



## Congregational Christian Church The **Red Brick Church** in Stillman Valley

(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370, Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370

Pastor Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor Tim Michalek

APRIL 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

*Our capital campaign is a “spring sprint” with a June 9 finish line. How will we measure success?*

June 9<sup>th</sup> is only a few weeks away which is the reason we are calling this campaign a *sprint*.

Very soon, we will be run through the finish line and consider how fast we “ran” in this spring. “How did it go?” “Was it a successful campaign?” Here are some questions we will ask in order to evaluate our spring sprint campaign?



- **Have we prayed like this is a once in a 100 years event?** Individually, in small group settings, and as a congregation, did we ask God for a new era at our church when we are engaging our community for the glory of Christ and our joy on a new level? Did our children and grandchildren hear many voices pray in many different contexts? (Remember, the last time our church built a completely new structure was in 1892!)
- **Did we have *broad participation: not equal gifts but equal sacrifice*?** We have an overall goal financial for the goal of our campaign – I’ll get to that in a few questions – but just as important as the overall amount we achieve is a broad-based participation by our whole church family. I am praying we have a very high percentage of our people who make commitments.
- **Did we put the gift of our time into this campaign?** Have we made it a priority to attend meetings and to sprint right through April and May?
- **Have we kept in mind the ministry reasons we are committed to this campaign?** Accessibility to a “brick-center” where we can have all church activities, a kitchen!, classrooms, and a corner that will catch the attention of people and invite our community to be part of our church family.
- **Are we picturing how God will use this program to reach people with the good news of Jesus?** How will it make a difference to have a new AWANA circle? How will our seniors use a new fellowship space to have meetings to go to when they don’t need to deal with steps and ramps? What will it mean to families at funeral luncheons to have a larger, more open area?
- **Have we meditated on 1 Peter 2:5?** First Peter 2:5 reads, “*You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*” These verses form the theme of what our campaign is all about. We must think biblically. We are adding literal bricks so we can add the figurative bricks of people and be mortared into one another’s lives.
- **Have we been disciplined, follow-through people who keep commitments we make to different roles in the campaign?**
- **Have we had fun?** One of the critical ways we teach one another and enjoy life is to have fun together. This campaign should be filled with laughter – it’s a kind of excitement we only have in our church every one hundred years.
- **Have we maintained a global mindset?** As a part of our campaign, we are sending the Michalek family to Thailand. Our commitment to missions is not something we are haphazardly adding to this campaign. It’s a way to remind our church we are all about the Great Commission?
- **Have we invited new people to visit our church?** Could there be a more exciting time to invite one of your neighbors to visit?
- **Do we realize there is still a lot of work to do in our building program?** Once we make our commitments, it will be time for a building committee to work with an architect to plan the use of our site.
- **What is the total of our commitments?** Our goal for this campaign is a stratospheric (I made that word up) amount of 1.3 million dollars. When we began this campaign, I did not think we could achieve that amount. But that is the goal God has led us to set given the input of Bill Walter and Church Growth Services.

On June 9, we plan to announce the total commitments. I believe that if we have the right answers to all the previous questions in the above list, then the answer to the last question will be exactly what it needs to be.

## APRIL CROSSWALK MINISTRY

- April 7<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Carl Jacobson  
April 14<sup>th</sup> - Steve Arnold, Grady McCoy  
April 21<sup>st</sup> - Toby Behmer, Rob Wissinger  
April 28<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Don Wallin

## APRIL GREETERS

- April 7<sup>th</sup>: Nick and Chelsea Colon  
April 14<sup>th</sup>: Vicki Farbo, Tania VanBriesen  
April 21<sup>st</sup>: Tim and Shari Halsmer  
April 28<sup>th</sup>: Bruce and Betty Carby

## APRIL NURSERY

- April 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Deb Bonne, Shari Halsmer,  
Kennedy Halsmer  
10:30 am Betts Carby, LucyBeth Sierra,  
Aly Behmer
- April 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Chelsea Colon, Amy Michalek,  
Mandy Poliska  
10:30 am Donna Arnold, Anne Wiltfang,  
Hanna Wallin
- April 21<sup>st</sup>  
9:00 am Brad & Tessa Baker,  
Ryan Roberts  
10:30 am Jeanne Baker, Stacy Jones,  
Nancy Gelderloos
- April 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Jamie Brauns, Kari Janoski  
Susan Stukenberg  
10:30 am Terrell & Terri Carby,  
Diane Koenig
- May 5<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Shari Halsmer, Kennedy Halsmer,  
Tania VanBriesen  
10:30 am Shannon and Lee Hickey,  
Vicki Boyd

Parents of children under the age of 5 years old are invited and encouraged to use our nursery during the 9:00 & 10:30 am worship services. If you would like to be a part of the nursery rotation, please talk to Kari Janoski.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS . . .**

### SS Superintendent:

**Brooke Adams**  
**815-645-8561**

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

March 2018: 70  
March 2019: 75

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

March 2018: \$5.25  
March 2019: \$4.69

## **WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT**

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

January Average: 203  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Average: 213  
February 24<sup>th</sup>: 116  
March Average: 215

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

Deacon Board – Tom Stahl 520-3050  
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne 979-0885  
Trustee Board – Brad Baker 670-0039  
CE Committee – Marlene Miller 289-8453  
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay 440-2042  
Missions Com. – Cathy Midtsem 979-3715  
Music – Pastor Tim Michalek 645-2526

***May Newsletter Articles  
are due in the  
church office by  
Tuesday, April 30, 2019***

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Total Approved 2019 Budget = \$451,676

Divided by 52 weeks/year = \$8,686/week

Budget Giving through 3/31/19..... \$112,918

Actual Giving through 3/31/19 ..... \$104,834

Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... -\$8,084

Actual Expenses through 3/31/19 ..... \$103,907



**Do we  
have  
your  
e-mail  
address?**

If the church office does not have your email address, please be sure to email your address to the office at the

following email address:

[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.

## High School and Bible Instruction Class

We will be recognizing our High School Graduates and those 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have attended and completed our Bible Instruction Class during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all graduates to please attend on the 19<sup>th</sup> if at all possible.

**\*\*\* Please let the church office know if you have a high school graduate in your family.**



# COLLEGE NEWS . . .

\*\* If you have a college graduate in your family, please be sure to let the church office know so that we can recognize them in the May newsletter. You can email the information to the office at this address:

[cccoffice1@comcast.net](mailto:cccoffice1@comcast.net)

## CHILDREN'S PRELUDE

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have our children/youth begin both services with a prelude!

Any one up through high school age who would want to play an instrumental song as part of our prelude should let Jamie Brauns or the church office know!



## Community Good Friday Service

The Community Good Friday Service will be held at the Valley Evangelical Covenant Church on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. All area pastors will be participating in the service.

## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 21 / 9:00 & 10:30 am

## EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 21 / 11:45 am



## Easter Lily Orders

Easter Lilies will be purchased again this year for our Sanctuary during the Easter season. We will be purchasing our Easter Lilies from Merlin's Greenhouse in Oregon. Lilies are \$15 each including foil and bow. **Order forms will be inserted in the bulletins only on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.** Give your completed order form and payment to Deb Bonne or leave in the church office. For those wishing to do so, you can have your Easter lily in honor and/or in memory of someone special.



# From Pastor Tim . . .

## **YOUTH GROUP UPDATE**

The youth group ministered to 8 of our church's families with small children on March 22. We hosted a babysitting evening with some games, movies, and snacks (lots of snacks). 16 Teenagers played with 22 kids for a very fun evening.

The teens have worked hard each Wednesday night memorizing scripture. Several of them have said enough verses to earn a Starbucks or Amazon gift card. We are wrapping up the verse competition this Wednesday (4/3) and having an ice cream party to celebrate on April 10.

April 13 is bowling day 12-2pm! Be sure to sign up so we can plan the right amount of food for lunch.

### **Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Jr/Sr High Bible Study in the Admin. Building.

### **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am**

Final Jr and Sr High Youth Group of the school year.

### **Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Last Jr/Sr High Bible Study. Ice Cream Party.

### **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon to 2:00 pm**

Bowling in Byron. Sign-up required.

### **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**

Final Youth Group activity of the school year. We will meet at the Rhode's home (2231 N Meridian Road, Chana).

### **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

SVHS Baccalaureate

### **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

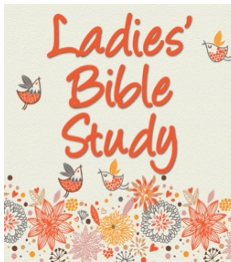
SVHS Graduation

### **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Youth Group Wrap-up and Planning Party



Both our Ladies Bible Studies are concluding the first week in April until this fall. Our Tuesday evening group will meet for the last time on Tuesday evening, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and our Friday morning Mom's and More study will have their last study on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.



We have a volunteer form on the church website. Please consider filling out the form if you are not currently serving somewhere, or if you would like to serve in additional ways. There are serving opportunities with children, youth, and adults, and we have service opportunities to fit any schedule.

To access the form, go to the church website and select connect then go down to adults. On that page, you can then scroll down to see the form. (or follow this link <http://theredbrickchurch.org/adult-ministries>). Once you have completed the form, you will be contacted by someone regarding serving.



**The Michalek Family is  
moving to Thailand!**

**FAREWELL PARTY**

**Sunday, June 9th, 2019**

**4:00 pm**

**Time of Celebration with**

**Dinner to follow**

**(more information coming soon!)**



# 2019 CHURCH CAMP



Church Camp forms are available from Sunday School Teachers or in the church office. The CE Board would like to encourage all our youth to participate this summer in a week at a

Church Camp.

The CE Board would like to recommend three area church camps to our youth. Also, if you are planning on attending camp this summer, please sign up as soon as possible and camps fill up fast! They are as follows:

## Camp Forest Springs - Youth Camp '19

Youth Camps for Jr. and Sr. High will be held various weeks during June and July. Camp Forest Springs is located in Westboro, Wisconsin. Cost of these camps are \$425/week. We have several of our youth already planning on attending a youth camp this summer at Camp Forest Springs.

[www.forestsprings.us](http://www.forestsprings.us)

## Camp Timberlee – Summer Youth Camp

Camp Timberlee in East Troy, Wisconsin has several different camps available during the summer through the beginning of August. Cost of camp at Timberlee ranges from \$600 - \$700 for the week.

[www.timber-lee.com](http://www.timber-lee.com)

## Lake Lundgren Bible Camp

LLBC is located in Pembine, Wisconsin and also has several different camps available during the summer for Jr and Sr High. They also have Discipleship Camps for Jr and Sr High and Adventure Trips for Sr High youth. Cost of camp at LLBC ranges from \$270 - \$300.

[www.llbc.org](http://www.llbc.org)

The CE Board will be providing a \$100 camp scholarship for any youth from our church attending a CE approved church camp. Registration for all three camps can be done online. A camp scholarship sign-up is on the back bulletin board. Sign up for where and what week you will be attending camp and the CE Board will get your scholarship to you before you leave! Have a great week at church camp!



AWANA is winding down this month. We will have our closing night on April 17<sup>th</sup>, where we present awards and celebrate together. This is not a drop-off night ... parents/guardians will need to stay with their clubbers the entire evening.

All clubbers will be receiving a participation award and other awards they may have earned. Following the award presentation, we will have a time of refreshments in the lower level. Everyone is invited to come down for dessert and fellowship.

**Leaders and Listeners:** Please bring either a batch of cookies or a 9 x 13 pre-cut dessert for our closing ceremony. You can leave the desserts in the kitchen.

## Leaders/Listeners/LIT's Appreciation Dinner

To thank all our leaders, listeners and LIT's for the countless amount of hours they have helped with our AWANA program this year, we will be having an Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in the church fellowship hall at 6:00 pm. Please let Tessa know if you are coming by April 24<sup>th</sup> so that we can plan accordingly for food.

**FAMILY REC Night**

Saturday, April 6  
5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Free for family and friends!

Free bottled water / snacks.  
SIGN-UP TODAY!

**Nash Recreation Center in Oregon**

*thank you*

The Family of Bernice Kruse would like to extend appreciation to all who sent cards, food, memorials and prayers and were with us through our loss. In time of sorrow we find Comfort in knowing we are loved, Peace in knowing that we pass from this life into God's loving hands, Hope in knowing that the love of God, family and friends carry us through all tomorrows.



The Youth Group sponsored Date Night was a ton of fun. Thanks to all of the teens and adults who volunteered their time to make it a success. Thirty-eight youth and teens played games (sardines was a blast), ate dinner together, and finished the night watching a movie. I know the parents appreciated it and each enjoyed their date night!



Please continue to pray for the child on the heart magnet you received. If you do not know who the child on your magnet is, see me and I can let you know more about your child. I would encourage you to send your child a card this month to let him or her know you are praying for him or her.

March Sunday School Bingo sheets are due Sunday, April 7. There is still plenty of time to work on completing some or all of the activities. All sheets **MUST** be signed by a parent in order to be accepted. By signing the sheet, you are confirming that all activities marked were completed. There are multiple prize levels, so if you began the sheet, but didn't quite get a Bingo, please bring in the sheet anyway. April Bingo sheets will go home on the 7th.

Our Sunday School classes are continuing to practice for the Mother's Day choir. If you know of a child who may be interested in participating, please consider inviting him or her to join you for Sunday School. There is still plenty of time to learn the songs before Mother's Day.

Easter Sunday is rapidly approaching. We will be hosting an Egg Scramble after our 10:30 am service. We hope to have a lot of fun celebrating Easter! Please consider who you could invite to join you as we celebrate the Resurrection.

If you have any questions regarding any of the children's ministries at Red Brick Church, please let me know. I would love to talk to you.

Cara Roberts  
Director of Children's Ministry  
(217)621-2460 or cararoberts32@gmail.com



April 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	Avis Hall
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Linda Wetzig
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Natalie McCandless
	-	Heidie Raine
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	-	Brad Baker
	-	Taylor Hanson
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	-	Nathan Ross
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	-	Teresa McLindsay
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	-	Daniel Miller
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	-	Pat Ewald
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Marjorie Pepin
	-	Stephen Brass
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	-	Roland Nelson
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	-	Rick Chelminski
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	-	Paula Hufford
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	Lucas Behmer
	-	Camila Bonne
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Tyler Herlihy
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	Even Jones
	-	Micah Stahl



April 26 <sup>th</sup>	-	Jeff and Teresa McLindsay
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Eric and Kendra Booker

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## 2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:30 am. Tom and Ashley Stahl are heading up our VBS again this year and will be looking for several to help out! If you are interested in serving with our VBS Team this year, please let Tom or Ashley know.

Items we need for VBS this year are: empty and clean 10 ¾ oz. soup cans & empty and clean Lays Stax containers with the lids. You can leave them items at the church office or in the adult SS classroom.

**Be on the lookout on our church website for registration and volunteer sign-ups soon!**





## APRIL 2019 AWANA INFORMATION

### Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Clubbers should remember to bring your M & M banks filled with coins and dollars for our final M & M Night to exchange them for a small package of plain M & M's. Let's fill those banks for the final time! Because of YOUR generosity, we are on track to have a big gift to send to our AWANA Missionaries, Bruce and Mardi Brumfield.

### Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

It's our final AWANA Store and we have been restocking the store with lots of great new items!! This is the clubbers last chance to spend their earned AWANA dollars. Clubbers must spend all of their dollars – no carryovers to next year. If you would like to donate any new toy items to the store, feel free to bring them any club night. Parent Volunteers are needed! Those who can help with our Store Night should talk with Tessa Baker. This is also the last night to spend time with our weekly leaders who listen to our verses during book time.

### Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

We end our AWANA year with our Closing Night on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate the success of our clubbers by presenting them with their year-end awards. We will have desserts to share downstairs following the closing for everyone. This is **NOT** a drop-off night ~ Parents need to stay with their clubber this night to help us celebrate!

### Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

We will celebrate and thank our leaders with a dinner at 6:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup>. All **adult and teenage** leaders are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Tessa by April 24<sup>th</sup> so we can get an accurate count for food. Thank you for your service!

## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

