



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)

October 2025



A note from visitors Johnny & Judy Anderson

With apologies for the tardiness of this note, please accept Johnny and my sincere thanks to you and all your people for the warm and gracious greetings we received when we visited August 24. As I explained to a few of you then, I grew up at Wheeling Avenue Christian Church in Tulsa, Ok; and we, as well as both our children, were baptized and later married there. When we saw the Branson church name on the Branson condo *Church List*, it was easy to select where we wanted to visit in August.

The welcome we received from virtually *every* person whose path we crossed that morning was so loving and genuine that we truly felt welcome. We were invited to return for weekly Bible study as well as for future services when we visit Branson again. It truly felt like home. Thank you!! Speaking of "home," the homemade berry bread was icing on the cake—*goodness! Who wouldn't return after that?!*

As decades-long believers and Christ followers, we are convinced that God is pleased with how you represent Him! Thank you for doing that so well for our benefit. We pray for God's blessings on your people and your work.

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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BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

Thrift Store had another great month. Income for August was \$4,611.99.

We had 15 wonderful volunteers help with our Fall/Winter turnover.

Our needs: Fall/Winter decor, purses, paperback books, jewelry, and cookware.

Thanks for your wonderful support and great donations!

Roger & Kathy Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



Handbell Choir



Due to recent injuries and upcoming medical procedures of members, the handbell choir is in desperate need of 1-2 ringers.

No musical experience necessary. Practice is on Wednesdays after choir.

Please contact Stacy Eastridge if interested or for more info at 417-239-4477.

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-

~OCTOBER~

Roger Kauffman
 Jody Nelson
 Maxine Church
 Annette Sain



~OCTOBER~

10/05 - Maleah
 10/12 - Preston
 10/19 - Neal
 10/26 - Mason



~OCTOBER~

Kathy Kauffman
 Keith Nelson



~Membership News~

The Church Picnic was a great success! Everyone enjoyed the yummy lunch with hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats, the variety of side dishes, and scrumptious desserts! The Corn Hole tournament was a lot of fun to play and watch! And the winners are-- Dominic Gillen, 1st Place; Tanya Armstrong, 2nd Place; and Shirley Runyon, 3rd Place. Easton Rein was 2nd Place youth division since he was playing against the adults!

The kitchen has a new-to-us refrigerator donated by Janice "Blondie" Smith. The old refrigerator's freezer was not holding the temperature for food safety. We thank you Blondie, you are a blessing!



This year on Sunday, October 12th, we will celebrate all staff members of Branson Christian Church instead of just Pastor Appreciation. Pastor said he needs his team to be successful! There will be refreshments immediately following the church service to celebrate our church staff members!

Check out our Website! New additions are made often to the website with articles and pictures. Take a moment to check out the updates!

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

September Blessings Overflowing

What a blessing we received in September! Just as our second refrigerator—faithfully serving for 31 years—was giving out, a thoughtful member reached out to ask if we needed a new one. God's timing is always perfect. Thanks to Jamie Haage and John Lea, the new refrigerator is installed and working beautifully. We're deeply grateful to both gentlemen—and to our generous benefactor—for making this possible.

If you haven't noticed yet, we were also blessed by the City of Branson this past month. They invited us to a meeting to discuss which parts of our grounds fall under their jurisdiction. The conversation was fruitful, and the results were quickly visible: trees were trimmed, mulch was laid, dead flowers were removed, and the surrounding areas received a much-needed refresh. An unexpected bonus was discovered that some areas we thought we had to maintain are actually cared for by the city. Our longstanding partnership with the City of Branson continues to be a source of encouragement, and we look forward to many more years of peaceful collaboration.

Perhaps the most exciting news from September is the return of Sunday School for all ages! When COVID-19 struck five years ago, we had to pause this vital ministry. But now, we're thrilled to offer this educational opportunity once again. Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., classrooms are open and ready, each with a qualified teacher prepared to guide and inspire. If you've missed Sunday School since the pandemic, now is the perfect time to reengage. Children through high school meet in the educational wing, while the adult class gathers in the room just off the fellowship hall—right before the stairs to the office.

*Blessings,
Pastor Don*

~Highlights from the Board Meeting~

- Two recommendations from the Finance Committee were approved. Both recommendations were the result of responses from the recent congregational survey.
- The Listening Team requested the purchase of a lifetime subscription to Bethel Bible Series for a one-time fee of \$375.00, recommended by Pastor Don. Leaders will be trained and will offer adult small group bible studies at various times as requested in the survey.
- The second recommendation also was in response to the survey requesting an option to provide hearing assistance devices to be used during the worship service. Three devices will be ordered at the cost of \$169.00.
- All church clean-up days, October 16, 17, and 18th, were announced. A list will be provided and individuals may come and go as their schedule allows to help clean the church.
- A presentation of plans to update the landscaping around the church was presented. The project will be funded by a generous donation from Janet Minor in honor and memory of Pastor Allen Minor. John and Dominic Gillen will lead the project beginning this fall.
- The Finance Committee presented the 2026 proposed budget for review.

As you will see in the newsletter the committees are busy providing many opportunities and activities for the upcoming month. Take time to check out these events!

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

~Library News~

It's Fall in the library. Stop in and sit awhile.

And now, I have a little God-incidence, not coincidence, that I want to let you know about...

Last week I was browsing in the public library bookstore, and I spotted the Left Behind series. You may remember it because it was, and still is, quite popular. There are 12 books in the series, and there, on the shelf, were 10 of the 12. I love it when that happens! I called my sisters and told them to be on the lookout for the other two books. It's kind of like a scavenger hunt for us (sisters can make anything fun if they set their mind to it).

I took the books to the church library and was putting them on the shelf when I glanced over at the donation basket, and what do you think was in there? One of the two needed books! This may sound simple to you, but what are the odds that out of 12 books in a particular series, one of the two needed was sitting there, right after I had purchased the others?

So, if you're the person that donated that Left Behind book, come tell me. I'd love to know who you are! Maybe you have a story of your own...

That's it for now. Blessings!

Cindy Tharp

~Christian Ed~

The Children's Sunday School class are studying the Fruits of the Spirit, that will conclude on October 19th with a song during Church Service. Then we will begin Thankfulness, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving for November.

The young adult Sunday school class has had a big start in the program. After covering the creation story, we have decided to take a new direction focusing on how the bible applies to our everyday lives. The first collection, **Redeem the Screen**, focuses on how technology is utilized to glorify God: Screens have incredible power in our lives. With the click of a button, we can connect to anyone across the globe in an instant. With a simple search, we can discover everything from today's weather forecast, to tutoring for a difficult math problem, to the ins and outs of our favorite celebrity's love life. Screens can inspire us, but they can also distract us and make us mindlessly conform to what we see. Phones, laptops, and TVs are some of the most powerful objects in our lives. Will you let them change your life or will you use them to change the world?

The second collection, **Awaken**, covers the idea of being involved and awakening our faith. It's so easy to get lulled into a sleepy faith, seeing our relationship with God as just what we do on Sundays or at youth groups. We're tempted to live for ourselves, pursuing the fleeting pleasures of sin instead of pursuing a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. But the time for sleeping is over—no more snooze button, no more pulling the covers over your head. It's time to wake up to the reality of the life we've been called to live in Christ.

We will finish our year with **Your Story has a Villian**, this collection demonstrates how to understand our enemies' tactics and overcome temptation. There is an enemy among us. You may know who he is, but you may not know what he is about. Do you know how he wages war? Do you know how he targets you specifically? He's the villain who wants to change your story in the hopes you live isolated, powerless, discouraged, and defeated. Are you ready to change your narrative and live a different story today? If you're weary from the struggle and ready to experience life as God intended, this five-session series with Jonathan Pokluda will help you explore the tactics of Satan, equip you to overcome spiritual battles, and remind you of the victory already secured through Jesus.

Cram the Van for CAM was held on September 27th. We collected 645 pounds of food and \$141.51. Thanks to everyone that helped!

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through AUG. 2025

Operating income Aug.	\$18,026.18
Operating expense Aug.	\$13,256.88
Year to date income	\$159,954.90
Year to date expense	\$106,436.93

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Oct. 2	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Oct. 12	After Service
~Outreach	Oct. 13	10:00am.
~Worship	Oct. 14	1:00pm.
~Finance	Oct. 14	2:00pm.
~Board	Oct. 16	5:30pm.



~Outreach & Missions~

CAM food suggestions are for soup and crackers this month.

The Reconciliation Offering continues through October 5th. This offering leads to pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of the church.

20 Christmas Boxes for Children have been completed from our church. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to make hats, dresses, backpacks, fishing kits, wooden cars, sewing kits, sunglasses cases, jump ropes, angels, teddy bears, and Christmas cards and those who donated other purchased items for these boxes.

Now it's your turn to help by packing your own Christmas boxes that will go to children in over 100 countries along with the great news of Jesus through the Samaritan's Purse project. Most of these children have never had a Christmas gift before. Boxes, pamphlets, and labels are available in the Narthex for you to take. Remember to include a check for \$10.00 (to Operation Christmas Child) in each box for shipping. Boxes are due back to the church by November 3rd.

Jolene Herington, Chair



October

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

~October Birthdays~

Oct. 2 Becky Groves
 Oct. 4 Matt Hedenberg
 Oct. 4 Nolen Berry
 Oct. 5 Steve Fairless
 Oct. 6 Larry Campbell
 Oct. 8 Rick Johnson
 Oct. 9 Linda Snyder
 Oct. 9 Matea Tilden
 Oct. 9 Samantha Plouviez
 Oct. 11 Gayle Rinehart
 Oct. 11 Marjorie Herington
 Oct. 12 Chris Hedenberg
 Oct. 13 Juanita Witcher
 Oct. 14 Jimmy Dan Pribble
 Oct. 15 Grace R.
 Oct. 15 Karen Pool
 Oct. 15 Maxine Church
 Oct. 15 Brenda Archambeau
 Oct. 16 James Wallace
 Oct. 18 Pat Campbell
 Oct. 19 Jean Mueller
 Oct. 23 Doug Rempel
 Oct. 25 Neal S.
 Oct. 28 Linda Hubbard
 Oct. 30 Gary Hammer
 Oct. 31 Dave Riddle

~Anniversaries~

Oct. 17 David & Chris Hedenberg

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	2 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm. 10:30am. Women's Bible Study	3	4
5 World Communion Sunday Special Reconciliation Offering	6 Crisis Center Vigil 5:00pm - 9:00pm.	7	8 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	9	10	11 Thrift Store Mtg. 3:15pm.
12 Christian Ed Mtg. after service <i>Mission Moment Elevate Branson</i>	13 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	14 Worship Mtg. 1:00pm. Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	15 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	16 Board Mtg. 5:30pm.	17	18
19 <i>Staff Appreciation</i> <i>LAST Light a Candle for Children</i> Fellowship Dinner	20	21	22 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	23	24	25 PPC Mtg. 9:00am. Segura Family Event 1:00pm.
26	27	28	29 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	30	31 	

Serving in October

Worship Leaders

5th ~ Pat Campbell
 12th ~ Jamie Haage
 19th ~ John Gillen
 26th ~ Jean Mueller