



# 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

**DECEMBER 2021  
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

*I can't wait for our **Christmas Eve service at 4:00 PM**. Jamie and I are hoping our children will be home for the holiday— including a **baby!** We are bringing guests. Would you do the same? We'll sing by candlelight together.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Does your soul need revived and restored? If so – meditate on the Word! You can do so by spending 15 minutes or less each day.*

One of the reasons I am preaching Psalm 23 this December is because of its peaceful promise that if the LORD is our shepherd he will restore our souls.

Who doesn't need restored? Who doesn't feel depleted at times?

But the promise that our good shepherd will restore our souls raises a practical question. "What exactly would it look like for my soul to be restored by Christ?"

The broad answer to the question would be that God will grant us the grace to go on as we participate in the "means of grace": reading the Word and hearing it preached, prayer, sharing life with other believers, and worship (Acts 2:42).

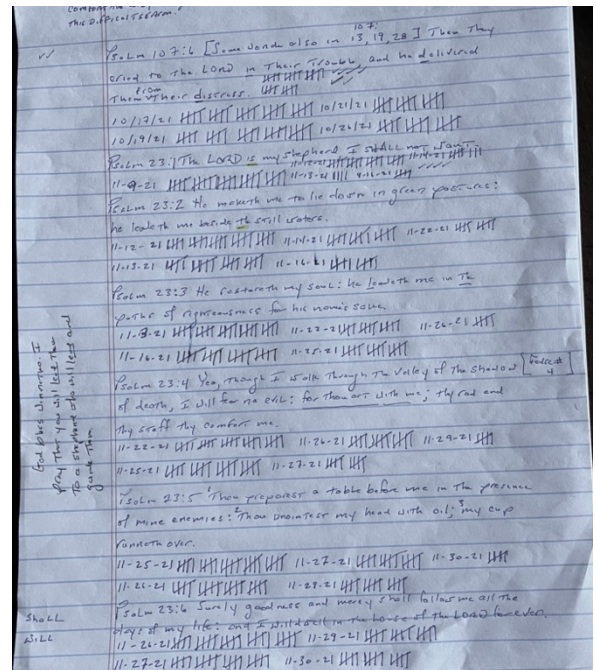
But a more specific example of how we might receive Christ's gift of the renewal of our souls is to meditate on Scripture. After all, Psalm 19:7 expressly assures us that the Word of God revives the soul.

One of the ways I go about meditating on Scripture is to repeat to remember. This November, as I was preparing to preach from Psalm 23, I disciplined myself to memorize and repeat each line 75 times. I began with 25 times the first day and stepped down by increments of 5 --- 25-20-15-10-5.

The picture included here is of the page where I kept track of Psalm 23. You can see it's not a fancy system.

I followed the initial exercise of reviewing with daily review using 3X5 cards.

Remember, Psalm 23 is poetry. So, as you memorize, meditate on the imagery of Christ as your shepherd who leads, guides, renews, friends, and promises to spend eternity with you. You might try illustrating Psalm 23 in your mind's eye with images from northern Illinois in mind. Like Blackhawk, find a spot high on the bluff above the Rock River and then look down at the peaceful valley.



## 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

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 30, 2021

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

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

Budget Giving through Nov. 30 ..... \$453,460  
Actual Giving through Nov. 30 ..... \$416,645  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$-36,815  
Actual Expenses through 11/30/21 ..... \$411,540  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ..... \$5,105

As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,478,709. This is 95% of total pledges made for the building program.



*Youth*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Prelude*

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 & 10:30 am worship services

LET JAMIE BRAUNS OR THE CHURCH OFFICE  
KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE



*Tithes*  
AND OFFERINGS

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







- 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,
- Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> - MaryBeth Brauns
- Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> - Natalie Hauge
- Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - Cameron Wissinger
- Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - Wren Hickey



**TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt gratitude for the cards, flowers, memorial gifts, kind expressions of sympathy, thoughts, prayers, love and support extended to our family during this difficult time in the loss of our precious Mom. It will always be remembered. Much appreciation to the ladies of the funeral committee for the delicious luncheon you served. Lastly, a special thank you to Chaplain Lance Mennen for time spent with Mom these past months and for officiating at her service.

~ The Family of Peggy Dyal



**THEME NIGHTS**

**Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

We have WESTERN NIGHT tonight. Come to club dressed as a cowboy or cowgirl!

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Tonight is DRESS LIKE CHRISTMAS NIGHT. Show up at club dressed in as much red and green as you can and we also have our AWANA STORE on the 15<sup>th</sup>!

**Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

No Club Meetings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> as we take time to celebrate Christmas and the birth of our King. We will meet again on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



## From Pastor David ...

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:10-11*

"Where do you find good news today?" Almost every "Gospelbound" podcast concludes with this question among a few rapid fire from host Collin Hansen. The question points us to an important truth about God. He is always at work and his work is always good. We need only to have eyes open to see and ears tuned to hear the mighty works of God.

The appearance of angels to shepherds teaches us a lesson about good news. These hard-working shepherds were tending their sheep when they were given the best news of all heralding the coming of Immanuel, God with us. Our place of work can be a place where we see and hear of God at work.

How can we position ourselves to see and hear of God's work? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Turn down the volume of news, particularly that which is reported from a secular perspective. Give it less weight in your minds and less influence on your emotions.
2. Turn up the volume on news from the Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the ways the Word of God is living and active in this present day (Hebrews 4:12).
3. Share good news with others. I recently came across an encouraging story about a retired attorney and self-taught carpenter. At 85 years-old, he builds wood furniture and shares truths about God from Scripture with addicts in a 13-month recovery program. He has a simple goal: finish strong. I passed the story along to a brother in Christ I thought might be encouraged by the story even more than me.

Good news isn't meant for us to simply receive. Let us see, hear, and proclaim the mighty works of God.

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

