



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

OCT 2022
NEWSLETTER
TIME OF SERVICES
9:00 & 10:30 am

What to Expect from Ecclesiastes

Be excited to be unexpectedly blessed in the Ecclesiastes series!

For around six months we have been prayerfully anticipating the Ecclesiastes series. I have spent many hours preparing. And I have assured our people we can look forward to this series.

But if you read Ecclesiastes – and I pray you will – then you may wonder if you are going to come out of the Ecclesiastes series with extra spring in your step. After all, the book begins:

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

I will have a lot to say about this word “vanity” in the series. But for now, you might say, it sounds as though we will hear about a whole lot of vanity!

Stay tuned! It’s going to be a great series. Let me encourage you to invest in this series because if you prayerfully receive this series, you can expect many blessings. Here I will mention only five.

- **Wisdom:** Ecclesiastes is one of the OT wisdom books. Wisdom is skill for living in the fear of God and it is more valuable than gold! Wisdom is the “saw” we use to cut our way through life.
- **Relevance:** Ecclesiastes is amazingly relevant for our late modern age.
- **Depth:** This is a book that goes deep and causes us to think.
- **Joy surprises.** The blessing of Ecclesiastes is joy! You will be surprised by joy in this book.
- **A deeper love for the gospel.** Bobby Jamieson (Capitol Hill Baptist in D.C.) says that part of what Ecclesiastes does is “hold our heads under the water long enough that we come up gasping for gospel air.” Indeed, this is the case!

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Close to You! – Please Sing

On October 2, we will return to two worship services. This gives us more space – we are full in one – and allows us to use the Christian Education space twice.

But . . . two services changes our worship dynamic. We tend to spread out too much and not sing loud enough. So it is vital that we fill in the main part of the sanctuary first – then we come prepared to sing and encourage one another with the joy of the Lord.

Sit forward. Sing loud. Be blessed.



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 REPORT

Through September 30, 2022

Total Approved 2022 Budget = \$495,460

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

Budget Giving through Sept 30 \$371,595
Actual Giving through Sept 30..... \$416,862
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$45,267
Actual Expenses through 9/30/22..... \$351,124
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses \$65,738



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

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SS Superintendent: **Brooke Adams ~ 645-8561**

Sunday School began on Oct. 2nd and is available for all ages. Classrooms are as follows:

Preschool – Preschool Room, Church lower level

K/1st grade – Brick Center, Room 2

2nd/3rd grade – Brick Center, Room 1

4th/5th grade – Brick Center, Room 5

Jr High – Brick Center, Room 3

Sr High – Brick Center Multipurpose Room

9:00 am Adult Class – SS Classroom at church

10:30 am Adult Class – Brick Center

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 815-985-3178.

God Bless you,
Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

~ Happy Birthday ~

- Oct 3rd - Lee Hickey
- Oct 6th - Connie Rhodes
- Oct 7th - Julie Larson, Haley Jones
- Oct 8th - Daphne Long
- Oct 10th - Amanda Geiseman, Chloe Mennen
- Oct 11th - Darren Daniels
- Oct 13th - George Myers
- Greg Tremble
- Oct 17th - Atalie Gebbia
- Oct 21st - Rebekah Anderson, Lily Griffin
- Oct 23rd - Patrick Roberts, Terri Carby
- Oct 29th - Elizabeth Miller
- Oct 31st - Charlie Wilmarth

~ Happy Anniversary ~

- Oct 4th - Dean & Claudia Phil
 - Oct 15th - Terrell & Terri Carby
 - Oct 28th - Elliot & Rebekah Anderson
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SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Our Senior Fellowship (55 and older) will meet for breakfast on Tuesday, October 25th at the Byron Sunrise Restaurant at 9:00 am. Join us for a time for fellowship!

All Church Fall Potluck

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 at 11:30 am
in the BRICK CENTER

Table Service and Beverages provided.
Bring a dish to pass.

College and Military Care Packages

If you have an away full-time college student or son/daughter away in the military from the Red Brick Church, please fill out the form that was emailed to everyone with their current mailing information for them to receive a package. **We need to have all names and addresses by NOON on Friday, October 14th.** We ask that you please complete the form for those in your family asap so we know approximately how many packages we will be filling this year. The form can also be found on the church website (theredbrickchurch.org).

We are asking for donations for the care packages. Some suggestions are: Gum, mints, candy, chips, crackers, beef jerky, lip balm, small hand sanitizers, snack bars, snack cakes (Little Debbie's, Hostess) gummies, energy bars. No homemade items please. Drop off individually store bought pre-packaged items on the back porch of the office building by Noon on Friday, October 21st.

Our youth will be packing up the boxes on Saturday, October 22nd at the Rhodes' home (2231 N Meridian Road, Chana). If you have any questions, please contact the Pastor David. This is something that our away college students and those in the military look forward to receiving each year.



All boards and committees should begin to start thinking about and working on their 2023 budgets.

The Trustee Board would like to have all budgets to them NO later than December 1st.



Save the date for the morning of October 29th for a "Gospel Conversations" training at Kishwaukee Church presented by Danny Schaefer of e3PARTNERS, <http://e3partners.org/>. Topics covered in training include: Why Do I Share the Gospel? Who Do I Share With? What Do I Say? What are the Four Responses to a Gospel Share? More info coming about exact time and how to register.

THEME NIGHTS

Wednesday, October 12th

It's "Hawaiian Night". Dress like you are in Hawaii!

Wednesday, October 19th

Since it is "Mismatch Night" ... wear some cool mismatched outfits to club.

Wednesday, October 26th

We got "First Responder Night". Dress up like a policeman, fireman, etc.

Wednesday, November 2nd

It's our second M & M Night on November 2nd. Bring your missionary bank with you to club.



Teach Us to Pray TGC Regional Conference at

The Orchard in Arlington Heights is October 21-22, Friday evening and Saturday morning. Located only about an hour away, this is a great opportunity to be encouraged to persevere in prayer alongside other Bricks (think carpool). Contact Pete Mazanec or Pastor David Bogner if you are interested in attending.

FROM PASTOR DAVID ...

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Did you see it? We began anticipating Christmas at the Red Brick Church in September! That's right, make plans now to join us each Sunday in December. The excellent reasons:

1. Feast on the preaching of the Word: Pastor Chris will take a break from Ecclesiastes to preach four expository sermons on prayers of Christmas.
2. The Word in Music: All of us sing Christmas music better with more voices.
3. The Word in Gifts: Each Sunday in December uniquely celebrates the birth of our King:
 - Sunday, December 4: Cardinal Christmas at the Red Brick Church from 4 to 7 p.m. with caroling, apple cider donuts, and live nativity as gifts to our community
 - Sunday, December 11: Children give the gift of their voices as the Sunday School Choirs sing during both services
 - Sunday, December 18: Gifts of True Religion – All church gift exchange
 - Sunday, December 25: Christmas Morning Worship – All the Bricks gathered for one service to worship our King Jesus

Don't forget to join us on Saturday, December 24, for the Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m. And take a special note of one service on New Year's Day at 9 a.m.

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Upcoming schedule for The Red Brick Youth

Wednesday Night Bible Study from 7 to 8 in the sanctuary

Sunday Youth Group: October 16, noon to 2 p.m. in the Brick Center (high school will stay at the Brick Center for the whole event)

College and Military Care Packages: Saturday, October 22 at the Rhodes Home (2231 N Meridian Road, Chana)

Around the Table with Seniors and Teens: Sunday, November 6, noon to 2 p.m., in the Brick Center with lunch provided

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

