



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 2025



HEARD AND SEEN Week of Compassion *

SPECIAL OFFERING 2025
FEBRUARY 16 & 23

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



In This Issue

From the Pastor.....3
 From the Board 4
 Committee Reports.....5
 Outreach & Missions.....5
 Calendar6
 Serving This Month.....6
 Birthdays.....6
 Anniversaries.....6
 Christian Ed.....8
 Church Events.....9
 Serving this month.....11
 Thrift Shop News.....11



If the reason you've been issued a key to the church, thrift shop, or office has expired, please return your key to the office during business hours.
Thanks for helping to keep our key log up to date!

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 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. Dates and times will be determined later.

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's a little quieter now that most of our tourists have gone back home. We still have our faithful locals to come in. Just a reminder, if Branson schools close for winter weather, the thrift store will also be closed.

We had another great December with quality donations and taking in \$6,569. That brought our total income for 2024 to \$65,598! The Lord continues to bless this ministry, and we are so very thankful to him and all of our volunteers.

Remember, we can now take furniture donations as our flea market guy will pick them up for us and pay us for them.

Our needs this month are paperback books; Romance, Amish, Westerns, and Adventure/Thrillers.



Kathy & Roger Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs

-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~FEBRUARY~

David Hedenberg
 Kathleen Lenore
 Maxine Church
 Chris Hedenberg



~FEBRUARY~

Lilly C.
 Mason F.



~FEBRUARY~

Cindy Baldwin
 Keith Nelson



~Library News~

Happy New Year!

I'm currently reading "52 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know," by Dave Adamson. It's written a bit like a devotional, with one word on each page. A few days ago, I learned about "Anavah (an-aw-vaw)." It means humility, but the literal definition is "to occupy your God-given space in the world--to not overestimate or underestimate your abilities.". And a question is given, "What if, just for today, you resolved to serve others by simply taking up the space God has given you to occupy? Nothing more, nothing less." Isn't that a great thought? We don't have to be in control of everything and everyone around us. In fact, I would say that type of control is very detrimental to the growth of a church and blesses no one! We are only responsible for what God wants US to do.

Many of you have taken the Spiritual Gifts Assessment and may be wondering what God wants you to do. It can be challenging to discern and takes quiet time and listening skills to hear Him. We can also put boots to the ground and try things out and also learn about non-profits around us to see if God gives us that "nudge" to participate. Which brings me to the next idea.

Let me introduce you to a book titled, "American Spirit, Profiles in Resilience, Courage, and Faith," by Taya Kyle. You may recognize her name as the wife of the late Chris Kyle, of whom the movie American Sniper was made. The book contains true stories of adults and children (you'll be amazed at what they can do!) who decided to help others and started organizations or simple lemonade stands (that grew into big projects) out of a specific concern for hurting people. It's amazing to read what happens when people are in the right place and listening to God's direction! So, if you're in the place of wondering what God wants you to do, maybe this book will get the ball rolling. It's in our library under the "true stories" section. Check it out!

*Blessings,
Cindy Tharp*

From the Pastor's Desk

At the January Board meeting we approved a process of discernment developed by one of our own Missouri pastors, Chad McMullin. Here is the description of his process for discernment for local churches:

This process is a six-month process in which we journey together towards reclaiming our God given calling as a congregation. The process relies upon spiritual discernment which includes Bible study, prayer, and listening to the Spirit of God as we collectively discover a clear direction for the church. Beyond the spiritual discernment, we also consider the practical using demographics, assessing church vitality & health, studying our individual church's history as well as our denominational identity which all further inform our thinking and planning.

Now we look to our future and seek God's help in developing a three-year plan. Step one is bringing together a small group of dedicated people to go through the training with Chad and spend the next six months prayerfully listening for that still small voice and seeking input from the congregation. Please pray with us throughout this journey.

I look forward to sharing more with you and inviting your involvement in this great opportunity as we discover (or re-discover) God's unique calling upon our congregation.



*Sincerely,
Pastor Don*

Board Report

~From the Board~

As we begin the new year it is with hope and anticipation of where God is leading Branson Christian Church.

The year was kicked off with the January board meeting setting a path of discerning the future of BCC. The board approved a plan to engage with Rev. Chad McMillin to lead us through a process to discern the direction God has planned for us. The most important part of this process is that the congregation will be directly involved throughout each phase of planning. As we move forward, we ask for your collective prayers and engagement.

The Program Planning Council (PPC) also met this month, and the committees are busy planning events and activities for the year. Check out their newsletter articles for upcoming plans.

For those who may not be familiar with PPC it is an opportunity for committee chairs to meet on a quarterly basis to collaborate and plan upcoming services, events and activities. That being said, it takes many hands to accomplish what is planned. If you have thought about how you may become more involved in the life of the church, please pray for where you are being led to serve. There are ways to serve that do consume lots of time but can be most helpful to carry out activities. The committees are anxious to engage with you and find ways to utilize your gifts and talents!!

Looking forward to 2025 and the path God has set for Branson Christian Church.

*Blessings,
Jean Mueller, Board Chair*

~Membership News~

The membership committee met in January to set the agenda for 2025. The committee discussed the following:

1. The committee reviewed the inclement weather policy which was published in the January Newsletter. Please call/text/email Bobbie Wydeen at 417-699-4728 or bobster218@aol.com.

2. A site for the Church Picnic was decided which will be at The Oakmont Community Center on Sunday, September 21, 2025. The site has been reserved. Please mark your calendar.



3. A majority of our meeting was discussing the part of the committee responsibilities which has not been addressed much in the past few years - Evangelism. Many years ago that was a separate committee. Our new committee member Dave Riddle has done some research on Evangelism and presented that material to the committee.

The Congregation will hear about some of the ideas the committee discussed in the coming months. The committee always wants to hear of any ideas and suggestions from the congregation.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

~Christian Ed~

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who have joined us and those continuing with me on the Christian Education Committee. It brings a song to mind- "Thank you for giving to the Lord" By Ray Boltz. If you have not heard this song, I strongly encourage everyone to listen to it.



Going along with that being said:

We are looking for volunteers to assist with teaching a classroom for Vacation Bible School. 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 Email gillenbecky082@gmail.com

If you would like to join us for our next meeting, it will be held after Church Service on Sunday, February 9th, 2025. I have things that we need to discuss and appreciate input; I expect it to be a 30-to-45-minute meeting. Please come with a willing heart and ready to serve our Lord through Christian Education this year! I would like to keep our meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month, but please check the calendar for any changes.

I am going to be asking about what we want to have as upcoming events and will share as we discover what we wish to do.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through DEC. 2024

Operating income Dec.	\$24,362.53
Operating expense Dec.	\$15,707.39
Year to date income	\$238,879.48
Year to date expense	\$158,051.73

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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



~Outreach & Missions~

The Souper Bowl Sunday Food Drive for CAM is ongoing now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 9th. Which side of the church will contribute the most food items (not just soup) the piano side or the ramp side? Who will win the new fabulous Souper Bowl Trophy? Help your side to victory with your donations!

Don't forget you can contribute to help those impacted by the California wildfires through Week of Compassion. You can make your check out to Branson Christian Church and designate it to California wildfires 2025. 100% of your contribution will be used to assist disaster-affected communities, both immediate relief efforts and in ongoing recovery.

Jolene Herington, Chair

FEBRUARY

ALL SUNDAYS

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

~February Birthdays~

Feb. 1 Steven Cade York
 Feb. 2 Gretchen Schultz
 Feb. 3 Larry Wallace
 Feb. 3 Jolene Herington
 Feb. 4 Sandy Poos
 Feb. 5 Bob Brown
 Feb. 8 Diana Rice
 Feb. 9 Richard Groves
 Feb. 11 John Gillen
 Feb. 12 Alex Segura
 Feb. 13 Johnie Groves
 Feb. 14 Shirley Runyon
 Feb. 18 Garry Weinstein
 Feb. 23 Jerry Yeutter
 Feb. 23 Darren Gillen
 Feb. 25 Rebecka Gillen
 Feb. 27 Debbie Weinstein
 Feb. 27 Jim Stinger
 Feb. 28 Desira' Adams




~Anniversaries~

Feb. 11 Bob & Anita Brown
 Feb. 15 Johnie & Julie Groves

Serving in February

Worship Leaders

2nd ~ Chris Hedenberg
 9th ~ Jamie Haage
 16th ~ Evan Kauffman
 23rd ~ Mason F.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 	3	4	5 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	6 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	7	8
9 Souper Sunday Ends Christian Ed Mtg. after service Youth Bells after service	10 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	11 Worship Mtg. 10:30am.	12 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	13	14 HAPPY. Valentine's Day	15
16 Fellowship Dinner Week of Compassion Special Offering	17 PRESIDENTS DAY	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
23 Week of Compassion Special Offering	24	25	26 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm.	27	28	