



November 2025

# The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church  
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## From Your Associate Pastor of Youth & Families

Greetings Church Family,

Hard to believe we are in November already. Honestly it feels like 2025 has just begun, yet here we are, making Thanksgiving and Christmas plans. This is a time of year where many of us look forward to spending time with family and friends. For some this is an opportunity to reconnect with or spend time with those who may live in different parts of the state, country, or even the world. Many find this time of year a time of peace, joy, love, as well as unity. We give thanks for our blessings and share love and kindness to those around us. Now I won't get into the fact that as Christians we should be doing these things every day, I'll save that for a Sunday sermon, but I do want to talk about those who may struggle to find joy in the upcoming holiday season.

While for many, just the mention of Thanksgiving and Christmas brings a smile to their face; unfortunately, there are also those that this time of year brings feelings of grief, depression, and loneliness. We know in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 it says to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This is most certainly true, however sometimes it's difficult to see God's plan through our own pain. I want to take this opportunity to speak to those of you who find yourself dealing with these emotions during a time where everyone tells you, you should be happy and joyful.

God understands your grief. He understands the pain that comes with loss and instead of simply telling you that it will get better or easier, because you and I both know that emptiness never really goes away, I offer these words of encouragement instead. Our pain is mainly caused by the simple fact that we can't see, speak to, or touch our loved ones who have gone ahead of us, and we struggle with the fact that we can't share these "happy and joyful" times with them. What we can do is focus on the promise made to us by our Lord. Our time here is temporary, which means the pain and suffering we endure here is also temporary. I know that the time we spend here on earth may seem like a long time, but when compared to the time we will be able to spend in Glory with our Father in heaven, it pales in comparison. Our lifetime here is merely a blip on the timeline God has planned out. I think sometimes even the most devout Christian needs to have that little reminder that because of our faith in Jesus we receive eternal life. So to those who struggle around the holidays, don't seek to find joy and happiness in parties, gifts, or social gatherings; yes, you may be able to find encouragement and even some laughter in some of these, and these are great things that help us continue to move forward, but true joy, the joy that never wanes or leaves can only be found in one place, and that is with our Lord and Savior Jesus. If you don't know Him, I encourage you to seek Him out, allow him to fill your heart, allow Him to love you, allow yourself to be loved by Him. For my brothers and sisters in Christ, that same advice applies. Allow Jesus to be present and to fill every part of your life. For those who are having a hard time during the holidays, lift them in prayer, be an encouragement to them, help them find joy not in what can be seen and touched but in what you can't. "As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." 1 Corinthians 4:18

For all of you I'd like to leave this final bit of scripture, and yes, while it is probably the most quoted piece of scripture and the one most people memorize first, it takes nothing away from how accurate and powerful a statement it is. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 May all of you find joy in Him and be at peace this holiday season.



# NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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2:00pm WOM  
Fellowship Hall

6:30pm Deacons  
Meeting

7:00pm  
Choir/Cantata  
Practice

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

11:00 - 1:00pm  
METS  
God's Young  
Ladies

6:30-8:0pm  
God's Young  
Ladies

16

17

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7:00pm  
Business  
Meeting

7:00pm  
Choir/Cantata  
Practice

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

23

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7:00pm  
Choir/Cantata  
Practice

12:00pm TGL

Thanksgiving

30



# OBBC NEWS



## Jason Runnels Ministries

Jason Runnels will be here at OBBC on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am & 11:00 am delivering the message and music.

Jason began his career in Christian Music in 1998 and has written five top #20 songs and had several album cuts during his 20-year career as well as singing on three Gaither Homecoming videos. Jason has been preaching revivals, homecoming services as well as speaking for different types of conferences.



## Quarterly Business Meeting

We will have our Quarterly Business Meeting on **Monday, November 17th @ 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.** If you are not able to attend, proxy forms will be available a couple of weeks ahead of the meeting in the Welcome Center.

Please turn these in to the church office by Sunday, November 16th.



## SAVE THE DATE • SAT NOV 1ST **CRUSIN' FOR CHRIST** A CAR SHOW & EXHIBITION



11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

OLIVE BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
5223 BLACKRIDGE ROAD, LA CROSSE VA 23950

**\$ 25 DOLLAR DONATION COVERS ALL EVENTS**

Collectable Car Show 11 - 2:30

Brunswick Stew 11:30 - 2:00

Indoor Musical Guest: JASON RUNNELS 3:00 - 4:30

All Proceeds To Benefit Community Sister Churches

TICKETS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

434-517-4485 • 434-517-3246 • 434-636-2228

DIRECTIONS:  
OBBCBLACKRIDGE.COM

"SEE YOU THERE"

BRING LAWN CHAIRS  
VOLUNTEERS WELCOME





# OBBC NEWS



## **METS Senior Ministry!!**

At our October METS Gathering we had a great time of fun and fellowship playing our Senior Olympic games together! We hope you will join us at our November get-together on **Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.** We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall where our guest speaker will be Dana Debaets with ARK Ministries, a Christ-Centered addiction recovery program in South Hill. In addition to our devotion, we will have a traditional Thanksgiving meal and dessert. We are still collecting small toiletry items to make up gift bags for the local group home residents. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for our local food pantries. We are looking forward to our first trip to see the Plaid Tidings show at McGregor Hall in Henderson on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up to attend the November get-together by Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.



### Worship Attendance

9/28	154
10/5	158
10/12	124
10/19	135
10/26	116

### Sunday School Attendance

9/28	84
10/5	76
10/12	70
10/19	69
10/26	76

Happy  
Thanksgiving

# OBBC NEWS

## **Toys for Bland County Ministry Center**

**Dedication Sunday, November 30, 2025**

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 30th.**

### **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.

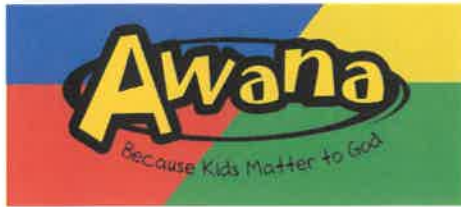


# Light The Night NEWS

LTN ReFuel 26 is fast approaching! March 20 - 22, 2026! Camp ReFuel is a weekend camp for students and youth groups (6th - 12th grade) held at the beautiful Camp Willow Springs on Lake Gaston in North Carolina. Hosted by Light the Night Ministries, this weekend is filled with worship, focused time with Jesus in His Word, small group connection time, fun with both indoor and outdoor activities, delicious food & snacks and so much more with beauty of God's creation in the backdrop! Registration is open and beginning to fill up. To register visit <https://lightthenight.new/camp>. Cost is \$45 per student.



# Children's & YC (6th-12th grades) News



Awana for K - 5<sup>th</sup> graders meets each Wednesday, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm!!

## God's Young Ladies November 14th

All young ladies, 5th - 12th grade are invited to join in our God's Young Ladies group that meets every other Friday evening 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.



D3 Youth Ministry meets each Wednesday, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm!!

D3 will be helping with the Thanksgiving Luncheon on Wednesday, November 26th 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.



# Missions



**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 26th 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

## **Olive Branch Baptist Church Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon**

for Adult Group Homes  
**Christian Life Center**

**Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Lunch at 12 noon**

### **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.

**Contact: Patti Smith for bringing food and volunteering.**  
Home 434.636.5167. Cell 434.774.0602  
Email: pattismith\_123@yahoo.com

**EVENT COORDINATOR: Steve Carroll, Director of Missions, if you want to know more or have any questions.**  
Cell 434.247.9930  
Email: scarroll1957@gmail.com

## **Women On Missions**

All women and teenage girls are invited.

Our March meeting will be held on  
**Sunday, November 9, 2025 and**  
**will meet in the church**  
**Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm.**



OBBC will be returning to Ensenada, Mexico as part of Yugo Ministries to build another house next summer, July 19-24, 2026.

If you have any curiosity about joining this mission trip, please feel free to call Laurie Wright (434) 774-7947 to get more information.

# Happy Birthday



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

# Happy Anniversary

19 Ron & Brenda George



## Baby Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
November 2	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Cheryl Parrish	Jessie Kennedy
November 9	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Sandra Ittner	Lynn Paquette
November 16	Janeva Hutcheson	Janeva Hutcheson	Janeva Hutcheson
	Elizabeth Powell	Cindy Clevinger	Wanda Watson
November 23	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Julia Braddy	Vance Wright
November 30	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Janeva Hutcheson	Sarah Ittner	Mackenzie Salmons

## Staff & Officers

**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