



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

**DECEMBER 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



Given our Christmas celebration last year, it's not so hard to picture how much fun we will have this year on December 22. Our church will be crowded. People will be home for the holidays. The eyes of our children will sparkle with excitement. Chaotic joy.

As a part of worshipping our Savior, a goal of our chaotic joy is to teach our children that God's people should be the most joyful. Christmas is a time when we celebrate central aspects of our faith.

So, what are the truths that we celebrate this Christmas? Here are a select few to remember:

- **The incarnation** – Christmas celebrates the greatest miracle ever, that God became humanity without ceasing to be deity. The importance of the incarnation is stressed in Hebrews (2:14-18) because Jesus became humanity so that he might: (1) Experience death for us (2) Bring us to glory (3) Defeat the devil and the fear of death (4) Become a fully qualified high priest.
- **Grace** – God is a gift-giving God. It is appropriate for us to give gifts to one another because in so doing we reflect our Creator.
- **Church Family** – We are not called to an individual experience of the faith. Rather, we are part of Christ's church – we are brothers and sisters together – a family.
- **The Global Gospel** – Jesus came as a "light for revelation to the Gentiles," which is to say that God's plan was that the good news of Christ would go out to the ends of the earth.
- **God's heart for humility** – Whether it was the circumstances of our King's birth, or the announcement to the lowly shepherds, the Christmas story reminds us that God esteems the humble. The same Isaiah who prophesied, "*For unto us a Son is born . . .*," also wrote, "*But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word* (Isaiah 66:2b).
- **Christmas leads to Good Friday and Easter.** At Christmas time we focus on the incarnation, but as believers we are always thinking about the Cross where our Savior bore our sins in his body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24).

All these points – and many more – are the basis for our chaotic joy this Christmas season.

DECEMBER CROSSWALK MINISTRY

Dec. 1st - Grady McCoy, Carl Jacobson
Dec. 8th - Carl Jacobson, Steve Arnold
Dec. 15th - Toby Behmer, Rob Wissinger
Dec. 22nd - Lee Hickey, Don Wallin
Dec. 29th - Don Wallin, Grady McCoy
If you would like to be a part of Crosswalk Ministry Team, please talk with Grady McCoy.

DECEMBER GREETERS

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

Dec. 1st: Bruce and Deb Bonne
Dec. 8th: Vicki Farbo, Tania VanBriesen
Dec. 15th: Greg and Cherri Tremble
Dec. 22nd: Nick and Chelsea Colon
Dec. 29th: Grady and Millie McCoy

DECEMBER NURSERY

December 8th

9:00 am Chelsea Colon, Deb Bonne,
Anne Wiltfang
10:30 am Betts Carby, Stacy Jones,
Haley Jones

December 15th

9:00 am Jamie Brauns, Barb Hale,
Mandy Poliska
10:30 am Diane Koenig, Cherri Tremble,
Hanna Wallin

December 22nd

9:00 am Sharon & Ashley Rhodes,
Susan Stukenberg
10:30 am Kari & Aubrey Janoski,
Vicki Boyd

December 24th

4:00 pm Hope Wallin

December 29th – Only One Service

9:00 am Deb Bonne, Jeanne Baker,
Tania VanBriesen

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SS Superintendent:

Brooke Adams ~ 815-645-8561

Our average weekly **Attendance** for the month of November is listed below for Nursery through High School Sunday School.

November 2019: 66

Sunday School is available for all ages. Preschool through 5th grade meet in the lower level of the church. Jr and Sr High meet in the administration building and both adult classes meet in the classroom next to the nursery.

WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT

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

Labor Day Worship Service: 153
Fall Festival Worship Service: 175
9/8, 9/15, 9/22 Worship Services: 197
October: 202
November Worship Services: 231

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

**January Newsletter
Articles are due in the
church office by
Friday, Dec. 27th**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 30th, 2019

Total Approved 2019 Budget = \$451,676

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

Budget Giving through Nov. 30 \$408,242

Actual Giving through Nov. 30 \$366,407

Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$-41,835

Actual Expenses through 11/30/19 \$357,767



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 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 8th

- 9:00 am Worship Service
Sunday School for all ages
SS Dept sings
Gift Exchange Profiles handed out
- 10:30 am Worship Service
SS Dept sings
Children's Church
Gift Exchange Profiles handed out

Sunday, December 15th

- 9:00 am Worship Service
Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 22nd

- 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

Tuesday, December 24th

- 4:00 pm Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 29th

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

Sunday, January 5th, 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.

LADIES BIBLE STUDIES

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

Youth Group Christmas Parties!

The Jr. High Youth Group Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 8th 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 8th 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.

Christmas Decorating ...



Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday, November 30th to help with decorating the church.

We appreciated the help and the church looks beautiful for the Christmas season!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

What an exciting time of year to celebrate the birth of our King! Our preschool through 5th grade students have been busy learning and preparing for their Sunday School Christmas Program. Mark your calendars - We will have a run-through practice of the program on **Saturday, December 7th from 2:00 – 3:30 pm** for KG-5th grade students. The children will then be **performing on Sunday, December 8th** in both church services. Please have your child in the fellowship hall by 8:45 on the 8th, and plan on staying for the beginning of second service to let your child sing.

Have a Blessed Christmas!
Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you don't see your birthday and/or anniversary in the church newsletter, please be sure to let the church office know!! We want to include everyone!!

Email (cccoffice1@comcast.net) or call the church office with the information!

Special Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, December 15th
4:00 pm*

- Update on building program
- Vote on Associate Pastor Candidate, David Bogner

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 11th.

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.



Please note that in order to be counted for 2019 tax purposes, all church contributions need to be **RECEIVED** by the church office no later than **DECEMBER 31st**. Any contributions received after that date, *regardless of check date or postmark*, will be counted as a 2020 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.



Associate Pastor Candidate

On Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 pm, there will be a time of Q & A with our Associate Pastor Candidate David Bogner and his wife Marcia. This time of Q & A is open to the church family and we encourage you to come, ask any questions you might have, and have the opportunity to visit with David and Marcia.



We are very excited to be doing our “4 Gifts” Christmas Celebration again this year! Last year we had 152 people participate ... we are pumped to say that we have over 175 participating this year! If you haven’t yet filled out a form and are still interested, please contact the church office asap! You can go to our church website until 9:00 am on Wednesday, December 4th to fill out the form as well.

On Sunday, December 8th, before and after both worship services, Tessa Baker and Jamie Brauns will be in the back of the church handing out gift exchange profiles of who you will be purchasing a gift for. Be sure to pick up your profiles on the 8th. If you are unable to be in church on the 8th, profiles will be mailed out on Monday, December 9th.

If you have any questions, please contact Jana in the church office 815-645-2526.

Capital Campaign Envelopes

Envelopes can be found in the back of the church. If you are doing your campaign contributions online through Breeze, please be sure that you select “*Capital Campaign Fund 01*” under the Funds drop down box menu.

We want to be sure your contribution gets to the fund you wish it to go to.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 am SS Dept Sings Gift Profiles handed out. Jr High Christmas Party - 4:00 pm Sr High Christmas Party - 6:00 pm	2 <i>Mom's In Prayer</i> 8:15 pm	3 	4 AWANA 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 - 7:45 pm	5 Q & A with Associate Pastor David & Marcia Bogner 6:30 pm	6	7 SS Christmas Program Practice - 2:00 pm (K - 5th grade)
8 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 am Special Congregational Meeting 4:00 pm	9 <i>Mom's In Prayer</i> 8:15 pm	10 Deacon Bd Meeting 6:30 pm Trustee Bd Meeting 6:30 pm	11 AWANA 6:00 pm - AWANA STORE TONIGHT <u>NO YOUTH BIBLE STUDY!</u>	12 	13	14 
15 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:45	16	17 	18 NO AWANA	19	20	21
22 GIFT EXCHANGE SUNDAY at 10:00 am	23	24 	25  January 1, 2020	26	27	28
29 NO Sunday School One Worship Service at 9:00 am	30	31 				



December 2 nd	-	Rod Wetzig
	-	Dave Ewald
December 3 rd	-	John Stout
December 5 th	-	John Anderson
	-	Zach Poliska
December 8 th	-	Pete Mazanec
December 11 th	-	Lana Lamer
December 12 th	-	Elaine Daniels
December 13 th	-	Karen Hilliard
	-	Abigail Houston
December 15 th	-	Cody Bennett
	-	Donna Jacquet
	-	Kari Janoski
	-	Hazel Homman
December 19 th	-	Betty Carby
December 21 st	-	Ryan Roberts,
	-	Stacy Coester, Jim Warner
December 22 nd	-	Raymond Swanson
	-	Tammy Homman
December 23 rd	-	Kendra Booker
December 25 th	-	Carlton Easley
December 26 th	-	James Daniels, Steve Arnold
	-	Meredith Jones
December 27 th	-	Mary Beth Brauns
December 28 th	-	Natalie Haugse
December 30 th	-	Cameron Wissinger
January 1 st	-	Chad Hanson
January 4 th	-	Lawrence (Wren) Hickey



December 8 th	-	Zach and Mandy Poliska
December 13 th	-	Ron and Cherry Lewis



DECEMBER 2019 AWANA NEWS

Wednesday, December 4th

AWANA will have their third M & M Night on December 4th. This year our offerings will go to support Tim and Amy Michalek, as they continue to study the Thai language in preparation for teaching next fall. The Michalek's will be providing us with a video for all of our M & M Nights. M & M Night is the first Wednesday of every month. Clubbers should bring their missionary banks with them to club in exchange for an individual size package of plain M & M's.

Wednesday, December 11th

We are having "Super Hero Night" night at club. The clubbers enjoy this night! Come to club dressed up as your favorite super hero.

Wednesday, December 18th

It's "AWANA STORE and Dress Like Christmas Night" at club on the 18th. Come to club dressed like Christmas ... wear all the red and green you can! 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. DONATIONS FOR OUR STORE ARE NEEDED!

Wednesday, December 25th and January 1st: There will be NO club on December 25th or January 1st. Our AWANA Club wishes everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas! AWANA will resume meeting again on Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 with our first M & M Night of 2020!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

