



Branson Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
213 S. Commercial St.  
Branson, MO 65616  
Office: 417-334-3453



Our mission  
emphasis for May!!  
Our goal is  
\$5,000.00

Visit our website at: [www.bransonchristianchurch.com](http://www.bransonchristianchurch.com)



# THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

May 2025



Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch)  
or on our website at [www.bransonchristianchurch.com](http://www.bransonchristianchurch.com)



### In This Issue

From the Pastor.....	3
Committee Reports.....	5
Church Events.....	5
Calendar .....	6
Serving This Month.....	6
Birthdays.....	6
Anniversaries.....	6
Christian Ed.....	8
Outreach & Missions.....	9
From the Board .....	9
Serving this month.....	11
Thrift Shop News.....	11

## Join us in celebrating Jeff Eastridge's *Surprise 50th* *Birthday Party*

Sunday, May 25th  
1 o'clock in the afternoon  
Oakmont Rec Center  
2308 State Hwy 86  
Ridgedale, MO  
Please reply to Stacy at 417-239-4477  
by May 15. Light lunch provided

## BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

We had a good last month, taking in \$4,990.35. Our faithful volunteers have been busy pricing and arranging the store to make it look inviting.

Did you ever think about volunteering for a shift? We really need two volunteers to take a Saturday from 10:00am. to 3:00pm. We need cashiers and baggers. You don't need any previous experience. Just a smile and interest in welcoming our customers. You will get a blessing from it!

Our needs this month are paperback and hardbacks books, gardening items, and summer and patriotic items. Thanks so much for all your wonderful donations.

*Kathy & Roger Kauffman*  
Thrift Shop co-chairs



## Congratulations to Maleah!!!!



She received the Compassion  
Character Award from  
Branson Elementary School!

## Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

### STAFF

Rev. Dr. Don Tharp - Pastor  
Samantha West - Office Admin  
Rod Phillips - Music Director  
Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon. through Thurs.  
9:00am. -2:00pm.

### BOARD OFFICERS 2025

Jean Mueller - Board Chair  
John Lea -Vice Chair  
Johnie Groves - Treasurer  
Pat Campbell- Secretary  
Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

## -SERVING THIS MONTH-

### ~MAY~

Annette Sain  
Jody Nelson  
Alex Segura  
Chris Hedenberg



### ~MAY~

05/04 - Preston S.  
05/11 - Easton R.  
with Neal  
05/18 - James G.  
with Maleah  
05/25 - Jude F.



### ~MAY~

Larry Campbell  
Pat Campbell

### **ELDERS**



## ~Library News~

### A word from one of our church readers, Larry Campbell:

Recently, I wandered into the church library to enjoy the friendship and solitude that books can bestow. I was drawn to a shelf and spotted the book ***Small Miracles: Extraordinary Coincidences from Everyday Life***, by Halberstram and Leventhal. Pat and I have that book and we both love it!! It will frequently amaze you with its stories. If you haven't already, you need to check it out (double meaning there)!

My favorite story is the one involving a son who has been estranged from his father. He is visiting Israel when he has a change of heart. He leaves a small message to his father at the famous Wailing Wall, as a symbol of his love. He stuffs his note in among the 1000s of others, barely finding any room anywhere. As he does so, another note dislodges and drops onto the ground. It turns out to be from his father, expressing the same desire to reconcile! Read the details yourself and marvel at the dozens of other 'coincidences' in the book.

I mentioned this to Cindy, and she asked me if I would like to make this plug for the book. Also, as a result, the library now has the next two editions of this book, expressing even more amazing coincidences! Plan to enjoy them soon!

### Thank you Larry for that report. I love it when people tell me about the book they've read.

What's new in the library? If you are a "puzzler," we have 24 new summer themed puzzles!

How about some new books as well? I'm planning on ordering soon, so I'm asking our readers out there to help. If there are any authors, book titles, book themes you would like to see in the library, please let me know in the next couple of weeks. I want to make this your library!

Last but not least.....I have had a couple of people tell me they didn't know how to sign the books out. To check out, just look toward the big window in the library. There are two labeled baskets there. One is for returns, and the other is for donations. The clip board with the check out sheet is in the return basket. That sheet lets me know if the library is being used and what people like to read. So I appreciate it when you fill it out.

As always, a big thank you to those who have donated books. It keeps the library fresh!

Blessings,  
Cindy Tharp

## From the Pastor's Desk

My heart is filled with Joy from our Easter service. What a wonderful and uplifting musical celebration. Many people have commented to me about the sense of Joy they experienced. Likewise, our Palm Sunday service, with the choir cantata, was a bright spot in our Lenten journey. Many thanks to the Handbell and Chancel Choirs and the terrific sound, and visual crew who made these services possible. A big thanks to the Membership Committee for the wonderful Easter pancake breakfast. I also want to thank the Worship Committee for the terrific job in planning and organizing these special services, along with the Ash Wednesday service and Good Friday prayer vigil. Wow! So many great worship opportunities. Thanks!

The Listening Team has been working through their weekly Bible study assignments provided by Chad McMullen, our consultant. The lessons have taken us on a journey through the New Testament with a clear view of purpose. Why did God send His Son, Jesus, into the world? What did Jesus say he came to do? What is the purpose of the church, as shown by the examples of the New Testament beginnings? How does that inform what we are seeking to do as a local church body?

We had our start-up meeting with Chad and are now preparing for our next in-person session with the Team in May. This will be a time of reflecting on these Bible passages together and seeking to answer the question, "What might the Holy Spirit be revealing to us through this month of study, prayer, and reflection on scripture?" Please keep the Team in your thoughts and prayers as we continue this journey. We will be keeping you posted on progress and inviting your input and setting up times of gathering together in the months ahead.



Blessings,  
Pastor Don

## ~Christian Action Ministries~

Due to an unexpected drastic drop in funding, Christian Action Ministries needs our help to continue to meet local needs. (They provide food for over 7,000 people per month.) Pastor Don and Jean met with Michele Dean, the Director of CAM and she brought a Minute for Mission during worship on Sunday, April 27 to help us understand the situation better. She will also be challenging us to make personal contributions so they can best plan for the future.

For those of you who prefer to give through our regular offerings we are making CAM our special offering emphasis during the entire month of May. You can make your check out to Branson Christian Church and simply write CAM in the memo. You can also use the QR code below to give directly to CAM.

Thanks for caring and sharing in ministering to the needs of those in our community. This congregation was one of the eleven churches who founded Christian Action Ministries 41 years ago!



**BECOME A  
PARTNER!**

**\$25** a month  
will sponsor a family of four.  
You can ensure someone in your  
community doesn't go hungry!



## ~Outreach & Missions~

**The food pantry suggestion for May is Tuna.  
(canned or packaged)**

We are busy making items for the Children's Christmas boxes. Last month nine of us met and made 20 colorful jump ropes!

This month we are meeting on Tuesday, May 6th at 5:30pm. in Fellowship Hall. We plan on working on some sewing projects of small backpacks and some crochet projects that include hats, headbands and washcloths. We also plan to put together small sewing kits. If you like to crochet, sew, or if you would help to assemble sewing kits, iron and cut fabric we could use your help. Come enjoy our fellowship as we work together on these projects.

We are also planning another work day at the Crisis Center. On Monday, May 19th we will meet at the church to caravan to the Crisis Center in Rockaway Beach at 8:30am. We will work from 9:00am. - 12:30pm. on projects like power washing cabins, fixing screens, organizing the clothing room and linens. Let Jolene know if you can join us so we know who to plan for.

*Jolene Herington, Chair*



## ~Christian Ed~



Come help us Celebrate our Graduates on Sunday, May 25th. We will be celebrating Lilly Graduating from High School and Holli getting her 2nd Master's Degree. Please join us after service for cookies and punch. There will be a basket in the Narthex starting on May 18th for cards for these Graduates.

Mini Golf at Lost Treasure Golf, located at 3346 W 76 Country Boulevard. On Saturday, June 21st at 4:00pm. For a group of 15 or more we will pay \$9 a person, I will have to pay in one transaction, so money will be accepted thru Sunday, June 15th. Please see Rebecka Gillen to get in your reservation and pay.



Vacation Bible School is Camp Firelight- A Summer Camp Adventure With God. VBS is going to be on June 27th, 28th with a little bit of the Sunday Service on the 29th. QR code to register for VBS.



Next Meeting will be after Service on June 22nd, 2025.

*Rebecka Gillen, Chair*

## Committee Reports

### FINANCE REPORT

#### Finance Report through MAR. 2025

Operating income Mar.	\$20,136.66
Operating expense Mar.	\$13,320.00
Year to date income	\$60,721.07
Year to date expense	\$38,356.50

Online giving is available for your convenience at the church website and Facebook page.

**SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	May 1	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	May 4	After Service
~Outreach	May 12	10:00am.
~Worship	May 13	1:00pm.
~Finance	May 13	2:00pm.
~Board	May 15	5:30pm.



## ~Membership News~

The Easter Pancake Breakfast was a success! Over 60 guests were served. There were 9 youth servers/bussers and 10 adult volunteers.

Church communications to all members is expanding. A new module of the church membership system was purchased, Pastor Don and Samantha are in training on this new module.

Stacy Eastridge and Bobbie Wydeen are our representatives for Branson Chamber functions to promote BCC. The Church is a member of the Chamber. Stacy posted the BCC Holy Week events on the Chamber website and will continue to post events.

The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers to make follow-up phone calls or emails to visitors who give their information through the Guest Connection Card each week. If interested, please call Bobbie Wydeen at 417-699-4728 or bobster218@aol.com.

**Fellowship Dinner Sunday, May 18th will include chicken and ham.**

*Bobbie Wydeen, Chair*



### ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:15am - Fellowship Time  
10:45am - Worship Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.</b>  Women's Bible Study 10:30am.	2	3  Thrift Store Mtg. 3:30pm.
4 <b>Christian Ed Mtg. after service</b>  <b>Listening Team Mtg. 1:00pm.</b>  Youth Bells after service	5	6  Christmas Box Project 5:30pm.	7 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir 6:00pm.  Handbells 7:00pm.	8  Women's Bible Study 10:30am.	9	10
11 Mother's Day 	12  <b>Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.</b>	13  <b>Worship Mtg. 1:00pm.</b>  <b>Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.</b>	14 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir 6:00pm.  Handbells 7:00pm.	15 Women's Bible Study 10:30am.  <b>Board Mtg. 5:30pm.</b>	16	17
18  <b>Fellowship Dinner</b>	19  Crisis Center Work Day 9:00am. - 12:30pm.	20	21 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir 6:00pm.  Handbells 7:00pm.	22	23	24
25  <b>Graduate Celebration</b> After service 	26  <b>Office Closed</b>	27	28 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir 6:00pm.  Handbells 7:00pm.	29	30	31  <b>Elder Mtg. 9:30am.</b>

### *~May Birthdays~*

May 2 Phyllis Rotrock  
May 3 Marilyn Johnson  
May 9 Jody Nelson  
May 11 Carmelita S.  
May 13 Jared Lindner  
May 16 John Lea  
May 23 Tanya Armstrong  
May 23 Matt Sisson  
May 25 Josiah Felder  
May 28 Rod Phillips  
May 29 Jeanie Burns



### *~Anniversaries~*

May 11 Garry & Debbie Weinstein  
May 20 Jeff & Stacy Eastridge  
May 25 Larry & Sandy Poos



### Serving in May

#### Worship Leaders

4th ~ Kathy Kauffman  
11th ~ Janet Minor  
18th ~ Stacy Eastridge  
25th ~ Bobbie Wydeen

All services are videotaped. Photos taken at church events may appear on the Church website or Facebook. If you prefer not to have your photo online, please notify the church office.