



**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**

**SEPT 2020**  
**NEWSLETTER**

TIME OF SERVICES  
**9:00 & 10:30 am**

*Pray for our leaders and keep us accountable as we implement **Mortar Groups**: a new organization for our discipleship ministries.*

This Fall we are beginning a new organization of our discipleship ministry called “**Mortar Groups**.” The idea of brick mortar pictures our vision of sharing life together as we assimilate people into the life of the church, care for one another, and learn more about the Christian faith.



***It is vital that we understand as a church that we will not experience the joy of the Christian life apart from being mortared together in community.***

The goal is for everyone who is connected with our church on every level to be assigned to a group with two leaders who are either pastors or leaders.

Ideally, these small groups would meet for Bible study and fellowship. However, we understand that the coronavirus may not allow us to meet as planned.

Whether your Mortar Group meets or not, you should be hearing from your leaders as they cast a vision for discipleship. Some of the questions leaders might ask include:

- **Assimilation questions:** What can you do to go to the next level of sharing life together in our church? Is it time to join?
- **Care questions:** Do you have any needs or prayer requests that are group should know about? Would you be willing to deliver a meal to this person who is going through a difficult time?
- **Christian Education questions:** What are you studying? What are you reading? Do you need any suggestions for growth? Would you be willing to participate in a Bible study with our group?

**Let's Insulate the Walls with Prayer**

We are inviting our families to submit prayers to the church office by September 25. Just write out a prayer or prayers for the new facility – pray those prayers as individuals or families – and then submit them to the church office. Our prayer is that our first ministry event in the Brick Center will be to put the prayers in the walls before the drywall goes up. *If* we get a good response, we will collect all of the prayers in booklet form to be a record for how we prayed as a church family. More information is available [online](#).

## 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

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**SS Superintendent:  
Brooke Adams ~ 645-8561**

***Welcome back to Sunday School!!***

Hello Sunday School Families! We are so excited to be able to offer Christian Education for children ages nursery through junior high for our first semester. Our first semester is Sept. 13 through Dec. 20. It is truly a blessing to be able to join together again. It is an honor for our teachers to be able to lead classrooms once again. Unfortunately, for our first semester, there will not be Sunday School for high school aged children. High school students are asked to attend worship service. Our Sunday School reopening plan will be reviewed again for the second semester, and we will convey updated information to families at that time.

Our Pastoral staff, Deacons, Christian Education Committee, Nursery team, and Sunday School teachers have worked hard to make plans with our children's safety in mind. Many COVID precautions are being taken, such as: smaller classroom sizes, younger children being paired in classrooms with their siblings, classrooms formed with children in the same school systems, masks worn and social distancing maintained as much as possible, additional hand washing, and elimination of large group activities.

A family devotional guide entitled, "The Righteous Shall Live By Faith," will be given to families of Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. This will allow families to study the 10 Commandments as our elementary students learn about the Commandments in class. By incorporating a family devotional portion, "distance learning," becomes incorporated into family routines. We will also be working through New City Catechism questions 7 – 15.

Classroom teachers will be contacting families that registered for Sunday School very soon. Look at your email for further information.

God Bless you,  
Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

***October Newsletter  
Articles  
are due in the  
church office by  
Wednesday, Sept 30***

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 31, 2020

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

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

Budget Giving through Aug 31 .....	\$305,475
Actual Giving through Aug 31 .....	\$254,023
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving .....	-\$51,452
Actual Expenses through 8/31/20.....	\$260,297
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses .....	-\$6,274



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 David 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.



## Women's Bible Studies in September!

M & M (Moms and More) and WOW (Women of the Word Evening Bible Study) are starting up this month.

All groups will be doing a study called "**Take Courage: A Study of Haggai**" by Jennifer Rothschild. In this 7-session study on the Book of Haggai, learn to walk confidently in your calling, stay motivated despite opposition, and courageously invest your life in God's purposes, trusting Him for results you may never see in this lifetime.

**Women of the Word** meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm beginning on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Jamie Brauns will be leading the Tuesday evening study and if you have any questions, contact Jamie at 815-262-8837.

**Friday Morning ZOOM Bible Study** meets on Friday mornings at 8:00 am beginning Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday Morning Mom's and More Study** starts at 9:30 am on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and meets at the church. Marcia Bogner (815-601-3263) will lead the Friday morning studies.

All ladies are welcome to join any of the studies. We will not be able to provide childcare for either study at this time. Workbooks are \$15 each and can be purchased in the church office or at the Bible Study.

Friday, September 25th | 6:00 pm

## *Fall Planter Class*

\$40

Includes basket, potting mix, and four 5" annuals.  
Extra plants and decor are extra.

**Class will be held outside; all can attend.**  
Registration form on church website.  
Contact Deb Bonne 815-979-0885 with any questions.

Hidden Timber Gardens  
462 S Chana Road, Chana, IL

\*\* You can bring your own 16" container.  
Cost will be ala carte; depending on which plants you choose.  
REGISTER BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th.

## *~ Happy Birthday ~*

- Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Teagan Meline Emilia Janoski
- Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul Baker, Estelle Jones
- Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tom Hufford
- Sept 6<sup>th</sup> - Owen Dunseth
- Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - Tim Halsmer, Bob Hoernecke
- Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Jeanne Baker
- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Shelley Herlihy, Gloria Ennenbach
- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Ashley Stahl, Adalynne Carty
- Sept 15<sup>th</sup> - Tania VanBriesen
- Sept 16<sup>th</sup> - Nathan Jones
- Sept 19<sup>th</sup> - MyKenzie Beitel
- Sept 21<sup>st</sup> - Matt Homman
- Sept 29<sup>th</sup> - Mitchell Hawkins
- Sept 30<sup>th</sup> - Parker Glendenning
- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lee Hickey

## *~ Happy Anniversary ~*

- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Homer and Becky Bailey  
Nick and Chelsea Colon
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup> - Brent and Arlett Bonne
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup> - Ray and Kay Swanson



For those children that have registered, AWANA will be held virtually from 6:00 to 6:45 pm on Wednesdays, beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>. Check your email for further details. If you have any questions, please contact our AWANA Leader, Tessa Baker, at 815-315-3696.

*Thank you* very much for the absolutely beautiful floral bouquet. As the Lord would have it, those were the very flowers that were on Mom's casket, color scheme and types of flowers! We so appreciate your prayers for all of us; the cards and love. We are blessed to know you!

In His Love, Larry and Cindy Coombes



## FROM PASTOR DAVID ...

We took refuge from the mid-summer heat and enjoyed an early afternoon float down the Kishwaukee River last month. While that particular August Saturday afternoon wasn't one that required the coolness of a river to make being outdoors bearable, it was a great way to spend time together. Some even found "treasures" along the way (automobile wheel cover and bucket used to collect clams come to mind) and **Tang Orange** made an appearance in a most unusual way.

Fun facts: According to Mondelez International, producer of Tang, it was introduced in the U.S. in 1957 and launched to global sales success in part through its use by astronauts on space flights during the 1960s.



Our ultimate refuge is God. Psalm 16 beautifully proclaims this truth and David connects it to fellowship with other believers. He writes verses 1-3, "Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.' As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

Unlike our tubing experience, refuge in God is required for bearing the struggles of this life. To that end, important plans are being made to provide our youth opportunities to seek refuge in Jesus together this school year. On Sunday, September 13, 2020, we will gather for a parent meeting in the sanctuary at 4 o'clock. Youth are welcome to attend too. We will review our goals for youth ministry and activity calendar. Please bring your calendar to sign up to host and sponsor events.

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PO Box 370  
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