



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

**NOVEMBER 2020
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

The year of the pandemic offers an unprecedented opportunity to make a wonderful Brick statement through year end giving. If we finish our year meeting our financial expenses – and on track with the Brick by Brick campaign – this will be one of the finest moments in the 160-year history of our church.

Consider the year we have faced.

1. For local churches, the pandemic has been the most disruptive event since the 1918 flu epidemic. Even during WWII churches were not forced to cancel services.
2. Our church has felt the pain. Our services were online only from March 15-June 15.
3. Our programming has been drastically reduced. No AWANA, for example, has been awful.
4. And there have been so many individual challenges – so much loss.



And yet – *In the most difficult of circumstances, we have forged ahead.*

1. We **started building the Brick Center** in a pandemic! The building is now buttoned up for winter and they are grading the site as I write this article.
2. We **adapted and adjusted our programming**. We started Mortar Groups, installed cameras, had youth events at the Forest Preserve and other outdoor venues and much more.
3. We have **given sacrificially and incredibly to other ministries**. This includes a significant gift to the Laotian church in Rockford – and other ongoing partnerships.
4. Our **deacons** have made a special effort to encourage and reach out to our church family.
5. We continue to do **all aspects of gospel ministry** – celebrating and grieving – praying and visiting. It's been a good year.

The glory belongs to God. He is the one who has so blessed us financially. But God works through the instrumentality of faithful people. And I am so thankful to be one of your pastors. To serve you all is such a great privilege.

“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.” Philippians 4:17

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



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.

**December Newsletter
Articles are due in the
church office by
Monday, November 30th**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 31, 2020

Total Approved 2020 Budget = \$453,848

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

Budget Giving through Oct. 31	\$375,297
Actual Giving through Oct. 31	\$327,046
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	-\$48,251
Actual Expenses through 10/31/20	\$337,809
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses	-\$10,763

As of October 31st, 2020, total capital campaign contributions received were \$975,324. This is 63% of total pledges made for the building program.



All boards and committees should begin to work on and finish up their 2021 budgets if they haven't already.

The Trustee Board would like to have all budgets to them NO later than December 1st.



Please note that in order to be counted for 2020 tax purposes, all church contributions need to be **RECEIVED** by the church office no later than DECEMBER 31st. Any contributions received after that date, *regardless of check date or postmark*, will be counted as a 2021 contribution.

If making a contribution towards a capital campaign pledge for the building, please use the capital campaign envelopes (which can be located in the back of the church or the church office) or make sure it is clearly marked on the memo line of the check.

If anyone needs an update on what they have given or pledged to the capital campaign, or has any questions at all, please contact either:

Terri Carby, church treasurer
630-651-9962 | niucpa@hotmail.com

Jana Cox, church administrative assistant
815-645-2526 | cccoffice1@comcast.net



The Deaconess Board will be decorating the church on Sunday, November 29th at 11:30 am. Anyone that would like to help is welcome ... especially some men to do some of the climbing would be wonderful. If you have any questions, contact Deb Bonne



All of our Ladies Bible study groups, M & M (Moms and More) and WOW (Women of the Word) have concluded their fall bible studies. Watch your newsletter and bulletin for upcoming information on our Spring Ladies Bible Studies.

Fall Planter Class

A great time was had at Hidden Timber Gardens as the ladies attending completed beautiful planters for their homes. Many thanks to Michele and Monica for their help with the project. It was a beautiful evening.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 1st - Charlie Christiansen
- Nov. 3rd - Sebastian Cardenas
- Nov. 5th - Amy Michalek, Nathaniel Houston, Aubrey Janoski, Hannah Vossen, Jessa Coester
- Nov. 8th - Berniece Martindale, Nina Wetzel
- Nov. 9th - Connie Blake
- Nov. 11th - Richard Johann
- Nov. 13th - Dale Friedrich
- Nov. 14th - Veda Geiseman
- Nov. 15th - Jacob Rhodes, Ron Ippen, Jenna Hale
- Nov. 16th - Stella Christiansen
- Nov. 17th - Marlene Miller
- Nov. 18th - Michelle Christiansen
- Nov. 20th - Abigail Bogner
- Nov. 21st - Vicky Horton, Dorris Dye
- Nov. 25th - Jaxen Coester
- Nov. 26th - Silas Hawkins
- Nov. 27th - Millie McCoy, Greg Granath
- Nov. 29th - Mike Ennenbach
- Nov. 30th - Nicholas Beitel
- Dec. 2nd - Dave Ewald
- Dec. 5th - Zach Poliska, John Anderson



THEME NIGHTS

- Wednesday, November 4th**
Put on your craziest, favorite hat for your leader to see tonight during your zoom call!
- Wednesday, November 11th**
We are celebrating Veterans Day today. Let's show up on zoom wearing as much red, white and blue as we can in support of all our Veterans.
- Wednesday, November 18th**
It's Mustache Night tonight. Your leaders are looking forward to seeing everyone with a mustache on!
- Wednesday, November 25th**
No Club Zoom Meetings tonight as even through this pandemic, we have much to be thankful for.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS ...

What a difference a month makes in a pandemic. Know this, a pandemic is not our King. Our King is King Jesus. The same Jesus who made the blind to see, lame to walk, and dead to live, grants wisdom to those who ask for it.

Wisdom is what we seek to exercise as we navigate the days, weeks, and even months ahead. As the weather turns, we are spending more time indoors and community spread of the coronavirus (along with normal fall-winter illnesses) is increasing. We also find ourselves making adjustments to plans. Most notably, group sizes will be smaller, meeting lengths shorter, and adherence to pandemic disciplines such as distance and masks will be a part of our witness to the world.



Pie Gladiators in the back; worship leaders in the front.

Wednesday nights for the youth is one example of continuing to meet, just in smaller groups. I have loved being a part of the interaction among teenagers from 6th to 12th grades. These are truly a highlight of the week and will be missed as we take another break from them. Gathering 20-30 of us at this time indoors with limited ventilation lacks wisdom. Instead, we will meet in smaller groups beginning with senior high students Wednesday, November 4, 7-8 p.m. in the church basement.

The key is we will continue to meet. This is true also of Mortar Groups. It should also be true of us with one another. We are pressing forward with ministry in a pandemic. It requires wisdom, courage, and faith anytime to honor Jesus as Lord.

A quick look back at October, we are thankful for Matt and Sharon Rhodes and Phil and Karen Guske. Each couple hosted youth events. At the Rhodes Home, we packed 21 care packages for college students and military personnel and enjoyed a hayrack ride, dinner, and games together. On the Guske farm, we saw our students battle to a draw in Capture the Flag only to have it decided by a pie eating contest. Lance Mennen and Harleigh Wallin closed our gathering with a few worship songs.



At least one event we plan to keep in November and the whole church family is invited to join us. On Saturday, November 7 at 1:30 p.m., we will meet in the church parking lot, divide into two groups, and work together to bless widows in our church with cleaned yards.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

