



**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 2021  
NEWSLETTER**  
CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

**P.L.E.S. Pray! – Please!**

**REMINDER:**

Thanksgiving Eve service is at 7:00 PM at Kishwaukee Pres (11/24/21)

Pray “PLES” for people (1) Physically (2) Logistically (3) Emotionally and (4) Spiritually.

Jesus words are so compelling.

*<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

And yet – ask yourself this question: “If God answered all my prayers from the last week, what would happen?”

The reality is that God’s people aren’t asking God for nearly enough.

I wonder what would happen if our church prayed for revival and people turning to Christ in a really concerted way. What if we prayed that marriages would be healed? What if we prayed and asked God to use us to encourage hearts.

\* \* \* \* \*

When someone facing a difficult season or challenge asks me to pray, I find it helpful to organize my prayers with this acronym (P.L.E.S.).

**P** – Physically – We are physical beings. We have many needs. And if Jesus doesn’t come back, we will all go through enough to kill us. Such a sobering thought should move us to pray.

**L** – Logistically – Even when we lose someone we love, the grass still needs to be cut and bills have to be paid. It’s hard. I often pray God will help someone get stuff done.

**E** – Emotionally – We are emotional beings and if our emotions are out of control, then we will be mired in depression, angry, or overwhelmed. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and pray for someone’s emotions – Or Psalm 42-43.

**S** – Spiritually – We are in a great spiritual battle (Ephesians 6). Therefore, pray, that the Holy Spirit would fill us to the measure of the fullness of Christ.

I also find it helpful to journal prayers. If there is a blank sheet of paper on my desk – with a prayer request at the top – I find that I am compelled to write down a time I prayed. Likewise, Jamie and I occasionally do this at home.

## CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Stephen Brass .....218-5076  
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne .....979-0885  
Trustee Board – Ryan Roberts.. 937-248-3044  
CE Committee – Marlene Miller .....289-8453  
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay .....440-2042  
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem .....262-4254  
Music – Lance Mennen .....985-2484

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 31, 2021

**Total Approved 2021 Budget = \$491,248**

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

Budget Giving through Oct. 31 ..... \$415,671  
Actual Giving through Oct. 31 ..... \$383,339  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$-32,332  
Actual Expenses through 10/31/21 ..... \$374,617  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ..... \$8,722

As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,476,539. This is 95% of total pledges made for the building program.



All boards and committees should begin to work on and finish up their 2022 budgets if they haven't already. The Trustee Board would like to have all budgets to them NO later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Winter Porch Pot Class



We are planning to do a Winter Porch Pot Class on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Brick Center. This will be hosted by Hidden Timber Gardens in Chana. The cost will be approximately \$40, depending on size of planter. More information on the class and the registration form will be online very soon!



Please note that in order to be counted for 2021 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 2022 contribution.

If making a contribution towards a capital campaign pledge for the building, please use the capital campaign envelopes 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](mailto:cccoffice1@comcast.net)

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The Deaconess Board will be decorating the church and Brick Center on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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*Thank you*

A very special THANK YOU to the Deaconess Board for being so thoughtful to deliver a Fall Pumpkin to my home. Your kindness is very much appreciated!  
~ Dorris Dye

**Sugar & Brush**  
**Red Brick Church**  
**Holiday Cookie Decorating Class**

**December 2nd 6-9pm**



Students will learn to decorate cookies using Royal icing. All supplies are provided for use during class. Students will receive 12 cookies, icing, sprinkles, instruction, take home box, inspiration sheet, recipes, tips/tricks, bottled water and a sweet treat!

Signup by Nov. 28th on the church's website:  
[theredbrickchurch.org](http://theredbrickchurch.org)

**\$40  
Per  
Person**


Can't join us?  
 Wanna continue working on your skills?  
 Preorder a cookie kit for \$25  
 Cookie kits contain: 12 undecorated cookies, icing, scribe, sprinkles, inspiration sheet, recipes, and tips and tricks.

# NOVEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

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

**Oh Come All Ye Faithful**



**Christmas Live Nativity**  
**Sunday, December 5th**  
**4 - 7 pm**  
**Outside the Brick Center**

Join us for a time of  
*Thanksgiving*  
 Community Thanksgiving Celebration

The Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kishwaukee Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm. All area pastors will be participating in the service.



**Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Wear red, white and blue tonight to club in honor of Veterans Day.

**Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

It's our annual Give Thanks Night. We will be collecting Hearty Soup (only) for the Bread of Life Pantry here in Stillman Valley.

**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Family Roller Skating Night at the White Pines Roller Rink. More info to follow.

**Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

No Club on the 24<sup>th</sup>

# From Pastor David ....

*For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. Psalm 92:4*

Early fall rains have brought lawns back to life. We have a lush green backdrop for the colors of the season painted by God's creative hand. Gladness fills our hearts as we incline them to the truth of Scripture. Let us praise God for his goodness, his glory displayed in the beauty of a Northern Illinois autumn, and most of all his Son Jesus.

God also displays his glory through his people. The Bricks generously provided snacks and other items for 26 care packages sent to college students and military personnel. The Rhodes family opened their home to give our youth a place to prepare the packages, enjoy a hayrack ride, and dinner. Our night of service and fun ended with s'mores.



November and December provide us more opportunities to bring glory to God as his people. This Saturday, November 6, from 1 to 4 p.m., our youth are meeting at church to be a blessing to other Bricks by cleaning up yards. All adults are welcome to join us. Bring your own rakes and other lawn tools.

We will also bless our community during Cardinal Christmas. Plans are being made for a live nativity, carolers, and a luminary walk along Main Street from downtown to the Brick Center. Contact Pastor David to learn how you might be involved.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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

**CARDINAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENT**

**CAROLERS NEEDED!**

*Groups or Individuals  
15 - 30 minutes  
Brick Center*

 **Sunday, Dec. 5**

 **4:00 to 7:00 in the evening**

**Contact Heather Wallin for more info.**