



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

God uses simple, prayerful invitations to change eternity.

Here's the script. "Would you come to our Community Connections Carnival and have some free ice cream?"

JULY 2021
NEWSLETTER
TIME OF SERVICES
 Worship Service –
 9:00 am

Let me say in the first place that no lightning bugs were harmed in what happened in Rochelle on the 4th of July.

Or at least if a bug or two was incarcerated, it was a minimal number. The lightning bug population was not disturbed in such a way that will disrupt the circle of life in Ogle County.

Which is to say, Jamie, Mary Beth, and I drove down to Rochelle to see the fireworks. We were early enough to enjoy watching a five-year-old little boy who was trying to catch lightning bugs.

Catching lightning bugs is a favorite summer evening sport in SE Iowa so I couldn't stay on the sidelines very long. I got involved and started spotting lightning bugs for my new five-year-old friend.

From there, Jamie made friends with a family of four, who it turns out are new to Ogle County and may be looking for a church home. We invited them to our church and pointed out that there is a community connections carnival coming up. It turned out that they already know a few people from our church. And we were not the first to invite them!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CARNIVAL

FOOD, GAMES AND FAMILY FUN!

Monday, July 19 & Wednesday, July 21
6:00 to 8:00 pm

<p align="center">MONDAY, JULY 19 Taco's and Nacho's Candy Cloud Company Gourmet Cotton Candy Cart</p>	<p align="center">WEDNESDAY, JULY 21 Hot Dog and Chips Grandpa's Ice Cream Truck <i>(Upgraded sweet treats for purchase)</i></p>
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Dinner served from 6:00 to 7:00 pm each night in the Brick Center.
Yard games, puppet shows, face painting throughout the evening.
The event is free and open to the community!

	<p align="center">THE RED BRICK CHURCH 207 W Roosevelt Road Stillman Valley 815.645.2526 www.therdbrickchurch.org</p>
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This family we invited may or may not come. And we will not relentlessly bother them if they don't. Simple, *prayerful*, invitations are all that is needed. The results are in God's hands.

But do consider the beauty of our all-powerful God who uses the simple prayerful invitations of His people to change eternity. How many of us are in church now because someone said, "Would you be my guest at church this Sunday?" Or, "We are having a Community Connections Carnival. Would you come sit with my family and enjoy some free ice cream?"

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Stephen Brass218-5076
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne979-0885
Trustee Board – Ryan Roberts.. 937-248-3044
CE Committee – Marlene Miller289-8453
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay440-2042
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem262-4254
Music – Lance Mennen985-2484

**August Newsletter
Articles
are due in the
church office by
Tuesday, July 27th**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 30, 2021

Total Approved 2021 Budget = \$491,248
Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$9,447**

Budget Giving through June 30 \$245,624
Actual Giving through June 30 \$208,580
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$-37,044
Actual Expenses through 6/30/21 \$222,679
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses \$-14,099



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:

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.

Campaign Pledge Envelopes

Those wishing to use envelopes for their campaign pledges may do so using the special envelopes in the back of the church clearly marked "**Campaign Contributions Only**". If you are doing your campaign pledges online through Breeze, please be sure that you select "*Capital Campaign Fund 01*" under the Funds drop down box menu.

Community Connections Carnival



We need donations of boxes of individually wrapped snack cakes such as Little Debbie, Twinkies, Hostess cupcakes, to be used in a cake walk at our Carnival.

Donations can be left on either porch at the Administration Building.

RED BRICK CHURCH SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

**Breakfast at the Sunrise
Restaurant in Byron.**

**Tuesday, July 27th
9:00 am**

Everyone 55 and older are invited to attend!

Our Senior Fellowship is excited to be meeting again on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We had our first get-together in over a year last month with approximately 20 in attendance.

This is open to anyone in our church family over the age of 55. Please feel free to attend and enjoy food and fellowship with others.

~ Happy Birthday ~

- July 2nd - Adalee Brass
- July 5th - Reece Gatz, Ashley Rhodes
- July 6th - Faith VanBriesen
- July 9th - Andria Brass
- July 12th - Eden Anderson
- July 13th - Liam Stahl
- July 15th - Dave Gatz, Hanna Wallin, Trevor Gerig
- July 20th - Shirley Johann
- June 18th - Chad Gerig
- July 27th - Cherri Tremble
- June 28th - Kay Swanson
- July 29th - Jackson Halsmer, JoAnn Southwick
- July 30th - Ron Lewis, MaryJane McNames
- July 31st - Jean VanVleet
- Aug. 1st - Lane Behmer
- Aug. 2nd - Matt Geiseman
- Aug. 4th - Bruce Bonne, Hanna Roberts

~ Happy Anniversary ~

- July 5th - Ryan and Cara Roberts
- July 6th - Phil and Karen Guske
- July 18th - Keith and Anne Wiltfang
- July 21st - Tom and Ashley Stahl

Mask and Seating Update

Effective Sunday, July 4, we have gone to one service without social distancing, but will continue to stream the service for those who are not comfortable for health reasons being here.

Masks are no longer required. You are welcome to wear them if you choose. Open seating is now available in all pews in the sanctuary. For those who wish, social distancing is available in the overflow section of the church and up in the balcony.

Summer Worship Schedule

July 4th to September 5th
One Service at 9:00 am

(Two services resume on Sunday, September 12th)

RightNow Media



RightNow Media provides free Christian videos for adults and children! With over 10,000 Bible Study Videos, RightNow Media makes a great

supplement to Christian families hoping to center their home on the Word of God.

For your personal access to RightNow Media, please visit our church website. If you need additional help, contact the church office.

BRICK CENTER DEDICATION SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021



4:00 pm - Program in the Church
Ribbon cutting following the program
5:00 pm - CATERED dinner served in Brick Center

Dinner tickets are \$5/person OR \$20 /family.
Tickets can be purchased on Sundays at church or in the church office during the week.

Please be sure to purchase your tickets for the Brick Center Dedication by the end of the July so that we can plan accordingly for seating and food. Tickets can be purchased before or after the worship services in the back of the church or stop by the church office during the week.

YOUTH GROUP MILK JUG LACROSSE

Sunday, July 11th
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Our youth will be taking on the youth from the Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris in some Milk Jug Lacrosse on July 11th. Please meet at the Dillehay Park (30 Barbara Street) in Mt. Morris. Talk to Pastor David if you have any questions or need a ride.

FROM PASTOR DAVID

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

“Abiding, not striving nor struggling;
looking off unto Him;
trusting Him for present power;
trusting Him to subdue all inward corruption;
resting in the love of an almighty Savior;
in the conscious joy of a complete salvation;
a salvation from all sin (this is His Word);
willing that His will should truly be supreme –“

By John McCarthy in a letter to his fellow missionary and friend, J. Hudson Taylor, quoted from *They Found the Secret*, page 19, by V. Raymond Edman.

I organized the quote in verse rather than block paragraph to focus on each independent thought. For example, the statement, “Abiding, not striving nor struggling”, tells us what abiding is *not* but then the extended quote unpacks the riches of abiding in Jesus. He does not call us to a life with him that reflects the curse but rather the abundant life by faith in him.

As you read again through McCarthy’s definition of abiding, would you pause along the way to talk with our Savior? I did so on two points this morning.

As I paused, “looking off unto Him”, I thought of statements he made in his life and ministry. He responded to an awestruck Nathaniel (John 1:48b), “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” Wow, what a promise. It isn’t enough for Jesus to know of our being and current place in life. He shows himself to be greater all the time, if we would just watch.

Or, “trusting Him to subdue all inward corruption”, I stopped here to recognize my inability to overcome sin on my own. But I do not despair, the Perfect Son of God has come, the One, “who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,” Galatians 1:4.

I am looking forward to our final four messages from Galatians. We will be reminded of and maybe learn truths for the first time about the Holy Spirit. He is our Comforter, Helper, Light, and so much more. We will see greater things in the Word of God as we study together.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

