



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 David Bogner

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

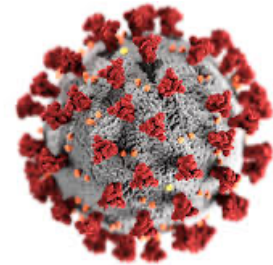
CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

TIME OF SERVICES
Services will be on
Facebook Live every Sunday at
9:00 am.

We continue to adapt to the Coronavirus. Church services are certainly canceled through April 26. Our current plan is to continue with Facebook live on Sunday mornings.

I had written my church newsletter article for April anticipating both Easter and groundbreaking. It turns out that article will need to wait.



We now find ourselves facing a pandemic that no one could have anticipated. The magnitude of this crisis arrests us when we realize that quite possibly, for the first time in the history of our country, there will be no church services on Easter Sunday. (Churches were cancelled in the *Fall* in 1918 because of the influenza outbreak).

Our church continues to seize the opportunity to serve and minister during this time.

- I have been on **Facebook live** each Sunday thus far and plan to continue to do so.
- We have hosted **multiple Zoom meetings** for many different groups.
- We are **fasting and praying** as a church on the day I write this.
- Our church leaders are making **more personal contacts** than any of us remember making.
- Our vision is that when we next meet together as a church, that we will have extended hundreds of **personal invitations**. Pray now about who you might invite. And it's not too early to begin talking to people about our next church service, even though we don't know when.
- We have **delayed our construction bids due date** until at least April 16.

We recognize that churches like ours faces multiple dangers during the Coronavirus. The dangers we face include a **further thinning out of the doctrine of the church**. There is a real danger that Christians have further reinforced in their minds the idea that church can be delivered via the Internet. While we are thankful for electronic communication, this is no substitute for gathering together. For that reason, I have been careful to distinguish a Facebook Live feed from a worship service.

There are also practical reasons we have not produced a more elaborate video for Sunday mornings. Our church does not own a great deal of video equipment. And we have not thought this the time to hire someone to edit and produce a video. **Such a strategy would be expensive (thousands of dollars) in terms of time and equipment if we were to produce video with any level of quality.** The system we have in place for Facebook live during worship services is inferior to how I am currently doing Facebook Live given lighting, audio, and an empty sanctuary. And, again, we wish to distinguish between what I am doing on Sunday mornings via Facebook live and what constitutes church.

Gathering musicians so that we could provide worship music online would ignore the spirit of the request that we might not meet together. Indeed, one of the worst instances right now of disease transmission happened when a Presbyterian choir in the state of Washington practiced together. To date, two of their members have died. It only makes sense that musicians in close proximity to one another – expelling air with instruments and voice – transmit the disease.

It would be possible, of course, to produce individual recitals. But home movies are not a substitute for worship and there is a virtually unlimited amount of worship music available through the web. **Our church web site includes a suggested play list for worship music.**

I agree with most of what Pastor Mark Dever (Capitol Hill Baptist in Washington D.C.) has said, see the 9-Marks Web site. This is a time when Christians accept God's providence regarding meeting – and feel more acutely the longing to be together. In Capitol Hill Baptist's case, they are not streaming at all. We see some advantage in the simple approach of video streaming a Facebook live stream on Sunday mornings.

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Stephen Brass	218-5076
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 Committee – Lance Mennen	985-2484



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

The email address for Pastor Chris is:
cdbrauns@gmail.com

The email address for Pastor David is:
davidbogner4@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 8th graders who have attended and completed our Bible Instruction Class during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, May 17th. We encourage all graduates to please attend on the 19th if at all possible.

***** Please let the church office know if you have a high school graduate in your family. This event will happen provided we are able to meet again as a church on the 17th of May.**

May Newsletter Articles are due in the church office by Tuesday, April 28, 2020

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2020

Total Approved 2020 Budget = \$453,848

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$8,728/week**

Budget Giving through 3/31/20.....	\$113,464
Actual Giving through 3/31/20	\$93,139
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	\$-20,325
Actual Expenses through 3/31/20	\$102,686
Actual Budget vs Expenses	\$-9,547

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

CHILDREN'S PRELUDE

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th, we will have our children/youth begin both services with a prelude, again provided we are able to meet as a congregation on the 10th.

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!



Good Friday Service

The Community Good Friday Service has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Pastor Chris will be live streaming on Facebook at Noon on Good Friday. Please join him then!



Unfortunately, we everything going on in regard to the coronavirus pandemic, our AWANA Club has concluded until we Kick-Off again in September. All clubbers have until Friday, April 10th to call their assigned leader to recite any memorized verses.

If our church is able to meet for worship services in May, we are looking at possibly doing something special during one of the worship services to recognize and hand out awards to the clubbers. Please be watching your emails for all updates or contact our AWANA Director, Tessa Baker, for more information.

Happy Birthday!

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

Happy Anniversary

April 26 th	-	Jeff & Teresa McLindsay
May 4 th	-	Eric & Kendra Booker

EVENTS POSTPONED

For the time being, BOTH the **All Church Rec Night** and the **Spring Porch Planter Class** have been postponed.

We hope to get them both rescheduled and put on the church calendar at a later date. Watch your bulletins and newsletter for any updates on both of these events.

2020 VBS



VBS will be held on July 13th through the 17th 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.

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID ...

March 2020 will be a month remembered for introducing us to terms we do not normally, if ever, use: pandemic, Covid-19, social distancing, quarantine, and shelter-in-place. These will probably stay with us for a while. Might we as the Church remember March 2020, along with the days, weeks, and months ahead with more than vocabulary terms?

Jesus Christ is building His Church. Jesus said, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," Matthew 16:18b. Later in Acts 19:20, we receive an early report of Christ building His Church: So, the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. Both verses use the same Greek root translated "prevail". Hell will not prevail, and the Church is prevailing.

Let us not shrink back as disciples of Jesus. We press onward, to learn the truths He is teaching us. We find ways to creatively serve others safely, for their sake and ours. We continue to leverage technology to nurture relationships in the Body of Christ: phone calls, video meetings, and messaging. I saw a meme that had a picture of an empty church sanctuary. It simply said, "The church is not empty. The Church is deployed."



Social Distancing Driveway Visits

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 370
STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084

