



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

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

February 2026

AND WHEN THEY COULD NOT BRING HIM TO JESUS BECAUSE OF THE CROWD,
THEY REMOVED THE ROOF ABOVE HIM; AND AFTER HAVING DUG THROUGH IT,
THEY LET DOWN THE MAT ON WHICH THE PARALYTIC LAY. + MARK 2:4

A NEW WAY

February 15th & 22nd
SPECIAL OFFERING 2026

Week of **Compassion**

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com



Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch
or on our website at www.bransonchristianchurch.com



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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Stop by the church office for your
2026 Phone Directory!

Annual Review of 2025

FEBRUARY 15TH
DURING FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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 2026

John Lea - Board Chair
Cindy Baldwin -Vice Chair
Johnie Groves - Treasurer
Pat Campbell- Secretary
Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

The thrift shop had a great month!! Our December income was \$6,124.28. Bringing our total income for 2025 to \$66,687.19. That's an awesome year!

Our needs for January: gardening items- seeds, garden- ing tools, flowerpots; purses, red knick-knacks for Valen- tines Day, and fiction books- romance, westerns, and adventure.

Thanks to our volunteers and your wonderful donations, we had a great 2025, looking forward to an even better 2026!

Roger & Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~FEBRUARY~

Annette Sain
Gretchen Schultz
Janet Minor
Justin Tipton



~FEBRUARY~

02/01 - Maleah
02/08 - Mason
02/15 - Easton
02/22 - Preston

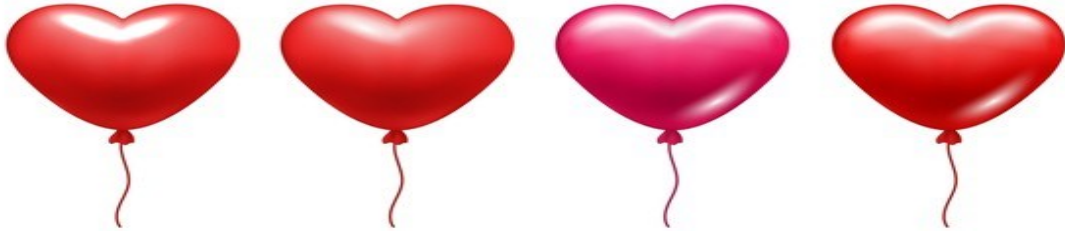


~FEBRUARY~

Cindy Baldwin
Susie Cook-Knapik



~Membership News~



The Fellowship Dinner for February is scheduled for Sunday, February 15th. The dinner's theme is love since it falls on Valentine's weekend. Please make your favorite dish you would like to share! Also dress with Valentine's Day in mind!

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

~Christian Ed~

On Sunday, January 11th Holli started the black light ministry practice with the church youth. We will have practices every Sunday at 10:00am. in the Seeker's Room, next to the sanctuary. Please join us, all youth are welcome.

Due to the lack of teens, we are pushing pause on Teen Sunday School.

Graduation is quickly approaching, I need to know as soon as possible who we have graduating this year from High School, College or has completed continuing education classes.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

Exciting Listening Team Updates

Many of you have asked about the next steps for our Listening Team and the recommendations approved by the Board last year. Below is an update on our progress and the plan for implementation moving forward.

Worship

The new digital sound system has been purchased and installed. Training sessions are currently being scheduled, and this project is nearing completion.

Learning and Spiritual Growth

The Bethel Bible small group initiative is well underway. Eight members are being trained this year in the Bethel approach, and each will be equipped to lead small group studies at various times beginning next year.

Holli Segura is serving as our point person for the formation of a Youth Ministry Team. Please reach out to her if you feel called to participate in this important ministry.

Community and Fellowship

Jamie Haage is leading the development of a new marketing campaign for our church. If you have interest or skills in this area, please let him know.

Service and Outreach

Kathy Kauffman, Kirk Groves, and Kathleen Lenore are forming a team to engage our congregation in both a homeless outreach event and a mental health awareness event each year for the next three years.

Business and Administration

John Lea and Jean Mueller will be guiding the assessment, planning, and potential implementation of updates to our kitchen, stairway, and narthex, as well as helping develop a funding plan for these improvements. They will also ensure a team is assembled to revise our constitution and by-laws so they accurately reflect our current congregational size. Our 3-year plan is well underway. Join in!

Pastor Don

~2025 Year End Report~

As we look back on 2025, we celebrate a year filled with uplifting moments, renewed energy, and unmistakable signs of God's grace at work in our church. The Lord has been faithful, and our congregation has responded with commitment, generosity, and hope. Here are several highlights from this remarkable year:

Key Ministry Developments

• Listening Team Initiative

Under the leadership of Pastor Chad McMullen, our Board launched a year-long Listening Team process. This thoughtful and prayerful effort concluded with a strong, forward-looking plan to guide our ministry in the years ahead.

• Bethel Bible Studies Implementation

Flowing out of the Listening Team's work, the church approved the plan to implement the Bethel Bible Studies. Teachers have been identified and are prepared to begin their training in 2026, laying the groundwork for a deepened culture of discipleship.

• Children's Sunday School Relaunch

After a 13-year hiatus, Children's Sunday School returned—a joyful milestone for our congregation. Fifteen individuals completed background checks, giving us a capable and committed team to support this vital ministry to our youngest learners.

• Improved Office Communications

Our office experienced meaningful improvements in communication and cooperation, strengthening our day-to-day ministry effectiveness.

• CAM Special Offering

The CAM special additional offering totaled \$10,100.00, a tremendous expression of generosity and shared mission.

Congregational Life and Milestones

This year also brought many moments of celebration within our church family:

- 10 new members welcomed into fellowship
- 2 weddings
- 7 baptisms
- A fully underwritten budget, reflecting faithful stewardship and God's provision
- Countless meaningful moments in worship—far too many to list, but each one a testament to God's presence among us.

Pastor Don

~Library News~

"If there is anything that links the human with the divine, it is the courage to stand by a principle when everybody else rejects it."

--Abraham Lincoln

That is great advice in this day and age! Coming soon to the church library is "Abraham Lincoln, A Man of Faith and Courage," by Joe Wheeler.

"The Bible scary? On the contrary. The Bible takes the scare out of living and puts purpose, joy, and faith in its place."

--Dick Van Dyke

Coming soon to the library, "When Faith Meets Fame, Inspiring Personal Stories From the World of TV," by Guidepost.

Want to read about compassion, kindness, holiness, and hope? Patsy Clairmont's "Stardust On My Pillow" may just be what the doctor ordered for stressful times, coming soon.

Feel like you just can't understand the Bible? How about reading, "The Bible for Blockheads," by Douglas Connelly. It would also be a good read for new Christians.

If you would like to see a particular book in our church library, please ask me. I love the challenge of finding books you want!

Blessings!

Cindy Tharp

~Upcoming Holy Week Preview~



**Ash Wednesday Service - February 18th
at 6:00pm.**

The Easter Preview:

Lenten devotionals will be available soon!!



Palm Sunday - March 29th - Choir Cantata

**Maundy Thursday Service - April 2nd at
6:00 pm. to include a special presenta-
tion from the kids blacklight ministry.**



**Prayer Vigil - Good Friday - April 3rd (sign up schedule
will be available soon)**



**Easter Sunday - April 5th - Handbells
will perform during the service.**



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through DEC. 2025

Operating income Dec.	\$33,948.54
Operating expense Dec.	\$19,030.93
Year to date income	\$257,061.76
Year to date expense	\$191,444.88

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Christian Ed	Feb. 1	After Service
~Membership	Feb. 5	5:30pm.
~Worship	Feb. 10	12:30pm.
~Finance	Feb. 18	9:00am.
~Board	Feb. 19	5:30pm.



~Outreach & Missions~

February's suggested items for CAM are peanut butter & jelly.



tacklehunger.org

Don't forget to pick a side for the
Souper Bowl Sunday ending February
8th. Join the competition and win the
trophy by bringing the most food
donations.

For the month of February, our special offering is Week of
Compassion on February 15th & 22nd.