



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

JANUARY 2021
NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

Would you pray this prayer multiple times in 2021? Could we make this a prayer for our church family?

We are challenging our church family throughout 2021 to pray the prayer of Ephesians 3:14-21. Maybe read it aloud to yourself right now!

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Ephesians 3:14-21

Our last sermon of 2020 encouraged our church family with how to pray Ephesians 3:14-21.

1. **Kneel on Good News or Gospel Ground before the Father.** Remind yourself of the sovereignty of God and salvation by grace (Ephesians 1-3).
2. **Place your hand on the shoulder of the brother or sister next to you.** Notice the emphasis on the Church and other believers. You can pray this privately but you can't only pray it privately.
3. **Drop your head and rest in the power of the Holy Spirit.** You are not resting in your own strength, but rather the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. **Sing or hum "The Love of God,"** quote John 3:16, or "**measure**" the love of **Jesus Christ** using a Cross rather than a tape measure.

(Ideally add an element that Pastor Chris's suggestions miss). Pastor David suggests arms in the shape of a Cross or one hand raised.

And then pray and ask God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit to overwhelm your heart with the experience of the love of Christ.

The first sermon of 2021 envisioned what we might expect if we do pray this prayer. (1) A renewed love for our church family and other believers. (2) Freedom from the anxiousness of a performance or works orientation and greater rest in the gospel. (3) More Christ-like conduct and progress in the defeat of addictions and bad habits. (4) More time adoring Christ in his word.

* * * * *

4:00 PM Sunday, January 31, 2021 our Annual Meeting will be one of the greatest celebrations at an annual meeting in the history of our church. I can't tell you how much I look forward to our time together.

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.

**February Newsletter
Articles are due in the
church office by
Tuesday, January 28th**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 31, 2020

Budget Giving through Dec. 31	\$453,848
Actual Giving through Dec. 31	\$459,848
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	\$6,000
Actual Expenses through 12/31/20	\$417,621
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses	\$42,227

As of December 31st, 2020, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,118,627. This is 76% of total pledges made for the building program.

Ladies Bible Studies

Our Ladies Bible Studies (both Women of the Word and Mom's and More) are looking at starting a study around the 1st of February.

Please watch your bulletins and newsletter for more information. We will also send out an email to all ladies with dates and times of the study.



- Jan. 1 - Chad Hanson
- Jan. 4 - Wren Hickey, Sandra Stout
- Jan. 6 - Elizabeth Anderson
- Jan. 7 - Zeke Janoski
- Jan. 9 - Jackie Schumacher
- Jan. 12 - Spencer Halsmer, Grady McCoy
- Jan. 14 - Gary Rhodes
- Jan. 18 - Eric Long, Bristol Glendenning
- Jan. 19 - Leo Cardenas
- Jan. 20 - Anneliese Haak, Keaton Griffin
- Jan. 21 - Rhett Brass
- Jan. 22 - Patsy Hoernecke
- Jan. 25 - Judy Foster
- Jan. 27 - Gwen Baker, Hope Wallin
- Jan. 28 - Tina Garnhart
- Jan. 30 - Landon Haak
- Jan. 31 - Anna Forcier
- Feb. 1 - Shannon and Grace Hickey
- Feb. 5 - Renley Svartoi



- Jan. 24 - Grady and Millie McCoy
- Feb. 1 - Brad and Tessa Baker



FROM PASTOR DAVID

*And he who was seated on the throne said,
"Behold, I am making all things new."
Revelation 21:5a*

Reports from all boards and committees are needed in the church office no later than Friday, January 15th. Chairmen of all boards and committees should check with each respective secretary to be sure if the chairman or secretary is to write the report this year. Again, please be sure that all reports are in the church office by the morning of the 15th.

More than three times in the past month I have read these words of God. Our family completed a multi-year chronological reading of the Bible together, personally I finished reading through the Bible in a year, and my daily devotional study through the book of Revelation concluded with the end of 2020. 2020, a year that seemed to amplify the brokenness of the world because of sin: disease, political division, social unrest, and isolation. But in Christ, we have good news that was hard for me to miss by way of repetition. God is making all things new!

Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st at 4:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Reports for the annual meeting will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 24th for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 31st. Extra copies will not be available at the meeting.

2021 is a new year and with it are new challenges. Of priority is joining God at work through our facilities, most excitingly with the opening of the Brick Center. The extra space comes available at a time when we are advised to maintain physical distance between one another especially when we are indoors for long periods of time. We have observed one lesson from 2020 in the negative. We missed sharing life together. We need to share life together. What a marvelous provision from God for our church family is a beautiful *new* facility!

Please be sure and review each report prepared by all committees and boards prior to the annual meeting. We will not be going through each report individually, but will open up the meeting by addressing any questions and concerns from the congregation in regard to these reports. After all questions have been answered we will vote to approve the reports as a package.

Our family has accepted three challenges for 2021. We trust that God will work through our commitment to him as we seek to be faithful in the following ways:

As members of a congregational church, we have both a responsibility and privilege to come and have a voice and vote in deciding issues our church faces for the upcoming year.

- Reading the Bible – I challenged the teens in a year-end letter to adopt a Bible reading plan for 2021.
- Praying Ephesians 3:14-21 – Pastor Chris has challenged us with this passage and we join him in praying for the experience of Christ.
- Studying the New City Catechism – our family has made it a goal to review the New City Catechism question and answer with Scripture passage and commentary each Saturday ahead of Sunday morning worship.

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 31st, 2021
4:00 pm

REPORTS DUE FROM BOARDS:
Friday, January 15th @ 9:00 am

These are little ways to grow in trust and obedience to Jesus. Will you join us so we can encourage each other along the way in these disciplines this year?



JANUARY 2021 THEME NIGHTS

Wednesday, January 6th

We are back after our Christmas and New Year's Break to continue with our remote zoom AWANA nights! For our first 2021 theme night, be ready to show your leader via zoom your mismatched clothes that you are wearing for AWANA.

Wednesday, January 13th

We have "Western Night" tonight. Get on your zoom call with your leader dressed up in your very best western attire.

Wednesday, January 20th

Tonight, will be a favorite of our AWANA parents! We are having "Show Your CLEAN Room Tonight" for AWANA. Make your bed, straighten up your room and have it all ready to show your AWANA leader when you log in for AWANA tonight.

Wednesday, January 27th

It is "Jersey Night" at club tonight on the 27th. Put on your favorite jersey ... it can be football, basketball, baseball or soccer and can be a local or professional team.



Thank you to the Bricks! You show us love in so many ways and at Christmas we have been wonderfully blessed by our church family. Thank you for the generous gift you gave to us.

Love,
David, Marcia, Jeremiah, Anna, and Abigail

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****



I PRAY THAT OUT OF HIS GLORIOUS RICHES HE MAY STRENGTHEN YOU
WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN YOUR INNER BEING,
SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH,
AND I PRAY THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED IN LOVE,
MAY HAVE POWER, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE LORD'S HOLY PEOPLE,
TO GRASP HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND DEEP

is the love of Christ.

EPHESIANS 3:16-19