Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 65616
Office: 417-334-3453



NOVEMBER 15TH & 22ND

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

November 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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Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 8, 2026

~Christian Education~

Christian Education Committee will hold its next meeting this coming **Sunday, November 1st**.

We also want to send a huge thank you to everyone who generously donated to make the Boonanza such a success!

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

Blessings abound! Thanks to our amazing donors, volunteers, and customers, September was our best month ever, totaling $9,499.29! We also hit our highest single-day record on Friday, September 25, bringing in $1,564.08. Thank you for your incredible support!

Mark Your Calendars

- **Nov. 9–14 | Veterans Day Sale: All red, white, or blue clothes are 50% off!**
- **Nov. 26 | Thanksgiving: The shop will be closed. Happy Thanksgiving!**
- **Dec. 12 | Volunteer Christmas Party: Join us at Golden Corral from 12:00–2:00 PM. Guests are welcome, and we will have a $10–$15 gift exchange.**

This Month's Needs

We are currently collecting throw blankets, boys' clothes (3T and up), jewelry, and purses. Thank you for all you do!



Denise St. Laurent on behalf of the Kauffman's Thrift Shop co-chairs

-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~NOVEMBER~

Chris Hedenberg
David Hedenberg
Gretchen Schultz
Jody Nelson

Church DEACONS

~NOVEMBER~

11/01 - Easton
11/08 - Preston
11/15 - Jude
11/22 - Maleah
11/29 - Neal

Acolyte Ministry

~NOVEMBER~

Johnie Groves
Kirk Groves

ELDERS
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

~Membership News~

November is shaping up to be a busy month! Please mark your calendars for these upcoming holiday events, volunteer opportunities, and a quick kitchen reminder:

Thanksgiving Celebrations

- **Thanksgiving Cooking Party** | *Saturday, November 14, 9 AM – Noonish*
  Help prep the ham, cook the turkeys, and set up the Fellowship Hall for a semi-formal dinner.

- **Annual Thanksgiving Dinner** | *Sunday, November 15, after church service*
  Join us for our annual church family feast immediately following worship.

Christmas Decorating & Luncheon

- **Church Decorating & Lunch** | *Sunday, November 22, after church service*
  Stay after church to help decorate the building for Christmas. The committee will provide a thank-you luncheon afterward.

Adoration Parade Open House

- **Open House** | *Sunday, December 6, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM*
  We are hosting an Open House during the parade.

- **Cookie Bakers Needed!** Please volunteer to bake treats for our community guests.

Kitchen Notice: Pick Up Your Dishes!

- Dishes, dishes everywhere! The kitchen has accumulated many personal items after recent Fellowship dinners. Please swing by to pick yours up this week. **Unclaimed dishes will be donated to the Thrift Store.**

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

Embracing Our Unique Strength: The Power of Togetherness

Welcome to our Fall Harvest Call! This is an official, open-hearted invitation to every member and friend of Branson Christian Church. You can think of it as an Autumn Homecoming Extravaganza, a joyful Fall Festival, or simply the perfect reason to come back to church and reconnect. We have a vibrant season ahead, and our church family is truly complete only when you are here with us. Just like our own families gathered around the dinner table at the end of a long day, we need to gather together around the table of our Lord to stay united and strong.

We all know we will never be the biggest church in town, and we aren't trying to compete with megachurches like James River or Bloom Church. Instead, we focus on what makes us uniquely wonderful. Together,we can be the absolute best at celebrating Jesus in our midst by being the:

- **Best at warmth and hospitality** to everyone who walks through our doors.
- **Best in sharing the love of Jesus** through our words and actions.
- **Best in reaching out to our community** with the life-changing hope of salvation.

I am personally counting on each and every one of you to be present in worship whenever possible. Let's also open our arms wide and invite our friends and family to join us at Branson Christian Church. Together, let's show the world what it truly looks like to **"Exceed Expectations!"**

Blessings, Pastor Don

~Library News~

Our "1,000 Celebration for the BCC library" went well. Thank you to all who attended. A big thank you also goes to Susie Knapik and Justin Tipton for the wonderful food! They did a great job, didn't they? Susie has also been helping me in the library, which I appreciate a bunch!

What does the library have to offer? How about well-known authors, like Francine Rivers, Charles Stanley, and Beth Moore? Or a true story like "A Dog Year, 12 Months, Four Dogs, and Me," by Joy Katz. If you want a devotional, we have plenty! And lots of fiction.

Something new for the library are large print books. We only have a few right now, but I'm building on that.

And last, it feels so good to walk into a Christian book store and find some of the same current books we have in our library. I do my best to keep things up-to-date!

Happy Reading,

Cindy Tharp

~Outreach & Missions~

LEFT4OVERS FOR LOCALS

November's suggested items for are

boxed stuffing and canned vegetables

Committee Members met on October 12th and our next meeting is Nov. 9 at 10am. Ronni will be leaving for Florida at the end of October and Jolene as Co-Chair will be representing the committee going forward.

Here are a few things the Committee and members have been up to,

Crisis Center - the candlelight vigil went very smoothly and was very moving. 11 church members were in attendance along with many staff and residents of the Crisis Center with their family and friends. Our special offering in response to their loss of $44,000 in Federal government grants was an amazing $6000 and additional contributions have come in since then and are always welcome. Kirk and Becky Groves were awarded a certificate of appreciation for all that they have done for the Center.

Look for the following planned activities in the next few months:

- **a tour of Elevate and the Tiny House village**
- **House of Hope Winter Bed turnover**
- **volunteer shift at CAM distribution center**
- **Samaritans Christmas Boxes are due 11/9. You can donate items to fill them or pack one yourself. Church members had fun packing 20 boxes as a start**
- **Kindness Cards – Church members assembled 120 Christmas cards and we are planning for youth and adults to deliver cards to Shepherd of the Hills Living Center and sing carols in December. 4 times a year there will be a group card assembly gathering.**

Updated Outreach Calendar and contact information for the organizations we support are posted on the Bulletin Board

We continue to explore various ways that membership can support the community with funds, time and talents and have been grateful for the generosity of the membership in so many ways.

Ronni Haston & Jolene Herington, Co-Chairs

~ Bethel Bible Study ~

The Branson Bethel Team is excited to announce two new **Bethel Bible Series** studies beginning **January 12, 2027**, with two class times offered at **1:00PM & 6:00PM.** This year long journey follows the unfolding story of scripture, leading to Jesus Christ and His life on earth. Whether you are new to Bible study or have spent years in God's Word, the Bethel Bible Series offers fresh insights and a deeper understanding of how the Bible fits together as one extraordinary story of God's love and redemption.

There is **no charge to participate**, although study materials will be available for purchase if desired. Registration is open immediately, making it easy to reserve your place. Classes will be intentionally small, welcoming, and non-intimidating, creating a comfortable environment where participants can learn, ask questions, and grow in faith together. Join us as we discover new ways to read, understand, and experience the Bible through this transformative study of God's Word.

Please contact the church office to register 417-334-3453.

THE Bethel Bible Series

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through Sept. 2026

Operating income Sept.	$25,679.61
Operating expense Sept.	$23,753.01
Year to date income	$182,129.06
Year to date expense	$145,662.39

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Christian Ed	Nov. 1	After Service
~Membership	Nov. 5	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Nov. 9	10:00am.
~Worship	Nov. 10	12:30pm.
~Finance	Nov. 18	9:00am.
~Board	Nov. 19	5:30pm.



~Worship~

To spread our blessings, we're collecting food items for CAM from November 1st to 15th. You can drop off your donations in the cornucopia at the front of the sanctuary.

On November 22nd, following worship, volunteers will get the church ready for Christmas decorations. This year, we're making a few changes. The volunteers will help arrange the decorations in designated areas around the church. A decorating team will handle the actual decorating the next day.

If you're free on November 22nd, it should only take about 30 minutes to set up the items. Then, you can join others for a soup and sandwich luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Advent Devotionals will be available on November 22nd. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29th.

Jean Mueller, Chair