



**Congregational Christian Church**  
**The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley**  
(Evangelical, Independent)

**207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370**  
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370

**Pastor Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner**

**MAY 2022**  
**NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
cccoffice1@comcast.net

As lead pastor, my central obligation is to shepherd the flock through the preaching and teaching of the Word. This means I need to be prayerfully studying and growing in my theological thinking in an ongoing way. Here are some ways I am currently doing so.

**We continue in our series in 1 Timothy.** The big idea I have preached in that book is that *qualified leaders must lead the local church in protecting and upholding the Gospel of the Living God in a well-ordered church.* If you would like to read more about 1 Timothy on your own,

John Calvin's sermons on 1 Timothy are excellent. I read an edition published by Banner of Truth.

**I plan to preach a series on Ecclesiastes in the Fall.** Along with Job and Proverbs, Ecclesiastes is one of three wisdom books in the Bible. As we read and meditate on these truths, they sharpen our wisdom saws so that we can cut our way through the hard wood of life.

Preaching Ecclesiastes is *very* challenging. So, I have a big stack of books I am working my way through now for a series I tentatively plan to begin preaching September 11.

Now would be a great time for the people in our church to start reading through the book of Ecclesiastes. If you read it 10-20 times between now and the Fall, then it would position you to benefit even more from the series.

If you would like to study Ecclesiastes on your own, you might start with the book:

Gibson, David. *Living Life Backward: How Ecclesiastes Teaches Us to Live in Light of the End.* Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2017.

**My fellow doctoral graduates (and a few others) will meet next week to study Colossians and Philemon with Dr. Douglas Moo.** Dr. Moo is one of the greatest living Pauline scholars. The opportunity to study Philemon with Dr. Moo is of special interest given my work on forgiveness. Given how much we have preached from Paul's letters in recent years, we likely won't get to Colossians from the pulpit for several years.

**Devotionally, I am using the book, *Be Thou My Vision (Crossway)*.** It lays out a plan for reading through the Bible and includes both the Heidelberg and Westminster Shorter Catechisms. It also includes a number of beautiful prayers.

**I also benefit from podcasts.** I highly recommend the podcast "Life, Books, and Everything Else," with Kevin DeYoung and sometimes Collin Hansen and Justin Taylor. Kevin is also worth reading on his web site and in *World* magazine.

**Pastor David, Rev. Lance, and I continue to be thankful for the *New City Catechism* and its inclusion in our worship services.** To be sure, it is brief: only 52 Questions. But it provides us an opportunity to outline the Christian faith each year. I pray that our families will all review it throughout the year.

## 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 April 30, 2022

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

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

Budget Giving through April 30 ..... \$161,977  
Actual Giving through April 30 ..... \$165,776  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... 3,799  
Actual Expenses through 4/30/22 ..... \$156,280  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ..... \$9,496

As of April 30, 2022, total capital campaign contributions received were \$1,553,617. This is 99% of total pledges made for the building program.

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**June Newsletter Articles  
are due in the  
church office by  
Friday, May 27, 2021**

## HONORING GRADUATES

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring our 2022 SVHS and BHS graduates as well as those from our church family who are also home schooled graduates.

We will be honoring all graduates during the 9:00 am worship service. If you have a graduate in your family or know of a graduate from our church family, please contact the church office 645-2526.

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On Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be recognizing our 2022 BIC (Bible Instruction Course) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates. We will be honoring our graduates during the 9:00 am worship service.

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**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](mailto:cccoffice1@comcast.net)**

The email address for Pastor Chris is:

**[cdbrauns@gmail.com](mailto:cdbrauns@gmail.com)**

The email address for Pastor David is:

**[davidbogner4@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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## Children's Prelude

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have our children/youth begin both services with a prelude!

Any one up through high school age who would want to play an instrumental song as part of our prelude should let Jamie Brauns or the church office know!

## PORCH PLANTER CLASS



Ladies are invited to a PORCH PLANTER CLASS on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Hidden Timbers Gardens in Chana.

The cost is \$42.50 (if you bring your own pot) and includes 5 plants and everything to pot them. Pots can be purchased that evening at Hidden Timbers for an additional cost on top of the \$42.50.

Register through Breeze. Link can be found our website and Red Brick Ladies Facebook page.

## ~ Happy Birthday ~

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lucas Behmer, Camila Bonne
- May 4<sup>th</sup> - Tyler Herlihy
- May 5<sup>th</sup> - Evan Jones, Micah Stahl
- May 7<sup>th</sup> - Havah Gebbia
- May 8<sup>th</sup> - Mike Haugse
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - Adley Glendenning
- May 10<sup>th</sup> - Dakota Svartoi
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - Storm Hickey
- May 12<sup>th</sup> - Anna Bogner
- May 14<sup>th</sup> - Noah Myers
- May 15<sup>th</sup> - Claudia Pihl, Christine Hintzsche
- May 16<sup>th</sup> - Eunice Aden, Warren Rosko
- May 17<sup>th</sup> - Aiden Carby
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - Kaitlyn Adams, Emma Wissinger
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - Hope Hickey
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Moses Michalek, Aileen Gatz
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - Becky Bailey
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Evan Stahl
- May 24<sup>th</sup> - Donna Dyal, Elliot Anderson
- May 25<sup>th</sup> - Heather Wallin
- May 28<sup>th</sup> - Wyatt Brass, Susan Stukenberg, Bri Svartoi
- May 30<sup>th</sup> - Mandy Poliska
- June 1<sup>st</sup> - June Lewis

## ~ Happy Anniversary ~

- May 4<sup>th</sup> - Bob & Patsy Hoernecke
- Eric & Kendra Booker
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - Mike & Gloria Ennenbach
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Dave & Aileen Gatz
- June 1<sup>st</sup> - Don and Heather Wallin

## FROM PASTOR DAVID ...

Our teens have been taking aim at memorizing the Word of God the last several weeks on Wednesday night. Important truths for every Brick are being hidden away in our hearts. For example, John 10:10, Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Supporting the first of seven "Never Forget" points, "Know that following Christ is right and best," we can *always* be confident when we follow Jesus our Shepherd.



On Saturday, April 23, a group of teens gathered at the Byron Forest Preserve for a Photo Scavenger Hunt. In addition to capturing pictures of some of God's handiwork bringing forth early springtime beauty, they diligently picked up trash scattered throughout the preserve. Prizes for a little friendly competition may have served as motivation too.

### Upcoming Youth Ministry Events:

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 6:30 to 8 p.m.,  
May 4, 11, and 18

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

Summer Worship  
Schedule  
Memorial Day Sunday, May 29  
to  
Labor Day Sunday, September 4  
One Service at 9:00 am

The graphic features a background of a green field under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and black fonts. A dark blue rounded rectangle contains the words "Summer Worship" and "Schedule".

# SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

A sign-up sheet for camp scholarships has been placed on the back bulletin board. Please sign up for what camp you will be attending along with the week. A camp scholarship of \$100 will be mailed to your parents a week prior to camp.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CARNIVAL  
FOOD, GAMES & FAMILY FUN!



Monday, July 18, 2022 &  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

6:00 to 8:00 pm  
both nights

**SAVE THE DATES!!**



RED BRICK CHURCH JR AND SR HIGH YOUTH

# SPRING OUTDOOR EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 7 | 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

AT THE RHODES HOME  
(2231 N MERIDIAN ROAD, CHANA)

**DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**INCOMING 6TH GRADERS ARE INVITED!**



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

\*\* RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED \*\*



Happy  
Mother's Day!

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the  
teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:26