



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)

March 2025

Lent



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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Dear Church Family,

Harold and I want to thank you for all the prayers, calls, text and cards.

I am improving everyday.

Hallelujah is our favorite word!!

**Thank you,
Harold and Laura**

Centering Prayer Class

There are several styles of prayer: Intercession, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and confession to name a few. Centering prayer is learning how to quiet the mind and listen for the still small voice of God. It calms the mind and body. Reduces stress. Renews energy and strength. Empowers the will. Expands creativity and insight. Releases resentment and bitterness. Instills purpose and hope. **A four-week class on Centering Prayer will be taught at BCC at 10:00am on the four Thursdays in March** by Pat Campbell who also taught this class to the faculty at MSU for 10 years and to the doctors at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. If you are interested in taking this class, please call or text Pat at 417-294-0433.

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

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

It has been an interesting February. We continue to take furniture and sell it through our flea market connection.

We welcomed a returning volunteer, Chris Hedenberg.

The thrift store is now decorated for Easter with the hope of Spring soon to come.

For January, we took in \$3726.61. Our needs this month are paperback books, purses, and spring/gardening items.

Our bag sale starts February 24th and runs through March 15th as we sell down winter clothes. Any clothing item you can fit in a white plastic bag for \$5.

Thanks for your support. And thanks to all our wonderful volunteers.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~MARCH~

Alex Segura
 Kathleen Lenore
 Linda Stinger
 Annette Sain
 Roger Kauffman



~MARCH~

Preston S.
 James G.
 Jude F.



~MARCH~

Kathy Kauffman
 Jamie Haage



~Library News~

I was a professional photographer for six years while we lived in Texas. My best memories during that time were the commercial assignments I had. One of my favorite assignments was taking pictures in a life flight helicopter. But no matter my assignment, the shots I took never produced a picture of what was about to happen in the future, which is the premise of "The Camera Never Lies," by David Rawlings.

What if you saw danger through a camera lens, would you heed the warning? While we don't have a fictional camera to tell us what to do in the future, we do have an all knowing God who has given us his Holy Spirit to guide us. IF we'll listen! I'd like to say that I've always listened to that still small voice, but I haven't. And I read about the people in the Bible that do not listen to God's warnings and shake my head at them, only to realize that I've done the same from time to time. How about you?

The Camera Never Lies can be found on the "new arrivals" shelf. It's an interesting small book and doesn't take long to read. Check it out!



Blessings,
Cindy Tharp

From the Pastor's Desk

Announcing - Faith for our Future Sermon Series

I am very excited that we are beginning the process of thinking about praying and planning for the future of our church. Our leader for our listening conference, Pastor Chad McMullin has recommended that I kick off the process with a sermon series for the month of March. A series I am calling, "Faith for our Future." Our team of volunteers will be meeting with Pastor Chad on March 13 for the kick-off session. A time for training, an opportunity to understand the process and a chance to ask our questions. Please put a note on your calendar to include this team in your daily prayers. They have a very important task ahead of them. Listening for God's clear small voice, listening for ideas and suggestions from the members of our church and seeking to know what God is calling upon us to do over the next three years.

Take time now to look up each passage before the given Sunday so you can feel better ready for the message. Here they are:

Sunday, March 2 - Luke 9: 28-36 - Transfiguration that brings Transformation

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00pm

Sunday, March 9 - Luke 4: 1-13 - on Being Led by the Spirit

Sunday, March 16 - Psalm 27 - on Waiting for the Lord

Sunday, March 23 - Luke 13: 1-9 - on How we May Grow

Sunday, March 30 - Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32 - on Reclaiming the Lost

Don't miss this opportunity to join us on this journey. Invite a friend or neighbor to join in as well. Hope to see you each week.



Sincerely,
Pastor Don

Board Report

~From the Board~

The Ozarks winter weather has not been our friend. The timing of potential snow or icy conditions have been challenging when deciding to cancel church or meetings. It is never an easy decision to cancel the worship service and it is made to best our ability, with the information we have at the time. We appreciate your understanding. Hopefully, we only have sunny skies for the remainder of the winter.

Even when old man winter interferes with our gatherings many are working behind the scenes to keep us connected. Thanks to Pastor Don for preparing the weekly sermon message and those who worked to ensure it was shared on our various media platforms, shoveled snow to clear the sidewalks, coordinated notification of cancelations and many more things that were done to care for one another and keep us connected. Thanks to each of you.

We will be looking forward to all the plans God has for BCC in the coming months.

*Blessings,
Jean Mueller, Board Chair*

~Outreach & Missions~

Thanks to our generous congregation we collected 550 food items for the Souper Bowl Food Drive for CAM. The piano side won the trophy with 298 items! The food was delivered to CAM and was much appreciated.

The March food donation suggestions for the food pantry include Mac & cheese and powdered milk.



Throughout March the Outreach committee will be collecting new Tender Critters (stuffed animals).



These toys are given out to children from the ER and the health department. Each month 160-200 of these new tender critters are given out in Taney County.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

Our next Christian Education Committee Meeting is going to be on Sunday, March 9th, 2025, right after Church Service. Please come and join us in planning activities for the rest of the year. We are looking for volunteers to assist with teaching a classroom for Vacation Bible School, we need 5 in total, as well as Teen helpers/guides. We currently have Chris Hedenberg, Rebecka Gillen and Tanya Armstrong as Teachers. Thank you all so very much! We are also seeking Worship & Wonder Backup Teachers (training required) and Teen Sunday School Backup Teachers. Please contact Rebecka Gillen for more information on these positions. Text (417)543-5031 or gillenbecky082@gmail.com



We are doing a Church Wide Mini Golf at Coral Reef Mini Golf at 200 Wildwood Dr. South in Branson, MO on Saturday, March 15th, 2025, at 10AM. Cost is \$8 a person at the door, but 4 and under are free. No tournament/prizes just old-fashioned fun, please come join us! I would like everyone that has a Church shirt to wear it to this event.

Some of our College aged attendees will be going to Winter Jam 2025 on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025. It's at the Great Southern Bank Arena in Springfield, MO. Cost is \$15 a person at the door. Fun will be had!



Easter is coming quickly! Hint for this year's Easter Egg Hunt is bring a flashlight!

Vacation Bible School dates have been selected by our committee. This year VBS will be on Friday, June 27th and Saturday, June 28th, with a VBS themed Service on Sunday, June 29th, 2025. We are aiming to grow our attendance and have these guidelines of children 5 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. The next age group is from 6- to 13-year-olds to attend. We also need 14-year-olds and older as helpers/ guides.



I look forward to seeing you at these activities as well as, I invite you to send me ideas for future activities!

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JAN. 2025

Operating income Jan.	\$22,507.35
Operating expense Jan.	\$11,052.60
Year to date income	\$22,507.35
Year to date expense	\$11,052.60

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Mar. 6	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Mar. 9	After Service
~Outreach	Mar. 10	10:00am.
~Worship	Mar. 11	10:30am.
~Finance	Mar. 18	2:00pm.
~Board	Mar. 20	5:30pm.



~Membership News~

The March Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, March 16 will be an Irish/Green theme since it is a day before St. Patrick's Day. Please plan your dish accordingly.

FOOD
fellowship



Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

MARCH

ALL SUNDAYS

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

~March Birthdays~

Mar. 4 David Hedenberg
 Mar. 4 Harry Wilhoit
 Mar. 5 Chris Armstrong
 Mar. 6 Mark Schultz
 Mar. 7 Cindy Etnyre
 Mar. 11 Janice Smith
 Mar. 14 Mike Mueller
 Mar. 17 Pat Kansoer
 Mar. 20 Pastor Don
 Mar. 22 Cindy Tharp
 Mar. 24 Jeff Eastridge
 Mar. 31 Janet Minor



~Anniversaries~


Mar. 14 Steve & Sharon Fairless
 Mar. 22 Chris & Tanya Armstrong

Happy Anniversary

Serving in March

Worship Leaders

2nd ~ Evan Kauffman
 9th ~ Jean Mueller
 16th ~ Russ Wydeen
 23rd ~ John Lea
 30th ~ Pat Campbell

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Tender Critters Collection for J.A. starts	3	4	5 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 5:00pm. Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm.	6 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Christian Ed Mtg. after service Youth Bells after service First Lent	10 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	11 Worship Mtg. 10:30am.	12 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	13 Listening Team Mtg. 5:00pm.	14	15 Thrift Shop turnover day w/pizza 3:00pm.
16 Pat & Karen Blessing Ceremony 9:45am. Fellowship Dinner Second Lent	17 	18 Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	19 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	20 Board Mtg. 5:30pm.	21	22 Elder Mtg. 9:30am.
23 Tender Critters Collection for J.A. ends Third Lent Fourth Lent 30	24 31	25	26 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	27	28	29