



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

APRIL 2021
NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

It is important to admit that we are still in the dark night of the pandemic. We must pray and strive for the rising of the figurative sun on a new morning of ministry. We cannot accept the status quo as a new normal. The Internet will never replace the gathered church.

Perhaps Easter was the first light of dawn where the pandemic was concerned. We did not require people to register in advance. Overflow seating was available in the Brick Center. Church felt *more normal*.

And we know that many are now vaccinated and more will be in the days to come. We pray that with increased vaccinations restrictions will be limited.

But it is vital that we realize that confessing Christians find themselves in a difficult place with respect to the gift of gathering together. Face masks are still required. Seating is limited. Social distancing is also required. **Many confessing Christians have not attended church in person since the pandemic began.**

Around the world many – perhaps most churches – face more limitations and restrictions than we do in the Upper Midwest. In many, many places congregational singing is discouraged. (And you know that we ask people to wear face masks). Weddings and funerals are limited. On and on it goes.

You might respond, “Enough about the pandemic. I’m over it. Let’s don’t dwell on the negative.”

Of course, I agree. We ought not unnecessarily lament the limitations. Still, it is vital that the church must not accept a new model of ministry that downplays the importance of gathering together. **A screen is not an acceptable substitute for gathered worship.**

Some of our church family have been gracious in a willingness to not attend so that there is more space for other people. That has been necessary. **But if you are still attending only virtually, now is the time to begin attending again in person.** If we find that we are out of room, then we will begin a simulcast in the Brick Center. We now have that technology in place and given that nicer weather has arrived, it is less inconvenient to go between the two buildings.

* * * * *

I am so thankful for our time in Acts. I know we are flying through the book very rapidly. This was intentional. But I trust that you have a better feel for the overall direction of the book. I mentioned in a recent sermon that I revised my formulation of the big idea of Acts to be more explicitly Trinitarian. This is an important improvement. Perhaps read through the thesis once aloud. Acts is about how:

Christ is building His Church under the sovereign direction of God the Father through the Spirit empowered proclamation of the Word amid, and even through, the many conflicts of a fallen world.”

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Stephen Brass218-5076
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne979-0885
Trustee Board – Brad Baker.....670-0039
CE Committee – Marlene Miller289-8453
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay440-2042
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem262-4254
Music – Lance Mennen985-2484

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2021

Total Approved 2021 Budget = \$491,248

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$9,447/week**

Budget Giving through March 31 \$122,812
Actual Giving through March 31 \$95,349
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$-27,463
Actual Expenses through 3/31/21 \$103,158
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses \$-7,809

As of March 31, 2021, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,296,806. This is 83% of total pledges made for the building program.



**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:

ccoffice1@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.

COLLEGE NEWS . . .

** If you have a college graduate in your family, please be sure to let the church office know so that we can recognize them in the May newsletter. You can email the information to the office at this address:

ccoffice1@comcast.net

High School and Bible Instruction Class

We will be recognizing our High School Graduates and those 8th graders who have attended and completed our Bible Instruction Class during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, May 16th. We encourage all graduates to please attend on the 16th if at all possible.

***** Please let the church office know if you have a high school graduate in your family.**

CHILDREN'S PRELUDE

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9th, we will have our children / youth begin both services with a prelude. Anyone up through high school age who would want to play an instrumental solo as part of our prelude should let Jamie Brauns or the church office know.

Happy Birthday!

- April 1st - Avis Hall
- April 3rd - Linda Wetzig
- April 4th - Heidie Raine
- April 6th - Brad Baker
- April 11th - Natalie McCandless
- April 15th - Teresa McLindsay
- April 17th - Daniel Miller
- April 19th - Isabella Mennen
- April 21st - Pat Ewald
- April 23rd - Marjorie Pepin
Stephen Brass
- April 28th - Rick Chelminski
- April 29th - Paula Hufford
- May 2nd - Lucas Behmer
Camila Bonne
- May 4th - Tyler Herlihy
- May 5th - Evan Jones
Micah Stahl

Happy Anniversary

- April 26th - Jeff & Teresa McLindsay
- May 4th - Eric & Kendra Booker

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

Parents are reminded to be sure and pre-register their child / children for Summer camp this summer! Both Camp Forest Springs and Camp Timberlee are registering! The CE Board offers \$100 scholarship for summer church camp and both camps also have scholarships available.



All ladies are invited to a SPRING PLANTER CLASS on THURSDAY, APRIL 29th at 6:00 pm at Hidden Timber Gardens (462 S Chana Road, Chana). Pre-registration is required with a \$20 deposit. Container is included with the deposit.

Those purchasing a container will pay ala carte at the class for whichever flowers, plants, decor you would like in your container. For those wishing to bring their own container, the \$20 deposit will go towards the flowers, plants, decor you would like in your container. You will be responsible for any costs over \$20 at the class.

Class will be held outside; social distancing will be observed and no limit on number attending. Please register online. The registration form can be found on the Red Brick Ladies Facebook page or on our church website.

REGISTER BY THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd. Contact Deb Bonne at 815-979-0885 with any questions.

AWANA CLUBS closing celebration

In-person AWANA closing in the Brick Center on Wednesday, April 14th from 6-7 pm!
Please wear your mask as you enter and leave the building, and as you move about.
We are looking forward to seeing our AWANA Zoomers in person to hand out their awards!

Youth Group
“SEE THE BISON HIKE”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Saturday, April 24th
More information to follow!

ALL-CHURCH
Business Meeting
Sunday, April 25th | 4:00 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 11th | 9 & 10:30 am

COMMUNION

SS & MORTAR GROUP SCHEDULES are posted on our church website and Facebook page weekly. Adults are invited to attend whichever Mortar group best fits their schedule.

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." Luke 24:5b-6a

This month we remember the cross of Jesus and his victorious resurrection on the third day. Without the cross, there is no shedding of blood by our King for the forgiveness of our sins. Without the empty tomb, there is no King of Kings. Paul beautifully wrote reflecting on this good news in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5,

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

We live in light of these truths and let our lives be shaped by his powerful Word.

Our youth continue to study James together on Wednesday nights. We have only a few more weeks remaining in that study before we break for the summer. Our final Wednesday night will be April 21. Also, we have our final youth group Sunday afternoon gathering for the school year on April 18 at the Brick Center from noon to 2 p.m.

Many youth and adults demonstrated their love for Jesus as we gathered on a beautiful early spring Saturday to clean the church garage, Admin building basement, and complete other projects around the church. We might have even had some fun along the way. Marlene Miller organized our projects and did a great job, thank you Marlene!

Speaking of fun, the youth enjoyed the Red Brick Escape Rooms earlier in the month of March. Special thanks to the Wallins, Carbys, Bakers, and Rhodes, for all of the hard work put in to set up, run the rooms, and feed our hungry teens. The ladies set up the same puzzles exactly 52 weeks prior to the event last month. We had to postpone it by one year due to the pandemic. They were so generous to give of their time to set all of it up again.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 370
STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084**

