



The Red Brick Church of Stillman Valley

(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370
Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns
Associate Pastor David Bogner

APRIL 2023
NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

When We Don't *Feel* Like Celebrating on Easter

On Good Friday and Easter at the Red Brick Church, we will be encouraged regarding how we can go joyously forward even when the experience of life does not seem to square with the truth of Easter.

Easter is Sunday! All is well, right? Count the ways *all* is right:

- Christ went to the Cross and atoned for the sins of his people.
- Not only did he bear our sins in his body on the cross (2 Cor 5:21), Christ left us an example to follow (1 Peter 2:21-25).
- And Jesus rose from the dead defeating death and assuring those who believe in him that we will share the victory of resurrection.
- Christ ascended to the right hand of the Father, so that he could pour out the Spirit on the Church thereby gifting pastors but also the whole body so that we can be built up together (Ephesians 4).
- Jesus is coming again! Soon. And we will all be with him forever (1 Thess 4:13-18).

But you might object, "Not so fast." Despite the resurrection, it doesn't always *feel* all is well. Even though Jamie is smiling through her mask in the picture to the right at the University of Chicago hospital, I can assure you we are not always *feeling* like hopping joyously through the Christian life.

So often our experience of the Christian life does not match the truth that because Christ lives, we can face tomorrow. Indeed, if it is true that we can make a bullet list of beautiful truths of theology about Easter, we can also list the ways life is hard.

- Life hurts. Physically life hurts. Emotionally hurts.
- We disappoint. Others disappoint us.
- We live in an age that seems to have lost its mind.
- Some people seem to have it so much easier. And many of us feel as though we can't get a break.

A very practical question in the Christian life becomes, "How do I square the beautiful theological truth and confidence I find in Easter with the reality that life seems so very far from ideal?" Questions of how we make our way through a broken world considering the Cross will be the focus of our services on Good Friday and Easter. I am so thankful for us to consider biblical answers together. We need these answers.



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 Midtsem262-4254
Music – Lance Mennen985-2484

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2023

Total Approved 2023 Budget = \$559,800

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

Budget Giving through March 31 \$139,950
Actual Giving through March 31 \$15,725
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$16,775
Actual Expenses through 3/31/23 \$151,855
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses \$4,870

High School and Bible Instruction Class

We will be recognizing our High School Graduates and those 8th graders who have attended and completed our Bible Instruction Class during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, May 21st. We encourage all graduates to please attend on the 21st if at all possible.

***** Please let the church office know if you have a high school graduate in your family.**

COLLEGE NEWS . . .

** If you have a college graduate in your family, please be sure to let the church office know so that we can recognize them in the May newsletter. You can email the information to the office at this address:

cccoffice1@comcast.net

CHILDREN'S PRELUDE

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th, we will have our children / youth begin both services with a prelude. Anyone up through high school age who would want to play an instrumental solo as part of our prelude should let Jamie Brauns or the church office know.

Happy Birthday!

April 1st - Avis Hall
April 4th - Natalie McCandless
April 6th - Brad Baker
April 7th - Maggie Wilmarth
April 15th - Teresa McLindsay
April 17th - Daniel Miller
April 19th - Isabella Mennen
April 21st - Pat Ewald
April 23rd - Stephen Brass
April 24th - Laurie Carlsen
April 28th - Rick Chelminski
April 29th - Paula Hufford
May 2nd - Lucas Behmer
Camila Bonne
May 5th - Evan Jones
Micah Stahl

Happy Anniversary

April 26th - Jeff & Teresa McLindsay
May 4th - Eric & Kendra Booker

STILLMAN VALLEY
COMMUNITY
GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE

The Red Brick Church
of Stillman Valley

April 7th, 2023
7:00 pm



easter
SUNDAY

8 am	Breakfast in the Brick Center
9 am	Worship Service, SS for all ages, Choir sings
10:30 am	Worship Service, Adult SS, Choir sings, Children's Church
11:30 am	Easter Egg Hunt for Preschool - 5th grade

ALL-CHURCH
Business Meeting
Sunday, April 23rd at 4:00 pm
Potluck supper to follow in the Brick Center.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD | 5:00 PM
(FOLLOWING THE CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING IN THE BRICK CENTER)



CHURCH POTLUCK

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS.
DRINKS AND TABLE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED.

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!



SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

LAKE LUNDGREN BIBLE CAMP

REGISTER TODAY!!! CAMPS FILL UP QUICKLY FOR THE SUMMER!!



May Day Baskets
Assemble baskets on Saturday, April 29th from 10 am to Noon

Register on-line for how many baskets you would like!

Pick-up time for baskets is 11:00 am to Noon on Saturday, April 29th in the Brick Center.

Parents are reminded to be sure and pre-register their child / children for Church Camp this summer! Both Camp Forest Springs and Lake Lundgren Bible Camp are registering! The CE Board offers \$100 scholarship for summer church camp and both camps also have scholarships available.

Sign-up today for May Baskets!! This is an excellent, simple outreach for our church and community! Our May Day Baskets will be filled with a lot of super nice things ... you will pick up a completed May Basket and drop it on the porch of a family member, friend or neighbor!

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID

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

According to Almanac.com, May Day has traditionally marked the midpoint between the spring equinox (beginning of spring, this year on March 20) and the summer solstice (beginning of summer, this year on June 21). Our tradition of crowning a May Day queen in Stillman Valley also has historic roots going back to England.

As we seek to glorify and enjoy God by growing an extended family of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, May Baskets provide a great opportunity. We will share the love of Christ with our neighbors through a modest gift and most importantly, an invitation to church. We have a lofty **goal of 250 May Baskets**, so do your part!

Follow these simple steps to reserve May Baskets for those you love:

1. **Make a list** of people to give a May Basket
2. **Reserve your baskets** by completing the form available at bit.ly/RBCMayDay2023 or use the QR code (you may also call the church office, 815-645-2526)
3. **Pray** for those who will receive May Baskets
4. **Prepare May Baskets** at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 29th in the Brick Center
5. **Deliver** May Baskets. Place the basket in front of the door of the recipient's home, ring the doorbell or knock, and scurry away if you don't want to be caught. It might cost you a kiss, at least according to tradition!



**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 370
STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084**

