



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

AUGUST 2020
NEWSLETTER

TIME OF SERVICES
9:00 & 10:30 am

How Might God Use the Pandemic in the Life of the Red Brick Church

Let's prayerfully imagine how God might use the deep valley of the coronavirus to strengthen our flock. Be assured, our leaders are working to consider how we will adapt in every area of ministry for the Fall. Construction is surging forward!

No generation can anticipate the particular trials it will face. Certainly, no one would have expected that the coronavirus would have shut down so many different facets of life. We now find ourselves in the most globally disruptive event since World War II . . . and possibly the most disruptive church event in the history of North America since the arrival of the Mayflower.



But if it is true that trials like the coronavirus blindsides us from directions we did not anticipate, surely it is also the case that God can use trials to weave together a tapestry of blessing, however dark the thread. We need only read the book of Acts – as we plan to do this Fall! – to be reminded that difficult times for the church can result in the spread of the gospel.

Recall what the author of Hebrews wrote to his suffering readers:

For the moment, all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11

So, we are in a tough season – but looking forward to a harvest of righteousness!

I am praying that God might use this trial in significant ways in our church. Picture and pray that:

- **Small group community** will grow because we are more intentional in this area. Pastor David and I – and other leaders – are working on a renewed energy for connecting as many as possible in small groups that stress assimilation, care, and Christian education. *Being mortared together is how we grow and flourish in the Christian life (1 John 1:3-4).*
- The **Brick Center** will be used by God to build ministry momentum in 2021. By the time you see this, it is likely that the concrete slab will have been poured. From there, I'm told that the walls will go up quickly. Picture that this new space will be a light for the good news in our community.
- An increased urgency for **parents** to raise children to follow Christ. At a time when AWANA and Sunday School ministries have been so disrupted, let's renew the commitment to read Bible stories together, pray as families, and reflect on sermons together. *Remember: We have suggested resources to use for children and families!*

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 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 |

**September Newsletter
Articles
are due in the
church office by
Monday, August 31st**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 31, 2020

Total Approved 2020 Budget = \$453,848

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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Budget Giving through July 31 | \$261,835 |
| Actual Giving through July 31 | \$227,110 |
| Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving | \$-34,725 |
| Actual Expenses through 7/31/20..... | \$225,138 |
| Actual Giving less Actual Expenses | \$1,972 |



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 Tim 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SS Superintendent:

Brooke Adams ~ 815-645-8561

Welcome to 2020-21 Sunday School. Our final plans are still a work in progress, but we are asking families to register asap so we know how many families would commit to in-person learning. Links to our registration page can be found on our website and Facebook page.

Sunday School will look very different this year, and a few changes due to COVID-19 will include:

- required masks for Sunday School age,
- smaller learning groups,
- social distancing when possible,
- no large group worship time,
- Senior High and Junior High having alternate meeting times.

If you have a nursery-aged child but do not plan on sending him/her to nursery at this time, please select the "remote-learning" option on the registration form. We realize that some families may prefer an option to learn from home, and we are preparing for that as well.

If you have questions, please contact Brooke Adams at 815985-3178. **Please register soon, as registration will be open for two weeks (8/3/20 – 8/17/20)** to allow us to prepare and order materials. Sunday School for elementary-aged students is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 14, during the 9:00 worship service.

God Bless, Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

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.



FALL PLANTER CLASS

The Deaconess Board is planning a Fall Planter Class to be held at Hidden Timber Gardens located at 462 S Chana Road later in September.

Come to this class and make a beautiful front porch planter filled your choice of beautiful fall flowers like pansies, mums, ornamental peppers and more. Date and details to follow.

- August 1st - Lane Behmer
- August 2nd - Cherry Lewis, Matt Geiseman
- August 4th - Bruce Bonne, Hanna Roberts, Dawson Meline
- August 6th - Grady Poliska
- August 7th - Amelia Dunseth
- August 9th - Fiona Long
- August 10th - Deb Bonne
- August 11th - Sophie Michalek
- August 12th - Anne Wiltfang
- August 14th - Caleb Anderson, Joanna Easley
- August 15th - Michelle McCandless
- August 18th - Janet Warner
- August 19th - Bonnie Moran
- August 20th - Donna Arnold, Alex Booker
- August 21st - Dan Houston
- August 23rd - Tom Whetsel, Sam Keast
- August 25th - Lily Behmer
- August 27th - Tim Michalek
- August 28th - Erica Granath, Clairra Myers
- August 30th - Lonna Nelson
- Sept 2nd - Paul Baker, Brenden Wrasse, Estelle Jones
- Sept 3rd - Tom Hufford



Our AWANA leaders are working very hard to work out the details for our Fall 2020 AWANA program! We do know that for the time being we will be doing it remotely for our clubbers. Watch our Facebook page and website for more information and registration. As soon as everything is finalized, we will post the information and send out emails to all our AWANA families.



- August 12th - Chris and Jamie Brauns
- August 18th - Dave and Pat Ewald
- Jim and Janet Warner
- August 21st - Bruce and Deb Bonne
- August 22nd - Ron and Nota Ippen
- August 25th - Jamie and Brooke Adams

Ladies! We are in the process of working out the details for two Ladies Bible Studies this fall.

There will be a Tuesday evening "Women of the Word" Bible Study and we are also looking at having our "Moms and More" group meet at some point during the week as well.

When we get everything finalized, we will be sharing the information during the Sunday morning worship services and posting it on our Facebook page and website. Both studies will begin meeting after Labor Day.

FROM PASTOR DAVID ...

Who is he? The island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea was his place of origin. He was a Levite yet owned land. He became a benefactor of the early church by giving the proceeds from the sale of a field to the apostles. A fruitful disciple of Jesus, he worked diligently to fulfill the Great Commission. His work included evangelism, discipleship, and restoration. John Mark was one of the beneficiaries of his patience, kindness, love, and encouragement. His given name was Joseph but he is better known to us as he was called by the disciples, Barnabas, or “son of encouragement”.

This little thumbnail sketch is intended to cast a vision as we approach the end of summer and beginning of fall. May we intentionally develop deeper ties among us as a church family so that we know, serve, and love one another better. Small groups are one way through which we will attempt to foster this growth, to multiply life in the Body of Christ.

Pandemics have a way of complicating group gatherings as we now know well. Some will not be comfortable attending in person, perhaps well into 2021. That is okay. Others may not be pleased should we pause meeting together due to guidance from our state or local governments. Let us seek to preserve the unity of the Church as we navigate the days ahead, practicing the patience, kindness, love, and encouragement we see in the person of Barnabas.

The small group ministry is designed with the objectives of Life Triangles in mind: Assimilation, Care, and Education. The gathering of small groups is but one aspect of the rhythm to develop toward these ends. In our meetings, the Word, prayer, and fellowship will be central. The time between meetings will be filled with opportunities for the small group experience to ripple throughout the church through informal calls, visits, and prayer. More information will be forthcoming, but for now, please join us in praying for these small groups and your place in them

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

