



SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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

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

**Rev. Dr. Chris Braun**

Four key updates:

- Our interview team for the **associate pastor** position has interviewed multiple candidates and is considering more. Eventually – we hope in the coming months – we will present a candidate to the congregation. Remember: the congregation will vote on a pastor before we call him.
- The **Brick by Brick Campaign** is going strong. We announced to our congregation that 15% of pledges are already in. We are praying for a strong year end and beginning of 2020 so that we can begin building in the Spring.
- Our Trustees are coordinating a significant amount of **work on the physical bricks** of the south chimney as well as a few other trouble spots. This expenditure (of approximately \$40,000) will come out of our capital improvements savings.
- Given a tight general budget – as well as the extra work needed on our building – our building committee is not recommending that we expand our expansion project. As we recently updated the congregation, **our first priority is a separate free-standing building of approximately 6,500 square feet**. Updates to our existing facility will follow that first phase. We remain committed to minimal long-term debt and we know this is the strong consensus of our congregation.

In the sermon on Sunday (9/1/19), the central point was that we must continually compare our lives to the gospel so that we keep everything in perspective. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Philippians that he could say:

<sup>8</sup> *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:11*

In that sermon, I suggested several specific ways we could reorient our hearts & minds in an ongoing way.

Suggestions for Re-Orienting to the Gospel

1. **Attend church!**
2. **Practice spiritual disciplines** – Pray, study and memorize Scripture, share life, worship.
3. Building on the previous, **study sound doctrine** – Gaining the perspective given by gospel concepts is far more difficult than comprehending the geographical distances of life. If we are to see life in perspective, we must renew our minds with rich doctrinal truth. Begin with *The New City Catechism* and continue with resources like *Concise Theology* by J.I. Packer.
4. **Listen to rich worship music** – See this recent post: Tonjes, Eric. “Good Sources for ‘Third Way’ Church Music.” *Pastor Eric Tonjes* (blog), August 26, 2019. <http://www.erictonjes.com/2019/08/good-sources-for-third-way-church-music.html>.
5. **Unplug from your phones and turn off the television!**
6. **Or listen to your phones** - I am blessed by the preaching and ministries of John MacArthur, Albert Mohler (The Briefing Podcast), John Piper, Tim Keller, Alistair Begg, and Sinclair Ferguson. Recommending them does not mean I endorse all they say or all the positions they take – I argue with even myself – But there is much to be learned from their preaching and teaching.

To the list I gave on Sunday, I would also recommend listening to Pastor Collin Smith, another excellent expositor of the Word.

# **SEPTEMBER CROSSWALK MINISTRY**

- Sept 8<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Carl Jacobson  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> - Toby Behmer, Rob Wissinger  
Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lee Hickey, Don Wallin  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Don Wallin

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

## **SEPTEMBER GREETERS**

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

- Sept 8<sup>th</sup>: Len and Barb Kinner  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup>: Bruce and Betty Carby  
Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>: LaVon Willey, Donna Jacquet  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup>: Grady and Millie McCoy

## **SEPTEMBER NURSERY**

### **Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Nursery Greeter: Marlene Miller  
9:00 am - Sharon & Ashley Rhodes,  
Chelsea Colon

10:30 am - Anne Wiltfang, Betts Carby,  
Donna Arnold

### **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>**

Nursery Greeter: Erica Dobson  
9:00 am - Jamie Brauns, Ryan Roberts,  
Arlett Bonne

10:30 am - Kari & Aubrey Janoski,  
Becky Bailey

### **Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Nursery Greeter: Kari Janoski  
9:00 am - Deb Bonne, Susan Stukenberg,  
Vicki Boyd

10:30 am - Terrell & Terri Carby,  
LucyBeth Sierra

### **Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**

Nursery Greeter: Tessa Baker  
9:00 am - Barb Hale, Tania VanBriesen,  
Diane Koenig

## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS***

**SS Superintendent:  
Brooke Adams ~ 645-8561**

***Welcome back to Sunday School!!***

In September, we will have Sunday School and Children's Church on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be no Sunday School because of the Stillman Valley Fall Festival. We will have only one worship service on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am along with Children's Church. In October, we will be back to our regular schedule which is Sunday School at 9:00 am and Children's Church at 10:30 am.

This year there is an enrollment form for Sunday School on [www.theredbrickchurch.org](http://www.theredbrickchurch.org). Please sign your up child/children before Sunday school starts. These forms are very helpful for our teachers. Looking forward to another great year!

God Bless you,  
Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

## **Sunday School Begins September 8<sup>th</sup>!!**

## ***WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT***

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

June Average: 172  
July Average: 169  
August: 161

## **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



# STILLMAN VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL

September 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

On Fall Festival Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, there will only be one worship service at 9:00 am. Please note: Only one service and Children's Church at 9:00 am on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There will NOT be a 10:30 am service. Sunday School will also not meet on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Our AWANA Club will be having a float in the parade with the parade beginning at **1:00 pm**. Clubbers will receive information about the float at the AWANA Club meetings in September. See AWANA Commander Tessa Baker for more information.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 31, 2019

**Total Approved 2019 Budget = \$451,676**

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

Budget Giving through Aug 31 .....	\$295,324
Actual Giving through Aug 31 .....	\$262,460
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving .....	-\$32,864
Actual Expenses through 8/31/19 .....	\$273,183

## September 2019 Worship Schedule

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

9:00 am Service only

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

### Fall Festival Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Service only

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

**Please be sure to note both of these  
Sunday's on your home calendar!**



### Women's Bible Studies in September!

M&M (Moms and More) and WOW (Women of the Word Evening Bible Study) will start up in September!

Both groups will be doing a study called "**No Other Gods**" by Kelly Minter. This study will challenge women to evaluate the modern-day idols in our culture and embrace a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus.

**Women of the Word** meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm (**please note new time!**) in the Adult SS Classroom, beginning on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are welcome to join this study. Jamie Brauns will be leading the Tuesday evening study and if you have any questions, contact Jamie at 815-262-8837.

**Mom's and More** Bible Study meets on Friday mornings beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> in the Adult SS Classroom from 9:00 to 10:30 am led by Jeanne Baker. All ladies are welcome to join the group and childcare will be provided. If you have any questions about our Mom's and More Bible Study, please contact Jeanne at 815-391-4634.

Workbooks are \$15 each and can be purchased at either study.



# Teen Update ...

Thank you to Chad and Crystal Carty for hosting our kick-off on August 24<sup>th</sup>! The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time with the water games! We've got an incredibly full year with awesome opportunities for all our teens. Here's the list of most of our activities through December. Highlighted in red are needed hosts and sponsor opportunities for adults / parents. If you would like to take one or more of the open spots, please let Jana know in the church office!

## September

- 11 - Youth Bible Study begins. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 15 - Youth Group. Noon to 2 pm.
- 18 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 22 - SYATP Party. More info to follow in bulletins.
- 25 - SYATP at Jr/Sr High Schools. 7:00 am.
- 25 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.

## October

- 2 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 6 - Youth Group. Noon to 2 pm.
- 9 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 12 - Cookout/College & Military Packages. 4 – 7 pm.
- 16 - NO Youth Bible Study.
- 20 - Youth Group. Noon to 2 pm.
- 23 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 27 - Around the Table with Sr's & Teens.  
**HOSTS ARE NEEDED for this event.**
- 30 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.

## November

- 2 - Clean-up Project. More info to follow in bulletins.
- 3 - Youth Group. Noon to 2 pm.
- 6 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 13 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 17 - Youth Group. Noon to 2 pm.
- 20 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 24 - Jr High Christmas Tree Decorating.  
**HOSTS/SPONSORS NEEDED for this event.**
- 27 - NO Youth Bible Study.

## December

- 1 - JR High Christmas Party. 4 – 6 pm.  
**SPONSORS NEEDED for this event.**
- 1 - SR High Christmas Party. 6 – 8 pm.  
**SPONSORS NEEDED for this event.**
- 4 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 11 - Youth Bible Study. 7 – 7:45 pm.
- 18, 25 - NO Youth Bible Study.
- 20 - Christmas Caroling to Widows.  
**HOSTS/SPONSORS NEEDED for this event.**

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)



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



We are so excited to start up our fall ministries and begin another Sunday School year. In our last church meeting, I discussed the urgency of sharing the Gospel with our children and youth and I read Psalm 78. If you have not read Psalm 78, please do and be reminded of the commandment God has placed on parents. Psalm 78:5-8 states:

- <sup>5</sup> He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,
- <sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;
- <sup>8</sup> and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

(Continued on next page.)

We have the most amazing opportunity to teach the Gospel to our children in our church and community. I pray that God might use teachers and leaders in our church to reach generations of believers as the psalmist describes above. As we well know, the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few.

If God is calling you to pray for or serve in children's ministry, please contact me (815-985-3178). I and my fellow teachers have had great joy in serving and developing relationships in Sunday School and would love to find an area for you to serve.

### **CLASSES**

Sunday School is available for ages three and up, beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>. During the 9:00 worship service the following classes will meet:

- **Preschool** – meets in preschool room on South side of the church basement. This class will be led by “Miss Cara.”
- **Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> grade** – meets in church basement; they will begin together in worship and then split into classrooms by age. Leaders include Worship: Miss Heather; KG/1: Miss Andria and Miss Brooke; 2/3: Miss Carole and Mr. and Mrs. Dyal; 4/5 Miss Carol.
- **Junior High** – The “Bible Instruction Course” (BIC) meets in the basement of our administration building next door to the church. This class will be led by Mr. and Mrs. Houston.
- **Senior High** – meets on the first level of our administration building next door to the church. This class will begin an exciting curriculum called “The Gospel Project.” Miss Rebekah will lead this class.
- **Adults** – Meets in the classroom on the main level of our church, next to the nursery.

During the 10:30 worship service, there is an **adult small group** that meets in the classroom on the main level of the church, next to the nursery. In

addition, **Children's Church** is available for children ages preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Children going to Children's Church begin worship service with their families in the sanctuary. Later, they are dismissed to Children's church during the service, before the sermon.

### **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN**

Sunday School registration has been available online on our church's homepage. In order to expedite check-in and ensure we have enough materials for our children, please register your child online. Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students as well as children in nursery can be checked in at any of the three check-in stations (one near nursery; two in the church basement).

### **SCHEDULE UPDATES**

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: First SS class.

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>: NO Sunday School.  
(Stillman Valley Fall Festival Weekend)

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>: SS Children's choir for ages preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will sing during both worship services.

### **GIVING**

We teach our children about tithing, and offering is collected weekly. There will be other opportunities for our children to give to specific causes throughout the year.

### **QUESTIONS**

For questions regarding Sunday School or Children's Church, please contact Brooke Adams at 815-985-3178.

God Bless!

Brooke Adams, Sunday School Superintendent





September 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	Teagan Meline
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	Sandy Cox, Brenden Wrasse, Paul Baker, Estelle Jones
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Tom Hufford
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	Kyle Mast, Conner Wrasse,
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	-	Owen Dunseth
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	-	Tim Halsmer, Bob Hoernecke
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	-	Jeanne Baker
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	-	Shelley Herlihy, Gloria Ennenbach
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	-	Ashley Stahl
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	-	Tania VanBriesen
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	-	MyKenzie Beitel
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	-	Shawn Ross
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	-	Mitchell Hawkins
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Lee Hickey
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Bruce Carby



September 7 <sup>th</sup>	-	Shawn and Shannon Ross
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	-	Homer and Becky Bailey
	-	Nick and Chelsea Colon
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	-	Brent and Arlett Bonne
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	-	Ray and Kay Swanson



## 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](mailto:tessabaker333@gmail.com)

### Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

AWANA Kick-Off and Family Fun Fair Night. See details above. Parents are asked to stay with their children this evening. Call the church office at 815-645-2526 or Commander Tessa with any questions.

### Wednesday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

This is “Western Night” at club. Come to club dressed in your best western wear as a cowboy, cowgirl or animal.

### Wednesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

This is “Creation Night” at club. Come to club dressed like something from creation.

### Wednesday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

We have scheduled “Bring a Friend Night” for the 25<sup>th</sup>! Bring a friend (or two!) with you to club tonight!

### Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

AWANA participates in Fall Festival Parade. Clubbers who participate in the parade will receive \$5 AWANA dollars. Meet at the AWANA Float in the high school parking lot at 12:45 pm. After the parade, please pick your clubber up in the high school back parking lot. Cubbies who are 3 years old wishing to participate in the parade will need a parent/guardian to stay with the Cubbie the entire parade route.

### Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm

This will be our first M & M (Missionary Night). This year our club will support Tim and Amy Michalek, who are in Thailand studying the language in preparation for teaching. Clubbers are asked to bring in monies on M & M Night in either their M & M Bank or a baggie. In exchange for the monies, clubbers will receive an individual package of M & M's.

**AWANA REMINDER: Children in AWANA must have on tennis shoes for game time!! Please be sure your child is wearing tennis shoes or brings a pair of tennis shoes with him or her to AWANA's for game time.**

**BEGINS**  
**Wednesday,**  
**September 11**  
**7 - 7:45 pm!**

# TEEN BIBLE STUDY

**Jr & Sr High!**

**Meets in the  
Admin. Bldg.**



## **NEEDED!**

Our AWANA Club is need of empty, clean frosting containers to use for our AWANA Missionary Banks. Each clubber gets a bank ... so we are in need of several containers!

Please save them and drop them off on the back or front porch of the Administration Building.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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

# **Sunday School Begins!**

## **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am – For all ages**  
**10:30 am – Adult Class**

