



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

**Reconciliation Offering celebrates our journey toward wholeness and imagining a world where racism is dismantled and all of God's children can flourish.**

**The offering is received on Sundays  
September 24th and October 1st.**

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

# THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

September 2023



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)

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*~In Loving Memory~*

Dorothy Wiebe

May 9, 1930 - July 24, 2023



**Branson Christian Church Staff & Board**

**STAFF**

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

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

**BOARD OFFICERS 2023**

Cindy Baldwin-Board Chair  
 Kathy Kauffman-Vice Chair  
 Annette Sain-Treasurer  
 Jean Mueller-Secretary  
 Johnie Groves-Financial Secretary

**BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP**

The Thrift Store continues to see great foot traffic and sales from visitors and locals. People continually comment on the cleanliness of the store and the prices. There is still a \$1 t-shirt sale. A “back-to-school” sale will start 8/23 through 9/2 with “Fill a plastic grocery sack for \$5”. Eligible items are clothes, shoes, scarves, belts, underwear, and socks. We will also likely have a 1/2 price sale for frames and artwork since we have had some wonderful donations of those items. Turnover from summer to Fall/Winter will take place Sept. 5. We will not be open on Labor Day. We have been blessed with many beautiful donations from members, College of the Ozarks, Flea Market, garage sales and home relocation overflow. If anyone sees a garage sale with quality items, please ask them if they are willing to donate what they do not sell to us. We have loyal golf ball customers and are grateful that Greg Haston and his friend Robin Carlock are both recovered enough to start collecting them again. As part of our church ministry work, the Thrift Store will be helping to supply back-to-school clothes and shoes to Salvation Army clientele. We always need grocery sacks and other bags of all sizes, bubble wrap and newspaper, jewelry, knick knacks and other small house decor.

*Kathy & Roger Kauffman*  
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



**-SERVING THIS MONTH-**

**~ SEPTEMBER ~**

David Hedenberg  
 Chris Hedenberg  
 Jolene Herington  
 Roger Kauffman



**~SEPTEMBER~**

9/3 John Gillen  
 9/10 Mason Feeler  
 9/17 Lilly Carpenter  
 9/24 Grace Rein



**~SEPTEMBER~**

Cindy Baldwin  
 Tanya Armstrong  
 Jamie Haage

**ELDERS**



## ~Upcoming Events~

An All-Church Evening at Sight & Sound Theatre.

Saturday – October 14 – 7:30pm

Adult Tickets (13+) are \$35.95.

Child Tickets (3-12) are \$16.29.

Reservations and pre-payment are required by Friday, Sept 15 for the discounted rate.

There are reservation forms in the Narthex. Reservations can also be made through the Church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy Eastridge at [shortround9276@gmail.com](mailto:shortround9276@gmail.com) or 417-239-4477.

Handbell choir will have our first meeting/practice on Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Come find out what handbells are all about. No musical experience required.

The Christian Education Committee and the Youth are busy planning lots of community and fundraising events including:

- Sept 30, 11am-9pm – Cleaning tables for tips @ Fuddruckers (monies raised for Youth 100th anniversary project)
- Oct 7, 9am-12pm – CAM Drive Thru Food drop-off at Liberty Plaza
- Oct 16, 4pm-9pm – Cleaning tables for tips @ Pizza Ranch (monies raised for Youth 100th anniversary project)
- Oct 29 – Fall freewill meal fundraiser (monies raised for the Higher Education Fund and Youth Fund)
- November – Volunteering at CAM, packing food boxes
- June 28-30, 2024 – Vacation Bible School

## From the Pastor's Desk

A heart-felt thanks from my family and I. We have felt very warmly welcomed from the moment we arrived in Branson and want to take this moment to thank each and every one of you.

I am very excited as I look to the next month and all the great things coming up. School has started and that means Fall is upon us! Sunday school class will begin again, youth programming is in full swing, and cooler temperatures are just around the corner.

We are especially excited to see the Fall foliage again. We have missed that for the past 27 years while living in South Texas.

Every week in worship is an amazing experience here at Branson Christian Church, with a small slice of history to carry us right up to the Centennial Celebration. It is so eye-opening to see the faces and hear of the marvelous work of those who have built and maintained this lighthouse of love, on the corner of College and Commercial Streets.

Let me offer some special Kudos to all those helping the needy through our By the Way Thrift shop. It has been a banner year, so far, and many lives have been touched by the caring volunteers and wonderful finds. If you have not been for a visit recently, I highly recommend it.

God is working in our midst, and I believe great things are ahead for this congregation. Take time to think about who you know, that needs a good church home. Make a list and keep it in a place where you can lift up a prayer every day for those people. Then, when you think of it, invite them to take part in a service or church activity. You might be surprised by what happens.

Pastor Don

## Board Report

*~From the Board~*

The Branson Christian Church Board met August 17, 2023. A welcomed part of our meeting was to have a pastoral prayer and report from Pastor Don Tharp as we had not had those items in the agenda fulfilled for over a year.

Reports were heard from the various committees with most of their articles being included in this newsletter. The Building and Grounds/Property committee reported that the roof does have a pitch but that the leakage problem is coming from the weight of the HVAC units on the roof. They are working with the contractor to solve that problem. More information will be shared on this project.

The Financial committee's report was approved as presented. The offerings in July were very good, but it was pointed out that there were 5 Sundays that month. All in all, the church's situation is quite good at this point.

There was no new business introduced for board approval. I again thank all of the board members and congregation for their support, love, and prayers. Our church is very blessed.

*Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair*

## Membership News

The Church Picnic is Sunday, Sept 17th 12p-4p Rain or Shine!  
Table Rock State Park Pavilion, 5272 Historic Hwy 165, Branson

Hamburgers, Brats, and Hot Dogs with all the Fixin's will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

We will have a Sing-a-long of Old Time Hymns.



The committee is in process of choosing a new company to create a new pictorial directory. More news to come.

Name Tags- everyone should have a name tag. Please check the name tag boards in the Fellowship Hall as well as in the Narthex. Please contact the office if you do not find your name tag. 2 more Name tag boards will be hung soon since they are very full.



*Bobbie Wydeen, Chair*

## ~Outreach & Missions~

September food pantry suggestions are rice and beans.

Planning ahead for the Operation Christmas Child boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Hobby Lobby has available information and plastic boxes. You can also use a shoebox or there are some printed boxes left at the church. Boxes need to be turned in no later than November 5.

*Jolene Herington, Chair*

## ~Christian Ed~

The Teens will be starting up the Teen Sunday Worship on September 10. This will be a teen led worship service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. They are also looking to start up a weekly after school Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons. (Start date TBA). We would like to upgrade the Teen Room with some current technology for these gathering, as well as future movie nights or other events. If you have any items sitting around that you feel might fill this need, please let us know.

The Youth have designed a Church T-shirt and would like to offer them to anyone interested. T-shirts will be a Caribbean Blue with the Chalice on the front and unique cross design on the back. T-shirts are \$10.50 - \$14.50 depending on size. If you are interested, contact Stacy Eastridge.

Shout out to the youth:

- John has been accepted to Evangel University and has an interview scheduled with College of the Ozarks.
- Lilly has become a member of the Branson Pep Band.
- Neil will be starting Kindergarten and is now able to start Acolyte training.
- Jude has made the advance drama class and will be a cast member in the Branson Jr. High fall production of "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" directed by Holli Segura. Be watching for show information.

*Stacy Eastridge, Chair*

## Committee Reports

### FINANCE REPORT

#### Finance Report through JULY 2023

Operating income July	\$20,385.53
Operating expense July	\$7,618.51
Year to date income	\$120,392.11
Year to date expense	\$58,493.40

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

**SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Sept 7	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Sept 10	After Service
~Outreach	Sept 11	4:30pm.
~Worship	Sept 12	10:30am.
~Finance	Sept 19	6:00pm.
~Board	Sept 21	5:30pm.



## ~Centennial Update~

The Centennial Committee have been busy working on plans to celebrate the Branson Christian Church 100th anniversary in June 2024.

Each month the committee will highlight a "Centennial Moment" sharing bits of our history. In July the topic was all about our "Beginnings", August featured the Quilters and September we will hear about the how the music shared by so many talented individuals through the years has been central to our worship and spiritual journey.

Along with the Centennial Moment, a hymn will be featured that was written during a descending decade all the way down to this present. Plus, we will sing old gospel songs from time to time, which everyone enjoys!

Please "save the date" for our big 100-year celebration on June 21, 22 and 23 of 2024! Friday night there will be a catered dinner, Saturday an ice cream social, and Sunday will be a joyous day of worship together. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year.

We are in the process of collecting contact information for former members to invite to the event. If you have information for any of these folks, please share it with Pat Campbell or Jean Mueller.

--The Centennial Committee





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

**~September Birthdays~**

Sept. 2 Stacy Eastridge  
 Sept. 3 Joseph Brandon Baldwin  
 Sept. 3 Camille Phillips  
 Sept. 3 Michael Lotten  
 Sept. 7 Madison York  
 Sept. 16 John Johnson  
 Sept. 17 Don Rice  
 Sept. 18 Riley Lindner  
 Sept. 19 Vernon Doyle  
 Sept. 22 Janice Stucki  
 Sept. 24 Jeanie Raulston  
 Sept. 28 Harold Baker

**~Anniversaries~**

Sept. 10 Kevin & Sarah Rein  
 Sept. 11 Jim & Dorothy Polk  
 Sept. 28 Bill & Susie Knapik-Cook

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <b>Office Closed</b> 	5	6 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	7 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	8	9
10 Teen Worship Service  Christian Ed Mtg. after church  <b>Grandparents Day</b>	11 Outreach Mtg. 4:30pm.  Youth Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch	12 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.	13 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	14	15 Due Date for Queen Esther Reservations	16
17  <b>Church Picnic @ the Lake 12pm.-4pm.</b>	18 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	19 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg.	20 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	21 <b>5:30pm. Board Mtg.</b>	22	23 Youth Fundraiser @ Fuddruckers   First Day of Fall
24  Reconciliation Offering	25 100th Mtg. 4:00pm.	26	27 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	28	29	30

**Serving in September**

**Worship Leaders**

3rd ~ Kathy Kauffman  
 10th ~ Johnie Groves  
 17th ~ Jean Mueller  
 24th ~ John Gillen

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.