



## 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

**DECEMBER 2022  
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

### All I Want for Christmas

*Asking God for Faith, Hope, Repentance, and Love*

*So now faith (repentance), hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13*

Christians know we should believe, hope, and love. We ought to put our trust (**faith**) in the one true God. We should be confident (**hope**) in that God works all things together for good and that Jesus is coming back. **Love** should define our relationships with God and with one another.

Yet, we also know that too often this beautiful triad does not define our lives. We doubt -- feeling like giving up -- and are impatient with one another.

Recognizing our lack of faith, hope, and love, most often we determine to do better. We decide to try to believe -- hope -- and love. And it is a good thing to try! Certainly, we should make the effort.

But sometimes the problem is in *how* we try. Our trying is something we attempt to do in our own strength. We fail to recognize that these qualities will be truly present in our lives only if the power of the Holy Spirit produces them. Which is to say, if we are to believe (and repent), hope, and love -- then we need to pray and ask God to put the gift of those packages under our Christmas trees.

This Christmas, we are challenging our church -- by prayer -- to ask God to give us the gifts of faith -- (and repentance) -- of hope -- and of love.

\* \* \* \* \*

Smiles are some of the best Christmas gifts exchanged each year at the Red Brick Church. A warm smile and Christmas greetings warm hearts.

We have so many opportunities to smile in December. There is the children's Christmas program, each Sunday's worship service, the Christmas Gift exchange, and Christmas Eve. Best of all, we are blessed to have Christmas on a Sunday.

Our Christmas Eve service is at 4:00 PM and our goal is for the service to be under an hour.

## CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254  
Deaconess Board – Susan Stukenberg .. 997-7095  
Trustee Board – Mike Haugse.....262-1844  
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 November 30, 2022

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

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

Budget Giving through Nov. 30 ..... \$457,348  
Actual Giving through Nov. 30..... \$489,114  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving ..... \$31,766  
Actual Expenses through 11/30/22..... \$460,755  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ..... \$58,359

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*Tithes*  
AND OFFERINGS

Please note that in order to be counted for 2022 tax purposes, all church contributions need to be **RECEIVED** by the church office no later than **DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**. Any contributions received after that date, *regardless of check date or postmark*, will be counted as a 2023 contribution.

If anyone needs an update on what they have given, or has any questions at all, please contact either:

Terri Carby, church treasurer

630-651-9962 | niucpa@hotmail.com

Jana Cox, church administrative assistant

815-645-2526 | cccoffice1@comcast.net


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## Youth Christmas Prelude

Next Sunday, December 11

Before 9 and 10:30 am worship services

*(Let Jamie Brauns or the church office know if you would like to participate)*



## SV Community Christmas

Many thanks to all those who volunteered and attended the annual Cardinal Community Christmas. The cider donuts were delicious and the live Nativity scene with the animals was a big hit. Those who attended enjoyed Christmas Carols sung by many area organizations.



*Christmas Eve*  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

SATURDAY, DEC 24th | 4 pm  
 Singing of familiar Christmas carols, scripture readings, lighting of the candles, and the Christmas story.



- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dave Ewald
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Elise Bonne
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - John Anderson, Zach Poliska
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - Pete Mazanec, Nathan Dray
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - Lana Lamer
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - Karen Hilliard, Abigail Houston
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> - Logan Peterson
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - Cody Bennett, Donna Jacquet  
Kari Janoski
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - Kennedy Watson
- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> - Betts Carby
- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> - Ryan Roberts, Jim Warner
- Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ray Swanson
- Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Kendra Booker
- Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> - James Daniels, Steve Arnold,  
Meredith Jones
- Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> - MaryBeth Brauns
- Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> - Natalie Hauge
- Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - Cameron Wissinger
- Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - Wren Hickey

**ONE SERVICE**

SUNDAY  
 December 25

10:30 am Service only on the 25th

## **Awana**® THEME NIGHTS

### Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

M & M Night; bring your banks to club.

### Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Crazy Pattern Night; wear some stripes and plaids together!

### Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Come dressed in Christmas Colors and get ready to shop at our AWANA Christmas Store!

### Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>

No Club Meetings on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> as we take time to celebrate Christmas and the birth of our King. We meet again on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**YOUTH GROUP and ALL CHURCH**  
 Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18th  
 Soup and Bread Lunch at Noon  
 Christmas Caroling  
 Back to Brick Center for hot chocolate & cookies

Sign-up on the  
 back bulletin board or  
 call the church office during the week.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS INVITED TO JOIN THE YOUTH!

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**

One Service at 9:00 am

# From Pastor David ...

Christians have much to celebrate, especially when we are in the month of December.

Why do the Bricks make so much of a gift exchange in the middle of December? This brief period on a Sunday morning is one way to seek to live out Nehemiah 12:43, And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

We do this by lifting our voices in joyful song. We will pray to God, giving thanks for Jesus our King and this Christmas season, asking him to grant us faith, repentance, hope, and love in abundance. Finally, our gifts shared with each other reflect the character of God the Father, the giver of all good things.



## Gift Exchange

Things to know about Sunday, Dec. 18th!

- \* Get your name tags in back of church when you arrive.
- \* 1st service is from 9:00 to 9:45 am.
- \* Pick up children from SS/Nursery at 9:45 am.
- \* Caroling and Gift Exchange starts at 10:00 am.
- \* 2nd service begins at 10:45 am.

*There will be gifts for everyone!*

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## Upcoming schedule for The Red Brick Youth

**Wednesday Night Bible Study** from 7 to 8 in the sanctuary on December 7, 14, and 21  
No Wednesday Night Bible Study on December 28 and January 4, 2023

**All-Church Caroling** on Sunday, December 18 immediately following the 10:30 service.

- Meet at the Brick Center for soup and bread
- Have fun caroling at homes of Bricks and neighbors
- Meet back at the Brick Center after caroling for hot chocolate and cookies

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO Box 370  
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**\*\* RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED \*\***

