



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

MARCH IS FOR MEMBERSHIP

APRIL 2024
NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

“March is for membership” which is to say that in March our deacons review our membership rolls. We consider how the flock is doing. In April, we then update the congregation and vote on relevant membership issues concerning moving people to inactive status, removing them from membership, or, best of all, adding new members. We then hold a **congregational meeting, this year scheduled for 4/28/24 at 4:00 PM** with dinner to follow.

At the 4/28/24 congregational meeting, I will also update the congregation regarding my **sabbatical** for the summer of 2024.

Recommended Reading for Parents

Parents, here are two books with which to be familiar. Note that neither book is written from a Christian perspective. So, there will be plenty of points of disagreement. But both are worthwhile.

I understand that reading requires an investment of time and money. If you are a listener rather than a reader, then consider searching for podcast interviews of these authors.

Haidt, Jonathan. *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*. Penguin Press, 2024. Anyone who works with youth and young adults knows that we are facing an epidemic of anxiety. Haidt theorizes why this is happening. The World Magazine article, [“The Portal in their Pockets,”](#) engaged with Haidt’s book. I emphasize again, Haidt is not writing from a Christian perspective. Reading discerningly.

Shrier, Abigail. *Bad Therapy: Why the Kids Aren’t Growing Up*. New York: Sentinel, 2024. Denny Burk wrote a brief review of Shrier’s book that you can find online. In that review, he points to a *Christianity Today* review that was critical. Shrier raises many questions about our therapeutic culture.

Update on Jamie

First, Jamie and I are so thankful for the generous love many have shown. We are blessed.

Jamie is still just treading water. We knew in advance that Jamie’s surgery would be difficult and life changing. It turned out to be worse than we expected. As most of you know, Jamie spent the better part of eight weeks in the hospital and she continues to battle to eat and digest enough food to regain her health. Thank you for continuing to pray.

We don’t think it’s the right thing to represent to you all that Jamie and I have it “all together” where Jamie’s cancer is concerned. We are just trying to find our way forward together with one another and with you all. We’ve shed many tears. But God has seen us through as he has so many of you.

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Phil Guske979-6204
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne979-0885
Trustee Board – Brad Baker.....670-0039
CE Committee – Cara Roberts.. 217-621-2460
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem262-4254
Music – Lance Mennen985-2484

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2024

Total Approved 2024 Budget = \$582,041

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$11,193/week**

Budget Giving through March 31 \$145,510
Actual Giving through March 31 \$149,544
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$4,034
Actual Expenses through 3/31/24 \$143,118
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses \$6,426

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 19th. We encourage all graduates to please attend on the 19th 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

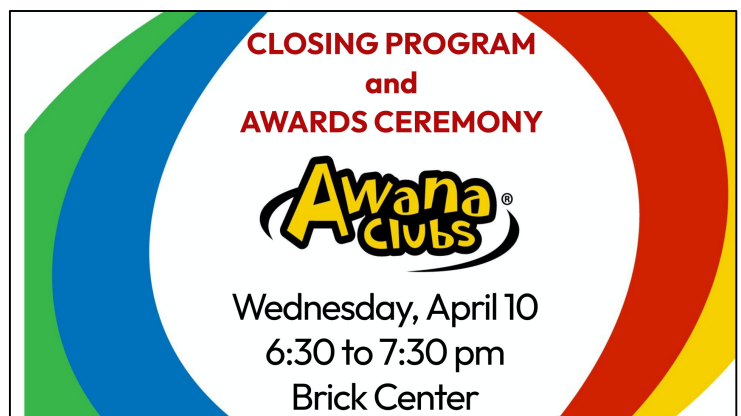
On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th, we will have our children / youth begin both services with a prelude. Anyone up through high school age who would want to play an instrumental solo as part of our prelude should let Jana in the church office know. The song should be a church song approximately a minute in length.

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 23rd - Stephen Brass
April 24th - Laurie Carlsen
- Brecken Haak
April 26th - Rowan Kreml
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



We have had another wonderful year of our AWANA Program and will celebrate the year with our Closing Program and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 10th starting at 6:30 pm in the Brick Center. We also hope to present our AWANA Missionary Offering Check to First Love Ministries during the program.

All clubbers and parents should plan to attend that evening. Following the program, there will be light refreshments for everyone.



All AWANA Leaders and Helpers are invited to an Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, April 17th beginning at 5:30 pm in the Brick Center.



Our CE Committee is gearing up for our 2024 Vacation Bible School! Registration forms for both children and volunteers can be found on our church facebook page. Please register your children asap. We also are in need of several volunteers for our VBS! Even if you are only able to work a few days out of the week, please register and let us know.

VBS is for those children 4 years of age (potty trained) through those that are finishing 6th grade this year.



At our VBS this summer, your kids will set off on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation. Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, we will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life. Prepare to swing into fun as we head out on *The Great Jungle Journey!*

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

“How many of you listen to podcasts?” This was a question asked in a recent gathering of Bricks. The number of hands was modest but not an overwhelming majority in the room.

We live in an age when we might drown in an ocean of information. Simply put, the volume of resources available, print, video, and audio media, creates a problem for us to choose. No one can consume everything and the rate of production of material continues to accelerate.

How do we steward time to feed our growth to maturity as disciples of Jesus? One way is to focus on trusted resources vetted by other Christians, especially leaders at The Red Brick Church. In an ongoing way, we maintain a Google Document of [Recommended Podcasts for Bricks](#).

A word of caution, don't expect to listen to all of them. In fact, consider if the description of the podcast is new to you and give a couple episodes a listen. When you find a podcast that addresses needs of you or your family, adopt a regular listening routine. You might have a podcast for the time you get ready, complete household chores, commute, or exercise. The two recommended Family Discipleship podcasts are short enough to tag on to the end of a meal, perhaps right before dessert.

Use this link, bit.ly/BrickPodcasts or the QR code to access the Recommended Podcasts for Bricks.



**THE RED BRICK CHURCH
PO BOX 370
STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084**

Address Correction Requested.

