



**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

**AUGUST 2019  
NEWSLETTER**

**CHURCH PHONE**  
645-2526

**CHURCH E-MAIL  
ADDRESS**

cccoffice1@comcast.net

**TIME OF SERVICES**  
9:00 & 10:30 am

## August is the New September

*The church year begins in August. Sunday, August 11 will be a special youth Sunday with Greg Speck preaching.*

God often uses **simple invitations** to church to save people in spectacular ways.

The wording of an invitation to church is straight-forward. You need only say:

If you don't already have a church home, we'd love for you to be our guest. We could sit together and maybe eat together afterwards.

Pray even as you invite someone to church – ask that our gracious God would use your invitation to share the gospel.

When you invite, be prepared to zero in on a particular Sunday. “Close the invitation” by pinning down a date. The dialogue to the above invitation might continue like this:

**Potential Guest:** I would like to visit your church at some point. That would be nice. We know we need a church home.

**You:** Well, how about this Sunday, would you come then?

There is no time of the year that it isn't appropriate to invite someone to church. But August is especially ideal. People are often coming off vacation and preparing to begin a new school year.

**Greg Speck** will be preaching at our church on August 11. Greg is a very, very well-known youth speaker and our young people have enjoyed him on a number of occasions.

Our **Brick by Brick Campaign** continues forward. Our building committee will soon meet with the architect to keep the project going forward. The **timing** of the campaign depends, in part, on how quickly our pledges come in. We hope to break ground as early as spring of 2020. But we should also be aware:

- Our giving towards **General Budget** is behind year-to-date. It is vital that we finish the year as strongly as possible where our general budget is concerned.
- We are facing significant expenses for **repairing the brick** of our existing building. The Trustees are working on those details --- and we have a capital savings fund for such matters --- but it will require significant expenditures as it relates to our overall finances.

We are actively pursuing an **associate pastor**. A team of our leaders have interviewed one candidate and we are pursuing more interviews. As is the case with every aspect of church life, **prayer** is an essential ingredient.

## **AUGUST CROSSWALK MINISTRY**

- August 4<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Carl Jacobson  
August 11<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Carl Jacobson  
August 18<sup>th</sup> - Toby Behmer, Rob Wissinger  
August 25<sup>th</sup> - Lee Hickey, Don Wallin

If you would like to be a part of Crosswalk Ministry Team, please talk with Grady McCoy.

## **AUGUST GREETERS**

If you are interested in being on our "Greeter Team", please contact Susan Stukenberg at 815-997-7095.

- August 4<sup>th</sup>: Dan and Lori Houston  
August 11<sup>th</sup>: Vicki Farbo, Tania VanBriesen  
August 18<sup>th</sup>: Nick and Chelsea Colon  
August 25<sup>th</sup>: Grady and Millie McCoy  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>: Tim and Shari Halsmer

## **AUGUST NURSERY**

### **One Service at 9:00 am.**

- Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>: Chelsea Colon, Anne Wiltfang,  
Becky Bailey  
Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>: Donna Arnold, Susan Stukenberg,  
Tania VanBriesen  
Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>: Ryan Roberts, Tessa Baker,  
Deb Bonne  
Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>: Jamie Brauns, Betts Carby,  
Stacy Jones  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>: Cherri Tremble, Diane Koenig,  
Rebekah Anderson

## **NURSERY NEWS**

Parents with children under the age of 5 years are invited and encouraged to use our nursery during either of the worship services. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help in the nursery, please contact our nursery coordinator, Kari Janoski.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

### **SS Superintendent:**

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

It's time to sign up for Sunday School! On-line registration is available through our website (theredbrickchurch.org). Every child (preschool through high school) needs an enrollment form filled out! The first day of Sunday School is Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions feel free to call me at me 815-645-8561. See you then and enjoy the rest of your summer ;~)

God Bless, Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

## **WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT**

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

May 5/5, 5/12, 5/19 - Average: 213  
5/26 (One Service) Attendance: 150  
June Average: 172  
July Average: 169

## **CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

### **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 – Lance Mennen	985-2484

***September Newsletter  
Articles are due in the  
church office by  
Wednesday,  
August 28<sup>th</sup>***

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 31, 2019

Total Approved 2019 Budget = \$451,676

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

Budget Giving through July 31 ..... \$260,580

Actual Giving through July 31 ..... \$234,712

Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$-25,868

Actual Expenses through 7/31/19 ..... \$234,282



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)

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

## 2019 Summer Schedule

Our Deacon Board has revised our Summer Worship Schedule. Please note the service times and changes as follows:

### The Month of August

9:00 am Worship Service only

Children's Church (Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

### Labor Day Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 am Service only

Children's Church (Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

**Please be sure to note these on your home calendar for 2019!**

## YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF!

On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual **Youth Kick-Off Event!!** We have an exciting water event planned for our kick-off ... so all Jr and Sr Higher's won't want to miss this! Dinner will be provided. Bring your friends with you to the kick-off! Watch your emails and bulletins for more information!



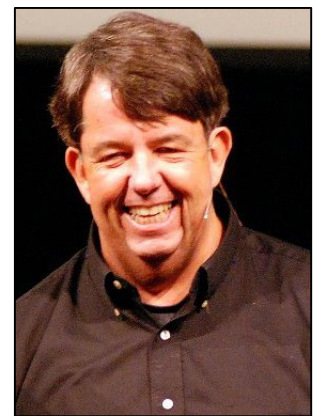
We will be having a church business meeting on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. We will be updating the congregation on some general budget and repair issues, status of our building program and Associate Pastor search. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend the meeting. Childcare will be provided.

## GREG SPECK

### Youth Sunday

Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

We are excited to have Greg Speck with us on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Greg will be bringing us the message on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Most of our youth will know Greg from Camp Forest Springs where Greg has been the camp speaker several times!



Our adults, as well as our youth, will definitely enjoy hearing Greg speak, so please be sure to mark this down on your calendar and invite your friends and family! This would be an awesome Sunday for our youth to bring their friends with them to church!

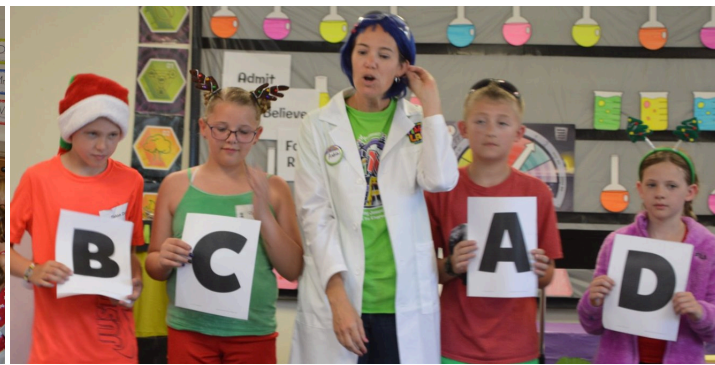
## Campaign Pledge Envelopes

Those wishing to use envelopes for their campaign pledges may do so using the special envelopes in the back of the church clearly marked "**Campaign Contributions Only**". If you are doing your campaign pledges online through Breeze, please be sure that you select "*Capital Campaign Fund 01*" under the Funds drop down box menu.



# 2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

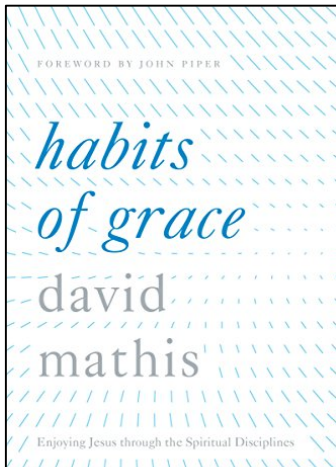
Thank you to everyone who helped this year to make our 2019 VBS a real success! We had over 120 kids attend our VBS, all having a wonderful time! A special thank you to our directors Tom and Ashley Stahl and for the help of so many - teachers, game leaders, craft workers, kitchen help, nursery workers, LIT's, sound booth workers, opening exercise leaders, story time leaders, puppeteers, and our prayer warriors!





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

With school beginning soon, now is a great time to start getting into a new routine. If you are not currently reading the Bible and praying with your family, I would suggest adding this time into your daily routine. Don't focus on perfection, but aim for progress. There is a resource shelf at the back of the church. It has books that Pastor Chris recommends each family own. You can look at the books, and even take one home to check it out.



This month, I want to highlight a book that is not geared towards children, but parents, if you read this book yourself and implement the suggestions in it, you will be a good example for your children: ***Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines*** by David Mathis. This book teaches us to grow in God's grace rather than trying to rely on our own strength. Mathis states, "I can flip a switch, but I don't provide the electricity. I can turn on a faucet, but I don't make the water flow. There be no light and no liquid refreshment without some else providing it. And so it is with the Christian with the ongoing grace of God. His grace is essential for our spiritual lives, but we don't control the supply. We can't make the favor of God flow, but he has given us circuits to connect and pipes to open expectantly. There are paths along which he has promised his favor." You can order this book from Amazon or Christian book distributor for around \$15.

Vacation Bible School was a huge success. We had a record number of children in attendance averaging over 120 children each day, and raised over \$900 to help buy an oven for our missionary friends the Farmer family. It was a great week for the children in attendance, and the adults and teens who were privileged to help. We invited all of our VBS attenders to join us at church on Sunday. We had 20 children and their families attend church that week that don't normally come to our church! We served donuts and coffee in the basement and all enjoyed a sweet time of fellowship. A big thanks to Tom and Ashley Stahl for leading another year of VBS. They are amazing! They work so hard to make sure everything is organized and runs smoothly. We also want to thank Grace Church of DuPage for allowing us to borrow their VBS set yet again this year.



Sunday School and Awana are going to be starting back up before we know it. Now is a great time to invite friends and family to join you at church. It's also a great time to get more involved at church by helping in one of our ministries. If you are wanting to get involved, but aren't quite sure where would be a good fit, talk to me. Find me at church, email me, call me, text me. I would love to help you find a spot that would be a good fit. I love serving the Lord at Red Brick, and I know you would love it too.

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



- August 1<sup>st</sup> - Lane Behmer
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Cherry Lewis, Matt Geiseman
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Michael Arnold
- August 4<sup>th</sup> - Bruce Bonne, Hanna Roberts, Dawson Meline
- August 6<sup>th</sup> - Grady Poliska
- August 7<sup>th</sup> - Amelia Dunseth
- August 9<sup>th</sup> - Fiona Long
- August 10<sup>th</sup> - Deb Bonne
- August 11<sup>th</sup> - Sophie Michalek
- August 12<sup>th</sup> - Anne Wiltfang, Eva Loyo
- August 14<sup>th</sup> - Caleb Anderson
- August 15<sup>th</sup> - Michelle McCandless
- August 18<sup>th</sup> - Janet Warner
- August 19<sup>th</sup> - Bonnie Moran
- August 20<sup>th</sup> - Donna Arnold, Alex Booker
- August 21<sup>st</sup> - Dan Houston
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Tom Whetsel, Samuel Keast
- August 27<sup>th</sup> - Tim Michalek
- August 28<sup>th</sup> - Erica Granath
- Claira Myers
- August 30<sup>th</sup> - Lonna Nelson
- Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul Baker,
- Brenden Wrasse, Estelle Jones
- Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tom Hufford



- August 12<sup>th</sup> - Chris and Jamie Brauns
- August 18<sup>th</sup> - Jim and Janet Warner
- Dave and Pat Ewald
- August 21<sup>st</sup> - Bruce and Deb Bonne
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ron and Nota Ippen
- August 25<sup>th</sup> - Jamie and Brooke Adams
- August 31<sup>st</sup> - Jeff and Stacy Coester

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS ...



It's hard to believe that we are gearing up for fall ministries. Sunday School registration will be available on the church's home webpage the beginning of August. Sunday School begins this year on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will operate during the 9:00 am worship service from Labor Day through Memorial Day weekend. Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grades meet in the church lower level. Junior High (Bible Instruction Class / BIC) as well as the High School Sunday School classes meet in our church administration building. Adult Sunday School will meet in the classroom next to the nursery. There are two adult Sunday School groups that meet. One group meets during the 9:00 am worship service and the second group meets during the 10:30 am worship service. When there are one service Sundays (Fall Festival weekend, etc.) there will be NO Sunday School on that particular Sunday.

Children's Church is available during the 10:30 am worship service and also when there is only one morning worship service. Children's Church is available for preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Children will begin the worship service with their parents and then are dismissed during the service.

Volunteers are needed in both Sunday School and Children's Church. There are opportunities to teach or assist. We have weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly opportunities available. Please contact Brooke at 815-985-3178 if you are able to serve or have any questions. We are looking forward to a fabulous year!



**Ladies Fall Bible Study** dates have been set! Our Tuesday evening "Women of the Word" Bible Study begins on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and our Friday morning "Mom's and More" Bible Study will begin on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Jamie Brauns will be leading the Tuesday evening "Women of the Word" study which will be meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Tuesday evenings.

Jeanne Baker will be leading the Friday morning "Mom's and More" study which will be meeting on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Childcare is provided for the Friday morning study.

---

## ADDRESS for the MICHALEK FAMILY

Please **only send letters** as packages most likely will not make it to them.

Tim Michalek  
11/64 Soi Prawit Lae Phuan 16  
Bang Chak, Phra Khanong  
Bangkok, 10260  
Thailand





## AWANA Kick-Off Night

Wednesday, September 4, 2019 @ 6:00 – 7:15 pm  
The Red Brick Church, Stillman Valley



**ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 5, 2019!**

### What you can do at Kick-off Night:

- Register your kids for AWANA! Preschool – 6th grade.
- Purchase AWANA handbooks, uniforms, etc.
- Enjoy a hot dog dinner provided for your family.
- Meet the AWANA leaders!
- Play new fun fair games with prizes!
- HAVE LOTS OF FUN!!

### Questions? Contact:

AWANA Commander, Tessa Baker  
815-315-3696 / tessabaker333@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

