



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

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
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But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. Hebrews 10:39

The Lord of the Rings is Tolkien's epic adventure of hobbits, such as we are, who live in "Stillman Valley." The hobbits aren't necessarily looking for an adventure. But they land in one.

In time, the hobbits discover

That adventures are more fun to read than to live.

Frodo complains:

'I don't like anything here at all . . . step or stone, breath or bone. Earth, air and water all seem accursed. But so our path is laid.'

Frodo's loyal friend Sam Gamgee is in pain too. He allows that adventures aren't chosen nor are they much fun.

'Yes, that's so,' said Sam. 'And we shouldn't be here at all, if we'd known more about it before we started.'

But then Sam goes on to point out that an unchosen and difficult situation is true of most stories that really matter.

But I suppose it's often that way. The brave things in the old tales and songs, Mr. Frodo: adventures, as I used to call them. I used to think that they were things the wonderful folk of the stories went out and looked for, because they wanted them, because they were exciting and life was a bit dull, a kind of a sport, as you might say. With the tales that really mattered, or the ones that stay in the mind. Folk seem to have been just landed in them, usually – their paths were laid that way, as you put it. But I expect they had lots of chances, like us, of turning back, only they didn't. And if they had, we shouldn't know, because they'd have been forgotten."

What matters is continuing forward.

Lots of us – not just Jamie and I – find ourselves in an adventure we would not have chosen. We say with Frodo, "I don't like anything here, step or stone, breath or bone."

But there's no quit in the Bricks. We are not of those who shrink back (Hebrews 10:39). And the end of our story outshines anything in Tolkien (Revelation 22:1-5).



CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne979-0885
Trustee Board – Brad Baker.....670-0039
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 February 28th, 2023

Total Approved 2023 Budget = \$559,800

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$10,765**

Budget Giving through Feb. 28 \$96,888
Actual Giving through Feb. 28..... \$117,234
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$20,346
Actual Expenses through 2/28/23..... \$101,557
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses \$15,677



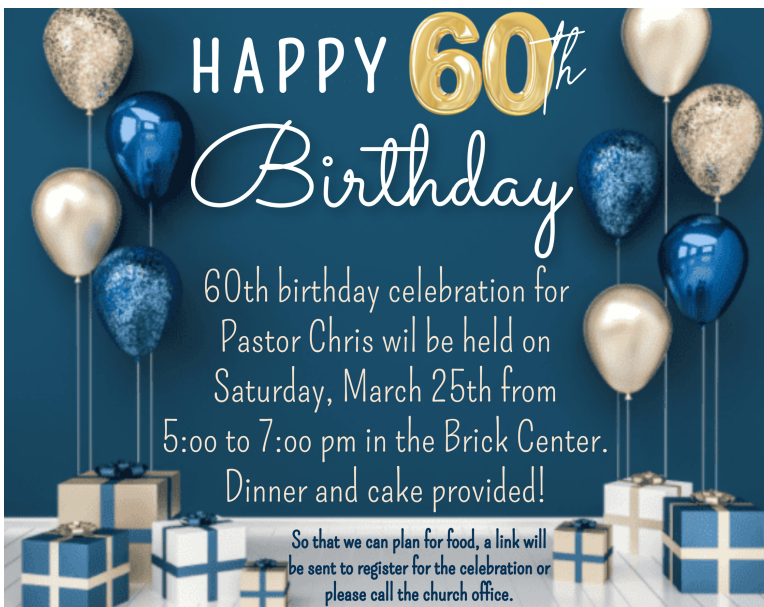
Reminder for all youth interested in attending church camp this summer, to be sure and register as soon as possible. Many weeks at Camp Forest Spring and Camp Lundgren Bible Camp fill up quickly! The CE Board offers any youth from our church attending a CE approved church camp a \$100 camp scholarship.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1st - Jamie Brauns, Christopher Brauns
March 2nd - Brent Bonne, Sydney Thomas
March 3rd - Kent Cronberg
March 4th - Jana Cox, Grace VanBriesen, Randy Stukenberg
March 5th - Tessa Baker, Shari Halsmer, Arlett Bonne
March 6th - Sam Miller, Paisley Poliska
March 7th - Jeff McLindsay, Chelsea Colon
March 8th - Allie Peterson
March 11th - Pastor Chris, Isaiah Braffett
March 12th - Jamie Adams
March 13th - Livi Dray
March 16th - Keith Wiltfang
March 17th - Emily Houston
March 19th - Trinity Scholl
March 22nd - Adrien Booker
March 23rd - Robin Davis
March 25th - Hadley Colon, Carter McCandless
March 26th - Homer Bailey
March 29th - Jeremiah Bogner, Jewel Holsinger
April 1st - Avis Hall

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 14th - Jack and Trinity Scholl
March 15th - Steve and Donna Arnold
March 21st - Gary and Connie Rhodes



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

VBS 2023: June 12 - 16

AWANA THEME NIGHTS

March 15th: Tonight is "When I Grow Up" night. Come dressed like what you want to be when you grow up.

March 22nd: It's our final AWANA Store. Be ready to spend all of your AWANA Dollars on the 22nd!

March 29th: No AWANA; spring break week.

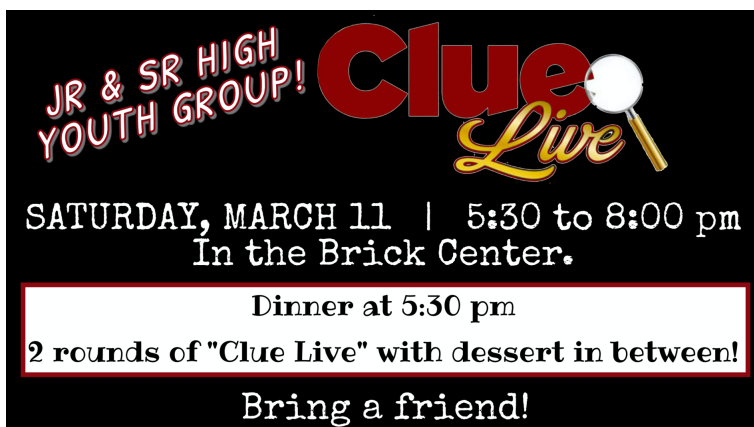
April 5th: This will be our final club meeting and Closing Ceremonies. More info will be sent home with clubbers.

Thursday, April 6th: AWANA Leader Appreciation Dinner in the Brick Center.



Red Brick Church
AWANA T & T CLUB
LOCK-IN
FRIDAY, MARCH 10 | 6 TO 10 PM
VARIETY SHOW AT 6 PM
CONGREGATION IS INVITED.
TWO BOOK TIMES
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
BIG GAME TIME
PIZZA AND DESSERT
REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH

"YOUTH CLUE LIVE" will be on Saturday, March 11th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm; dinner in the Brick Center at 5:30 pm. We will play two rounds of Clue Live, with dessert between the rounds!



JR & SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP! **Clue Live**
SATURDAY, MARCH 11 | 5:30 to 8:00 pm
In the Brick Center.
Dinner at 5:30 pm
2 rounds of "Clue Live" with dessert in between!
Bring a friend!

SPECIAL ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 am

Sunday School for ALL ages at 9:00 am.

** There will NOT be a 9:00 am worship service next Sunday. **

Pastor Chris will preach a sermon that speaks more directly to their situation and how God might use it in the life of our church.

GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER CHOIR

We are having a Good Friday / Easter Sunday Choir this year. The Good Friday Service will be held at our church. If you are interested in being a part of the choir, join us at our practices from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Practices are on 3/14, 3/21 and 4/3.



Easter Choir
WE NEED YOUR VOICE!
4 rehearsals, Good Friday Service, Easter Sunday
Rehearsals from 7 to 8 pm on March 6th, 14th, 20th and April 3rd.
Good Friday: Rehearse at 6:00 pm; Service at 7:00 pm.
Easter Morning: Rehearse at 8:00 am; Services at 9:00 & 10:30 am.
Contact Pastor David with any questions.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

The Good Friday Service will be held this year at our church on Friday, April 7th at 7:00 pm. Along with Pastor Chris and Pastor David, Pastor Nick Garner from the Kishwaukee Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be participating in the service.



2023
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Friday, April 7th
The Red Brick Church
7:00 pm

FROM PASTOR DAVID . . .

An invitation to church in the form of a May Basket might be the means God uses to change a life.

The deaconesses have been working hard to design May Baskets for us to share with our neighbors and friends. We will enjoy fellowship together during a May Basket Making Party on Saturday, April 29. The baskets filled with goodies, information about The Red Brick Church, and an invitation to church, VBS, and the Community Connections Carnival will be delivered to our neighbors and friends.

How can you be involved?

- **Make a list** of people to give a May Basket
- **Pray** for the people who will receive May Baskets
- **Share your list with the church office**
- **Attend** the May Basket Making Party on April 29th
- **Deliver** May Baskets to neighbors and friends



Red Brick Church at Winter Camp 2023

Upcoming Youth Activities

Saturday, March 11, 5:30 to 8 p.m.: Clue Live in the Brick Center

Sunday, March 19, noon to 2 p.m.: Youth Group in the Brick Center

Wednesday, March 29, No Wednesday Night Bible Study – Spring Break

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO BOX 370

STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084

