



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

**MAY 2020
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

Our church finds itself at a pivotal time in its long history. Let's remember the activities that should define God's people in the midst of trials.

I am writing this on April 28 and, given the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have not gathered for Sunday worship since March 8. Our sanctuary was completed in 1893. So far as I know, there has never been a period remotely close to this long without worship services in our space.

We grieve not being together. Fundamentally, a local church is about gathering together under the leadership of King Jesus to worship Him, to hear his Word proclaimed, and to observe the ordinances or sacraments. This pandemic has cut off some of our spiritual oxygen.

We face the added complication of the timing of bids for our church building plan. We need to make a decision about signing a contract at a time when our General Fund is under pressure and we cannot have a formal church business meeting.

The trial of the pandemic plops us down in a maze of decisions and we need to find our way forward and out of the labyrinth! How do we stream our time on Sunday mornings? How many meetings do we have and when? How do we engage with our church family about going forward with construction?

So, what do we do? I am making a personal checklist. The list is not exhaustive, but it gives some priorities.

1. **Pray** – I pray the Lord will fill us with knowledge and depth of insight so that we can discern what is best and make decisions that bring God glory (Phil 1:9-11). I pray that the Lord will continue to raise up workers for the harvest fields who bring their expertise to bear on situations we face (Matt 9:35-38).
2. **Study relevant Scripture** – We have stressed to our church family Scripture like Psalm 91, Proverbs 24:10, and now 1 Peter. Look those texts up. Let's meditate on them.
3. **Be patient** – Whether it is in a Zoom meeting – or during another morning when we cannot gather together – any time we are in trials patience begins to wear thin. So far as I know, we are all doing very well – but let's be careful in our homes that we take some walks, smile a lot, and show the fruit of the Spirit with one another. *This is really a sub-point of #6 below . . .*
4. **Listen** – I've already mentioned listening to the Word, but we also need to listen to one another. One of the great joys of my life as a pastor is listening to men and women in our church who know far, far more about an area than I. Construction is an example of an area where I am thankful for the knowledge of our people about the construction process and various sub-contractors. Listening is something all of us show work on improving in over the long haul (Proverbs 19:20). I am also thankful we can listen to the input of Bill Walter and Church Growth Services.
5. **Rest** – This is a long trial. We are weeks into the suffering, and we have weeks and months in front of us. So, we need a rhythm of rest (Exodus 20:8-11; 31:17).
6. **Love** – 1 Corinthians 13 describes what should be the distinctiveness of Christian community (John 13:34-35). ⁴ *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

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

*June Newsletter Articles
are due in the
church office by
Tuesday, May 26, 2020*



**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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 30, 2020

Total Approved 2020 Budget = \$453,848

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

Budget Giving through April 30	\$148,376
Actual Giving through April 30	\$116,180
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	-\$32,196
Actual Expenses through 4/30/20	\$130,168

HONORING GRADUATES

Although we are unable to honor our 2020 High School and 8th grade graduates in May, we do plan on setting aside time in a worship service as soon as we are able to meet again to acknowledge all seniors and present them a special gift from the church. Seniors graduating from high school are: Seth Friis, Emily Houston, Oliver Jones and Ashley Rhodes.

When we are able to meet as a church again, we will also be honoring our 2020 BIC (Bible Instruction Course) and 8th grade graduates. Those graduates are: Paul Baker, Aiden Carby, Leo Cardenas, Jaden Coester, Storm Hickey, Haley Jones, Michelle McCandless, Jacob Rhodes, Grace VanBriesen & Harleigh Wallin.

Please contact the church office if you have a high school or 8th grade graduate who is not mentioned above. We do not want to miss any of our graduates!

TITHES & OFFERINGS

While we are unable to meet together as a church family, there are still several ways to continue giving to our church's ministries so our needs continue to be met.

1. You may send your gift to our church office at PO Box 370, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 or drop it off at the office.
2. You may use online giving through Breeze. On the Breeze homepage, you can click "Online Giving" and be prompted to give either by credit card or directly from your bank account.
3. You can access the online giving options by going to our website and clicking on "GIVE" at the top of the page.
4. Any capital campaign contributions or benevolence offering can also be sent in either of the two ways above. If sending a check by mail, please note in the memo if it is designated for anything other than general giving. If giving online, please note the drop-down menu which allows you to select General Fund, Benevolence Fund or Capital Campaign.

Contact the church office (645-2526) or Treasurer Terri Carby (630)651-9962 if you have any questions.

~ Happy Birthday ~

- May 2nd - Lucas Behmer, Camila Bonne
May 4th - Tyler Herlihy
May 5th - Evan Jones, Micah Stahl
May 7th - Havah Gebbia
May 8th - Mike Haugse
May 10th - Dakota Svartoiien
May 11th - Storm Hickey
May 12th - Anna Bogner
May 14th - Noah Myers
May 15th - Claudia Pihl
May 16th - Eunice Aden
May 17th - Aiden Carby
May 18th - Kaitlyn Adams, Carl Jacobson
Emma Wissinger
May 19th - Hope Hickey
May 20th - Moses Michalek, Aileen Gatz
May 21st - Becky Bailey
May 22nd - Evan Stahl
May 24th - Donna Dyal, Elliot Anderson
Mike Homman
May 25th - Heather Wallin
May 26th - Kane VanBriesen
May 28th - Wyatt Brass, Susan Stukenberg,
Bri Svartoiien
May 30th - Mandy Poliska
June 1st - June Lewis

~ Happy Anniversary ~

- May 1st - Gary & Julie Larson
May 4th - Bob & Patsy Hoernecke
Eric & Kendra Booker
May 10th - Roland & Lonna Nelson
May 19th - Mike & Gloria Ennenbach
May 23rd - Dave & Aileen Gatz
June 1st - Don and Heather Wallin

FROM PASTOR DAVID ...

"Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears." 2 Samuel 7:23

This declaration by King David was made in the context of a prayer reflecting on God's goodness and promises to him personally and the people of Israel generally. The prayer concludes with King David asking God to grant him the desire of his heart which was to build a house for God among His people. Ultimately King David accepted God's judgment that the privilege was not his.

With King David, we long to meet together to worship God in a place, The Red Brick Church, and we pray that day comes again very, very soon. Until then, we will continue to connect by a multitude of means. The youth meet on Wednesday nights using Zoom. On April 22, we invited Tim Michalek to join us. Our meeting at 7:00 pm was 7:00 am for them in Thailand. We watched the Michalek children wake one by one as Tim challenged the youth with 5 things they can be doing now to prepare to serve as missionaries in the future.

The youth have also started to study the Gospel of Mark via Zoom. The junior high is meeting on Monday nights and senior high on Thursday nights. We have also enjoyed several game nights using Zoom: Pictionary, Scattergories, and Boggle, to name a few.

In addition, the 9:00 adult Sunday School class has been meeting together on Sunday morning at 10:30. This has been an encouraging time to connect, pray together, and learn from God's Word.

As we look to the national, state, and local governments for guidance, we are doing so in humble submission to the authorities ordained by God. The recent extension of the stay-at-home order in Illinois and Federal guidelines for reopening the country indicate that we are being called to persevere with patience until we meet again. We are building upon the experience we have gained in order to better serve and care for you including broadening the scope of the Sunday morning videos.





At the time of the newsletter, neither Camp Forest Springs or Camp Timberlee had officially cancelled any of their upcoming church camps.

If your child is planning on attending a camp this summer, provided their camp does not cancel, and you have not yet signed up for a camp scholarship, please let Jana in the church office know. You can email the office

at cccoffice1@comcast.net or call the office at 815-645-2526. A camp scholarship of \$100 will be given to parents a week prior to camp.

2020 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our Christian Education Board and VBS Leaders have decided it is in our best interest to cancel our 2020 Vacation Bible School this year. We are saddened to have to do this, but all involved in the decision feels that this is the best thing to do at this time. Both Kishwaukee Evangelical Presbyterian and the Valley Evangelical Covenant Church have also cancelled their Vacation Bible Schools for this summer. We are already looking forward to our 2021 VBS!!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

