



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)

April 2025



Wonder:

The Inside Story

Luke 24:1-12

Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ). Received in most congregations

Sunday, April 13 & 20, 2025

or two alternative Sundays in your congregation

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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Join us in celebrating
Jeff Eastridge's
Surprise 50th
Birthday Party

Sunday, May 25th
1 o'clock in the afternoon
Oakmont Rec Center
2308 State Hwy 86
Ridgedale, MO
 Please reply to Stacy at 417-239-4477
 by May 15. Light lunch provided

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

The Worship Committee has reinstated the Prayer Vigil for Good Friday from 6:00 am. to 6:00 pm. The committee asks that persons signing up from 6:00 am. to Noon to do their prayers at home. Then from noon to 6:00 pm., those who would like to come to the church and pray in the sanctuary, the outside doors leading into the Narthex will be unlocked for access to the sanctuary. For safety reasons, there will be 2 or more persons available to monitor the entrance at the church. A sign up sheet will be available the first Sunday of April, the 6th. The sign up time is 30 minutes for each person. Please consider this as part of your Lenten experiences for the Easter season.

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 is truly Spring in the Thrift store as we did turnover, putting out our Spring/Summer clothing. Thanks to these wonderful volunteers who made it happen: Sandy, Bobbie, Jean, Chris, June, Vernon, June, Dave, Roger, and Kathy.

February is usually our slowest month, but we took in \$3,351.32. We were closed 4 days due to the weather.

Our needs this month are Spring items like gardening items, seeds, purses, books, boy clothes, small and medium women's clothes, and summer shoes.

We are so thankful for your generous donations and our hard-working volunteers. God continues to bless this ministry in amazing ways.



Kathy & Roger Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs

-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~APRIL~

Maxine Church
Gretchen Schultz
Roger Kauffman
David Hedenberg



~APRIL~

04/06 - Easton R.
04/13 - Preston S.
04/20 - John G.
04/27 - Mason F.



~APRIL~

Jean Mueller
Tanya Armstrong



~Library News~

I just finished reading Row For Freedom by Julia Immonen. It's a true story about five (basically inexperienced) women rowing across the Atlantic in 45 days. They called it the Row for Freedom because they wanted to raise awareness of modern-day slavery which exists across the globe, including America (It's hard to imagine this is possible in our day and age. Heartbreaking. And many are young children and girls.)

These five women were not expected to make the crossing. Many people did not take them seriously. Their rowing boat was full of tiny holes that had to be patched. In spite of many hardships, they accomplished their goal, and broke two Guinness World Records! Google Julia Immonen if you want to know more about what she is doing now and how she's still fighting for freedom. There are also suggestions in her book on ways to help this cause.

The book is now in the library in the New Arrivals section. It's a great one for inspiration! Take a look!

*Blessings,
Cindy Tharp*

Women's Bible Study

The book of Esther

Every Thursday, April 3 through May 15

10:30am. - 12:00pm.

Please register so your study guide can be ordered.

Cost: \$22, payable first day of class

Contact: Cindy Tharp at 361-655-1418 to register

Can't come to the study but want to learn about Esther at home? There is an access code in the back of the study guide that will allow you to stream the videos. Ask Cindy for details!

From the Pastor's Desk

Faith for our Future update

Isaiah 40: 30-31 reads: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Our Listening Conference is off to a great start. Our listening team has been formed and has had its first meeting with our Consultant, Pastor Chad McMullin. It was a great kick-off with some excellent sharing. Please keep these team members in your daily prayers: John Lea, Kathy Kauffman, Kirk Groves, Kathleen Lenore, Jamie Haage, Holli Segura, Jean Mueller and myself. Over the next few weeks, the team will be focusing on the scriptures sent by Pastor Chad and prayer for our church. I will also be finishing up my sermon series, "Faith for our Future," this was my first assignment from Chad. I know you are sensing some repetition if you are here every Sunday in March, but I am aware that many of our flock can't be here every week, so want to ensure everyone understands how this time of listening and focused prayer is leading us stay focused on what God is calling us to do and be as a church over the next 3 years.

It has been wonderful to see how the Lord is guiding this process. As we embarked on this journey of listening, Pat Cambell was led to lead a class on centering prayer - which was well attended. Then Cindy felt led to offer a class on Esther following Pat's class. Isn't it amazing how without any specific coordination, God is leading us toward the same end. Prayer and Bible study and listening for that still small voice to guide us into the future.

I am excited about this process and the opportunities it will afford. I hope you are too. I am looking forward to hearing all your good ideas for our future ministry together and mapping a plan to accomplish them.



*Blessings,
Pastor Don*

~Holy Week Activities~

**04/13 Palm Sunday -
Easter Cantata “Jesus No Other King”
by Randy Vader & Jay Rouse**



04/17 Maundy Thursday @ 6pm.



Egg Hunt to follow @ Segura’s House



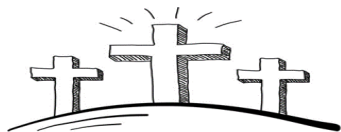
04/18 Good Friday - Prayer Vigil

6:00am. - 12:00pm. - Prayer @ Home

12:00pm.– 6:00pm. - Prayer @ Church



04/20 Easter Breakfast @ 9am.– 10:30am.



Easter Service to follow breakfast

~Outreach & Missions~

**The food pantry suggestion for April
is for peanut butter and canned vegetables.**

The special Easter Offering will be on April 13th & 20th. This offering supports the General Ministries of the church that serve U.S., Canada and around the world.

Please consider joining us in making jump ropes for the Children’s Christmas boxes on Tuesday, April 1st at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. We cut up used t-shirts and braid and tie the end. Easy and fun! This is the first of several items we will be making for the boxes as we meet each month and make some items at home also. This will be in addition to the individual boxes the congregation fills.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Board Report~

The March board meeting was well attended, and committee chairs are busy making plans for many upcoming activities. Please take time to read their articles and plan to participate in upcoming activities or find a place to serve.

Actions taken during the meeting included;

- Approved a recommendation from the Worship Committee to purchase items to care for the handbells and three additional bells. The Finance Committee approved the use of the Lora Endicott Music Memorial to cover this expense.
- Approved adding access, available through our CDM accounting software program Membership Module to allow Pastor Don to use the mobile app. This option will be tested to explore the tools offered and how they might be used. The cost is prorated for the year with a normal fee of \$300 annually.
- The April board meeting date has been changed to April 24 due to the regular meeting date being on Maundy Thursday.
- Bids for the replacement of two heating units for the sanctuary are pending.

Kudos to Jim Stinger and Jamie Haage, Building and Grounds Committee, for all the repairs and maintenance projects they have completed and have planned! Thanks for all your hard work!!

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

~Christian Ed~



We are still looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible School, Worship and Wonder Backup Teacher (training required) and Teen Sunday School Backup Teacher. These are only a few things that we would like help with. If anyone wants to help, please let me know and I'm sure I can find somewhere for you to help!

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will be after the Maundy Thursday evening Service at the Segura's House.



VBS is going to be on June 27th, 28th with a little bit of Sunday Service on the 29th.

Calling all Graduates from High School, College and Continuing Education- we want to celebrate you in May! I need a list of Graduates by Friday, April 25th, 2025.



Summer Camps and Retreats- I have flyers for Faith Adventure Camp thru Disciples of Christ and Camp Lookout here in Taney County. As well as information on an Adult Retreat. Please reach out to me for more information.

James says Thank You for the financial assistance to go to Regional's with his school in March. He had a good experience and is eager to go next year! The 1 act play he was in, as behind the scenes received 6th place.



Rebecka Gillen, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through FEB. 2025

Operating income Feb.	\$18,077.06
Operating expense Feb.	\$13,138.82
Year to date income	\$40,584.41
Year to date expense	\$25,036.50

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Apr. 3	5:30pm.
~Worship	Apr. 8	1:00pm.
~Christian Ed	Apr. 13	After Service
~Outreach	Apr. 14	10:00am.
~Finance	Apr. 22	2:00pm.
~Board	Apr. 24	5:30pm.



~Membership News~

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 20th 9:00am - 10:30am.

Come have some yummy pancakes, sausage, and beverages!

There will be NO April Fellowship Dinner.

The committee in conjunction with the Church Office is working on a new communication system for church notifications.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

APRIL

ALL SUNDAYS

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

~April Birthdays~

Apr. 2 Wilma Springer
 Apr. 3 Rhonda Johnson
 Apr. 3 Kelly Weinstein
 Apr. 7 Annette Sain
 Apr. 8 Kelly Pratt
 Apr. 11 Jana Lindner
 Apr. 15 Carol Turpen
 Apr. 15 Karen Fisher
 Apr. 16 Qorban Tilden
 Apr. 17 Glenda Lewellen
 Apr. 19 Robert Baldwin
 Apr. 19 Sydnee Hay
 Apr. 22 Sandy Rice
 Apr. 28 Lydia Pribble
 Apr. 28 Cindy Baldwin
 Apr. 29 Joe Burns
 Apr. 30 Rosemary Pribble
 Apr. 30 Annika Wydeen



~Anniversaries~

Apr. 1 Rod & Andrea Phillips
 Apr. 7 Vernon & June Doyle
 Apr. 8 Harry & Brenda Wilhoit
 Apr. 11 James & Kristin Lea
 Apr. 22 Paul & Linda Snyder

Serving in April

Worship Leaders

6th ~ Cindy Baldwin
 13th ~ Russ Wydeen
 20th ~ Jamie Haage
 27th ~ Annette Sain

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	3 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm. Women's Bible Study 10:30am.	4	5
6 Animal Shelter donations start Children Handbell Choir during service	7	8 Worship Mtg. 1:00pm.	9 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	10 Women's Bible Study 10:30am.	11	12 Thrift Store Mtg. 3:30pm.
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Easter Cantata Christian Ed Mtg. after service Youth Bells after service <i>Easter Special Offering</i>	14 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	15	16 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	17 Women's Bible Study 10:30am. Maundy Thursday Service 6:00pm. Egg Hunt after service @ Segura's	18 <i>Good Friday</i> Prayer Vigil 6:00am - 6:00pm.	19
20 Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9:00am. - 10:30am. Bells play during service <i>Easter Special Offering</i>	21	22 Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	23 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	24 Women's Bible Study 10:30am. Board Mtg. 5:30pm.	25	26
27 Animal Shelter donations end Youth Bells after service	28	29	30 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.			