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom. The question changes from: "What do I want?" To: "What does God want?" And from: "What's best for me?" To: "What's best for the kingdom?"

We could summarize the entire message with 10 words:

1. Biblical – We stand on God's Word.
2. Prayerful – We depend upon God.
3. Worshipful – We glorify God.
4. Loving – We care for people.
5. Unified – We work together.
6. Serving – We use our gifts.
7. Evangelistic – We reach the lost.
8. Discipling – We help believers grow.
9. Generous – We give ourselves and our resources.
10. Christ-centered – Jesus is the reason for everything.

A church can have a beautiful building and still be unhealthy. A church can have wonderful music and still be unhealthy. A church can have large crowds and still be unhealthy. But when a church is centered on Christ, grounded in Scripture, devoted to prayer, committed to fellowship, passionate about worship, loving toward people, willing to serve, and determined to reach the lost, that is a healthy church.

"If Jesus walked into our church this Sunday, what would He see?" Not just our programs. Not just our attendance. Not just our buildings. Would He see a church that looks like Him? Because ultimately, the healthiest church is a church that is becoming more like Jesus

OBBC NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Genesis Ministry Lunch Buddy Program

The 2026-2027 school year is almost here and the plans for serving La Crosse Elementary School through the Lunch Buddy program are beginning! We plan to start the program on Wednesday, September 16th, but to start, we need more Lunch Buddies to represent each class. Your commitment to join the children for lunch on Wednesdays during the school year and, when possible, visit them in their classroom to read a book or oversee an activity is welcomed with many smiling faces! If you're ready to be a Lunch Buddy, we need you!

Please contact Dale Bradley @

434-636-3785 or email her at dalenmikebradley@gmail.com for more information!



New Members Class

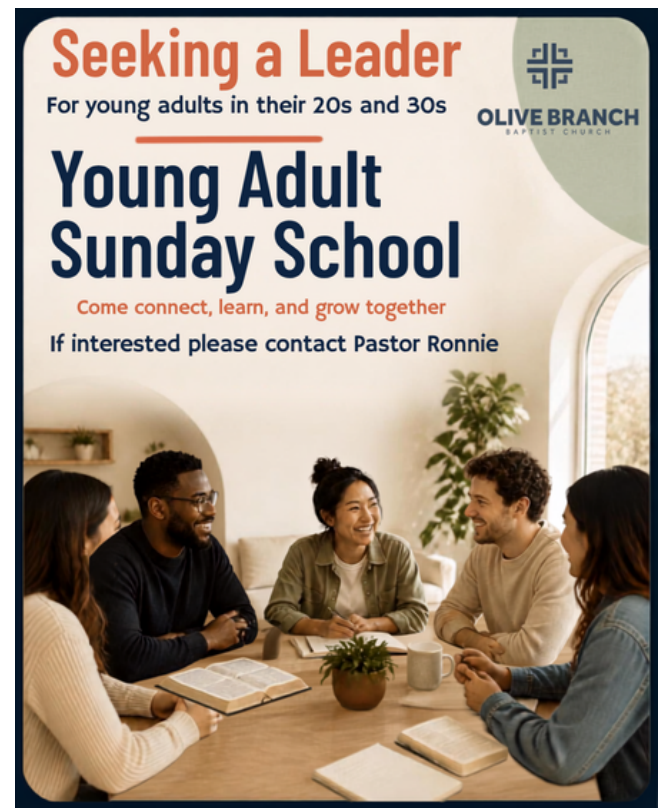
Starts Thursday, September 10th | at 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall | 11 Weeks

Open to members, new members, and anyone considering joining the church

You Belong Here

Faith Community Purpose

OLIVE BRANCH
BAPTIST CHURCH



Seeking a Leader

For young adults in their 20s and 30s

Young Adult Sunday School

Come connect, learn, and grow together

If interested please contact Pastor Ronnie

OLIVE BRANCH
BAPTIST CHURCH



Thursday, October 1st

Men's Fellowship

6:30 pm | Fellowship Hall



OBBC NEWS

METS Senior Ministry!!

Welcome to the METS 6th season! METS is our Senior Ministry open to all seniors who would like to join the festivities. We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month from September to May. In addition to our monthly gatherings we have service projects and 3 off-site excursions through the year. We also send home meals to our OBBC shut-ins each month. As you know METS stands for Meet, Eat, Travel, and Serve.

Our kick-off gathering for season 6 will be **Thursday, September 10, 2026 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the OBBC Fellowship Hall.** After a devotion we will "Get to Know our Pastors" by learning a little more about them and how they were led to the ministry, their hobbies, etc. and then enjoy a pizza lunch! We also will learn more details and sign-up for our Fall trip to John H. Kerr dam on Friday, Oct. 9th. We hope you will join us! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center or you can contact the church office by Sunday, Sept. 6th at 434-636-2228.



September 11, 2026
8:00 - 10:00pm

Come join us on Friday September 11th as we kick off the start of a new academic year in our children and youth ministries with an outdoor family movie night. Watch a family friendly movie on our huge outdoor movie screen while enjoying some popcorn, popsicles, and drinks.

Bring your blankets and chairs, pick your spot, and grab some popcorn.

Movie will begin around 8pm.



Sunday, September 13
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir will be starting Sunday, September 13th at 5:00 pm and welcomes anyone interested in playing.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Contact Donna at:

757-274-4834

Email: 849clmnva@gmail.com

OBBC NEWS

Small::: Groups

FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

Small Groups are taking a vacation this summer but we plan to resume regular meetings in August after school starts. If you are not yet plugged into a group, please consider how this ministry can strengthen your walk with God and His people. Ask anyone who is currently in a group about how this weekly activity has changed everything. If you would like to join us when we return, contact Wanda Bailey and she can help you get started.

Wednesday

PRAYER
GATHERING

Meets at 6:00 pm in Room 11

LIGHT THE NIGHT MINISTRIES PRESENTS



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



Saturday, September 26

10:00 am - Noon

Ephesus Baptist Church

Concord Baptist Association
Missions Project

This project has work for all ages. If you can lift 6 ounces of rice, there is a job for you. The goal is to pack meals that will be given to the hungry.

Help By: (1) Prayers, (2) Participate on the day,

(3) Financial Donation to help pay for the food. (So far only \$2,900 of \$6,100 has been collected)

Donations can be made out to

Concord Baptist Association, marked "Rise Against Hunger"

Sunday School Attendance

8/2	76
8/9	80
8/16	74
8/23	76

Worship Service Attendance

8/2	143
8/9	166
8/16	No count
8/23	159

Children's & D3 - Youth News



STARTS SEPTEMBER 16 

Join us for Bible lessons, games, fun and friendship!

Register today!



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



**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



Sunday

Move Up

We will have the “Move Up” Sunday for our Children that are moving up to a different age class on Sunday, September 13th!

Support D3 Youth Ministry

D3 Youth Ministry is selling T-shirts, long sleeves, performance shirts, and hoodies to help fund youth events for the 2026-2027 year! Every purchase helps our students participate in events—and helps make sure finances don't keep anyone from being able to join in on the fun.



Scan to shop and support





Happy Birthday



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Kathy Rivera | | |
| 1 | Teresa Robinson | | |
| 2 | Conner Franck | | |
| 3 | Monte Aleman | | |
| 5 | Barbara Fortner | 24 | Chris Brown |
| 5 | Annie Wall | 24 | Burlin Gregory |
| 6 | Rachel Stanley | 26 | Aleisha Jones |
| 8 | Stephen Clary | 27 | Kory Brown |
| 8 | Cindy Clevinger | 27 | Wanda Townsend |
| 15 | Linda Gage | 30 | Jackson Tyler |
| 16 | Dora Belcher | | |
| 17 | Marjorie Newton | | |
| 18 | Rodney Bledsoe | | |
| 20 | Sandra Ittner | | |
| 20 | Debbie Wilson | | |
| 21 | Becky Aleman | | |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Ed & Frances Baron |
| 5 | Sam & Donna Coleman |
| 5 | Owen & Joane Toler |
| 14 | Mike & Dora Smith |
| 16 | TJ & Deanna Nichols |
| 17 | Allen & Holly Robinson |
| 20 | Michael & Lindsey Smith |
| 21 | Carl & Jean Bagley |
| 28 | Hunter & Taylor Wells |
| 29 | Roger & Rachel Stanley |



OBBC Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
September 6	Julia Braddy	Jessie Paquette	Jessie Paquette
	Megan Ittner	Sandra Ittner	Vance Wright
September 13	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Cheryl Parrish	Lynn Paquette
September 20	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Megan Ittner	Cindy Clevinger	Wanda Watson
September 27	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Sarah Ittner	Mackenzie Salmons

Staff & Officers

Senior Pastor

Rev. Ronnie West
pastorronnie@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. Tim Ittner

Personnel Officer

Mr. Michael Smith

Financial Officer

Mr. Jay Eubanks