



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)

August 2023



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



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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Where  
 God guides,  
 He provides

ISAIAH 58:11



**BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP**

Wow! We had a very good July with our 16th Anniversary celebration. Despite everything being 1/2 price, we broke all records for the week of July 4th selling just under \$2000 worth of merchandise. Most of our items are priced \$0.25 to \$4.00 so you can see how much inventory was sold. God continues to bless us, and we get beautiful donations at just the right time. We still need plastic sacks, jewelry, knick knacks, and bubble wrap.



*Kathy & Roger Kauffman*  
 Thrift Shop co-chairs

**-SERVING THIS MONTH-**

**~ AUGUST ~**

Greg Haston  
 Ronni Haston  
 Jody Nelson



**~ AUGUST ~**

8/6 Grace Rein  
 8/13 Jude Feeler  
 8/20 Easton Rein  
 8/27 Preston Segura



**~AUGUST~**

Johnie Groves  
 Julie Groves



**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

## ~Youth News~

Darren continues to thrive at College of the Ozarks as a student manager at the Keeter Center. He has even made the Dean's list.

John is a member of the Varsity Cheer Squad at Branson High School and has begun his practices.

Lilly is currently attending Branson High School band camp. She plays flute in the Pride of Branson Marching Band.

James (and his mom) have survived his first year of homeschooling. He has already begun his 7<sup>th</sup> grade year and is looking forward to succeeding.

Mason & Jude had the opportunity to attend Chi Rho Adventure Camp in El Dorado Springs. They are very appreciative to the Church for sending them.

## -Welcome New Members-

Marlin & Sharon Browne  
640 State Hwy 248 #12  
Branson, MO 65616

## Board Report

### ~From the Board~

July was a very busy month for the board and the church as well with 2 board meetings and a special congregational meeting.

First of all, a special board meeting was called for July 6 for the purpose of selecting a settled minister and the negotiated package of salary and compensations to be presented to the congregation. Jean Mueller and the search committee presented Rev. Dr. Don Tharp as a candidate for the position. The board voted unanimously to present him to the congregation.

On July 19, the special congregational meeting was held. Along with the presentation by Jean Mueller and the search committee, Rev. Dr. Don Tharp presented a short message and answered questions from the congregation. The salary and compensations package were also presented. Following a written ballot, it was announced that Rev. Dr. Don Tharp was approved by the congregation. He will start August 1, 2023, and his first Sunday will be August 6.

On July 20, the regular board meeting was held. The minutes of the June 15th board meeting were approved as amended and the July 6th special meeting was approved as presented.

Reports were heard from the various committees and most of that information is included in other articles of this newsletter. Two of the reports are as follows:

#### Worship Committee

- Worship & Wonder will begin August 20, 2023.
- Once a month for the next year, a special emphasis will be on the Centennial this coming year including music from the different decades.
- Reminders of changes of the service in any way need to be no later than Wednesday morning prior to the Sunday service. Regular information needs to be in Monday morning prior to the service.
- Need to have an overall captain for the deacons for organization and Personnel.
- Also need to clarify the acolyte schedule and substitution when needed.

Continued on next page...

## Board Report

### Finance Committee

- The BCC Board requested another bid on the roof to create a taper on the flat roofs with a new membrane for draining.
- A bid was submitted for \$43,038.45 plus \$100.00 for carpentry repairs if needed in case of rot and mold.
- The Finance Committee made the recommendation to accept this bid. Under unfinished business, the Finance Committee's recommendation to accept the bid was approved as presented. The Building and Property Committee will meet with Branson /Springfield Roof Company to work on the details of the project.

There was no new business. The meeting adjourned with prayer. The next meeting will be August 17, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Our last 14 months have been an experience of many blessings. First of all, to have a Search Committee consisting of Jean Mueller (chair), Johnie Groves, John Lea, Annette Sain, Sandy Poos, Robert Baldwin, and Roger Kauffman to commit themselves to hours of meetings, reading profiles, following up references, and interviews was awesome. Our church was well represented in this endeavor to find the right settled minister for us. Please thank them for all that they did.

Secondly, I wish to thank the following people for filling in when we needed someone in the pulpit. There were many times when no one was available from the region, but people from our congregation were willing to help. Those individuals were Johnie Groves, Jerry Yeutter, Jamie Haage, David Faragher, Pat & Larry Campbell, Tilden & Felder Missionary Families and VBS both years. Please thank them as well for all their time and commitment to help our church in this time of need.

Lastly, we have gained new members and have improved programs for our congregation. God has blessed us indeed. Please thank Him for all that He has done for us.

*Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair*

## Membership News

1. The August Fellowship Dinner will be held 1 week earlier on Sunday, August 13th to celebrate the installation of our new Minister Rev. Don Tharp. Let's show the Tharp Family our best dinner ever!
2. The committee is asking everyone to wear their name tags for our new minister to learn our names. New name tags have been printed and are being added to the boards in the Fellowship Hall and in the narthex. New name tag holders are being purchased to complete the project.
3. The committee is planning a new Pictorial Directory. Be watching for more information.
4. The Church Picnic is fast approaching on September 17th. The committee needs your input of your favorite old-time hymns for the Sing-A-Long. There will be a clipboard on the table in the narthex for your suggestions.

*Bobbie Wydeen, Chair*

## ~Outreach & Missions~

### August donations for CAM are pasta and pasta sauce.

Thank you to everyone who helped our nursing home project by signing and writing notes in the greeting cards. We are supporting the Clothe A Child project in August. If you would like to contribute, write Clothe a Child on the envelope or check. We are also collecting donations for the animal shelters. They need old blankets, towels or sheets, puppy or kitty food and anything else pet related.

*Jolene Herington, Chair*

## ~Christian Ed~

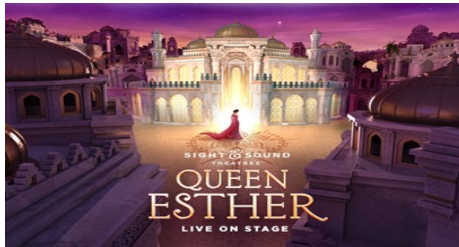
We are pleased to announce a Special Event!  
An All-Church Evening at Sight & Sound Theatre.

**Saturday – October 14 – 7:30pm**

Adult Tickets (13+) are **\$35.95** (Regular \$71.90)  
Child Tickets (3-12) would be less. (Price not avail at time of print)

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

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and on the church website starting Sunday, August 13. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy Eastridge at [shortround9276@gmail.com](mailto:shortround9276@gmail.com) or 417-239-4477.



Signups for the handball choir will begin Sunday, August 13. If you are interested in being a part of the bell choir, please fill out the sign-up sheet that will be located in the narthex. You do not need to have musical experience to participate.

*Stacy Eastridge, Chair*

## Committee Reports

### FINANCE REPORT

#### Finance Report through JUNE 2023

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Operating income June  | \$17,405.33 |
| Operating expense June | \$9,377.64  |
| Year to date income    | \$99,709.40 |
| Year to date expense   | \$49,788.65 |

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

**SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

|               |        |               |
|---------------|--------|---------------|
| ~Membership   | Aug 3  | 5:30pm.       |
| ~Worship      | Aug 8  | 10:30am.      |
| ~Outreach     | Aug 14 | 4:30pm.       |
| ~Finance      | Aug 15 | 6:00pm.       |
| ~Board        | Aug 17 | 5:30pm.       |
| ~Christian Ed | Aug 20 | After Service |



## ~Welcome Pastor Don~

On July 19, 2023, the congregation called Rev. Dr. Donald Tharp as pastor of Branson Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Pastor Don, as he prefers to be called, and his wife Cindy recently moved to Branson from Victoria, Texas. They have two daughters, Amber, and her family live in Washington and Desira' in Branson.

Pastor Don brings a wealth of experience and talent to the church. He has served as Disciples of Christ pastor for 30 years and has a versatile music background. His father was a Disciples pastor and from childhood he wanted to follow in his footsteps and become a pastor. Fun fact, Pastor Don and Cindy served as youth leaders at Branson Christian Church in 1977-78 while he was attending School of the Ozarks and working at Silver Dollar City.

Pastor Don is anxious to begin his ministry at BCC on August 1. His first Sunday in the pulpit is August 6 and installation service on August 13.

The Search Committee is grateful for your prayers and support as we worked through the process and waited for God to reveal the individual that He had chosen to serve at Branson Christian Church.

# AUGUST

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

**~August Birthdays~**

Aug 2 Joann Dassero  
 Aug 3 Preston Segura  
 Aug 4 Larry Pribble  
 Aug 7 Cameron Pruitt  
 Aug 8 Grant Lindner  
 Aug 8 Lea Moore  
 Aug 13 Amanda Sain  
 Aug 15 Katie Hedenberg  
 Aug 15 Mason Feeler  
 Aug 19 Keith Nelson  
 Aug 24 Harold Nesbit  
 Aug 27 Sara Endicott Pascucci  
 Aug 29 Malachi Felder  
 Aug 31 Greg Haston

**~Anniversaries~**

Aug 7 Jimmy Dan & Lydia Pribble  
 Aug 19 Keith & Jody Nelson  
 Aug 25 John & Lucy Johnson  
 Aug 30 Larry & Rosemary Pribble

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                            | Wednesday                                | Thursday                           | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------|----------|
|  |  | 1                                  | 2<br>10:30am. – 12:00pm.<br>Bible Study  | 3<br>Membership Mtg.<br>5:30pm.    | 4      | 5        |
| 6<br>Thrift Shop Mtg.<br>After Service                                 | 7  | 8<br>10:30am.<br>Worship Comm. Mtg | 9<br>10:30am. – 12:00pm.<br>Bible Study  | 10                                 | 11     | 12       |
| 13<br><b>Installation Sunday</b>                                       | 14<br>Outreach & Missions<br>Comm. Mtg.<br>4:30pm. | 15<br>6pm.<br>Finance Comm. Mtg    | 16<br>10:30am. – 12:00pm.<br>Bible Study | 17<br><b>5:30pm.<br/>Board Mtg</b> | 18     | 19       |
| <b>Fellowship Dinner</b>   |  |                                    |  |                                    |        |          |
| 20<br><b>W&amp;W starts back</b><br>Christian Ed Mtg.<br>After Service | 21   | 22                                 | 23<br>10:30am. – 12:00pm.<br>Bible Study | 24                                 | 25     | 26       |
| 27   | 28   | 29                                 | 30<br>10:30am. – 12:00pm.<br>Bible Study | 31                                 |        |          |

**Serving in August**

**Worship Leaders**

6th ~ Cindy Baldwin  
 13th ~ Ron Routledge  
 20th ~ Pat Campbell  
 27th ~ Jerry Yeutter