



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 2022
NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

Many people are exhausted and fatigued and don't know why. So often the reason is we are spiritually malnourished. To be strengthened, we need to worship with God's people. Otherwise, we will be weakened by a kind of spiritual "scurvy" – a deficiency from which millions die.

Maybe it's because I read Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* as a young boy, or maybe it was because of the Walt Disney World, but I was always intrigued by pirates. It seemed to me that sailing the blue ocean,

looking for buried treasure on islands, while avoiding Long John Silver and Captain Hook would have been a great adventure.

Where pirate adventures were concerned, I knew which part I wanted to play. I wanted to decipher the map and find the treasure. I didn't want to walk the plank.

Much later while studying biochemistry, I learned that the real danger sailing the seven seas was not the presence of pirates. Rather, the real danger was the absence of Vitamin C. Because sailors so often lacked vitamin C on long voyages, many died miserable deaths from Scurvy. Indeed, it is estimated that scurvy killed more than 2,000,000 sailors from the time of Columbus until the transatlantic steam engine age. Sometimes the death rate for long voyages was much as 50% of the crew.

Eventually, the British discovered the problem and began to take limes with them. And Brits were nicknamed "limeys" in the process!

On a spiritual level, people in our culture are often malnourished and they have a form of spiritual scurvy without even knowing the real cause. We imagine that the fundamental reason we are so wiped out is one sort of circumstance or another.

But a fundamental reason so many people are weak and emotional is because they lack the "vitamin c" of regularly being together with God's people to be fed by the Word of God – to have our hearts and souls stirred by singing about the beauty of Christ – to be cared for and loved by God's people.

If you know someone who is setting sail on a long voyage to dig for buried treasure, then buy them a gift of limes. Or at least some vitamin C pills. But if you know someone who is sailing the seas of life, dealing with one challenge or another, give the gift of inviting them to church this Easter season.

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We are hosting the community Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM on Good Friday. I pray you will make it a priority to "survey the wondrous Cross, on which the prince of glory died."

* * * * *

We have a church membership meeting at 4:00 PM on April 24. We will review our membership rolls as well as the progress on constitution revisions. Everyone is invited to the meeting.

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 McLindsay440-2042
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254
Music – Lance Mennen985-2484

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2022

Total Approved 2021 Budget = \$495,460

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

Budget Giving through March 31 \$123,865
Actual Giving through March 31 \$125,093
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$1,228
Actual Expenses through 3/31/22 \$124,108
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses 985

As of March 31, 2022, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,550,784. This is 99% of total pledges made for the building program.



All area Pastors will be participating in the Good Friday Service this year.

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:

cccoffice1@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 15th. We encourage all graduates to please attend on the 15th 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 8th, 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!

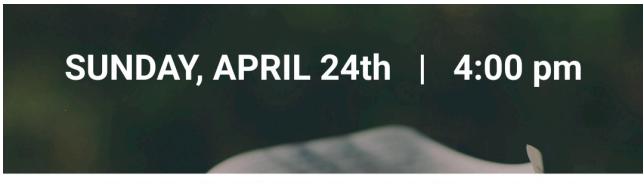
- April 1st - Avis Hall
- April 3rd - Linda Wetzig
- April 6th - Brad Baker
- April 11th - Natalie McCandless
- April 15th - Teresa McLindsay
- April 17th - Daniel Miller
- April 19th - Isabella Mennen
- April 21st - Pat Ewald
- April 23rd - Stephen Brass
- April 24th - Laurie Carlsen
- April 28th - 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

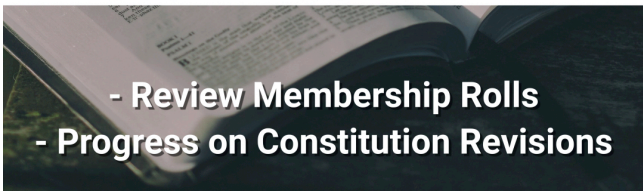
Parents are reminded to be sure and pre-register their child / children for Summer camp this summer! Both Camp Forest Springs and Lake Lundgren Bible Camp are registering! The CE Board offers \$100 scholarship for summer church camp and both camps also have scholarships available.



SUNDAY, APRIL 24th | 4:00 pm

ALL CHURCH

Business Meeting



- Review Membership Rolls
- Progress on Constitution Revisions

SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH | 5:00 PM
 (FOLLOWING THE CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
 IN THE BRICK CENTER)



PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS.
 DRINKS AND TABLE SERVICE
 WILL BE PROVIDED.

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!

easter SUNDAY

8 am	Coffee & Donuts in the Brick Center
9 am	Worship Service, SS for all ages, Choir sings
10:30 am	Worship Service, Adult SS, Choir sings, Children's Church
11:30 am	Easter Egg Hunt for Preschool - 5th grade

The Deaconess Board would like to invite everyone for coffee and donuts in the Brick Center on Easter Morning from 8:00 to 9:00 am.

Thank you

Thank you to all the ladies who organized, prepared and served the delicious food at the Teens and Seniors event. I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and time spent with the teens.

God Bless, Dorris Dye

JR & SR HIGH YOUTH Bible Study

6:30 to 8:00 pm
 Wednesday Evenings
 April 13th through May 18th
 Meeting in the Brick Center

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID

The changeup makes its way to the plate in baseball slower than most pitches. Its effectiveness depends upon the pitcher's ability to throw with less velocity but maintain arm motion that appears to the hitter to be a faster pitch.

We are using a changeup of sorts to deepen our walks with Jesus during the fast-paced final weeks of the school year. Many of our youth served the younger children in AWANA this year. Now they will have a chance to slow down on Wednesday nights, gather for a little longer, and focus on three specific disciplines: Scripture memory, worship in song, and outreach.



The Brick Center bustled with activity during the afternoon of April 3rd, 2022. Bricks of all ages gathered for fellowship food, and fun as we hosted our first "Around the Table with Seniors and Teens" since the Fall of 2019.

Beginning Wednesday, April 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., 6th through 12th grade students are welcome to come for all or part of these 90-minute sessions in the Brick Center. Our final meeting in this series will be Wednesday, May 18.

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events:

April 23: Spring Photo Scavenger Hunt

May 7, 4-7 p.m.: Spring Outdoor Event at the Rhodes Home (incoming 6th grade students are invited to attend)

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STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084

