

January 2026

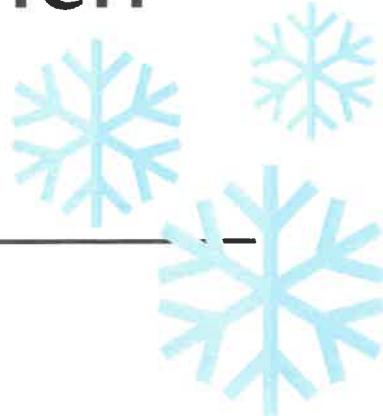
The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church

5223 Blackridge Road, Blackridge, VA 23950

434-636-2228 - office@obbcblackridge.com

www.obbcblackridge.com



From Your Associate Pastor of Youth & Families

Greetings Church Family,

Here we are, at the beginning of another year. This can be a time of excitement, as we anticipate God's plans for His church and His people, but it can also be a time of anxiety as there is no way to know what is in store for us and our families this year. We place our trust and faith in God that He is in control of everything and that we simply submit and be obedient to His call and follow His direction.

Nevertheless, the beginning of a new year is a change, and with it come changes that may come easily, and other changes that are not so easy. Some may have no problem adapting to putting 2026 on everything but if you are anything like me, it takes at least two weeks to get in the swing of putting the new year on things. Changes come in all shapes and sizes and varying degrees of difficulty depending on your level of comfort. Let's be honest, accepting and changing the date on a piece of paper is a breeze compared to having to adjust to a change in family because of things like divorce and loss.

As we walk through our lives here on earth, we are constantly experiencing changes. Changes in direction, changes in seasons, changes in attitude, changes in family dynamics, and on and on. There is so much change that it can simply be overwhelming and make your head spin. Sometimes these changes can make us feel like our lives are spiraling out of control and we can't seem to figure out which way is up or how to even slow down and get our bearings, never mind getting the spiral to stop. We may feel like we need something in our lives to help ground us, to capture our focus, something that can give us direction in a world that feels like it either has no direction or only one direction, down. Unfortunately, all too often in this situation we turn to ourselves, our flesh, and our own desires to try to find clarity and consistency, when we ourselves can accomplish none of these things.

God is the only one who can bring order to the chaos that is your life. He is the one thing that we can rely on that will be constant and never change. Malachi 3:6 says, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." To stop our world from its constant spiral or downward decent, we need an anchor, and that anchor is our Lord and Savior Jesus. Life will still come with changes. We will still experience a change in seasons, changes in relationships, and changes in attitude, because let's be honest, placing Jesus as your guidepost means accepting Him as Lord. This in itself requires change on our part; however, this change will be one that stabilizes us, gives us clear direction, gives us peace, hope, joy, and a set of tools to help us overcome the most difficult of challenges and changes that this new year may bring.

So, this year I challenge you to start this new year off by acknowledging that you are not in control. Stop trying to find direction in your life that is consistent with "your" desires, but to seek God and open your mind and your heart to His desire for you. Allow Him to be your guide in 2026 and embrace His changes for your life. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV



JANUARY 2026

OBBC NEWS

OBBC Leadership 2026 Calendar Planning Meeting

on Sunday, January 11, 2026

for all Committee Chairs,
Church Officers, Staff, &
Directors of Church Ministries
in the Fellowship Hall.
Lunch will be provided.
Contact the church office for
more info.



Baptism

Sunday, January 25, 2026

OBBC would like to welcome Rev. Ronnie West as our Interim Pastor while the Pastor Search Committee is in the process of searching for our next Senior Pastor. Pastor Ronnie has been with us quite a bit since August and we look forward to the months ahead. Pastor Ronnie will be bringing the message on Sundays, sitting in on meetings and available as needed. Pastor Ronnie's contact info is on the back of the newsletter.

Wednesday

PRAYER GATHERING

Will be starting back on January 14, 2026

Handbell
Choir
Practice

Sundays
4:00 pm
In Ed. Wing



hello
winter



Worship Service Attendance

11/30	157
12/7	135
12/14	154
12/21	138
12/28	195

Sunday School Attendance

11/30	73
12/7	73
12/14	Cantata
12/21	62
12/28	71



Attention all Seniors!!

The METS Senior Ministry had a busy December! We were blessed with a beautiful concert at our December gathering performed by the La Crosse Elementary Chorus under the direction of Elizabeth Taylor. The results of our collection of toiletry items allowed us to put together and distribute to 3 Group Homes about 70 gift bags for Christmas! Thanks to all the seniors who contributed to this project. At our December meeting we colored Christmas cards to give to the residents at Pineview Assisted Living to bring them a little Christmas joy. On Friday, December 19th a group of 26 METS journeyed to Henderson for a meal at Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q and to McGregor Theater to see the comical Christmas show "Plaid Tidings". Many of us wore plaid jackets and skirts to add to the festivities! We all had a few laughs and enjoyed the show.

We hope you will join us to kick off 2026 at our January gathering on **Thursday, January 8th at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. After our devotion we will hear about fire safety from Michael Clark of the La Crosse Fire Department. A tasty meal will follow as we fellowship together. Please sign up to attend in the Welcome Center, or you can call or email the church office by Sunday, January 4, 2026!

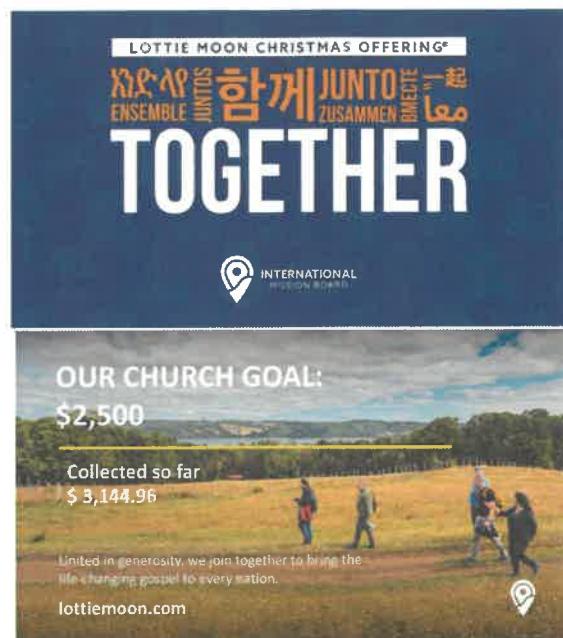


WOM/BGAV Updates

Women On Missions

All women and teenage girls are invited. Our January meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 10, 2026 and will meet at Roma's Italian Restaurant in South Hill at 3:30 pm.**

We will enjoy a time of fellowship and dinner. This will be dutch treat. Ladies, please remember to bring an ornament.



OUR CHURCH GOAL:

\$2,500

Collected so far
\$ 3,144.96

United in generosity, we join together to bring the life-changing gospel to every nation.

lottimoon.com

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+

A photograph of a group of about ten people standing in front of a small, single-story blue house with a white door and window frame. They are dressed in casual clothing, some with work clothes like jeans and tool belts. A QR code is visible in the top right corner of the image area.

Brunswick Stew

The YUGO Mission Team has a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center if you would like to pre-order quarts of Brunswick Stew to help them offset the cost of the mission trip. You can also contact the church office to pre-order.

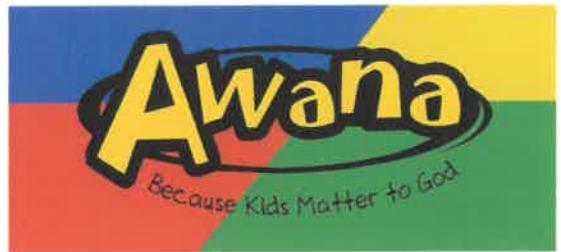
The stew will be ready for pickup on January 24th!



Children's & YC (Young Church) News



D3 will meet again starting on January 7, 2026!



Awana will start meeting again on January 14, 2026. Hope everyone had a great holiday break!



God's Young Ladies

All young ladies, 5th - 12th grade are invited to join in our God's Young Ladies group! **They will meet Friday, January 9th and 23rd from 6:30pm - 8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Led by Becky Aleman, they have a lesson and a time of sharing, prayer, crafts, and a snack. They focus on issues that girls face and what the Bible says about dealing with them. For more information contact Becky Aleman at 434-447-6231.



2026 Another Level Basketball

Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Another Level Basketball is starting soon!!! The season starts Saturday, January 10, 2026, and runs every Saturday until February 28th! The program is FREE of charge to all kids K - 5th grade. Register your child online at www.obbcblackridge.com beginning December 1st. Saturday, January 10th will be an evaluation day (schedule below) and the teams will be formed.

K-2nd Girls: 8:30 AM

K-2nd Boys: 9:00 AM

3rd - 5th Girls: 10:00 AM

3rd - 5th Boys: 11:00 AM

If you have registered your child and they decide they do not want to play, please notify the church office. This will help to establish all the teams with the same number of players and equal playing time.

We need volunteers to help make this a successful ministry for the children! Please consider volunteering by helping as a coach, referee, work the scoreboard, or the concession stand on one or more of the Saturdays. This ministry draws a lot of community kids that will hear the gospel through our Pastors who give a Bible story for each team every Saturday. To join in and help OBBC spread the gospel to the community kids and parents you can register via the OBBC website, contact the church office, Pastor Roger, or Michael Smith. It's a great way to catch some good basketball games, too!

Light The Night NEWS

LIGHT THE NIGHT PRIME
presents



THE DOWN EAST BOYS

“A TRUE SOUTHERN GOSPEL EXPERIENCE”

With special guest Paul and Wanda Bailey

February 28, 2026

New Hope Baptist Church—South Hill

Tickets and info

www.lightthenight.net/ltn-prime



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Richard Parrish	18	Judy Kidd
2	Daniel Medlin	19	Lindsey Smith
5	Connie Parrott	21	Todd Watson
6	Missy Watson	26	Hayden Taylor
8	Kim Brown	27	Breanna Kidd
9	Benjamin Bassett	27	Rachel Cofer
9	Mike Smith	28	Meredith Mosier
9	Victoria James	28	Sheila Murray
10	Steve Parrott	30	Edith Turner
11	Patti Smith		
12	Earl Finch		
13	Bryce Watson		
13	Joe Young		
14	Kristin Thornton		
15	Jonathan Guynn		
15	Paul Bailey		
15	Thomas Gittman		
16	Dalton Nichols		
16	Dillon Nichols		



OBBC Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
January 4	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Janeva Hutcheson	Sandra Ittner	Lynn Paquette
January 11	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Jessie Kennedy	Wanda Watson
January 18	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Cindy Clevinger	Vance Wright
January 25	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Cheryl Parrish	Mackenzie Salmons

Happy Anniversary

1	Rev. Anthony & Annie Wall
3	Brian & Beverly Roberts

Staff & Officers

Interim Pastor

Rev. Ronnie West

rwest@concordbaptistassoc.org

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. Steve Carroll

Personnel Officer

Mr. Michael Smith

Financial Officer

Mr. Jay Eubanks