



**Congregational Christian Church**  
**The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley**  
(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370  
Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns  
Associate Pastor Tim Michalek

**DECEMBER 2018  
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
cccoffice1@comcast.net

TIME OF SERVICES  
Worship Service – 9:00 am  
Sunday School – 9:00 am  
Worship Service – 10:30 am

*The aroma of stories should fill Christmas gatherings like potpourri.*

This morning, I ate bacon and eggs at the senior breakfast. I hasten to say that I qualify as a “senior” because of my role as pastor. Though, I will soon have dual citizenship based on both age and clergy status.

Actually, I’m not sure of the age requirement and don’t have the heart to ask. I may already be in.

I enjoyed every minute of the breakfast: bacon and eggs – though no hash browns or toast -- beautiful friends, and good stories. I really like the stories.

Senior gatherings invite storytelling and memories like the account I heard today of Dr. Beebe’s emphatic gestures when he led our church choir in the 1950’s.

Other stories were more recent. I complained about the weather which I view as my right having driven back from the great state of Iowa in nasty conditions. My family counted 105 vehicles in the ditch between Iowa City and our home.

Finishing my 14<sup>th</sup> year in Stillman Valley, Jamie’s mom having recently died, it’s on my heart that whenever we say goodbye to someone who goes on to be with Christ, we lose a storyteller.



Time is short. Let’s encourage people to swap stories. Ask people where they grew up. Ask about their folks.

There is nothing like combining the smell of Christmas dinner and the pleasant aroma of memories.

And remember, all our stories are part of the great story of Christ, who was born in the city of David and laid in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

## **DECEMBER GREETERS**

If you are interested in being on our "Greeter Team", please contact Deb Bonne at 815-979-0885.

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brent and Arlett Bonne  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Clyde and Nancy Gelderloos  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>: Bruce and Deb Bonne  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson  
Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>: Greg and Cherri Tremble  
January 6<sup>th</sup>: Vicki Farbo, Tania VanBriesen

## **DECEMBER NURSERY**

### December 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 am Chelsea Colon, Tessa Baker,  
Marlene Miller  
10:30 am Aly Behmer, LucyBeth Sierra,  
Hanna Wallin

### December 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Sharon & Ashley Rhodes,  
Susan Stukenberg  
10:30 am Anne Wiltfang, Betts Carby  
Nancy Gelderloos (Rocker)

### December 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Donna Arnold, Deb Bonne,  
Justine Loyo  
10:30 am Lee and Shannon Hickey,  
Hanna Wallin

### December 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 am Diane Koenig, Cherri Tremble,  
Ryan Roberts  
10:30 am Terrell and Terri Carby

### December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm Brad & Tessa Baker, Jamie Brauns

### December 30<sup>th</sup> – Only One Service

9:00 am Tessa Baker, Jeanne Baker

Kari Janoski is taking over the role of nursery coordinator, with Cara Roberts as the assistant coordinator. Please let Kari know if you arrange a trade so that the Breeze reminders can be updated. The best way to reach Kari is via texting at 815-297-3459. Her email address is: [KariJanoski1@gmail.com](mailto:KariJanoski1@gmail.com). New volunteers are always needed in the nursery. Please contact Kari or the church office and we would gladly help you get on our nursery rotation.

## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS***

### **SS Superintendent: Brooke Adams**

Our average weekly Sunday School **Attendance** for the past two years during the month of November is listed below:

November 2017: 77  
November 2018: 71

Our average weekly Sunday School **Offerings** for the past two years during the month of November is listed below:

November 2017: \$ 19.13  
November 2018: \$ 35.00

## ***WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT***

Our average attendance at Worship Services for the past three months is listed below:

Labor Day Worship Service: 180  
Fall Festival Worship Service: 174  
9/9, 9/16, 9/30 Worship Services: 253  
October: 222  
11/4, 11/11, 11/18 Worship Services: 237  
11/25 Worship Service: 152

### **CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

Deacon Board – Tom Stahl 520-3050  
Deaconess Board – Jeanne Baker 391-4634  
Trustee Board – Jeff McLindsay 440-2042  
CE Committee – Marlene Miller 289-8453  
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay 440-2042  
Missions Com. – Cathy Midtsem 979-3715  
Missions Committee – Joe Clinton 904-3382  
Music – Pastor Tim Michalek 645-2526

**January Newsletter  
Articles are due in the  
church office by  
Friday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Total Approved 2018 Budget = \$430,907

Divided by 52 weeks/year = \$8,287/week

Budget Giving through Nov. 30 ..... \$389,489

Actual Giving through Nov. 30 ..... \$354,320

Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$(35,169)

Actual Expenses through 11/30/18 ..... \$364,036



If the church office does not have your email address, please email it to Jana in the office at our email address of:

**cccoffice1@comcast.net**

The email for address for Pastor Tim is:

**timothymichalek@gmail.com**

The email address for Pastor Chris is:

**cdbrauns@gmail.com**

We will be emailing out announcements, news articles, coming events, etc., so don't miss out!! Be sure we have your email address.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SCHEDULE

4:00 pm - Candlelight Service  
Children's Prelude  
Lighting of the Candles



### **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Worship Service  
Sunday School for all ages  
SS Dept sings

10:30 am Worship Service  
SS Dept sings  
Children's Church

### **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Worship Service  
Sunday School for all ages  
Adult Choir sings

10:30 am Worship Service  
Adult Choir sings  
Children's Church

### **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 am Worship Service  
Sunday School for all ages

10:00 am Special Combined Celebration  
Gift Exchange, Christmas Carols

10:45 am Worship Service  
Children's Church

### **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

4:00 pm Candlelight Service

### **Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am ONLY ONE SERVICE  
Worship Service  
Children's Church  
**(No 10:30 am Worship Service)**  
**(No Sunday School)**

### **Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

9:00 am Worship Service  
Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service  
Children's Church

## CHILDREN'S PRELUDE

4:00 pm Christmas Eve

We would like to have an *instrumental* prelude involving anyone Preschool through high school at our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

If you are interested in playing an instrument during the prelude at the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, please contact Jamie Brauns at 645-8676 or the church office 645-2526.

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## LADIES BIBLE STUDIES

Both studies will resume again after the first of the year. Watch your bulletins and January Newsletter for more information.

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## Youth Group Christmas Parties!

**The Jr. High Youth Group** Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Bring a white elephant gift. Food and drinks will be served.

**The Sr. High Youth Group** Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the home of Matt and Sharon Rhodes (2231 N Meridian Road, Chana). Bring a white elephant gift. Food and drinks will be served.

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## Christmas Decorating ...



Due to the inclement weather on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be decorating the church for Christmas immediately after the second service on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please stay and help if you are able ... it goes much faster with everyone helping!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

December 2018

*"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."* Isaiah 11:1-2

This is an exciting time of year to celebrate the birth of our King and prepare our children and our own hearts for this season! If you have any questions about family resources to help guide your family discussions, please talk to Cara Roberts.

Our preschool through 5th grade students have been busy learning and practicing for their Sunday School Christmas Program. We will have a run-through practice of the program on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00 pm** for KG-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The preschool students will not be practicing. The children will then be **performing on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** in both church services. Please have your child in the fellowship hall no later than 8:45 am on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and plan on staying for the beginning of second service to let your child sing. Hope and Shannon Hickey have teamed up to lead children's worship time, and we are so very thankful for them.

There will be one service on December 30<sup>th</sup>, and no Sunday School. Children's Church (ages pre-k through 1<sup>st</sup> grade) will be available. We will have an abbreviated Sunday School on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Children will join their parents in the sanctuary at 10:00 am to take part in our church-wide gift exchange. You can sign up online to register for the gift exchange.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

# HYMN SIGN

A Hymn Sing was hosted by the Deaconess Board on November 4th. Approximately 50 people ranging in age from a few months to those in their 80's attended the Sunday evening event. Many favorite hymns were enjoyed by those in attendance. A special thanks to Pastor Tim for leading the singing and Neysa McCammond for playing the piano. A time of fellowship with cookies followed music

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## AWANA STORE

Donations of new items only are needed for our upcoming AWANA Store. If you would like to make a donation, drop off items in the AWANA Office downstairs by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Items our clubbers like to purchase are: art kits, balls, pillow pets, stuffed animals, sidewalk chalk, matchbox or hot wheels, winter toys for outside, sports trading cards, nail polish.



## Join the Christmas Choir!

Our Christmas Choir will be singing during both services on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will have parts rehearsal on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am. An additional parts rehearsal will be scheduled.

Full choir practices are set for Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm and at 8:30 am on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. See Pastor Tim for music.



Please note that in order to be counted for 2018 tax purposes, all church contributions need to be **RECEIVED** by the church office no later than DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>. Any contributions received after that date, regardless of check date or postmark, will be counted as a 2019 contribution.

Please contact Terri Carby, church treasurer (630-651-9962, niucpa@hotmail.com), or Jana Cox, church administrative assistant (815-645-2526, cccoffice1@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



**"O, Come All Ye Faithful" to our Youth Group Christmas Caroling event!**

The youth group would like to invite our church family to join them in caroling to our widows and shut-ins this year. It will be **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 4:00 pm, meeting first in the fellowship hall. We will carol from 4:00 – 6:00 pm and then return back to the fellowship hall for pizza, cookies, and hot chocolate for everyone.

**Needed:** A few drivers for the night (we will be caroling to our widows and shut-ins in the Stillman Valley and Byron area)

Sign up in the back if you are coming and/or able to drive. Or, contact Stacy Coester at 815-762-2865 for more information.



December is an exciting time every year, but this year at The Red Brick Church, we are extra excited to be celebrating the birth of our King. We hope your family has signed up for the gift exchange. December 23rd will be buzzing with excitement.

On December 16, we are asking each child to come to church with a drawing on paper or a 3D building (think Legos or shoebox diorama) of what he or she thinks our church should include in a design for new space. We are confident that their designs will come in over budget, haha! As they are working on their design, be praying as a family about how you can support the building project and who you would like to invite to church. I would encourage you to write down names of people in your life that do not currently attend church. Be praying for specific opportunities to invite them to church.



The youth participation in the #truereligion project was impressive. Dozens of youth put James into action and showed True Religion by being the hands and feet of Jesus. Well done!

Ladies from our church and community had the privilege of attending a Secret Keeper Girl event that featured our very own Abby Houston! It was a wonderful time of fellowship and bonding with friends and between moms and daughters and grow closer to God.



We continue to have opportunities to serve on a weekly, monthly or occasional basis. Please talk to me if you feel God calling you to serve. I can help you determine what would be a good fit for you based on what you like to do and based on your schedule.

Cara Roberts, Director of Children's Ministry  
217-621-2460  
[cararoberts32@gmail.com](mailto:cararoberts32@gmail.com)



December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	Rod Wetzig
	-	Dave Ewald
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	John Stout
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Karen Friedrich
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	John Anderson
	-	Zach Poliska
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	-	Pete Mazanec
	-	Jacob Mrozek
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	-	Lana Lamer
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	-	Elaine Daniels
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	-	Karen Hilliard
	-	Abigail Houston
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	-	Cody Bennett
	-	Donna Jacquet
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	-	Betty Carby
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	-	Ryan Roberts,
	-	Stacy Coester, Jim Warner
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	-	Raymond Swanson
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Kendra Booker
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	-	James Daniels, Steve Arnold
	-	Meredith Jones
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	-	Mary Beth Brauns
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	-	Cameron Wissinger
January 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Lawrence (Wren) Hickey



December 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	-	Zach and Mandy Poliska
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	-	Ron and Cherry Lewis



# DECEMBER 2018 AWANA NEWS

## Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

It is "M & M Night" (Missionary Night) at club on the 5<sup>th</sup> and clubbers are reminded to bring their missionary bank with them to club. Our offerings this year are going to support Bruce and Mardi Brumfield, our Northern Illinois AWANA Missionaries. If your clubber does not have a bank, please pick one up in the AWANA office downstairs.

## Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

We are having "Super Hero" night at club on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Whether you wear the full costume, cape, mask, headband, or just a simple super hero t-shirt, you will be ready for the fun we've got planned on Super Hero Night!

## Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

It's "AWANA STORE" night at club on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Come to club dressed in **red** or **green**! Clubbers will have a chance to spend their earned AWANA dollars at our AWANA store this night! Clubbers will receive their earned dollar amount on an "AWANA Debit Card" from their leader, but make sure to bring other dollars given out during club this night to spend. **NEW** STORE DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!

**Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>**: There will be NO club on December 26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our AWANA Club wishes everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas! AWANA will resume meeting again on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with our first M & M Night of 2019!

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CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**\*\* RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED \*\***

