



**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 David Bogner**

**JULY 2020**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
TIME OF SERVICES  
**Worship Service –**  
**9:00 & 10:30 am**

*It's time to enjoy our building program in very intentional ways. Many conversations are going to take place. Let's be prepared to share the vision for the Brick Center. Know in advance what you say when someone asks what we are building?*

Our church building program has moved forward at a pace that makes a glacier look like a gazelle. We started talking about adding space in the early 1970's. We broke ground last week. It took well over forty years.

I point to the length of the project with a smile. We are thankful for our perseverance and patience. Our church's determination is going to be leveraged now to see people reached with the gospel.

There are good reasons for our pace. In order to expand facilities in town, it was necessary to acquire adjacent houses. And, we have been committed to a conservative financial pace. We waited to build until we paid off the houses and received around sixty percent of the pledges.

But now we have broken ground. We have moved from sitting through meetings (or more recently "Zoom-ing" via video through pandemic meetings) to putting a shovel in the dirt. We hope to be in the facility early in 2021.

So, what will we say to people when they ask what we are building? What is the vision for our new facility?

- Space for young people who are our future. Cramming over 30 youth in a small room wasn't working on Wednesday nights.
- Running room for children. It wasn't uncommon to have more than 100 children and sponsors for VBS or AWANA events.
- An accessible space available to our senior citizens that will be far safer to enter and leave.
- A new kitchen!
- Five new classrooms where we can talk about the really big questions in life.

The Brick Center will be a "corner for community" . . . a beautiful new space that invites exhausted people to hear the invitation of Christ. Just think how much our tired world needs to hear Jesus's words, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)."



## 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

**August Newsletter  
Articles  
are due in the  
church office by  
Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 30, 2020

**Total Approved 2020 Budget = \$453,848**

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

Budget Giving through June 30 .....	\$226,928
Actual Giving through June 30 .....	\$194,195
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving .....	-\$32,733
Actual Expenses through 6/30/20 .....	\$194,835
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses .....	-\$640



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](mailto:cccoffice1@comcast.net)**

The email address for Pastor Chris is:

**[cdbrauns@gmail.com](mailto:cdbrauns@gmail.com)**

The email address for Pastor Tim is:

**[davidbogner4@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Campaign Pledge Envelopes

Those wishing to use envelopes for their campaign pledges may do so using the special envelopes in the back of the church clearly marked "**Campaign Contributions Only**". If you are doing your campaign pledges online through Breeze, please be sure that you select "*Capital Campaign Fund 01*" under the Funds drop down box menu.



We will celebrate communion on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> during both worship services. When you enter the church on the 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a basket in the back of the church with individually sealed communion cups. We will not be passing the elements until further notice. Please hold onto your individual cup and do not open either end until Pastor Chris has asked us to do so during communion.

*thank you*

Red Brick Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and love during this difficult time of sudden loss. Your flowers were beautiful and a great reflection of mom's life and love for the Lord. Keep standing firm for God in the valley! We have enjoyed worshiping with you all during this strange time the past few months.

With Appreciation,  
The Family of Jennifer Johnston

## ~ Happy Birthday ~

- July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Adalee Brass, Mason Meline
- July 5<sup>th</sup> - Reece Gatz, Ashley Rhodes
- July 6<sup>th</sup> - Faith VanBriesen
- July 9<sup>th</sup> - Andria Brass
- July 12<sup>th</sup> - Eden Anderson
- July 13<sup>th</sup> - Liam Stahl
- July 15<sup>th</sup> - Dave Gatz, Hanna Wallin,  
Trevor Gerig
- July 20<sup>th</sup> - Shirley Johann
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - Chad Gerig
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Elijah Hanson
- July 27<sup>th</sup> - Cherri Tremble
- June 28<sup>th</sup> - Kay Swanson
- July 29<sup>th</sup> - Jackson Halsmer,  
JoAnn Southwick
- July 30<sup>th</sup> - Ron Lewis, MaryJane McNames
- July 31<sup>st</sup> - Jean VanVleet
- Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> - Lane Behmer
- Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Matt Geiseman
- Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> - Bruce Bonne, Hanna Roberts,  
Dawson Meline

## ~ Happy Anniversary ~

- June 5<sup>th</sup> - Ryan and Cara Roberts
- July 18<sup>th</sup> - Keith and Anne Wiltfang
- July 21<sup>st</sup> - Tom and Ashley Stahl

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE REGISTRATION

Until further notice, please continue to use either the Breeze Worship Service registration link that is being sent out every Tuesday via text, or feel free to call into the church office to reserve your place for the 9:00 or 10:30 am worship services.

We are continuing to be sure we are following all guidelines for meeting together for worship by ensuring we are social distancing by 6 feet. We also have a cleaning crew that comes through between services to wipe everything down before the 10:30 am worship service.

Remember to wear your face mask when entering and leaving the building and while singing. You may remove your mask during the sermon.



## RightNow Media

RightNow Media provides free Christian videos for adults and children! With over 10,000 Bible Study Videos, RightNow Media makes a great supplement to Christian families hoping to center their home on the Word of God.

For your personal access to RightNow Media, please visit our church website. If you need additional help, contact the church office.



## FROM PASTOR DAVID ....

Much is changing as we enter the middle of summer. The start of construction for the Brick Center is very exciting and impossible to miss when we arrive at church. Worship services have taken place on two consecutive Sundays to end June. Regular gatherings of Bricks are being seen with greater frequency even if they look a bit different while we navigate the pandemic.

I am encouraged as I consider the studies undertaken by our youth in June. A small group of junior high students have been studying the Gospel of Mark on Monday nights via Zoom. Together we have seen the power and authority of Jesus as superior over both fallible human spiritual leadership and demons. The Wednesday night youth Bible study has started a series based on Christopher Bruno's book, *The Whole Story of the Bible in 16 Verses*. The goal is to see the integrity of Scripture from beginning to end in telling the story of the Gospel of our Savior and King Jesus.

Looking ahead to the rest of summer, we are gradually increasing ministry activity while monitoring guidance from local, state, and federal officials with respect to the pandemic. Our youth studies will continue in July along with some opportunities for fellowship and fun together in person. Adult Sunday school traditionally has suspended meeting in the past during the summer and that tradition will continue this year at least for the month of July.

I recognize the very spiritually healthy desire to meet together in person on the part of our people. In fact, we frequently cite Hebrews 10:24-25 as clear instruction from God's Word to be committed to meeting together: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." We do pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" and we wait for the revelation of our blessed hope.

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

