



**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

**JANUARY 2020  
 NEWSLETTER**

**CHURCH PHONE  
 645-2526**

**CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
 Cccoffice1@comcast.net**

***Prayerfully invite people to see God turn lives around.***

Is failure final?

Maybe.

Going into a new year, it should be said, "Failure may be final. But failure is not *necessarily* final."



What a sobering contrast:

- For some, failure is final, the end: Humpty Dumpty nosedived off the wall, and all the royal forces horses and men can't set things right.
- Others who are turned are "put back together" for the better – for all of eternity. Like Zacchaeus they come down out of the tree and are joyously turned about.

This contrast of extremes raises the question, "What is the difference between final failure and total turnaround? How can I see turnaround?" The one Word answer is "Christ." Jesus is the only one who can turn people around.

But the one-word answer of Christ requires far more explanation. We need to *think* carefully and biblically about the glorious *possibility* of change. After all, Scripture tells us that God gives us all we need for life and godliness through our *knowledge* of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness (2 Peter 1:3).

The goal of the upcoming series, "Hear the Lion Roar," is to biblically analyze how God turns people around by reflecting on the story of Judah and the family of Jacob in Genesis 37-50.

Failure may be final for someone you love. But it doesn't necessarily need to be so. Why not invite?

You can prepare for this series in several important ways:

- **Pray.** Ask God to open your eyes to see glorious things in his Word.
- **Read.** Spend time in Genesis 37-50.
- **Attend.** Be here!
- **Invite.** Ask someone to be your guest.

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Our church is thankful for the unanimous call extended to David Bogner to be our associate pastor. We have not finalized David's start date. But it will be some time in February. We are planning an installation service for February 16 at 4:00 PM with Pastor Scott Nesse here to give the charge to David. Please pray for David and Marcia, for Jeremiah, Anna, and Abigail. We are all so excited for their transition.

# JANUARY CROSSWALK MINISTRY

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> - Grady McCoy, Carl Jacobson  
Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> - Carl Jacobson, Steve Arnold  
Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> - Toby Behmer, Rob Wissinger  
Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> - Lee Hickey, Don Wallin  
If you would like to be a part of Crosswalk Ministry Team, please talk with Grady McCoy.

## JANUARY GREETERS

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

Jan 5<sup>th</sup>: Tom and Ashley Stahl  
Jan 12<sup>th</sup>: Randy and Susan Stukenberg  
Jan 19<sup>th</sup>: Bruce and Betty Carby  
Jan 26<sup>th</sup>: Keith and Anne Wiltfang

## JANUARY NURSERY

January 5<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Chelsea Colon, Tessa Baker,  
Barb Hale  
10:30 am Lee and Shannon Hickey,  
LucyBeth Sierra

January 12<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Jamie Brauns, Mandy Poliska,  
Susan Stukenberg  
10:30 am Donna Arnold, Hanna Wallin  
Nancy Gelderloos

January 19<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Sharon and Ashley Rhodes,  
Betts Carby  
10:30 am Kari and Aubrey Janoski,  
Cherri Tremble

January 26<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Diane Koenig, Jeanne Baker,  
Tania VanBriesen  
10:30 am Becky Bailey, Hope Wallin,  
Vicki Boyd

The best way to reach our Nursery Coordinator, Kari Janoski, is via texting at 815-297-3459. New volunteers are always needed in the nursery! Contact Kari for more information!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

### SS Superintendent:

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

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

December 2019: 65

Sunday School is available for all ages. Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

October: 202  
November Worship Services: 231  
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Worship Services: 232  
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Attendance: 212  
December 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Attendance: 122

## **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

**February Newsletter**  
**Articles are due in the**  
**church office by**  
**Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Total Approved 2018 Budget = \$451,676

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

Budget Giving through Dec 31 ..... \$451,676  
Actual Giving through Dec 31..... \$432,570  
Budget Giving vs Actual Giving ..... \$-19,106  
Actual Expenses through 12/31/19 .... \$400,655



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.



## 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 "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer.

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

The Enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. **The Armor of God**, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

Workbooks will be available for purchase for \$16 at either study.



## (Women's Evening Bible Study)

Our Tuesday evening study will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 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 24<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 Jeanne Baker.







Reports from all boards and committees are needed in the church office no later than Monday, January 13<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 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 26<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 19<sup>th</sup> for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 26<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 regard 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**4:00 pm**

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**REPORTS DUE FROM BOARDS:**  
**Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am**

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS ...

Both our Jr and Sr High Youth groups had white elephant gift exchanges with a few stand out gifts ... our youth always enjoy the gift exchange!



## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

### **January**

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>:

Rescue Mission Food Service. Meet at Mission at 10:00 am. Fill out form in Breeze if going.

### **February**

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Youth Group from Noon to 2:00 pm.

Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:

Bake cookies / make cards for widows. 6:00 – 7:00 pm in church fellowship hall.

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>:

Loving our Widows visits. Delivering cookies and cards. Meet at church at 10:00 am.

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:

Youth Group from Noon to 2:00 pm

### **March**

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>:

Youth Group from Noon to 2:00 pm.





Happy New Year! Thank you to Heather Wallin, Cara Roberts and all of those involved in our Sunday School Children's Choir last month. The Christmas program and the kids were as sweet as ever. I'm bubbling with excitement about what God has ahead for our church in children's ministry in 2020.

Keep praying as we move forward with plans for our additional space. Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, remember to work on your BINGO home projects and pray for each other. (Miss Cara has some yummy prizes!) We are updating our list of substitute teachers for Sunday School. If you are a church member and are able to substitute 1-2 Sundays a year (or more), please contact Brooke Adams at her email address of [jbadams07@gmail.com](mailto:jbadams07@gmail.com) 815-985-3178).

Brooke Adams, Sunday School Superintendent



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 pm**



Please plan on joining us at the Installation Service for our new Associate Pastor, David Bogner, on Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. More information on the installation service will follow in upcoming bulletins and February newsletter.



*thank you*

**Dear Church Family:** Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. We were able to enjoy some Florida sunshine! We are so thankful to be "Bricks" at Christmas time.

Pastor Chris & Jamie Brauns

**THANKS to ALL** who stayed after church on January 5<sup>th</sup> to help take down Christmas decorations. Many hands made for short work. The Deaconess Board appreciated your help very much!!

**To our Dearest Church Family:** It is difficult to put into words our gratitude to each of you for your love expressed to us by hugs, cards, texts, supper, desserts, and most importantly prayers!

Rick and I are humbled by all of these gifts. We so appreciate the prayers brought to God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, on behalf of Rick's healing.

We know it's a miracle that Rick is here. We hope each of you had a very blessed Christmas and have a Joyous New Year!

Our Love,  
Rick and Donna Dyal



# JANUARY 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Worship Services at 9:00 am</p>			<p>AWANA 6:00 to 7:15 pm Teen Bible Study 7:00 pm</p>	1	2	3
<p>Worship Services at 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am</p>			<p>AWANA 6:00 to 7:15 pm Teen Bible Study 7:00 pm</p>	8	9	10
<p>Worship Services at 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am</p>	<p>Reports for Annual Report Due in Office!</p>		<p>AWANA 6:00 to 7:15 pm Teen Bible Study 7:00 pm</p>	15	16	17
<p>Worship Services at 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Copies of 2019 Annual Report available in back of church.</p> 	12	13			16	17
<p>Worship Services at 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am</p>	19	20	<p>Deacon Board Meeting 6:30 pm Trustee Board Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	22	23	24
<p>Worship Services at 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am</p> <p><b>Annual Meeting</b> 4:00 pm</p>	26	27	<p>Women's Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	28	29	30
			<p>AWANA 6:00 to 7:15 pm Teen Bible Study 7:00 pm</p>	31		
			<p>Mom's &amp; More Bible Study 9:00 am</p>			
			<p>AWANA DERBY CUT-OUT CLINIC 9:00 - 11:00 am Youth Serve at Rockford Rescue Mission at 10 am</p>			



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|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| January 1 <sup>st</sup>  | - | Chad Hanson                    |
| January 4 <sup>th</sup>  | - | Sandra Stout, Lawrence Hickey  |
| 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 20 <sup>th</sup> | - | Anneliese Haak                 |
| January 21 <sup>st</sup> | - | Reht Brass                     |
| January 22 <sup>nd</sup> | - | Patsy Hoerneck                 |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup> | - | Judy Foster                    |
| January 27 <sup>th</sup> | - | Gwen Baker                     |
|                          | - | Derek VanBriesen, Hope Wallin, |
| January 28 <sup>th</sup> | - | Tina Garnhart                  |
| January 30 <sup>th</sup> | - | Landon Haak                    |
| January 31 <sup>st</sup> | - | Anna Forcier                   |
| February 1 <sup>st</sup> | - | Shannon Hickey, Grace Hickey,  |
| February 5 <sup>th</sup> | - | Renley Svartoien               |



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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

- Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 am
- Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

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

### AWANA Pit Crew Night – Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

Bring your AWANA Car to club on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Pit Crew will get them checked in early for the race!

### AWANA Grand Prix – Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

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





# JANUARY 2020 AWANA SCHEDULE

## Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

It's M & M (Missionary) Night at AWANA's on the 8<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 15<sup>th</sup>

It's "Arctic Night" at club on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Clubbers can come to club dressed like they are from the Arctic as we endure the chilly January temperatures here in Northern Illinois.

## Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</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 teethers.

## Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

We will have our first 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!

## Wednesday, January 29<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!

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## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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

