



## 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

**DECEMBER 2020  
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

*Picture a walking parade on Christmas Eve – through the Brick Center – greeting one another – giving gifts – and remembering that Christmas Eve is all about our King, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

We have a vision for Christmas Eve! Check out the details below.

**Who?** Anyone wearing a mask who wants to wish one another a Merry Christmas and (hopefully) walk through our new Brick Center.

There will be no conduct discrimination. Both naughty and nice children have a shot at getting a Christmas present.

**Could the Grinch Show Up?** By all means. It's 2020. We see three threats:

- Pandemic restrictions could require people to stay at home.
- Construction delays could stop us from going through the Brick Center.
- Bad weather could also call a halt to the event.

*But it is worth putting a plan in place to celebrate Christmas Eve if at all possible.*

**When?** 2-4 PM on Christmas Eve. You'll be home before the big elf even puts on his suit.

**What?** Say "Merry Christmas" to as many people as possible. Grab an early Christmas present for children. And, for our church family, leave Christmas presents for Jesus for both our General Fund and the Brick by Brick campaign.

If it works, we will enter through the north door of the Brick Center -- take a brief walk through the Brick Center -- exit through the south doors of the Brick Center -- the lights will be on in our worship center.

We will not be able to congregate or otherwise wait for Santa. We will pass through -- say "Merry Christmas" -- receive and give gifts -- and be on our way.

**Why?** Our Christmas Eve service is one of the best parts of our year at the Red Brick Church. But the pandemic (read "Grinch") does not allow us to pack people together so that we can bellow out Christmas Carols (and germs) to those around us.

For our church family, pray about bringing **Two Envelopes** - We pray that our people will all give some level of Christmas gift to both:

- **The General Fund** - We are praying that we can finish the year having met our expenses for 2020. While we do have some cushion in the General Fund, it would really be a matter of praise if -- in the year of the pandemic and so much chaos -- our giving meets expenses.
- **The Brick by Brick Campaign** - As you know, Brick by Brick giving started strong. We received 60% of commitments in the first 14 months. But now -- during the pandemic -- our giving has slowed down even as we have begun paying for construction. We are praying for year-end giving.

## 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](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.

**January Newsletter  
Articles are due in the  
church office by  
Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 30, 2020

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

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

Budget Giving through Nov. 30 .....	\$418,937
Actual Giving through Nov. 30.....	\$409,112
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving .....	\$-9,825
Actual Expenses through 11/30/20.....	\$371,445
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses .....	37,667

As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,011,542. This is 65% of total pledges made for the building program.



**Rockford Rescue Mission:** We invite kids and families to help us bless the Rockford Rescue Mission families with the following items to celebrate Christmas. Place your items in the barrel in the back of the church by 12/20/20.

**Items needed are:** Adult Men & Women hoodies (larger sized men's hoodies are especially needed) and underwear, children's pajama's and underwear, children's books, hard-wrapped candy, small LED flashlights, hand warmers.



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 31<sup>st</sup>**. 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](mailto:niucpa@hotmail.com)

Jana Cox, church administrative assistant  
815-645-2526 | [cccoffice1@comcast.net](mailto:cccoffice1@comcast.net)



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.

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- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dave Ewald
  - Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Elise Bonne, John Stout
  - Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - John Anderson, Zach Poliska
  - Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - Pete Mazanec
  - Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - Lana Lamer
  - Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - Karen Hilliard, Abigail Houston
  - Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - Cody Bennett, Donna Jacquet  
Kari Janoski, Hazel Homman
  - Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> - Betts Carby
  - Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> - Ryan Roberts, Stacy Coester,  
Jim Warner
  - Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ray Swanson, Tammy Homman
  - Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Kendra Booker
  - Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> - James Daniels, Steve Arnold,  
Meredith Jones
  - Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> - MaryBeth Brauns
  - Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> - Natalie Haugse
  - Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - Cameron Wissinger
  - Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - Chad Hanson
  - Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - Wren Hickey
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*Christmas Eve Gifts for Christ*

**CHRISTMAS BRICK CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**  
**2 TO 4 PM**

- First chance to walk through our new Red Brick Center!
- Say "Merry Christmas" to everyone at the Open House.
- Bring your Christmas Gifts for the General Fund & Brick by Brick Campaign.
- Christmas gifts available for ALL ages!!

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\* Please enter ONLY the north door of the Red Brick Center and exit the south door.  
\* Face masks will be required.



## THEME NIGHTS

### Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

It was LOL Night at club on the 2<sup>nd</sup>! Clubbers had the chance to tell their leaders their favorite jokes!

### Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

We have SUPER HERO Night tonight. Get on your zoom call with your leader dressed as your favorite Super Hero ... don't forget the cape!

### Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

Tonight is DRESS LIKE CHRISTMAS NIGHT. Show up on your zoom call dressed in as much red and green as you can.

### Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

No Club Zoom Meetings on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> as we take time to celebrate Christmas and the birth of our King. Our virtual AWANA zoom calls will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**ONE**  
SERVICE

**Sunday, December 27**  
**One Service ONLY at 9:00 am**

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS ...

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Reflect with me for a few minutes on John 1:14. This is an history altering statement of fact. The Word spoke history into being and broke into time and space. He came humbly as a baby. He grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:40). He ministered to lost sinners, laid down his life so that all who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12), and conquered death with his resurrection. The glory of God was revealed by God the Son. Every thought, word, and deed of our Savior is full of grace and truth. He is the Lamb without blemish. Jesus is worthy of our praise and adoration.

The season looks different, but we cannot mask our love for Jesus! I am so thankful for Tom and Ashley Stahl.

They composed our theme and led a small group of junior high students in decorating a Christmas tree next to the bank in Stillman Valley. Take a walk or drive by some evening after December 7 and see the trees on the corner of Main and Maple. Our tree has mask-shaped ornaments designed by our youth.



Mid-November, we made the difficult decision to cancel most in-person gatherings except Sunday morning due to the substantial increase in the number of local cases of COVID-19. Please pray with us as we continue to monitor and evaluate the situation.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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

