



Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

October 2026



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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our very own Jamie Haage received a
Terry Award for 2026!

COMEDIAN OF THE year!

~Christian Education~

Youth Blacklight practices are officially back! Join us every Sunday from 10:00AM to 10:30AM as our students prepare to perform on October 25, 2026.

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 4, 2026, after service.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

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

We welcomed our newest volunteer, Mike Patrick, to our thrift store team. He is the one responsible for donating the wonderful Branson Entertainer clothes from Grand Country.

Fall turnover happened 1 week later due to the HOG convention.

Our August receipts were \$5,659.32. Thanks for all the great donations!

Needs this month are purses, Thanksgiving/fall items, baby & kids clothes, and romance books.



Roger & Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs

-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~OCTOBER~

Linda Stinger
Annette Sain
Roger Kauffman
Janet Minor
Chris Hedenberg



~OCTOBER~

10/04 - Preston
10/11 - Jude
10/18 - Neal
10/25 - Maleah



~OCTOBER~

Kathy Kauffman
Keith Nelson



~Membership News~

Our annual church picnic at Oakmont was a wonderful success! Around 40 people gathered to enjoy a delicious lunch of burgers, brats, hot dogs, and a fantastic spread of sides and desserts. The afternoon was made even more special by Pastor Don, Rod, and Jamie, who treated everyone to a beautiful selection of old-time hymns.

The corn hole tournament brought plenty of friendly competition this year with 10 total participants. Our four youth players completely swept the bracket, taking home all the top spots!

- **1st Place:** Preston
- **2nd Place:** Easton
- **3rd Place:** Neal

It looks like the adults might need a few more practice rounds before next year!

In other ministry news, Bobbie, Stacy, and Annette represented BCC at the College of the Ozarks Church Fest. They hosted a booth to connect with students, sharing insight into our services, communion traditions, music style, and young adult activities. We pray these connections blossom and look forward to welcoming some C of O students to our church family soon!

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for details on our upcoming Great Passion Play outing in October. More information will be coming your way soon.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

Dream – Plan – Go (And Always Pray!)

I recently saw a T-shirt with three simple words printed across the front: *Dream – Plan – Go*. It immediately struck me as the perfect summary of our work on the Listening Team. Of course, for us, we must add an essential first step: **Pray**. Without being covered in prayer and led by the Holy Spirit, this entire process would be an exercise in futility.

For months, we spent time seeking to **Dream** about the future God wants for our church. We gleaned scripture for ancient wisdom, met to discern God's will, and listened carefully to our consultant, Chad McMullen, to understand what has worked well for other congregations. Then, we went directly to you—our members and friends—to gather your wisdom and hopes. That congregational survey was a critical juncture, bringing all of our collective dreams together.

This year, the Listening Team took that wealth of information and moved into the **Planning** stage. We know it feels like it is taking a long time! However, finding the right leadership for each of our initiatives is vital to our success. We needed intentional time to pray, talk with members, and ascertain who was best suited to lead each component. We are concluding that phase now. Things are beginning to fall into place, and each group is mirroring this amazing process to achieve their specific goals.

Now, we are approaching the **Go** phase. You might have already noticed contractors and vendors in the building, bids being received, and concrete plans taking shape. We thank God for this exciting new era in our church!

As we move forward, your continued prayers and support are more critical than ever. Please keep the leaders of our seven special task groups in your daily prayers. As we update our building, please also pack a little extra patience. There will be some temporary inconveniences and cordoned-off areas for safety—just like doing renovations in your own home! We will make every effort to minimize disruptions, and we thank you for your unwavering support as - with God's help - we bring these dreams to life.

Blessings, Pastor Don

~From the Board~

The third quarter of the year has ended and so have more accomplishments and projects of the church and members of it. Again, I want to thank everyone for their hard work and support.

The fourth quarter brings new challenges. One is to not let our progress bog down. Now that we have newly trained Bethel Bible Teachers, congratulations to those individuals, we can move to set up classes so the rest of the congregation can enjoy their knowledge.

The long-needed renovations of our kitchen and electrical areas of our church have made major strides already. Let's continue to support the Building Evaluation Team!

Of course, it is also that time of year to organize next year's leadership and budget. Let's pray for God's guidance to help the Nominating Committee and Finance Committee. This is where the whole membership of the church speaks as One.

John Lea, Chair

~Outreach & Missions~



October's suggested items for CAM are soup & crackers.

The committee members continue to identify ways that church can help various organizations through individual and group volunteer activities and member collections. We have started a calendar to plan our activities and keep membership informed of the variety of ways that are available.

Upcoming Events

October

- **Oct. 4:** Reconciliation Ministry Special Fund Offering (pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work).
- **Oct. 5 (6:00–8:00 PM):** 30th Annual Crisis Center Candlelight Vigil.
- **Oct. 6 (5:30 PM):** Samaritan's Christmas Box assembly (10 boxes) in Fellowship Hall.
- **Date TBD:** Winter Bed Turnover setup at House of Hope.

November

- **All Month:** CAM Thanksgiving Cornucopia collection.
- **Nov. 15 & 22:** Thanksgiving Offering (supports Disciples colleges and universities).

Other Items

- **Please check the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for Outreach News!**
- The Crisis Center can use laundry baskets and storage totes for moving people out of the facility.
- CAM can use reusable shopping bags as well as empty plastic bottles that they use to distribute laundry and dishwashing soap.
- **Our next meeting is October 12 at 10:00am.**

Ronni Haston, Chair

~ Bethel Bible Study ~

Bethel Bible Study is a yearlong journey through the entire Bible, explained in small, welcoming groups where learning feels natural and never intimidating.

Each week offers clear thoughtful teaching that helps scripture come alive but without tests, pressure or anything overwhelming. It's thorough yet relaxed, deep yet fun, and built around conversation, friendship and discovering God's story together. Everyone is encouraged, everyone is included and everyone grows.

Gusie Cook-Knapik, Bethel Coordinator



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through AUG. 2026

Operating income Aug.	\$16,345.05
Operating expense Aug.	\$15,967.72
Year to date income	\$156,439.45
Year to date expense	\$121,908.79

Online giving is available for your convenience
on the church website.

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Oct. 1	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Oct. 4	After Service
~Outreach	Oct. 12	10:00am
~Worship	Oct. 13	1:00pm.
~Finance	Oct. 14	9:00am.
~Board	Oct. 15	5:30pm.



~Worship News~

October 4, World Communion Sunday will be observed. A presentation to illustrate the oneness and diversity of celebrating the Lord's Supper with Christians worldwide will be provided during communion.

October 18, Staff Appreciation Day will be held. The staff, including Pastor Don Tharp, Office Administrator Samantha West, Music Director Rod Phillips, and Custodian Annette Sain, will be recognized for their integral roles in the ministry of Branson Christian Church. You are welcome to bring a card and place it in a box located in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall to express your appreciation. The handbell choir will perform special music during the worship service.

October 25, Youth Sunday, will include the youth and children of the church in the worship service and a Blacklight Ministry presentation. Preston Segura will be recognized with graduation from Worship and Wonder.

Jean Mueller, Chair