



**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**

**SEPT 2022**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**Would You Do Yourself and Your Pastors a Favor?**

*On less than a page, write out your faith story and share it with your pastors and deacons. It will help us better shepherd you. And God may use your faith story to change eternity!*

Every Christian should take the time to write out his or her faith story in just a few words. It does not need to be long. It only needs to contain a few basic elements. You can organize your testimony using two Christian songs. Begin with two clauses from “Amazing Grace.”

1. **“I once was lost.”** We are all born sinners (Romans 3:23). Without making your sin look good – or sharing details that cause others to dwell on sin – how did you realize that your own conduct is that of a “wretch”?
2. **“Amazing grace how sweet the sound.”** How did it “click” for you that salvation is not a matter of going to church or earning God’s favor, but rather that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures? Notice the emphasis on “how.” Tell us who explained the idea of grace or what you read.

Then change songs from “Amazing Grace” to “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”

3. **“I have decided to follow Jesus.”** Have you decided? What happened when you repented and believed? Do you remember the first person you told? Where were you?
4. **“No turning back, no turning back.”** What is the fruit or evidence in your life that you follow Jesus? Can you point to a season where you labored (in God’s grace) to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12-13)?

You should be able to write your faith story in a few lines. If you do, and you share it with your pastors, we will know you better, we will be challenged to share the gospel (as you should be challenged as well), and we will rejoice with you.

Don’t worry if your story doesn’t sound like someone else’s. Salvation stories are vastly different. Some people point to a kind of flash of understanding. For others, the lights come on very slowly. The vital thing is that you know that you have turned from trusting in yourself – or something else – to believing in Jesus.

Of course, it is possible that your faith-story will demonstrate that there is some aspect of the gospel and the doctrine of salvation that you misunderstand. If so, we will talk with you about what the Bible teaches and clear the matter up. *Shepherds shepherd sheep!*

In any case, here’s the thing. If Jesus does not come back, you are going to die. Soon. And when you do die, it would be a wonderful gift to the people who love you, if they could hear a pastor or friend share aloud how you came to faith in Christ. Your faith story, at your funeral, might be the means God uses to save others, even in your death.

**As for Chris Brauns?** I will practice what I preach and write my story.

I was an ugly-and selfish young man. I still cringe about my sin. But a schoolteacher invited my family to a church where salvation by grace was proclaimed. The good news clicked. Grace made sense. I believed and was baptized. Even after deciding to follow Christ, I struggled (and still struggle). I thought following Jesus was right, but I thought life would be more fun playing baseball or basketball on Sunday. It took about 15 years for me to learn more deeply that there is nothing better than growing in Christ. Now, over 50 years after I first heard the gospel, here I am. The grace of God that saved me is still teaching me to say “no” to ungodliness. I was saved when I turned in repentance from my sin to faith in Christ. I am growing in the same way: repentance and faith.

Now it is your turn. Email your faith story to Pastor David or me! We want to thank God, share the good news with others, and file your faith story.

## 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

## FINANCIAL

Through August 31, 2022

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

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

Budget Giving through Aug 31 ..... \$333,482  
Actual Giving through Aug 31 ..... \$355,520  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$22,038  
Actual Expenses through 8/31/22..... \$303,188  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ..... \$52,332



Both groups are doing the “**God Of Covenant: A Study of Genesis 12 – 50**” Bible study by Jen Wilkin. Over 10 weeks, you will discover how God orchestrates everything for His glory and the good of His people, and see how the God of creation and covenant is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

### TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday evening meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Brick Center. Jamie Brauns will be leading this study.

### FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Friday Morning Study meets on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the Brick Center. *Childcare will be provided for this study.* Marcia Bogner will be leading the study.

Both groups started the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>, but feel free to join either group even if you might have missed week one.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### SS Superintendent:

**Brooke Adams ~ 815-645-8561**

Welcome to 2022 - 2023 Sunday School! We are getting and are anxious to get Sunday School going again this year! We are asking families to register asap, if you haven't already, so we can plan accordingly for Sunday School material for each classroom.

If you have questions, please contact Brooke Adams at 815-985-3178. Sunday School is scheduled to begin on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am. Classes will be available for all ages.

God Bless, Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

### *~ Happy Birthday ~*

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Emilia Janoski  
Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul Baker, Estelle Jones  
Sept 4<sup>th</sup> - Kathleen Peterson  
Sept 5<sup>th</sup> - Tyler Kenyon  
Sept 8<sup>th</sup> - Tarah Svartoi  
Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - Tim Halsmer, Bob Hoernecke  
Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Jeanne Baker, William Kottke  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Shelley Herlihy, Gloria Ennenbach  
Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Ashley Stahl  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> - Tania VanBriesen  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup> - Nathan Jones  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup> - MyKenzie Beitel  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup> - Mitchell Hawkins  
Sept 30<sup>th</sup> - Parker Glendenning  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lee Hickey

### *~ Happy Anniversary ~*

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Homer and Becky Bailey  
Nick and Chelsea Colon  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> - Brent and Arlett Bonne  
Sept 28<sup>th</sup> - Ray and Kay Swanson

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Our Senior Fellowship (55 and older) will meet for breakfast on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Byron Sunrise Restaurant at 9:00 am. Join us for a time for fellowship!

## 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*

Excitement fills the air when a newborn arrives. Everyone close to the family wants to meet, hold, and smile at the baby making for a joyous time. Such an occasion took place on Sunday, August 7, 2022 at Chiddix Junior High School in Normal, Illinois.

Salt Church Bloomington-Normal gathered to worship King Jesus for the first time. Voices were lifted high in joyful praise and adoration, the Word of God was preached, and God's people were fed nourishing spiritual food.

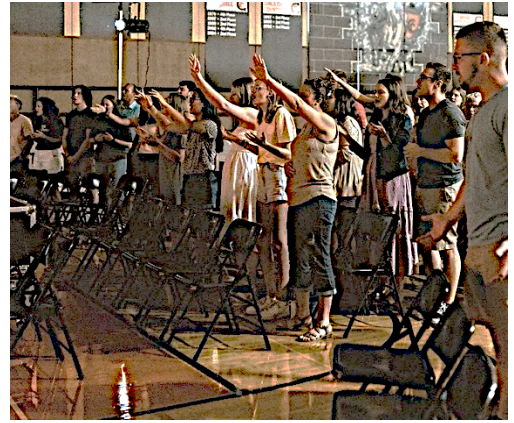
The Bogner Family had a unique opportunity to be in attendance to witness what God is doing near the campus of Illinois State University. We met the rest of the Nemmers Family sans Elliot Saint, born later in August, along with many members of the Salt Team.

Not only has The Red Brick Church made a financial investment for eternity by supporting Salt Church. Years of pouring into the life of Daniel Miller prepared a volunteer leader to serve. Miller already engaged in summer ministry with Salt Company, the college student ministry. He will provide leadership in small group and discipleship contexts during the school year.

The work of a church plant is hard. All the equipment: stage, sound, lighting, hospitality, technology, and nursery are stored in a trailer during the week. Set up and tear down requires many hands each Sunday morning. The hard work being done for the Kingdom of God in the name of Jesus by these young, energetic saints is humbling.

Many Bricks have been praying for Daniel Nemmers and the Salt Team. Continue to pray:

- For Lead Pastor Daniel Nemmers, Salt Director Jonah Christiansen, and the rest of the leadership team asking God to bless their work and guard them in Christ Jesus
- For faithful proclamation of the gospel to the lost
- For the Holy Spirit to change hearts and lives to the glory of God



*Salt Church Bloomington-Normal on August 7, 2022*



*Youth Bible Study, Wednesday nights from 7 to 8*

### Upcoming schedule for RBC Youth

- Wednesday Night Bible Study from 7 to 8 in the sanctuary
- Sasquatch Hunt is Saturday, September 17, 3 to 6 p.m. at the Guske Farm: 6030 E McGregor Rd, Byron
- See You at the Pole Rally is Sunday, September 25, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at The Red Brick Church



Our first AWANA Club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Sparky and T & T's will meet at the Brick Center; Cubbies will meet in the preschool room at the church. Everyone will meet for closing in the sanctuary. Parents will pick all clubbers up in the church.

**SYATP RALLY**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
**5:30 TO 7 PM**

*Sept 28*

**Aflame**  
 Never let the fire in your heart go out.  
 Keep it alive... PRAY!  
Romans 12:11-12

**SEE YOU AT THE POLE**  
f t g+ SYATP.COM 817.HIS.PLAN

**Summer Worship**  
**Schedule**

**Memorial Day Sunday, May 29**  
**to**  
**Sunday, September 25**  
**One Service at 9:00 am**

**TGC** THE GOSPEL COALITION

**teach us to pray**

**Friday, October 21**  
 6:30 to 9:30 pm

**Saturday, October 22**  
 8:30 am to Noon

**The Orchard Church**  
 Arlington Heights, IL

*Contact Pastor David or Pete Mazanec if you are interested in attending.*

**Christmas Season at the Red Brick Church**

**Sunday, Dec. 4th: Cardinal Christmas at the RBC from 4 to 7 pm.**  
 Youth Group Christmas Parties from 4 to 8 pm.

**Sunday, Dec. 11th: Sunday School Choir sings at both services.**

**Sunday, Dec. 18th: Gifts of True Religion - All Church gift exchange.**

**Saturday, Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 pm.**

**Sunday, Dec. 25th: Christmas Morning Worship - One Service at 10:30 am.**

**Sunday, Jan. 1st: New Year's Morning Worship - One Service at 9:00 am.**

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
 PO Box 370  
 Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**Begins Sunday, October 2nd**

**JOIN US FOR**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT & CHILDREN CLASSES**

**9:00 am all ages | 10:30 am Adult Class**