



CHURCH PROFILE

Olive Branch Church was founded in September 1879. Through the years, we have continued our commitment to Jesus Christ, His Word and His mission. We are committed to honoring the legacy of our past while also making every effort to reach the next generation so our witness for God doesn't fade from our community. Our vision and prayer are that of the psalmist, "Even while I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me, while I proclaim your power to another generation, your strength to all who are to come" Psalm 71:18.

Core Values

Multigenerational

We are very fortunate to have babies in the nursery, seniors in the pews, and everyone in between. Our multigenerational approach is reflected in two worship services with distinct styles. Our 9:00 am service features a choir and traditional music accompanied by a piano. Our 11:00 am service has contemporary music led by a band. Each service also has elements that complement the music style. We are also intentionally multigenerational in our commitment to serving children, youth, young adults, the middle-aged, and seniors through a variety of ministries that address their unique needs.

Excellence

Excellence isn't *being* the best since we are not competing to be superior to others. Nor is it *having* the best since obedience, faithfulness, and fruitfulness are not measured by possessions. We believe excellence is *doing* our best with all that God has entrusted to us. Our desire is that Olive Branch never settles for the mindset that says, "that's good enough for church." Instead, we strive to do everything in word and deed for the glory of God! We will use our resources, develop ministries, improve our methods, and strive to do all we can so more people will come to know Jesus as Savior and grow in their faith.

Presence

God showed His love through Jesus coming to be with us. He commands us to meet together to promote love and good deeds. And He sends us to share His love with those in need of salvation. Therefore, we are committed to being present in people's lives to show and teach them the love of Christ. We do this through a variety of internal ministries, including Sunday school classes, small groups and deacon ministry, as well as through diverse outreach efforts, such as youth camps, serving the elderly, and mission trips.

Mission Statement

Every church is commanded to worship God, teach the word of God, care for one another, and share the gospel in word and deed. Acts 2:42-47 describes the early church doing these things to great success. Olive Branch's mission statement affirms our commitment to these biblical commands and our desire to fulfill these God given purposes.

Mission Statement

Adopted on July 14, 1991

We, the members of Olive Branch Baptist Church, believers in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of God do commit ourselves to:

- Being active in worship, prayer, fellowship and Christian growth.
- Proclaim to all that Jesus Christ is the way to eternal life.
- Being active witnesses through our lifestyles to all persons.
- Be aware of the needs of our community and to ministering to those needs through local and world missions.

Articles of Faith

Many Southern Baptist churches adopt the doctrinal statement of the Southern Baptist Convention. While we don't disagree with the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, we follow a historic tradition of Baptist churches autonomously stating their beliefs. We require all pastors to be in agreement with this statement.

- A. The **Scriptures** of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.
- B. There is but one **God**, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfection, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.
- C. The **Trinity**: God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- D. **Jesus Christ**, the only begotten Son of God is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people.
- E. The **Holy Spirit** is given by our heavenly Father to those who ask and believe. We are filled and sealed with the Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation until the day of resurrection. This Comforter will abide with us and teach us all things.
- F. **Salvation**: Apart from God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ, every person is separated from God to such an extent that we have nothing to do with Him. In our estrangement and separation from God, instead of knowing His eternal love, we stand to incur His judgment and wrath, which is the just penalty for our sins. We believe that on the cross Jesus became God's sacrifice for our sins; that He died and rose again for our salvation. Through repentance, we freely admit our guilt before God and, through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, we receive God's loving forgiveness and embark upon a new life of serving and loving God and mankind. Salvation comes through faith alone, as we believe and trust that through Jesus' death and resurrection God has forgiven all our sins and has granted us eternal life in His kingdom.
- G. The **Church** is the organization for fellowship of all believers. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and has given to the believers the necessary authority for the administration of the church.
- H. **Baptism** is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, wherein the believer is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism signifies the believer's fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, the remission of sins, and the giving of oneself to God, to live and walk in the newness of life.
- I. The **Lord's Supper** is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and wine, and to be observed by His church until the end of the world. It is designed to commemorate His death and resurrection, to confirm the faith of all Christians, and to be a bond and renewal of our communion with Him.
- J. The **Lord's Day** is a day set aside for regular observance of worship and spiritual devotion.
- K. **Judgment**: God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ. Those who have accepted Christ as their Savior by faith shall go into everlasting life. Those who have rejected Christ shall go away into everlasting punishment.

Ministries

Worship Services

- Sundays 9:00 am – traditional worship led by our Music Director and the choir, which sings in weekly services and performs Christmas and Easter cantatas
- Sundays 11:00 am – contemporary worship led by our Worship Leader and praise band
- Each quarter, we celebrate the Lord's Supper and have a baptism service, including one held each June at the lake. However, one can be baptized at any time.

Adult Ministries

- Sunday School – 10:00-10:50 am each Sunday

- Small Groups – meet weekly to discuss the pastor’s sermon and encourage one another in the Lord
- METS – (Meet-Eat-Travel-Serve) Senior Ministry meets monthly September through May
- WOM (Women on Mission) – a ministry that meets monthly focused on praying for and supporting missions
- Prayer Ministry – a group meets on Wednesdays for prayer; also, requests are shared via the church bulletin, email and phone
- Men’s Fellowship – meets quarterly for a meal and fellowship

Youth Ministries (6th-12th grade)

- D3 Youth Ministry – weekly Wednesday night meetings with teaching, music by our youth band, food and games; quarterly activities including recreation and service projects
- Light the Night – youth worship and teaching events with other local churches; Camp Refuel each spring
- Sunday School – 10:00-10:50 am each Sunday
- God's Young Ladies - fellowship group for girls in 5th-12th grades that meets every other Friday night

Children's Ministry (Infant -5th grade)

- Sunday School – 10:00-10:50 am each Sunday
- Children’s Church – Held during the 11:00 am worship service
- Awana – weekly Wednesday night meetings
- Vacation Bible School – week-long summer ministry

Missions/Outreach

- Budgeted Missions Giving – 7% of undesignated contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention’s Cooperative Program; 2% to our local Concord Baptist Association; 2% to Camp Concord (local Christian camp)
- Annual Missions Offerings – Lottie Moon (international missions); Annie Armstrong (North American missions); Alma Hunt (Virginia missions)
- Special Missions Giving – supporting local and statewide missions projects
- Missions Trips – encouraging and supporting individual church members to go on short-term missions trips and organizing groups of church members to do the same. Past destinations include North Dakota, Ghana, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, etc.
- Impact Mission Camps – annual weeklong youth camp sponsored by the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) for the purpose of doing construction projects for needy families
- Camp Concord – financial support for and volunteers to serve at Christian camp
- Genesis Ministry Lunch Buddies – each class at La Crosse Elementary School ministered to by a church member who eats lunch with them and shares a few minutes of class time
- Fall Festival – community outreach in late October
- Another Level Basketball – free league for elementary-aged children during January and February
- Spring Festival – community outreach around Easter
- ARK (Act of Random Kindness) Day – one Saturday each spring where church members do service projects to show the love of Christ to our community
- Thanksgiving Luncheon – hosting seniors from adult homes in our area for a free meal the day before Thanksgiving
- Christmas outreaches – Operation Christmas Child; Toy Drive for Bland County Mission
- CD Ministry – Sermon CDs placed in local businesses and available to anyone who requests them
- Susan Skinner Prayer Shawl Ministry – ladies’ group crochets blankets and small gifts to give to the sick, shut-ins, and to children dedicated on Mother’s Day

Facilities

- Sanctuary – built in 1990; renovated in 2023; maximum capacity of 250
- Fellowship Hall with kitchen

- Basement with classrooms below Fellowship Hall
- Education Wing with classrooms – built in 2000
- Christian Life Center (CLC) – built in 2004; gym with full basketball court and kitchen
- Playground – equipment replaced 2015
- Parsonage – directly across the street from the church; occupied by Associate Pastor’s family
- Church Cemetery – between the main building and the CLC
- Annex – currently used for storage
- 15-passenger bus and 15-passenger van

Paid Staff

- Senior Pastor (full-time)
- Associate Pastor for Youth and Children (full-time)
- Music Director (part-time, responsible for leading choir and music in traditional service)
- Worship Leader (part-time, responsible for music in contemporary service)
- Secretary (part-time)
- Treasurer (part-time)
- Custodian (part-time)

Affiliations

- National: Southern Baptist Convention (website: sbc.net).
- State: Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) (website: bgav.org).
- Local: Concord Baptist Association (website: concordbaptistassoc.org)

Average Sunday Morning Attendance

- 2018 – 195
- 2019 – 198
- 2020 – 117
- 2021 – 116
- 2022 – 118
- 2023 – 123
- 2024 – 133
- 2025 (as of September) – 138

Finances

- 2018-2019 Budget – \$364,556
- 2019-2020 Budget – \$373,745
- 2020-2021 Budget – \$365,803
- 2021-2022 Budget – \$391,789
- 2022-2023 Budget – \$399,853
- 2023-2024 Budget – \$380,814
- 2024-2025 Budget – \$397,862
- 2025-2026 Budget – \$398,000
- No debt

We encourage you to look at our website obbcbblackridge.com and our Facebook page facebook.com/obbcbblackridge for more information and pictures.