



## 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

### MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
cccoffice1@comcast.net

### Read the "Globe"

*Observing the tumultuous events of the last two years should motivate God's people to pursue gospel priorities.*

"Read the room!" You know the expression. Our culture says it to someone who seems to be amazingly tone deaf regarding the context in which he or she speaks.

For example, many of us complain at one time or another about a common cold. It's not wrong to be weary of the nuisance of a common virus. But if someone walked into a small group with several going through chemotherapy and complained, "I'm so tired of this head cold," we would think, "read the room." After all, who would complain about a cold to someone with cancer?

But the sort of "reading" or awareness that is needed now is not so much reading micro-contexts like "rooms". Rather we need to consider the *globe*. We now live at a pivotal juncture where world history is unfolding in a series of quick tweets. In the last two years:

- We have battled a global pandemic that has threatened local churches meeting together and surfaced ugly divisions and differences.
- We live in a digitally immersive environment that shapes people who marinate their minds in pixels and social media more than Scripture.
- A clash is taking place between East and West that is seeing millions of displaced people flee their homes in Ukraine. And few will be surprised if China takes more aggressive action towards Taiwan and the South China Sea.
- Children are taught that gender is fluid and that the unstable thoughts of an adolescent are more reliable where identity is concerned than the biology given by God.

To Christians who fail to be motivated to be spiritually urgent, the admonishment is not, "Read the room." Rather, we need to "Read the globe." Ours is no time for pettiness. Instead, it is time for the cause of Christ to move forward with boldness and compassion.

If we do read the globe, then the actions taken will be obvious. We will quickly move beyond the small sleights that sting for a few days but do not weigh too much on the scales of what really matters. We will mobilize in prayer and intercede for brothers and sisters throughout the world. We will be more committed to our local church in every way including both attendance and giving. We will look to Scripture as to a light shining in a dark place. We will share the good news of Christ to people who are lost.

I am thankful to serve in a church that has "Read the globe" in so many constructive ways. We forged ahead with the Brick Center in the early weeks of the pandemic. We've served hurting families even when it meant risking a case of Covid. We've enjoyed some beautiful moments. Let's do so even more. Let's read the globe and take Christ-centered action to see more ground taken for Christ and more hope spread across the street and around the world.

## CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254  
Deaconess Board – Susan Stukenberg .997-7095  
Trustee Board – Ryan Roberts.. 937-248-3044  
CE Committee – Cara Roberts.. 217-621-2460  
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay .....440-2042  
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254  
Music – Lance Mennen .....985-2484

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Total Approved 2022 Budget = \$495,460**

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$9,528/week**

Budget Giving through Feb. 28 ..... \$85,753  
Actual Giving through Feb. 28..... \$85,979  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$226  
Actual Expenses through 2/28/22..... \$70,677  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ..... \$15,302

As of February 28, 2022, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,498,854. This is 96% 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:

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.



Reminder for all youth interested in attending church camp this summer, to be sure and register as soon as possible. Many weeks at Camp Forest Spring and Camp Lundgren Bible Camp fill up quickly! The CE Board offers any youth from our church attending a CE approved church camp a \$100 camp scholarship.

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1<sup>st</sup> - Jamie Brauns, Christopher Brauns  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Brent Bonne, Sydney Thomas  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kent Cronberg  
March 4<sup>th</sup> - Jana Cox, Grace VanBriesen, Randy Stukenberg  
March 5<sup>th</sup> - Tessa Baker, Shari Halsmer, Arlett Bonne  
March 6<sup>th</sup> - Sam Miller, Paisley Poliska  
March 7<sup>th</sup> - Jeff McLindsay, Chelsea Colon  
March 11<sup>th</sup> - Pastor Chris, Isaiah Braffett  
March 12<sup>th</sup> - Jamie Adams  
March 16<sup>th</sup> - Keith Wiltfang  
March 17<sup>th</sup> - Emily Houston  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Adrien Booker  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Josephine Rosko  
March 25<sup>th</sup> - Hadley Colon, Carter McCandless  
March 26<sup>th</sup> - Homer Bailey  
March 28<sup>th</sup> - Oliver Jones  
March 29<sup>th</sup> - Jeremiah Bogner, Jewel Holsinger  
April 1<sup>st</sup> - Avis Hall  
April 4<sup>th</sup> - Natalie McCandless

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## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 11<sup>th</sup> - John and Sandy Stout  
March 15<sup>th</sup> - Steve and Donna Arnold  
March 21<sup>st</sup> - Gary and Connie Rhodes

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## Constitution / By-laws

Our church is working in 2022 on revising the constitution and by-laws. A draft of changes was distributed at the annual meeting. If you have any questions or input about the progress thus far, please submit those in writing to the church office by March 11, 2022. The input will then be considered prior to a church business meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>.



## AWANA THEME NIGHTS

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** This was our final AWANA Missionary Night for this school year. Thank you to all our clubbers for your generosity for our missionaries!

**March 9<sup>th</sup>:** We got "Noodle Night" on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We are collecting boxes of Mac & Cheese for the Bread of Life Food Pantry here in Stillman Valley.

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** It's our final AWANA Store. Be ready to spend all of your AWANA Dollars on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** This will be our final club meeting and Closing Ceremonies. More info will be sent home with clubbers.

## GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER CHOIR

We are having a Good Friday / Easter Sunday Choir this year. The Good Friday Service will be held at our church. If you are interested in being a part of the choir, join us at our practices on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. Practices are on 3/14, 3/21 and 4/11 at 7:00 pm.

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

The Good Friday Service will be held this year at our church on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Along with Pastor Chris and Pastor David, pastors from the Valley Evangelical Covenant Church and Kishwaukee Evangelical Presbyterian Church will all be participating in the service.

Our last youth group on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, has been changed to our "Around the Table with Seniors and Teens Game Day". We have several of our seniors who are excited to join our teens for lunch, fellowship and games on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please RSVP to the church office (815-645-2526) if you are planning to attend.

# FROM PASTOR DAVID . . .

The Youth Ministry Calendar was recently updated through the end of the school year.

## The Red Brick Church Youth Ministry Calendar

2021-2022

Updated March 2, 2022

### March

2 - Wed - **No Wed. Night Bible Study**  
6 - Sun - Youth Group  
12 - Sat - Late Winter Fun: FLOW Supreme  
Air Sports, 12:30 to 3 p.m.  
20 - Sun - Youth Group  
23 - Wed - **Last Wed. Night Bible Study  
of School Year**  
26 - Sat - **CANCELLED**

### April

3 - Sun - **Around the Table with Seniors  
and Teens** - noon to 2 p.m. in the Brick  
Center: lunch, games, and fellowship  
23 - Sat - Spring Photo Scavenger Hunt

### May

7 - Sat - Spring outdoor event at the  
Rhodes' home  
14 - Sat - SVHS Baccalaureate  
15 - Sun - Graduation Sunday

Wednesday Night Bible Study begins September 8, 2021, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Brick Center  
Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, September 12, 2021  
Senior High Mortar Group at 9:00 a.m. in the Brick Center  
Junior High Bible Instruction Class (BIC) at 9:00 a.m. in the Brick Center

Church Office: 815-645-2526  
cccoffice1@comcast.net

Pastor David Bogner: 815-289-3246  
davidbogner4@gmail.com

**Growing Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus**

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

