



**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

## Picture Brickwork in 2019

### JANUARY 2019 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

*We face a defining year of “brick-laying” in 2019. It is likely that at the Annual Meeting our congregation will vote to forge ahead with a pre-capital campaign assessment. If we get a green-light from that assessment – if our congregation is ready to go --- then we will have a spring capital campaign.*

The Bible uses the metaphor that Christians are “living stones” God intends to be mortared together into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5). So if you are a Christian, you are a “brick.” And God makes “bricks” with a building in mind. We are to be built up together in community.

So what will it look like as we are mortared together in community in 2019? Consider the following images:

**Loving one another** – There always many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ. We already know of a cancer battle . . . We will discover what it looks like to give rides, cook meals, give to the benevolent fund . . . I am sad that our people face pain --- but overjoyed with how we will serve and show Christ.

**The Master Plan** – Our plan of outlining how we will use our campus is now coming into clear focus. It is very possible that by the annual meeting (1/27/19 at 4:00 PM) we will be able to show a **picture** of how we will expand our facilities to connect with our community.

**A Capital Campaign?** – If our membership affirms the direction in January, our church will do a pre-campaign assessment or feasibility study with Church Growth services in February. In the feasibility study, Bill Walter will interact with our congregation to help us determine if we are ready to go forward with a capital campaign and a building program.

**Children’s Ministries** – Our children’s director, Cara Roberts, is helping us be sure that all our children’s ministries are in sync with one another. We are praying that in February we can invite children to practice music together for Mother’s Day music in May. This should give us the opportunity to invite even more children to Vacation Bible School. We picture using our new green space to the north of our church building to connect with our community at Fall Festival. And before we know it, it will be time for AWANA in the fall!

**Youth and all other ages** – We are encouraging our teens to sign up for camp for the summer of 2019. Our young people need to unplug from this electronic age and be together with other young people where they sing and enjoy Christ together.

But our goal is always to be **intergenerational**. That means our young people will be delivering Valentines to seniors and looking for other ways to connect with the wider body of Christ.

**Adult Education** is firing on all cylinders during both the 9:00 and 10:30 hours. This is a great time to connect more deeply with our church family in one of those classes.

**Finishing the Book of James** – I will finish our current series in the book of James – we still have chapter 5 left --- and then we will be on to a new series. I will be praying in January about our next sermon series.

## JANUARY GREETERS

Jan 6<sup>th</sup>: Vicki Farbo, Tania VanBriesen  
Jan 13<sup>th</sup>: Nick and Chelsea Colon  
Jan 20<sup>th</sup>: LaVon Willey, Donna Jacquet  
Jan 27<sup>th</sup>: Tim and Shari Halsmer  
Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bruce and Betty Carby

## JANUARY NURSERY

### January 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Barb and Megan Hale,  
Deb Bonne  
10:30 am Lee and Shannon Hickey,  
Hanna Wallin

### January 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Amy Michalek, Jeanne Baker,  
Tania VanBriesen  
10:30 am Betts Carby, Dawn Clinton,  
Nancy Gelderloos (Rocker)

### January 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Donna Arnold, Justine Loyo,  
Susan Stukenberg  
10:30 am LucyBeth Sierra, Aly Behmer,  
Hanna Wallin

### January 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Sharon and Ashley Rhodes,  
Jamie Brauns  
10:30 am Diane Koenig, Jeanne Baker,  
Rebekah Anderson

### February 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 am Chelsea Colon, Deb Bonne,  
Tessa Baker  
10:30 am Stacy Jones, Cherri Tremble,  
Hanna Wallin

### February 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Barb and Megan Hale,  
Jamie Brauns  
10:30 am Lee and Shannon Hickey,  
Nancy Gelderloos (Rocker)

Kari Janoski is our nursery coordinator, with Cara Roberts as 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! Contact Kari for more information!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

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

December 2017: 95  
December 2018: 83

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

December 2017: \$10.42  
December 2018: \$12.18

## WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT

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

October: 222  
Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Worship Services: 237  
Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Worship Service: 152  
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Worship Services: 258  
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Attendance: 185  
December 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Attendance: 189

### 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

**February Newsletter  
Articles are due in the  
church office by  
Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Total Approved 2018 Budget = \$411,383

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

Budget Giving through Dec 31 ..... \$430,907

Actual Giving through Dec 31..... \$446,595

Budget Giving vs Actual Giving ..... \$15,688

Actual Expenses through 12/31/18 .... \$402,070



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](mailto:cccoffice1@comcast.net)

The email address for Pastor Chris is:

[cdbrauns@gmail.com](mailto:cdbrauns@gmail.com)

The email address for Pastor Tim is:

[timothymichalek@gmail.com](mailto:timothymichalek@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.



## IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER . . .

We will cancel AWANA if there is NO school that day or if school is let out early due to bad weather.

We will communicate via the church website, our AWANA Facebook page, AWANA email, and also on the church answering phone (815-645-2526).



# Ladies Bible Studies

Both of our Ladies Bible Studies will begin meeting again very soon! Both groups will be studying "1 Peter: A Living Hope In Christ" by Jen Wilkin.

Our inheritance through Christ is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. In 1 Peter, a man of faith and flaws and eyewitness to the life of Christ challenges us to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance. He shares his concerns on big picture issues for the early church, describes believers' true identity in Christ, and ultimately helps readers discover what it means to experience the Living Hope they have in Christ.

Workbooks will be available for purchase for \$13 at either study.



## (Women's Evening Bible Study)

Our Tuesday evening study will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Adult SS Classroom. Please contact Jamie Brauns if you have any questions about the Tuesday evening study.

## Mom's & More

The Friday morning Moms and More Bible Study Group will be starting up on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the Adult SS Classroom. Childcare will be provided. If you have any questions about the Friday study, please contact Amy Michalek.

All Church Prayer Meeting  
Sunday, January 13  
4:00 – 5:00 pm  
Church Sanctuary





Reports from all boards and committees are needed in the church office no later than Friday morning, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Chairmen of all boards and committees should check with each respective secretary to be sure if the chairman or secretary is to write the report this year. Again, please be sure that all reports are in the church office by the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Reports for the annual meeting will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Extra copies will not be available at the meeting.

Please be sure and review each report prepared by all committees and boards prior to the annual meeting. We will not be going through each report individually, but will open up the meeting by addressing any questions and concerns from the congregation in regards to these reports. After all questions have been answered we will vote to approve the reports as a package.

As members of a congregational church, we have both a responsibility and privilege to come and have a voice and vote in deciding issues our church faces for the upcoming year.

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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**4:00 pm**

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**REPORTS DUE FROM BOARDS:**  
**Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am**

**FROM PASTOR TIM ....**

*Youth Group Update*

What an amazing end of the year for Red Brick Youth Group! The Junior High had fun at the Cardinal Christmas for a hayride, picture with Santa, and hot chocolate and donuts! (Thanks Stillman Bank) Both groups had white elephant gift exchanges with a few stand out gifts like a beverage hat and a bacon-bowl-maker. We had several dozen people at our Christmas caroling to widows and some families that weren't able to come due to recent surgeries (like Sophie Michalek had just had an emergency appendectomy.)

We're so excited about the winter retreat this year over MLKJr weekend! It should be a blast for all the teens that participate.

**Upcoming Youth Group Events:**

**January**

- 18-21 – Winter Retreat
- 26 – Rescue Mission Food Service

**February**

- 3 – Sun – Youth Group
- 8 – Fri pm – Bake'n'Make
- 9 – Sat 2 to 4pm – Loving our Widows Visits
- 17 – Sun – Youth Group

**March**

- 3 – Sun – Youth Group
- 17 – Sun – Youth Group

**April**

- 7 – Sun – Youth Group
- 10 – LAST Bible Study
- ?13 – Sat pm – Bowling Night in Byron
- 22 – Sun – Mission Trip Fundraiser

**May**

- ? 4 – Sat – Activity @ Rhodes
- 18 – Sat – SVHS Baccalaureate
- 19 – Sun – Graduation Sunday

**June**

- 2 – Sun – Youth Group Wrap-Up & Planning Party



Happy New Year! Thank you to all of those involved in our Sunday School Christmas program last month. I'm especially proud of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for showing leadership and bravery in the "We Three Kings" performance.

I am looking forward to 2019 and praying how God might use our families and children to serve him. We are also excited to dream about future plans for our children's ministries space in our church's master plan. Miss Cara has challenged our Sunday School students to write, draw, or model your plans and ideas for our future space. If you would still like to give input, please submit to Brooke Adams or Cara Roberts. Thanks once again to all of our faithful Sunday School leaders!

Brooke Adams, Sunday School Superintendent

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## 2018 SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PICTURES

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017



*thank you*

**Dear Church Family:** Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It was part of our wonderful family celebration. We are so thankful to be "Bricks" at Christmas time. Philemon 7.

Pastor Chris & Jamie Brauns

**Red Brick Church:** Jesus tells us to give thanks in all things. You guys make that easy at Christmas time. Thank you for the generous gift this year. We are blessed to be part of a church that demonstrates love as you do.

We love you all!

Tim, Amy, Sophie, Mo & Ace

**To my Church Family:** I want to thank you all for your prayers for the success of my total right knee replacement. God answered your prayers in a mighty way. I want to thank all of you who sent me get well cards, brought food in, and came to visit me which uplifted me immensely. I want to thank Pastor Chris for your prayer, visit and encouragement to me. All of your inquires that you asked Dave as to how I am doing reached me and it was very thoughtful and comforting. May God bless you all.

In Christ Jesus,  
Dave and Pat Ewald

**Tommy and I would like to thank** Pastor Chris and Pastor Tim for the wonderful service for Wilbur, and would like to especially thank Jana for playing the piano. We would also like to reach out and thank everyone who sent cards, memorials, brought food, and those who volunteered to help us in any way. Also a thank you to Millie McCoy and the ladies who helped in the kitchen during the luncheon.

God Bless you all.

Nina and Tommy Whetsel





## **Family Movie Night**



Over 65 people came out for our family movie night. Kids and adults alike enjoyed popcorn and candy while watching *The Star* on the big screen. Thanks to all that helped make the night possible, and to all that came out to enjoy the movie together.

## **Building plans**

The young people have been working on designing building plan ideas for our church addition. As you are working, be talking and praying about who you could invite to church. Preschoolers can draw a picture of someone they would like to invite. You can see their ideas displayed downstairs. If you haven't finished yours yet, you can still work on it and send it in when you are finished. You can either bring it in, or send Mrs. Cara a picture and she will print it and put it up with the others.



## **2019 plans and schedules are well underway.**

We are talking about and praying about how God can use our church to spread the Gospel in this community. Be looking for more opportunities to serve. Contact Cara Roberts, Director of Children's Ministry, to find a good place for you to serve (217)621-2460 or [cararoberts32@gmail.com](mailto:cararoberts32@gmail.com)



- |                          |   |                                |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| January 1 <sup>st</sup>  | - | Chad Hanson                    |
| January 4 <sup>th</sup>  | - | Sandra Stout, Lawrence Hickey  |
| January 5 <sup>th</sup>  | - | Doris Luttrell                 |
| January 6 <sup>th</sup>  | - | Elizabeth Anderson             |
| January 7 <sup>th</sup>  | - | Zeke Janoski                   |
| January 9 <sup>th</sup>  | - | Jackie Schumacher, Erika Friis |
| January 12 <sup>th</sup> | - | Spencer Halsmer, Grady McCoy   |
| January 14 <sup>th</sup> | - | Gary Rhodes                    |
| January 18 <sup>th</sup> | - | Eric Long                      |
| January 19 <sup>th</sup> | - | Leo Cardenas                   |
| January 21 <sup>st</sup> | - | Reht Brass                     |
| January 22 <sup>nd</sup> | - | Patsy Hoernecke                |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup> | - | Judy Foster                    |
| January 27 <sup>th</sup> | - | Ian Roeman, Gwen Baker         |
|                          | - | Derek VanBriesen, Hope Wallin, |
|                          | - | Jazmine Mrozek                 |
| January 28 <sup>th</sup> | - | Tina Garnhart                  |
| January 31 <sup>st</sup> | - | Anna Forcier                   |
| February 1 <sup>st</sup> | - | Shannon Hickey, Grace Hickey,  |
| February 6 <sup>th</sup> | - | Nick Colon                     |



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|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| January 24 <sup>th</sup> | - | Grady and Millie McCoy |
| February 1 <sup>st</sup> | - | Brad and Tessa Baker   |



## AWANA GRAND PRIX

Be working on your derby car design ... we have cut-out clinics and the derby dates all set!

### Cut-out Clinics in Church Fellowship Hall

- Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm
- Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 am

Bring your design and car, and our pit crew will help you cut it out!

### AWANA Pit Crew Night – Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Bring your AWANA Car to club on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the Pit Crew will get them checked in early for the race!

### AWANA Grand Prix – Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

Check-in on race day is from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. The race will start promptly at 3:00 pm.



# JANUARY 2019 AWANA SCHEDULE

## Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

It's M & M (Missionary) Night at AWANA's on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Clubbers should bring their missionary bank with dollars and change in them to club in exchange for an individual size packet of plain M & M's.

## Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

It's "PJ Night" at club on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Clubbers can come to club in some comfy and appropriate pj's tonight as we endure this chilly January weather!

## Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

This afternoon will be our first AWANA Derby Cut-out Clinic! Bring your car and design with you to the church fellowship hall between 1:00 – 3:00 pm and the Pit Crew will help you cut your car out!

## Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tonight is "Baby Night" at AWANA. We will be collecting items for the Rockford Pregnancy Care Center. Items on the Center's Wish List include: small infant toys, baby wash, shampoo, lotion and diaper cream, spoons, bowls, sippy cups, infant wraps, receiving blankets, fitted pack & play sheets, bibs, burp cloths, boy clothes size newborn to 12 months, nail clippers, thermometers and teethingers.

## Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Tonight is "Jersey Night" at club! With the Super Bowl right around the corner, clubbers are invited to wear their favorite jersey tonight! It doesn't have to be football ... it can be any team!

## Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

We will have our second and last AWANA Derby Cut-out Clinic from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Bring your design and car to the clinic and the pit crew will help you cut it out for the derby!

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## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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

