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THE SPIRIT



Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

April 2020

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY,

IN LIGHT OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE OF MISSOURI'S RESTRICTIONS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SHELTER-IN-PLACE:

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL SCHEDULED SERVICES AND EVENTS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL APRIL 6th AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN THE MONTH OF APRIL PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL/FACEBOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES, AND WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRS OR YOUR GROUP LEADER AS NECESSARY.



Greetings, Branson Christian Church.

I would like to speak directly to you about church finance and how to cope during this COVID-19 shutdown. We will not be able to collect our usual Sunday morning offering-----and will not have the steady income from our thrift store. However, church expenses continue; therefore, it becomes incumbent upon us all to keep our church fiscally healthy, even as we all endeavor to keep ourselves healthy. I would like to suggest a couple of ways to continue normal giving practices. One, you can simply mail your gift, using the good old US Mail. The address is:

**Branson Christian Church
213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 65616**

Two, you can drop your gift by the church office. Pastor Al has removed the tape off the back of the door that prevented the mail slot from being used. This is located on the door near where the mail box is now, just off the main sidewalk. It was taped up to prevent cold air from entering the office area. The mail slot has a lever you can pull to open-----and close after you put mail in. This is a very safe pass-through.

This precious church family should be commended for faithful giving through the years. I am confident we can get through this together---while keeping our beautiful church sound and well.

Johnnie Groves
Chairman, Finance Committee

From the Board Chair...

The past week we have all hit the pause button as we work through the COVID19 outbreak. As we face this unprecedented circumstance please pray for wisdom and guidance for the church. There are so many uncertainties that planning too far into advance is challenging. Please check your email often to stay up to date on any changes or email the church if you have a question or concern.

This pause provides us with a unique opportunity to think about how we can be creative and reach out to our neighbors, church family and the community. I know many of you are already doing this, but if you know of some need that is not being met contact the church office and maybe there is a way for us to help.

As always, there are many things to be thankful for:

- Pastor Al delivered the Sunday message via Facebook Live.
- At the March 8 congregational meeting the proposal to replace the diamond stained glass window in the sanctuary with one that is more spiritual and meaningful was approved.
- The generosity of two members that donated the projected needed funds for the stained glass project.
- Jan and Ron Bond for their generous gift of time and talent to design and create the new stained glass window. The glass has been ordered and Jan will begin working on the project soon!
- For the church staff who are working from home, as much as possible, to maintain the routine activities of the church.
- For each of you for offering prayerful support to those in need, the church, community and world at this difficult time.

We will continue to keep you informed and updated as this situation unfolds. If you have any concerns or needs please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Al or email the church office. Prayers that everyone stays healthy and safe.

Finally, I will end with a prayer that was shared on the Disciples website.

A Prayer for Unprecedented Times

God of all life and all hope, hear our prayers. As the world grows ever more anxious and fearful may your spirit of comfort and peace be with us. As changes sweep over us, as uncertainty surrounds us, help us to know that you are with us. Always and forever, you are with us, and nothing can separate us from your love. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Jean Mueller



**While we are suspending our physical gathering at this time, we are not suspending our mission!
Join us in our online community gathering at home in the following way:**

JOIN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ON FACEBOOK LIVE!

<http://fb.me/bransonchristianchurch>

If you have a facebook account:

Search for Branson Christian Church - Disciples of Christ.

Once on the page be sure to like and follow the page. Following the page will allow you to get post notifications.



If you do not have a facebook account: Go to your internet address bar and enter the address www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch You may be asked to create an account or log in - you can ignore this or click not now. Different internet search programs (chrome, firefox, etc) may look differently.

Branson Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and By The Way Thrift Store are now on Facebook. Please LIKE and FOLLOW us to get updates on services, events and more. Feel free to share with your family and friends. You can find us at:

Church... <http://fb.me/bransonchristianchurch> Thrift Store... <http://fb.me/bythewaythriftstore>

All tags, posts and comments are subject to review.

(subject to change)

Easter Morning Breakfast

Sunday, April 12th—9am-10:15am In the Fellowship Hall.

**To help or questions: Bobbie Wydeen
417-699-4728 or bobster218@aol.com**

Reminder:

~No Fellowship Dinner in April~

(subject to change)

A Seder Dinner is planned for
April 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Contact Chris Hedenberg at
chrishedenberg54@gmail.com
or **417-973-5342**.

to confirm you will be attending or
to volunteer to help prepare the
meal.



TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

of

By The Way Thrift Shop

Please be advised that the Thrift Shop will follow all mandates set forth by the church and state guidelines of social distancing and shelter in place until otherwise directed. You will be notified when restrictions are lifted, and we are permitted to re-open the store.

Thank you, *Diana Rice*

Pastor Minor's Message of the Month...

Colors for the Christian Year

The Disciples of Christ Denomination celebrate two cycles in the Christian year: The Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Located within each cycle are a preparatory season which is symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. Following each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. You can then understand the sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in this order twice a year.

Purple represents penitence and royalty during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. The color blue is sometimes used to represent hope during the Advent.

Primarily white, and sometimes gold, is used during the Christmas and Easter seasons. White is also used at weddings and baptisms as well as funerals.

Green is the color of growth used in the seasons after the Epiphany and Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

Red is a color of fire symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and also as the color of the blood of Christ. It is also used on ordinations and also during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday.

These colors are based on long traditions but other colors are being used in Christian churches. I hope this may clarify the different colors you see in church and why we use them.

Pastor Minor

I will be providing inspirational talks several times a week starting Wednesday, April 1st. They will be available through the Church Facebook Page. These talks will also be informative of what is happening in our church and community.

FINANCE REPORT

Operating income February	\$ 11,365.50
Operating expense February	\$ 13,394.27
Year to date income	\$ 22,148.24
Year to date expense	\$ 25,157.37

~ April Birthdays ~

3 Rhonda Johnson
3 Kelly Weinstein
7 Annette Sain
8 Henry Wilkerson
11 Jana Lindner
15 Karen Fisher
16 Qorban Tilden
17 Beverly Davis
17 Glenda Lewellen
19 Robert Baldwin
19 Sydnee Hey
22 Sandy Rice
27 Lynn Defebaugh
28 Lydia Pribble
28 Cindy Baldwin
30 Rosemary Pribble
30 Annika Wydeen

~Anniversaries~

1 Rod & Andrea Phillips
7 Vernon & June Doyle
11 James & Kristin Lea



Serving in April Worship

Elders:

Johnie Groves & Julie Groves

Deacons:

Karen Fisher, Jean Mueller
Sandy Poos, Annette Sain

Worship Leaders

5
12 TBD -Easter
19 Cindy Etnyre
26 Laura Vestal

Acolytes

Grace Rein, James Gillen
Easton Rein

OUTREACH~MISSIONS

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

This offering helps organizations within our Church to help make ministry possible in many areas. Through these ministries we change lives. Please give and rejoice in the Spirit of Resurrection to serve the world. Let us rejoice that the Easter offering, through Disciples Mission Fund, makes this ministry – and so much more – possible. Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed and our world is transformed. Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering?

This offering will be received in the month of April.

Rejoice!
Cindy Baldwin

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 NIV



April—Sexual Violence Awareness Month

The Outreach committee had chosen this month for collection of items for the Crisis Center, However, during this time of trial, we feel that collecting and distributing these items is not possible. We will publish a list of needed items at a later date. Be mindful of those who are in domestic and sexual violent situations and do what you can with what you have. Wear a teal ribbon to help make others aware, for example.

Cindy Baldwin



UPCOMING EVENTS

Disciples Women's Fellowship

If we are able to meet with the restrictions of stay at home lifted, our next scheduled meeting will be April 7. Due to the virus situation we were unable to make our visits to members of our congregation. Plans will be put in place once we feel it is safe to call on our members. In the meanwhile, please study Luke 24:13-35 and focus on the “radical hospitality” we are called to do. Keep our church, community, country, and our world in your prayers. Be creative in your endeavors to help the ones in need.

Cindy Baldwin

PRAYER VIGIL

BCC will participate in the church wide Chain of Prayer on Friday, April 10 from 6:00 am - 12:00 am. This is a continuous prayer event where we are joined together in unbroken prayer with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations.

This year due to the shelter in place, we will participate in this prayer vigil from our homes. Please email me with your time slot preference as outlined below and I will email you with your time in order that the chain of prayer remains unbroken. Please respond by **Monday, April 6th** so a schedule can be distributed during the week.

chrishedenberg54@gmail.com

6am—10am

10am—2pm

2pm—6pm

6pm—10pm

10pm—12midnight

Resources are available at:

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/>

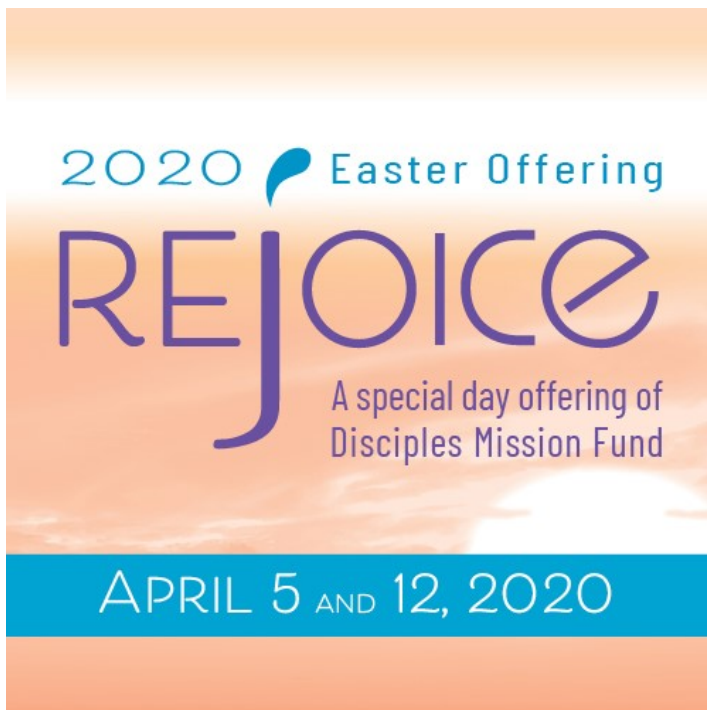
Thank you in advance for your participation in this time of much needed prayer.

Chris Hedenberg, Worship Committee Chair



Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
213 South Commercial Street
Branson, MO 65616

417-334-3453
Fax: 417-334-7344
office@bransonchristianchurch.com
Rev. Allen Minor, Minister



APRIL SERMONS

04-05-20 "Palm Sunday"
Matthew 21:1-11

04-12-20 "The Resurrection"
Matthew 28 1:1-10
(The foundation of the church.)

**04-19-20 "The Descent of Jesus Into the Under-
world"**
Luke 23:39-43
(The three day account of where Jesus went.)

04-26-20 "Heaven or Hell"
Revelation 1:1-3
(The choice we make.)

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THE SPIRIT



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MAY 2020

Pastor Minor's Message of the Month ...

I would like to thank all of you for your patience during this Corona Virus pandemic that has caused so much grief but has also provided our church with ways of handling these types of situations in the future.

It appears that we are close to opening business and church services in Branson, Hollister and the surrounding area. We will be providing you with a plan soon on when and how we will open our church for worship services, Bible classes and other activities.

On behalf of the live stream on the church Facebook page crew, I do want to point out the many hours the team has spent on making our church services online possible. We have learned so much, so fast, and I believe so successfully, I feel I need to lift them up.

More people than we could have imagined have watched our services. The Easter service brought forth 883 views. God has blessed us during this time. On behalf of Branson Christian Church, we thank all of you for your prayers, your spiritual support and your financial support.

May God bless all of you and may God's love be with you.

Pastor Minor



Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020

May Sermons

5/3 "A Stolen Miracle"
Luke 8:40-45
(How Jesus heals the sick.)

5/10 "Hannah"
I Samuel 1:1-7
(Mother's Day)

5/17 "Do You Love Me?"
John 21:15-17
(How to love the Lord.)

5/24 "What is Truth"
John 18:28-38
(Pilate asks Jesus what is truth.)

5/31 "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"
Matthew 6:5-13
(The disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray.)



We are thankful for your continued faithful giving and support during this time when we were unable to gather. The two methods of giving are working quite well—by either dropping your gift through the mail slot in the church office door or mailing it to the church.

Even though we experienced a below average offering in March, (see notes below) many are stepping up and coming through at this difficult time. It is understood too, that some of our precious members are going through financial difficulties due to COVID-19 and unable to contribute at this time. Our prayer is that God will bless each one alike and bring us all through this time, even stronger than before.

Below is the income/expense report ending March 31,2020:

Operating income MARCH	\$ 13,784.84
Operating expense MARCH	\$ 14,685.07
Year to date income	\$ 35,933.08
Year to date expense	\$ 39,842.44

Note:

Operational expenses during March were within normal range because the church was open for part of the month. We anticipate lower operational expenses for the month of April with church facilities being closed during the month.

General Fund operating income does not reflect the \$6,000 designated for the stained glass fund and an expense of \$2,139 for purchase of glass.

Johnie Groves
Finance Chair

The stained glass project is progressing. Below is a picture of the middle panel that is in the final stages of completion. There are many steps to designing the stained glass window including; cutting the glass for the design, applying foil tape to each piece, soldering over the foil to bond the glass together, solder a zinc frame to support the glass on the front and back. Then it is cleaned, a patina is applied to protect the solder and then waxed to a beautiful shine. Just to give you an idea of the time involved in this project, the Bonds have spent almost 400 hours on the project thus far, not counting the nearly 500 hours of design time.

We are blessed beyond measure for the gift they are providing.



From the Board Chair...

As I write this message, I find myself with conflicting emotions. I have tried not to listen to the news often or read the many articles, posts, comments, etc. that can be both encouraging and discouraging, but it is almost unavoidable for some of these things to not infiltrate our personal world. So how do we sort the messages? There are strong feelings on all sides of the pandemic, how it is being handled, how long will our lives be dictated by the virus, what information do we believe to be accurate, what shapes our thoughts/views and the list goes on. Our experiences will be as unique as we are.

It is both a positive and negative pull on our emotions. We see light in the many acts of kindness and appreciation, an outpouring of support for those hurting during this crisis, uplifting stories of how love and concern is expressed for our families and neighbors during this time of separation, sewing machines being dusted off to make masks, selfless acts to minister to the sick, many continuing to work in jobs that put their lives at risk and the overflowing creativity spawned by necessity. And, sadly, the negative that can pull us deep into dark places and can be depressing. Not just negative messages but the sadness we feel for those who are struggling because of the loss of their job and financial security, educating children at home, stress, those who are sick, and dying, alone, can pull on our heartstrings. The messages that are divisive and polarizing that tear us apart at a time when we need each other more than ever, mean spirited acts that hurt us at our core, judgement, blaming, misunderstandings, and simply not listening to one another. So how do we navigate these pulls on our emotions?

I certainly don't have the answer to that question, but I have hope. Hope that we can find peace, understanding and wisdom from the one who loves us unconditionally, the one who is always with us, our God. We can spend time in prayer and meditation, asking God for direction and wisdom. Believing that in this time when our "normal" lives are interrupted that we can, and do, depend on His guidance and find hope. We draw our strength from God and rely on His presence to get through each day and support one another on this journey. Love God, Love your neighbor.

As 2020 began, it was suggested there were 366 opportunities to make a difference. As the New Year began no one expected it to be quite this challenging. Nonetheless, I know that so many of you are rising to the occasion and continuing to find opportunities to serve and make a difference, big or small, they all count. Thank you for being the body of Christ during this time of uncertainty and continuing to express the love of Christ through your words, actions and sharing your gifts. I am blessed to be a part of a community of believers who Love God and Love their neighbors in ways yet to be discovered. I miss you and look forward to seeing you soon.

We were unable to have the April board meeting, but the work of the church continues. Following are some of the highlights:

- Although we were unable to come together during Holy Week and celebrate as planned, we continued the annual prayer chain and joined in the Palm Sunday and Easter services from our homes.
- As you know, our staff, Pastor Al, Ginger, Rod and Annette are continuing to work, mostly from home, and at the church, as necessary. Thanks to each of them for continuing to keep things running as normally as possible.
- Jan and Ron Bond are actively working on the stained-glass window project.
- With the generous gift of time and talent the weekly worship service is being planned and made available via Facebook.
- The church offered our facilities to host a Red Cross Blood Drive coordinated by Pat Davis.
- Thank you to the lawn and garden "Angels" for taking care of the church grounds.
- Our sister church, Ozark Mountain Christian Church, have generously offered to donate Chalice Hymnals, that will replace the current one in use at BCC, along with bibles from their congregation. Please hold them in your prayers as they continue through the transition of selling their building.

As we begin to plan how and when we will gather again in fellowship, I ask for your patience and understanding. We haven't done this before, so as we take the necessary steps for opening the church for worship services and activities, they may look different. Please be in prayer for guidance and wisdom for planning and decisions.

*Blessings,
Jean Mueller*

We are not in the same boat

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of four just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of four saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others are angry with those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12-hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus; some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Unknown author

~ May Birthdays ~

9 Marj Jones
9 Jodi Nelson
13 Jared Lindner
15 Tara Groves
16 John Lea
20 Jim Kelly
23 Tanya Armstrong
23 Matt Sisson
25 Josiah Felder
27 Marlene Henderson
28 Rod Phillips
30 Charie Barton

~Anniversaries~

13 Harold & Christina Baker
20 Jeff & Stacy Eastridge
25 Keith & Judy Adams
25 Larry & Sandy Poos



Serving in May Worship

Worship Leaders

3 Laura Vestal
10 Chris Hedenberg
17 Jamie Haage
24
31

Membership

The May Fellowship Dinner has been cancelled.

The committee is looking at possibly having some small group gatherings and are exploring a couple of ideas. Please watch for updates!

Thanks, Bobbie



Sharing the joy of the Lord in their Baptism in the Community of Faith on April 10, 2020.

James Alexander Gillen

Grace Allyn Rein

Katherine Elizabeth Linn

Lucas Kyan Linn

Teresita Romero Goff

William Harold Nesbit

²⁶⁻²⁷ You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This shows that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:27 (ERV)

By The Way Thrift Shop

The Thrift Store will remain closed until the volunteer staff feels safe to return. Most of our volunteers and their family members are in the most vulnerable age group for COVID-19 and have voiced their concern about returning too soon. The contribution the store makes to the church and missions is understood and it deeply saddens us that this is the first time in 13 years of operation that no revenue has been generated.

When the store was closed in March due to the virus outbreak, we were preparing to change from winter to spring merchandise. With the sudden need to close this did not happen, so it will be an enormous task to make the change before we can open for business again. We would ask those of you who have been busy cleaning and have items to donate to hold on to them until we have time to make the necessary seasonal changes. We will need all the space in the backroom to sort and prepare for reopening the store. Thank you for your support. We give God the praise and glory for leading us in this difficult time. His presence is felt in the thrift store mission.





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213 South Commercial Street
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Office: 417-334-3453
Fax: 417-334-7344
office@bransonchristianchurch.com
Rev. Allen Minor, Minister



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING MAY 31 AND JUNE 7

2020
PENTECOST OFFERING

Celebrating
1000
new churches...
and counting!

SUNDAYS MAY 31 AND JUNE 7

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently the board met to discuss reopening the church for in-person services. Giving consideration to the guidance provided by state and local officials regarding COVID-19 the decision was made to reopen on Sunday, May 31. To manage the six (6) feet distancing requirement there will be changes to how we “normally” do things. Your patience and understanding are appreciated as we sort through how to best meet the guidelines while providing a safe and healthy environment for you to attend church.

On Sunday, May 31, the church will reopen for in-person worship service, only. All other Sunday morning activities will be suspended at this time including, church school, coffee/social time, Worship and Wonder, choir and bread for visitors.

When you arrive please enter through the Narthex doors, all other doors will remain locked and used for emergency exit only. Just a reminder, there are four handicap parking spaces near the Narthex doors and Liberty Plaza offers a ramp for easy access. The doors will open at 10:25, with one person or family entering at a time, maintaining the six (6) feet distance and directed to seating. Pews will be marked to allow for proper distancing. At the end of the service the congregation will be dismissed, one row at a time, through the Narthex doors.

Communion and Offering will be a bit different. At this time, elders and deacons will not participating with the usual duties, but may be asked to offer support in other ways. We will not be passing the communion or offering trays, instead you will pick up an individual prefilled communion as you enter and offering will be deposited in a box as you exit the sanctuary or a new online option, Givelify that will be announced soon.

Other planning notes....there will only be access to the Narthex restroom during the service, the water fountain will not be accessible so feel free to bring water, if needed; it will be your personal choice to wear a mask as they are not required, and as we have been reminded often to refrain from shaking hands, hugging or standing too close to others. There will be some changes to the order of worship that will be explained before the service.

The service will continue to be recorded for those who choose not to attend in-person services or for those who have discovered Branson Christian Church during our weekly online presence. Because editing the service is very time consuming it will be posted, unedited, as recorded. Each Sunday the service will be posted and available for viewing on Facebook at 6:00 pm.

We are looking forward to gathering again in the fellowship of Christ. Although these changes are not what we hoped for, it is a place to begin worshipping together again. Again, your patience and mercy are requested as we try to navigate this uncharted path. We have missed seeing one another and hopefully these changes will only have to be followed a short time. We are in this together as brothers and sisters in Christ!

Blessings,

Jean

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THE SPIRIT



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JUNE 2020

Pastor Minor's Message of the Month ...

I would like to thank all of you for your patience during the Corona Virus pandemic. We have opened the church for in-house worship service on Sunday, May 31st.

May 31st is the Day of Pentecost 2020, representing in biblical history the day the church began. As such, we reopened our church on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate our church resuming in-house worship again. We will do our best to observe the Governor's mandate to maintain six feet of physical distancing. This will be a very difficult thing to do and I hope you will understand and help us as we go forth.

Hopefully, all of these procedures will eventually end, but we do not know when that will be. Our worship service will be different for now, and may change from week to week depending on what the future brings. We will continue to bring forth the best service possible. The dedicated group of people responsible for filming, editing and posting to Facebook provided a great service to our community and surrounding areas. We averaged almost 500 views overall for our services during this time.

We will still film our service; however, we will not be showing it at 10:45 am. We hope to have it ready to be viewed by 6:00 pm. Once it is on our Facebook page, it will remain there and can be viewed at any time.

May God bless all of you and may God's love be with you.

Pastor Minor

JUNE Sermons

6/7 "Restoring Broken Relationships"
Matthew 5:23-24
(Solving unresolved conflict.)

6/14 "Whose Will is It?"
Luke 22:39-42
(Being obedient to God.)

6/21 "A Father's Love"
Luke 15:11-16
(How God forgives us.)

6-28 "Dealing with Pain"
II Corinthians 4:7-18
(A different understanding of pain.)



From the Board Chair...

The highlights from the May board meeting were mostly related to planning for the reopening of in-person worship services which was approved to begin May 31. In addition, the board approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee to engage with Givelify, an online giving option. Because normal activities are temporarily suspended committee reports and plans are on hold. We will look forward to when things get back to somewhat normalcy. Each board meeting offers an opportunity for board members to acknowledge someone with a “kudo”. There were so many mentioned it was difficult to keep track so will share what I managed to jot down. Many of those present expressed appreciation to the individuals who gave countless hours of planning, preparing and participating the weekly online worship services. To those who shared their talent and expertise behind the scenes are to be commended for their sacrifice of time and energy to quickly learn and implement the technology that offered this opportunity. Kudos to Pastor Al, Chris Armstrong, Russ Wydeen, Stacy Eastridge, Rod Phillips, Tanya Armstrong, Ginger Faragher, Annette Sain, and to those who served as worship leaders, scripture readers and provided special music. Also to Johnie Groves for researching the online giving platform, Givelify. Thanks to the congregation for your faithfulness and all the acts of love and kindness that you have offered during this time. Now we look forward to begin meeting in-person again. Our prayers are lifted up for thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for the blessings of being a part of a loving community.



Ozark Mountain Christian Church (OMCC) is in the process of finalizing the sale of their property and will no longer be meeting as OMCC. We know many of the members of our sister church through their participation in Bible Study classes and shared services, and we welcome them to Branson Christian Church. Please extend a heartfelt welcome to our brothers and sisters in Christ as they make this transition. It will be exciting to get better acquainted and discover where they continue to share their passion for serving and bless us with their love and devotion to God. The members have been busy the past few weeks cleaning, sorting and distributing items from the church. BCC has been the recipient of some of those items. They have graciously donated the Chalice Hymnals (that will replace the hymnal we currently use) Bibles, lots and lots of office supplies, a park bench, and items for the thrift store. They also provided memorabilia to add to BCC archives as a remembrance of our long standing relationship. Please join in expressing our heartfelt appreciation for their generosity and welcome them in the love of our Lord to BCC.

Jean Mueller



From:

Branson Christian Church Finance Committee

Thank you, Branson Christian Church, for your generous giving during this difficult time. It is true that we have fallen behind a bit---but many of you have stepped up to the plate and took up a lot of slack. You are to be commended---- and hopefully you will be able to give your offering in person before another sabbath day passes. There may be some of you who are still a little uncomfortable about attending church-----in that case you can still continue to either mail your gift or drop it through the slot in the front door of the church office. Also, I would like to announce to you that we now have a new platform in which you can donate to the church. In our last board meeting, the board unanimously approved a recommendation from the finance committee that the church open an account

with an on-line giving organization called "Givelify". Since that meeting, an account has been successfully opened, and if you would like to take advantage of this new method just get on-line and download the Givelify App. You can make donations in seconds from your mobile device using a credit card. The first donation is a bit more complicated-----you must set up your own personal account with them----but from that time forward it's just three clicks and you're done. After each donation, you will receive an email with the receipt for the gift. This is just one more avenue for folks to give---it will make things more convenient for several people. As a matter of fact, we are already receiving donations online.

Hope to see you very soon,
Johnie Groves, Finance Committee Chairman

FINANCE REPORT

Operating income April	\$ 12,232.47
Operating expense April	\$ 10,319.86
Year to date income	\$ 48,165.55
Year to date expense	\$ 50,162.30

Serving in JUNE Worship

Worship Leaders

- 7 David Faragher
- 14 Johnnie Groves
- 21
- 28

ATTENTION ALL THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

A meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12th at 10:00am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to discuss concerns, thoughts and suggestions regarding when to reopen the thrift store.

Diana Rice

~ June Birthdays ~

- 1 Teena Sims
- 1 Kathy Kauffman
- 2 June Doyle
- 6 Juliana Tilden
- 7 Andrea Phillips
- 7 Connie Yeutter
- 9 John Rinehart
- 11 Doris Groves
- 12 Lucy Johnson
- 14 Ruth Griffin
- 16 Easton Rein
- 17 Evan Kauffman
- 23 Laura Vestal
- 28 Joyce Dewell
- 29 David Faragher
- 30 Linda Endicott

~Anniversaries~

- 1 John & Gayle Rinehart
- 1 Terry & Karen Fisher
- 11 Jerry & Connie Yeutter
- 21 Roger & Kathy Kauffman
- 23 Mark & Jana Lindner



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417-334-3453
Fax: 417-334-7344
office@bransonchristianchurch.com
Rev. Allen Minor, Minister



2020 PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

2020
PENTECOST OFFERING

Celebrating

1000

new churches...
and counting!

SUNDAYS MAY 31 AND JUNE 7



JULY

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	29	30	1 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	2 RED Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm. 	3	4 Independence  <u>Day</u>
5 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	6	7	8 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	9	10	11
12 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	13	14 6:00 pm. Finance Com. Mtg	15 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	16 6:00 pm. Board Meeting	17	18
19 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	20	21	22 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	23	24	25
26 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	27	28	29 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	30	31	1 st August

*9:30 a.m. Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time – 10:45 a.m. Worship – ALL SUNDAYS

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If you prefer not to have your photo online, you may make that known by notifying the church office.**

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through May 2020

Operating income MAY	\$11,928.06
Operating expense MAY	\$11,070.65
Year to date income	\$60,093.61
Year to date expense	\$61,232.95

~ July Birthdays ~

3 Bob Hubbard
6 Mary Banks Carr
8 Brynna Howell (Lindner)
8 Terry Fisher
12 Mary Holmes
16 Bill Burnett
22 Amy Delaney (Endicott)
28 Phil Endicott

~Anniversaries~

25th Phil & Linda Endicott

Serving in JULY Worship

Worship Leaders

5 Cindy Baldwin
12 Pat Davis
19
26 David Faragher

Handbell Choir Call....

We are gearing up for handbells. I would like to resume practice in August. Please call or email Stacy if you are still interested in handbells or if you would like to join.

Stacy Eastridge: 417-239-4477
Shortround9276@gmail.com

Dear Sojourners,

I wanted to update you on my Mission plans. Due to the Coronavirus, I was not able to use the money that some of you gave (or bought soup or desserts) for my proposed mission trip and my plan to donate a guitar in Dominican Republic, as the trip was cancelled.

I still plan to use the money for a future mission trip, hopefully in the spring of 2021.

Thank you for your generosity and please be assured I plan to use it eventually in the mission field, or I could return it to you if you wish.

You can reach me through my email:

adlphillips67@gmail.com or through Rod's
email: rodphil549@gmail.com.

Gratefully,
Andrea Phillips

~Thrift Store Update~

Thrift Store volunteers met recently to discuss plans for reopening. The consensus was for the Thrift Store to remain closed due to the potential risk associated with COVID-19. Several concerns were shared including the cleaning process, handling/picking up donated items, the large number of customers from out of the area who visit the store and filling the schedule. A couple of regular volunteers are unable to continue working due to illness, leaving several days uncovered. They decided to meet again in August to reassess the situation.

Also at the meeting, a letter of resignation was presented from Diana Rice and Judy Adams. Diana has served as the committee chair and supervisor since the store opened and Judy has been responsible for scheduling for over 10 years. Their resignations were accepted with regret. Both ladies have given more time than can be calculated through their years of service and have provided leadership that resulted in a very successful church ministry. Replacements for these positions will be planned in collaboration with Thrift Store volunteers. Please join in thanking them for their dedication and contribution of time and talents to lead this worthwhile ministry.

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THE SPIRIT



Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

AUGUST 2020

Pastor Minor's Message of the Month ...

The Renewal of Our Mind

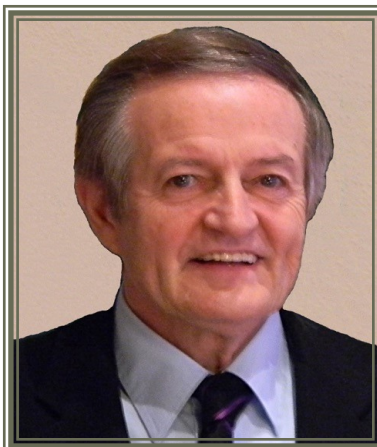
Can a person really change? The answer is yes. Everyone can change. It is just a matter of changing how we think. God calls us to be transformed by the renewal of our mind. What we think about determines who we are. The best way to remember this is by silently thinking to ourselves this very strong thought: "Where my focus goes, my energy flows."

If we focus our thinking on positive things we get positive results. If we focus our thinking on negative things we get negative results. For example, the more we focus on God's love for us the more we will feel joy. The more we focus on the news of the Corona Virus, the economy, racism, etc., the more we will feel anxiety. The more we focus on an issue, the more we will get of it. This sounds easy but can be very difficult to do without God helping us. God knows our thoughts. Here is what the Psalmist tells us in Psalm 139:23, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."

God knows our thoughts and is ready to help us when we call upon Him for help. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:6, "The mind controlled by the sinful nature is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." It is very hard to control negative thoughts that course through our mind by trying harder not to think of them; however, you can learn to set your mind. God has given us the power to choose what we think about. We can choose to direct our thoughts for good or bad. The Bible tells us in Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father."

May we set our mind on the presence and goodness of God who is always in our lives. We can change. God wants us to and God will help us when we call upon Him.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



AUGUST SERMONS

8/2 "The Renewal of Our Mind"
Romans 8:5-11
(How God helps us to control our thoughts.)

8/9 "The Power Not to Give Up"
2 Timothy 4:1-8
(Staying strong through the Corona Virus)

8/16 "The Promises of God"
2 Timothy 1:1-4
(Believing what God has promised us)

8/23 "How Can We Be Patient in Today's World?"
James 5:7-12
(Dealing w/ sick and tired of being sick and tired.)

8/30 "Keeping the Faith in a Mixed Up World"
James 1:19-20
(Keeping faith when the world seems out of control)

Branson Christian Church Staff 2020

Rev. Dr. Allen Minor ~ Senior Minister
Jackie Brown ~ Office Admin.
Rod Phillips ~ Music Director
Annette Sain ~ Custodial Services

Board Officers 2020

Board Chair ~ Jean Mueller
Vice Chair ~ Clint Cross
Treasurer ~ Annette Sain
Secretary ~ Sandy Rice
Financial Secretary ~ Johnie Groves

From the Board Chair...

A brief overview of the July board meeting:

~ The board approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee to change phone/internet services from CenturyLink to Suddenlink. There will be some cost savings and improved internet connection.

~ The board approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee for a fundraising project presented by the Vision Committee. The fundraiser will provide a "plumbing tree" placed in the church to display items needed to complete the Handicapped Accessible Restroom project that had been previously approved.

~The board approved a Credit Card Policy and Procedure presented by the Finance Committee. This policy/procedure provides guidance for managing and tracking of church issued credit cards.

~The board approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee for a revised Finance Committee Policy and Procedure. This was a revision/update of the current policy written and approved in 2012.

~ A Key Policy was presented and approved by the board. This policy and procedure provides for the safety and security of church buildings and guidance for the distribution and management of keys for all church property.

~The Finance Committee presented a recommendation regarding the distribution of funds received as a gift from Ozark Mountain Christian Church. Following much discussion it was suggested that the Finance Committee consider some of the suggestions and present a recommendation at the August meeting.

A devotion on hope.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.... 1 Corinthians 13:13

It is interesting to notice how the Apostle Paul sandwiches hope between faith and love. Could it not be that Paul so put them in this order because of the relationship that hope has to faith and love? Faith precedes hope, but hope is so closely related to faith, that at times it is impossible to separate the two. One writer of Scripture defined faith, saying that it is "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). When you have faith in a person, hope is born in your soul. Faith in God produces a hope that rescues you from the despair of the most difficult circumstances. When you trust God to answer your prayer, hope is gradually born in your soul--hope that cannot be defeated.

The message of the Gospel is a simple one that still produces hope in a hopeless world: "God so loved the world that He gave..." In short, it tells us that you are never so far from the cross that you cannot find a lasting hope. The Scripture says that hope which comes as the result of a personal experience with Christ is an anchor to your soul. Hope links you to God as an anchor holds a ship in angry waters.

Sometimes we can feel as though we are being tossed about in troubled waters, but so thankful for the anchor of hope that God provides to see us through these difficult times.

AUGUST

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	27	28	29 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	30	31	1
2 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	3 DPS Mtg. 10:30-12	4 Worship Committee Mtg. 10:00 am	5 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	6	7	8
9 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	10	11	12 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	13	14	15
16 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	17 DPS Mtg. 10:30-12	18 6:00 pm. Finance Com. Mtg	19 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	20 6:00 pm. Board Meeting	21	22
23 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	24 	25	26 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	27	28	29
30 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	31					

*9:30 a.m. Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time – 10:45 a.m. Worship – ALL SUNDAYS

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FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through June 2020

Operating income JUNE	\$16,800.21
Operating expense JUNE	\$ 9,879.75
Year to date income	\$76,893.82
Year to date expense	\$71,112.70

~ August Birthdays ~

Larry Pribble	Aug. 4th
Cameron Pruitt	Aug. 7th
Grant Lindner	Aug. 8th
Lea Moore	Aug. 8th
Amanda Sain	Aug. 13th
Keith Nelson	Aug. 19th
Nancy Burke	Aug. 23rd
Harold Nesbit	Aug. 24th
Sara Pascucci (Endicott)	Aug. 27th
Malachi Felder	Aug. 29th

~ Anniversaries ~

Jimmy Dan & Lydia Pribble - Aug. 7th

Hal & Joyce Dewell - Aug. 15th

Keith & Jody Nelson - Aug. 19th

John & Lucy Johnson - Aug. 25th

Larry & Rosemary Pribble - Aug. 30th

Kudos:

- Jerry Yeutter for taking care of the church garden and volunteering to mow the church yard weekly.
- To all who have graciously served as Worship Leaders during in the past few months.
- Bobbie Wydeen for organizing the "drive by" birthday celebrations for Bob Hubbard and Mary Holmes.
- To everyone who has contributed above and beyond during these trying times to support the church in many ways.

92nd Birthday - Special Thank You



The drive by parade was Awesome!
It was so nice to see good friends. Thank you for all of the cards and posters.
Thank you Rod, for the music. Thank you to all of you for the memories and for being there for me. I will always remember the day.
It is good to be me!
Love you all,
Bob



Serving in August Worship

Worship Leaders

2 nd	Linda Endicott
9 th	Cindy Baldwin
16 th	Annette Sain
23 rd	Tanya Armstrong
30 th	Judy Adams

G to the J

Gratitude takes three forms:

A feeling in the heart, an expression in words and a giving in return.....unknown

Ginger has been the gratitude of our administrative operations more than once now and always takes on the heart of our church family with our daily operations. You cannot help but feel the love of Christ in your interactions with her no matter what the need or desire presented. We gratefully acknowledge her devotion to our church family and ministry. We wish Ginger and David well in their future days together and the joy they will share and the continued joy they will share with our church family.

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.....Lao Tzu

We welcome Jackie Brown to our administrative operations with open arms of kindness! Jackie not only is one of our elite performer's in the city, but brings with her organizational and administrative skills from a variety of customer service positions with in the hospitality and entertainment industry. Jackie and her son Jaren are active at the First Baptist Church and where she is focused on keeping her son Jaren involved in the development of his life of Christ. We can expect to see Jackie around monthly as she enjoys cooking so I would look for her on the third Sunday of the month when we resume our normal schedule. In the meantime, don't be surprised if she happens to show up with Jamie Haage on a Sunday morning!

Appreciation is the heart's memory.....unknown

We are so appreciative and thankful for the opportunity to have these wonder ladies, Ginger and Jackie to be apart of our lives and the ministry of the church. We wish them both well and are thankful of the blessing they provide us.

The Church Office is Open: *Monday-Wednesday 9A-2P and Thursday 9A-Noon*

Clint Cross, *Vice Chair*

Please let me know if you can volunteer for Worship Leader in the coming months. Leaders are needed for all of the fall months.

The Worship Committee will be scheduling a meeting to plan the rest of the year in August and are in need of members. If you would like to join the group or lead as Worship Leader for September, October, November or December please let me know either by e mail at **chrishedenberg54@gmail.com** or call me at **417-973-5342**.
Thanks~ Chris

Bible Classes and Dead Philosopher's Society Group resumes!

We are starting the **Dead Philosopher's Society** classes up again on August 3rd. Classes are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 10:30 until noon. These classes are for anyone who would like to come. Subjects such as, "What is the meaning of life," or "Why is there evil in the world," etc. are discussed and debated and is a really different yet enjoyable time. These classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall and social distancing is observed.

The regular **Bible Class** is meeting every Wednesday from 10:30 to noon. Social distancing is also observed. All classes at Branson Christian Church are open to anyone in the church or the community.



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Church Picnic

Sunday, September 27th *(Following Sunday service)*

Table Rock State Park Pavillion

5272 State Hwy 165

Branson, MO 65616



Games and
Activities
for ALL !!

Hamburgers, Brats, Hotdogs, with the fixin's, and beverages are provided.
Please bring a dish to pass.

Hope to see everyone there!

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THE SPIRIT



Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

September 2020

Pastor Minor's Message of the Month ...

Labor Day

September 7th is Labor Day, but what exactly is it, and why do we celebrate it?

In the late 1800's, during the Industrial Revolution, the average American worked 12 hour days and 7 days a week in order to try and make a decent living. History tells us that despite restrictions in some states, children as young as five or six worked in factories earning a fraction of what adults made. (Child Labor Laws today prevent this horrendous situation from ever happening again.) Labor unions began to organize to protest the long hours and inadequate wages and force employers to renegotiate less hours and more pay. As we are seeing today, many of these events became extremely violent, e.g., the "Haymarket Riot," of 1886 in which several police officers were killed.

On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers marched from the City Hall to the Union Square in New York City, celebrating the first Labor Day parade in United States history. The idea of a national "workingmen's holiday," which would be celebrated on the first Monday in September, and many states passed registration for it. Twelve years later, on May 11, 1894, the workers of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago declared a strike in protest of wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. There were years of unrest until on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act on June 28, 1968, organized several holidays to make sure they were always celebrated on a Monday to give workers a 3-day weekend.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

See you in church~

Pastor Minor



SEPTEMBER SERMONS

9/6 "Hope"
John 4:1-7
(Keeping hope alive.)

9/13 "Love"
Matthew 22:34-40
(The greatest fruit of the spirit.)

9/20 "Joy"
Philippians 4:1-4
(Our relationship with Christ.)

9/27 "Peace"
John 14:25-31
(The experience of God's peace.)

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Rod Phillips ~ Music Director

Annette Sain ~ Custodial Services

Board Officers 2020

Board Chair ~ Jean Mueller

Vice Chair ~ Clint Cross

Treasurer ~ Annette Sain

Secretary ~ Sandy Rice

Financial Secretary ~ Johnie Groves

From the Board Chair...

A brief overview of the July board meeting:

Board meeting highlights:

The Finance Committee will be sending budget worksheets to committee chairs to complete for the 2021 budget planning process.

The Finance Committee presented a revised proposal for the distribution of the \$40,000 gift from Ozark Mountain Christian Church as requested at the July board meeting. The following proposal was presented and approved:

- \$20,000 will be placed in a designated account for emergency use only. The funds will be earmarked for unexpected expenses that are above and beyond the budget. Such as: major expense to replace an air conditioner, roof leaks or electrical issues, etc.
- \$8,000 is designated to be placed in the By the Way Thrift Store account and shown as income to make up for lost revenue due to the closure of the shop during COVID 19.
- \$8,000 is designated to be added to the existing Building Fund account. These funds can be used for building projects, with board approval.
- \$4,000 is designated for the purpose of identifying an outreach project. The Outreach Committee will be responsible for identifying a need, cause or causes that will benefit and make a difference in the local community within the next six months.

A proposal was presented and approved for installation of a new copy machine for the office.

- The proposal from Corporate Business Systems (our current provider) will provide a new Canon copier that will meet the needs of operation for the church. The proposal details include: 60 month lease agreement; decreased per copy cost; no annual service fee; all service, toner, parts and labor at no charge for the duration of the lease; updated system and functions compatible with the computer operating system; training and support and a savings of \$964.00 annually. Installation will occur within the next few weeks.

The Vision Committee will begin planning for the ADA complaint restroom remodel soon. Fundraising efforts have reached over half the funds projected for the remodel and will continue until the \$15,000 goal is achieved.

The Worship Committee suggested reverting to the former order of worship beginning in September. Elders and Deacons will be contacted to determine their level of participation and based on their response the consensus was to move forward with the change. More information will be shared, as available.

Kudos:

- Sandy Rice for serving as Board Secretary and Jim Rice as Trustee...they will be moving to Texas in the next few weeks and will be missed.
- Ginger Faragher for support and training of the new Administrative Assistant, Jackie Brown.



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study Worship Committee Mtg. 6pm	3	4	5
6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7 DPS Mtg. 10:30-12 LABOR DAY	8	9 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	10	11 PATRIOT DAY	12
13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	14	15 6:00 pm. Finance Com. Mtg	16 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	17 6:00 pm. Board Meeting	18	19
20 Stained Glass dedication service  Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	21 DPS Mtg. 10:30-12	22	23 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study	24	25	26
27 Reconciliation Special Offering Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	28	29	30 10:30 am – 12:00 Bible Study			

*9:30 a.m. Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time – 10:45 a.m. Worship – ALL SUNDAYS

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If you prefer not to have your photo online, you may make that known by notifying the church office.**

90th Birthday Celebration!

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through June 2020

Operating income JULY	\$12,512.51
Operating expense JULY	\$ 11,124.59
Year to date income	\$89,406.33
Year to date expense	\$82,237.29



We want to say thank you for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls we received after the passing of my brother,

Kenneth Swisher. They were greatly appreciated.

In Christian love,
June and Vernon Doyle

~ September Birthdays ~

Stacy Eastridge	Sept. 2nd
Joseph Baldwin	Sept. 3 rd
Camille Phillips	Sept. 3 rd
Michael Lotten	Sept. 3 rd
Madison York	Sept. 7 th
Rick Turpen	Sept. 8th
John Johnson	Sept. 16th
Austin McCray	Sept. 17th
Don Rice	Sept. 17th
Riley Lindner	Sept. 18th
Vernon Doyle	Sept. 19th
Harold Baker	Sept. 28th
David Gauwitz	Sept. 30th

~ Anniversaries ~

Kevin & Sarah Rein	Sept. 10 th
Jim & Dorothy Polk	Sept. 11th

Let's Decorate the Plumbing Tree

If you would like to support the fundraising project to remodel the Fellowship Hall restroom to be ADA compliant there are several ways to participate:

- In the Narthex, select an item (ornament) that you would like to purchase, put it on the tree and write your information on the yellow pad.
- Visit www.bransonchristianchurch.com to donate by selecting the online giving option "Givelfy" and note in the memo "Restroom Renovation".
- Drop your check in the offering box in the Narthex or send it to the church office and note in memo "Restroom Renovation".

The fundraising goal is \$15,000 and with the generosity of many we have already reached the halfway point of the goal! Let's keep decorating the tree and reach our goal by the end of September! Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will make a positive difference for the church.

Serving in August Worship

Worship Leaders

6th	Chris Hedenberg
13th	Cindy Baldwin
20th	Jean Mueller
27th	Janet Minor

• welcome •
NEW MEMBERS

~Marjorie Herington

~Jolene Herington

~Kathy Wood

~Cindy & Robert Baldwin



Stained Glass Update

The stained glass project has been completed and installation plans are underway. The work to replace the stained glass window will commence on September 7th with plans to be completed and a **dedication service held on September 20th**. This will be a major undertaking to complete in this timeframe, but that is the goal. If any issues arise during installation that would postpone the dedication service you will be notified via email.

Due to the intricate process required to remove and install the stained glass we are kindly asking that you do not stop by while the work is underway. This is very important because any distraction could become a safety issue for the workers or potentially damage the stained glass. The team working to make this gift a reality are experienced and trust that all will go well, but also are aware of potential risk. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding of this request.

We are looking forward to revealing this inspirational work of art and ask that you hold those working on the installation in prayer.

The Worship Committee met on August 4, 2020, where several things were discussed. If you would like to join the committee, please come to our next meeting on **Wednesday, September 2nd at 6pm** at the church. We will be discussing the budget for our committee for the next year and other planning as well.

If you would like to be a Worship Leader in the coming months, please let me know, and I will add you to my list. Leaders are always needed!

Please email at **chrishedenberg54@gmail.com** or call me at **417-973-5342**.

Thanks~ Chris Hedenberg -
(Worship Committee Chairman)

Handbells

We will be getting handbells started up again soon! If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Stacy at **417-239-4477** or **shortround9276@gmail.com**

Worship and Wonder begins September 6!

The children will exit at the appropriate time during regular worship service and will be escorted to the Worship and Wonder room for children.



“FROM THE THRIFT STORE:

The decision not to reopen the Thrift Store at the present time was made following the discussion with the volunteers. Health concerns were expressed by the volunteers due to the COVID 19 issues. Even though it is the desire of each volunteer to reopen and continue the mission of the thrift store, now does not seem to be the right time. We will meet again in December to discuss reopening possibilities after the first of the year.

Due to the volunteers that will not be returning when we do reopen, the thrift store will be very short handed. I am asking each one of our members of the church to please be in prayer that new volunteers will come forward and offer their time and talents so we will be able to continue operating. The thrift store is very important to the church and we are looking forward to the fellowships that we have missed with each other during these extreme times.

Thank you, Diana Rice”



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THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

October 2020



Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch
or on our website at www.branonchristianchurch.com

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OCTOBER SERMONS

- 10/4 - Johnie Groves**
"Clay"
Isaiah 64:8
- 10/11- Johnie Groves**
"Clarity"
Revelation 22:1
- 10/18- Pastor Allen Minor**
"Long Suffering"
2 Peter 3:1-9
(Understanding the patience of God)
- 10/25- Pastor Allen Minor**
"Kindness"
Ephesians 4:29-32
(An inner and divine quality of a Christian)

Cards and Letters

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY LIST

It is time to update BCC Homebound Ministry list. Sadly for us, some of our BCC church family members have been called Home. If you, or someone you know, would like to have your name added to this list, please let us know. We try to visit in your home, or if you prefer to just have phone calls and cards, we can do that as well. May you feel God's love and comfort during this difficult time.

Judy Adams and Cindy Baldwin

We are happy to announce the birth of the newest member of our family! Our grandson, Louis Philip Pascucci, was born September 1 in Raleigh, NC. Mom, (our daughter Sara), Dad (Lou), 3year old sister Ella, and Baby Lou are all doing well. We were able to be there during his first week at home and acknowledge the sweet blessing they are to our lives. We want to say how much we appreciate the history of our family at BCC. Thank you to our longtime friends here for nurturing our daughters, Amy and Sara, in their growing up years and to all of you for your part in helping our more recent years here to be a time of continued fulfillment, growth and challenge.

Blessings to you all!
 The Endicotts

There's something about Autumn that wakes up our senses and reminds us to live.



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 Jackie Brown - Office Admin
 Rod Phillips - Music Director
 Annette Sain - Custodial Services
Office Hours: Mon -Wed 9am-2pm
 Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2020

Jean Mueller - Board Chair
 Clint Cross - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Sandy Rice - Secretary
 Johnie Groves - Financial Secretary

SPECIAL THANKS

Our family would like to thank everyone for all of the calls, cards and prayers you have given us with the loss of our dad and uncle. We know that he was greatly loved by all of you.

*God Bless you all,
 The Hubbards
 (Tom, Penny, Nancy, and Linda)*



In Loving Memory of

Robert T. "Bob" Hubbard

July 3, 1928 – September 7, 2020

~Memorial donations may be made to~

Branson Christian Church

213 S. Commercial St.
 Branson, MO 65616

Christian Action Ministries

610 S. 6th St. Suite 102
 Branson, MO 65616

Announcements



Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting

Please join us for a ribbon cutting in front of the church to celebrate our new membership in Branson/ Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, October 22 at 10:00am.



We will be getting handbells started up again soon!

If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Stacy at 417-239-4477 or shortround9276@gmail.com

FYI....

There is a mail drop inside
on the wall outside
the church office door
for your convenience
outside office hours.



Light a Candle for Children: Love Letters to Camp —2020



September 21st — October 21st
Below is the link to the blog page
for updates and more information.

<http://lightacandle.blogspot.com>

Pastor Minor's Message of the Month



Is it Fall or Autumn?



Fall and Autumn are both interchangeable. It is the season of pumpkin spice and everything nice; football and wonderful weather, but why do we prefer to say "fall" far more than "autumn?"

Both words were known as "harvest" which is the earliest name for this season, and both stem from Britain. During the 1800's, American English and British English made the unofficial word of choice for each nation which still stands today: fall is the choice for Americans and autumn for Britain.

In America, fall likely comes from the, "falling of leaves," or perhaps from daylight savings time of "spring ahead, fall forward." No one seems to know for sure but what everyone does know is how beautiful the leaves become.

Why do the leaves change to such beautiful colors? There is a transformation process which changes the leaves from green to blazing reds, yellows, and orange. This is due to the pigmentation in the leaves. This pigment is called chlorophyll which aids the process of photosynthesis. Leaves contain other pigments as well but the main theme is a transformation that takes place.

The Bible tells us that there is a transformation that takes place when we decide to make Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. The Bible says we are to be transformed by the, "renewing of our mind." We emerge as the people God has made us to be. The nine fruit of the Spirit describe what that process looks like in Galatians 5:22, 23: "Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

See you in church,

Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

The new stained glass window dedication service was celebrated on September 27 with word, music, prayer and meditation following the theme, “Come, Follow Me”.

We are most grateful to Jan and Ron Bond for giving the church this wonderful gift. They have generously given of their time and talent of over 1,400 hours; creating, designing, planning and piecing this magnificent work art together. Their gift is given with their love, conviction and obedience to follow Jesus and share His message with all who are inspired by this work.

It is also with grateful hearts that we thank Kenny Redmon, Jan’s son, who expertly led the team of church volunteers to remove the existing stained glass diamond and install the new window.

The diamond has been a part of the church since the sanctuary was completed in 1957 and is now beautifully displayed to honor its historical significance in the room adjacent to the sanctuary. The new window was carefully installed in a place of prominence for those who join in worship to find inspiration from the extended hand of Jesus, to “Come, Follow Me”.

From the beginning of this venture, just one year ago, there have been so many people involved to make it become a reality. From those who shared ideas, provided financial support, offered prayers, assisted with the removal of the existing and installation of the new stained glass window. It was truly a team effort with God leading the way. Thanks to each of you for your support and time.

We give God the glory and praise for this gift.

Board meeting highlights:

~The board voted to accept an invitation to become a member of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. We are thankful to Janet Minor for the generous gift of covering the annual membership fee.

~The Nominating Committee was appointed including -Johnie Groves, Clint Cross, Glenda Lewellen, Cindy Baldwin and Ginger Faragher. They will be contacting members to fill the slate of officers, elders and deacons during the next few weeks. The slate will be presented at the October board meeting.

~The draft 2021 proposed budget was presented by the Finance Committee.

Outreach & Missions

BLANKET Collection

The call for donations to the Blanket Sunday cause was a huge success. A total of \$530.00 was given as of September 20. Thank you to all for helping others in need.

STOCKtober

Now is the time to help others locally. We have a list of suggested items for distribution to those in need. During the month of October, we will collect items in the grocery cart located in the Narthex. Half of the month will go to OACAC and the other will be given to CAM. Please help if you can.

Thank you all so much for your help with our little pantry! We are so very appreciative!!

Here are the top 10 items I felt could be most helpful to those in need.

If all canned items could be with the peel back tab, that would be helpful. ☺

Cheerios
Mac and cheese (or other boxed pasta dinners)
Single serve apple sauce
Canned chicken/tuna
crackers
Peanut butter
Bread
Canned soup
Canned beans (like baked beans, but any beans will do!)
Baby food (any kind)



Please feel free to call with any questions! Have a great day!

Cindy Baldwin
Outreach Committee Chair

Updates & Happenings



A picture of the new Stained Glass in the sanctuary.

Thank you to everyone who was involved with this project. Another special thank you to Jan and Ron Bond for their vision and work on this beautiful piece for our church.

Church Outings & Events

BLOOD DRIVE

WHEN: Nov. 3rd
WHERE: Church Fellowship Hall
TIME: 12pm—5pm

*Register online at redcrossblood.org



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through August 2020

Operating income AUGUST	\$ 19,457.09
Operating expense AUGUST	\$ 14,851.76
Year to date income	\$108,863.42
Year to date expense	\$ 97,089.05

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

Worship Committee Planning Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled in Fellowship Hall on....

-Tuesday, October 6th at 6pm -

If you would like to join the committee, you are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

chrishedenberg54@gmail.com
or **417-973-5342**.

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

The *Building and Grounds Committee* is planning a church “work” day on **Monday, Oct. 19th starting at 9:00am.**

We will need volunteers to help paint the sanctuary and complete other minor repairs around the church.

If you’re interested in lending a hand, contact *Jamie Haage* at **417-294-1695**.



Bathroom Renovation Update

- Both bathrooms have been demolished
- Plumbers and electricians are scheduled
- City will inspect
- Ready for drywall

**There are some miscellaneous items for sale leftover from renovation. If you’re interested, contact Tanya Armstrong.*






Kudos from the Board Meeting:

- ~Stacy Eastridge for providing technical support to redesign the newsletter.
- ~To everyone that assisted with the stained glass installation.
- ~To everyone who is working on the ADA bathroom remodel project.



ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School (Temp. Suspended)
 10:15am - Fellowship Time (Temp. Suspended)
 10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Stained Glass Dedication Service 	28	29	30 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	1	2	3
4 Reconciliation Sunday Light a candle for Children begins 	5 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	6 6pm - Worship Committee Mtg	7 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	8	9	10
11	12	13 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	14 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	15 6pm – Board Mtg	16	17
18	19 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg Church "Work" Day 9:00am	20	21 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Light a candle for Children ends 	22  10:00am	23	24
25	26	27	28 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	29	30	31 

~ October Birthdays ~

2-Oct Becky Groves
 4-Oct Nolen Berry
 6-Oct Larry Campbell
 8-Oct Rick Johnson
 9-Oct Linda Keith
 9-Oct Matea LeeAnn Tilden
 9-Oct Samantha Plouviez
 11-Oct Georgi Hehn
 11-Oct Marjorie Herington
 11-Oct Gayle Rinehart
 12-Oct Chris Hedenberg
 13-Oct Juanita Witche
 14-Oct Jimmy Dan Pribble
 15-Oct Grace Rein
 15-Oct Brenda Archambeau
 16-Oct James Wallace
 18-Oct Pat Campbell
 19-Oct Jean Mueller

~Anniversaries~

Oct. 5 Sara & Lou Pascucci
 Oct. 17 David & Chris Hedenberg
 Oct. 27 Allen & Janet Minor

Serving in October

Worship Leaders

4th Bobbie Wydeen
 11th Pat Davis
 18th Judy Adams
 25th Tanya Armstrong

All Services are video-taped. Photos taken at church events may appear on the Church website or Facebook. If you prefer not to have your photo online, please notify the church office.



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



 **Higher Education & Leadership Ministries**
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges & Universities

Seminaries & Divinity Houses

2020 Thanksgiving Offering

REJOICE

A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

November 2020



Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch
or on our website at www.branonchristianchurch.com

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NOVEMBER SERMONS

11/1 - "Goodness"

Romans 8:28

11/8- "Faithfulness"

Genesis 22: 1-8

11/15- "Gentleness"

Galations 6: 1-5

11/22- "Self Control"

Galations 5:22-23

11/29- Guest Minister speaking

TBA

Ministry & Memorials

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY LIST

It is time to update BCC Homebound Ministry list. Sadly for us, some of our BCC church family members have been called Home. If you, or someone you know, would like to have your name added to this list, please let us know. We try to visit in your home, or if you prefer to just have phone calls and cards, we can do that as well. May you feel God's love and comfort during this difficult time.

Judy Adams and Cindy Baldwin

Celebration of Life Service for Bob Hubbard

A Celebration of Life service for Bob Hubbard, former pastor and member of the Jordanaires and Foggy River Boys quartets, will be held at **1:00 pm, Saturday November 7** at the *Grand Country Music Hall* on Highway 76 in Branson.

Due to Covid-19 concerns please wear your face masks.

No flowers please.

*Donations can be made to the Branson Christian Church or Christian Action Ministries in Branson.



Hello November!

There is always something to be thankful for.



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BOARD OFFICERS 2020

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Clint Cross - Vice Chair
Annette Sain - Treasurer
Sandy Rice - Secretary
Johnie Groves - Financial Secretary

Holidays

"Veterans Day"

November 11th



"Thanksgiving"

November 26th



Announcements & Reminders

Handbells

Handbell Update:

Due to the ongoing questions with social distancing and group gatherings, we will be suspending anything pertaining to the Handbell Choir. We will reassess our situation and interest at the first of the year with a hope to provide Easter music.

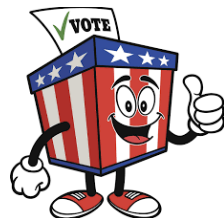
Your faithful "ring-a-linger," Stacy.



Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour.....

This **Sunday....November 1st!**

~ Tuesday - November 3, 2020 ~



Pastor Message

On behalf of Branson Christian Church, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us through this Covid-19 experience. Your support, both financially and spiritually has been amazing. I am extremely thankful for all of you.

I am also thankful for some of the programs we have available. I invite you, and anyone in the community, to join us for our weekly Wednesday morning Bible Studies. We meet from 10:30 until noon in the Fellowship Hall which is located downstairs. This is a very large area and we can easily accommodate social distancing. We have an attendance between 10-19 and it is a wonderful experience to be connected with others in our congregation and to meet new ones from other churches.

Perhaps one of our most interesting and unusual classes is the "Dead Philosopher's Society." This class will never leave you bored as we talk (debate) on current philosophical subjects such as : "What is the meaning of life?" "Why is there evil in the world?", "What is the meaning of equality?" Everyone's opinion is respected and it is a time of learning and a lot of fun. It meets every 1st and 3rd Monday from 10:30 - until noon in the Fellowship Hall. Social distancing is respected.

We also have a new Transitional Regional Minister. She is the Rev. Christine Chenoweth. I have invited her to visit us and we will announce her visit when she gets more established.

The month of November celebrates Thanksgiving, and our church staff is very thankful for all of you. May God's love be with you.

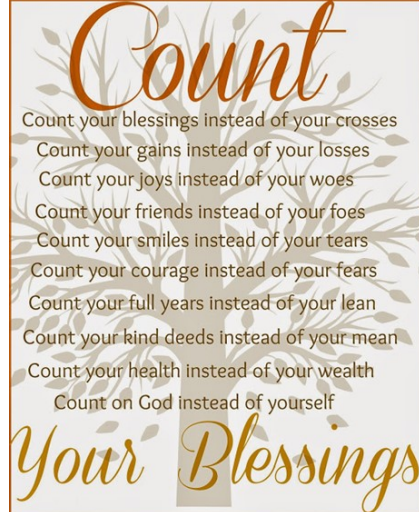
See you in church,

Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

The poem “Count Your Blessings” says a lot about our ability to focus on the positive rather than the negative. This year has been a test to our ability to count our blessings, but I hope that you have found ways to do so. Remembering this verse can help... “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” –1 Chronicles 16:34. Resting in this assurance gives us encouragement knowing that God is always with us, regardless of what we experiencing. If we are mindful of our thanksgiving experiences it enables us to see past them and embrace how God is moving in our lives. The more we practice a life shaped by thankfulness we can draw on the strength that comes from gratitude and hopefully empower others to follow. With prayers and blessings of thanksgiving for each of you.



Board Meeting Highlights:

~Building and Grounds Committee announced plans to paint the sanctuary. (Update: This project is almost complete!)

~The sign on the corner of Hwy 65 has been repaired and replaced.

~The 2021 proposed budget and slate of officers was presented and approved by the board. Both will be presented at the congregational meeting on November 1.

~An additional gift of \$8,077.00 was received from Ozark Mountain Christian Church (OMCC)

~The Finance Committee recommended using the same formula for distribution of funds as for the previous gift from OMCC. The recommendation was approved as follows:

\$4,038.50 – Emergency Fund

\$1,615.40 – Building Fund

\$1,615.49 – General Fund- Shown as income from Thrift Store

\$807.70 - Outreach Committee

We are most grateful to Ozark Mountain Christian Church for their generosity and for their gift to BCC.

Kudos: To everyone who assisted in the installation of the stained glass window.

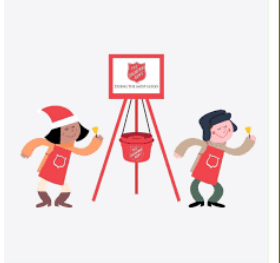
Jean Mueller, Board Chair

Outreach & Missions

Bell Ringers Needed

The Salvation Army will be setting out the red kettles. Branson Christian Church is committed to helping at Sunfest Market on **Friday, November 27, from 12PM to 6 PM.**

Please contact *Cindy Baldwin* if you can help with this project at **620-654-7741**. If you can only work a couple of hours, we will work out a schedule to accommodate you.



Thanksgiving Offering November 15 and 22

Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions are supported by the Thanksgiving Offering. These help to develop leaders for our communities and the Church.

Missouri sites include Columbia College, Culver-Stockton College, Drury University and William Woods University. These institutions along with 11 others promote the following:

Commitment to academic excellence and the liberal arts

An environment of open inquiry

Inclusive, welcoming communities that respect all people and cultures

Focus on charter, service and leadership

A passion for social justice.

Please support our leadership development programs by giving generously to the Thanksgiving Offering to be taken November 15 and 22. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of the students and it makes a difference in the world.

Cindy Baldwin
Outreach Committee Chair



Church Events



The Adoration Parade is still scheduled for **Sunday December 6th**. The Membership Committee will have hot cocoa and cookies that will be distributed outside the Fellowship Hall for "Grab and Go." This plan has been approved by the Taney County Health Department and they highly suggest we use store bought cookies that will be individually bagged.

We will need the congregation to purchase 1 to 2 dozen cookies and bring to the church on **Sunday, December 6th**.

If you have any questions, please call *Bobbie Wydeen* at **417-699-4728**.



Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to have the annual Thanksgiving Fellowship Potluck. However, that does not mean we can not have a Thanksgiving meal. It will just be a little different.

This year, meals will be pre-ordered with a choice of two (2) different meal and dessert options. The meals will prepared "To-Go"

and picked up after the worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 15**.

For homebound members, delivery service may be available.

Meal order forms will be available to pick up in the Narthex or can be sent via email. If you do not have access to an order form, but would like to order a meal, you can contact **Bobbie Wydeen** at **417-699-4728**.

Meal order forms need to be returned by **Sunday, Nov. 8**.

If you are able to contribute a dish (*items listed on order form*), these need to be dropped off at the Church on **Saturday, Nov. 14** from **10am -Noon**.

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through September 2020

Operating income SEPTEMBER	\$ 10,436.20
Operating expense SEPTEMBER	\$ 9,944.08
Year to date income	\$119,299.60
Year to date expense	\$107,033.10

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

A little progress each day adds up to Big Results!



Vision Committee

Thanks to everyone for your generous gifts for the bathroom renovation project! We have met our goal, and are moving things along quickly. Your continued prayers are appreciated that everything goes smoothly for everyone involved .

Thank you,
Tanya Armstrong
Vision 100/2024 Committee

Worship Committee

The next meeting is scheduled in Fellowship Hall on.....

-Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 6pm -

~Advent devotionals are here and available in the Narthex on the welcome table.

Sunday, Nov. 22

-Please join us to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas following the worship service.

Sunday, Nov. 29

-“Hanging of the Greens” special service.



If you have any questions, please contact me at:
chrishedenberg54@gmail.com
or **417-973-5342**.

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

November



ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School (Temp. Suspended)
10:15am - Fellowship Time (Temp. Suspended)
10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Congregational Mtg. Daylight Savings Time Ends 	2 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	3  	4 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	5	6	7 Bob Hubbard memorial Service—1pm
8	9	10 6pm - Worship Committee Mtg	11 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 	12	13	14
15 Thanksgiving offering Thanksgiving “To Go” meal after church. 	16 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	17 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	18 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	19 6pm – Board Mtg	20	21
22 Thanksgiving offering Church Christmas decorating 	23	24	25 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	26 Office Closed. 	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent “Hanging of the Greens” special service	30		10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study			

~ November Birthdays ~

3-Nov Andi Jo Howell
10-Nov Jan Harper
11-Nov Trevor Sain
12-Nov Sarah Rein
12-Nov James Gillen
13-Nov Brandon Young
15-Nov Janet Groves Calderos
18-Nov Julie Groves
19-Nov Keith Adams
19-Nov Marilyn Cody
20-Nov Dominic Gillen
27-Nov Roger Kauffman
30-Nov Jamie Haage

~Anniversaries~

Nov. 5 John & Penny Lea
Nov. 24 Mike & Jean Mueller

Serving in November

Worship Leaders

1st~ Cindy Baldwin
8th~ David Faragher
15th~ Glenda Lewellen
22nd~ Chris Hedenberg
29th~ Stacy Eastridge

All Services are video-taped. Photos taken at church events may appear on the Church website or Facebook. If you prefer not to have your photo online, please notify the church office.



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417-334-3453

2020  Christmas Offering
REJOICE
A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

December 2020



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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DECEMBER SERMONS

12/6 - "Preparation" (*Johnie Groves*)

Mark 1: 1-8

12/13- "Follow"

Luke 5:1-11

(What it means to follow Jesus.)

12/20- "A Christmas Story"

Luke 1:1-4

(What Christmas really means.)

12/27- "Trust"

Proverbs 3:5-6

(Why trust is the most important quality of all.)

*Wishing you and your family a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



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Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2020

Jean Mueller - Board Chair
Clint Cross - Vice Chair
Annette Sain - Treasurer
Sandy Rice - Secretary
Johnie Groves - Financial Secretary

Holidays

Friday, December 25th

Merry Christmas



Thursday, December 31st



Ministry & Memorials

Dear BCC Family,

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, calls, texts and memorial contributions.
We are grateful for the outpouring of love at this sad time.

The Family of Doris Groves



In Loving Memory of

Doris Ann Groves

June 11, 1935 – November 15, 2020

Memorial donations may be made to:

Branson Christian Church

213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 65616

In Loving Memory of

Dr. Halbert (Hal) Linwood
Dewell

October 30, 1931 – October 23, 2020

Memorial donations may be made to:

Branson Christian Church

213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 65616

Announcements & Reminders

Office Hours will fluctuate for most of December due to rehearsals and changes to my show. I will try and communicate changes as they come the best I can. Thank you for remaining patient and flexible during this time.

Your faithful BCC-Admin. Assistant,
Jackie

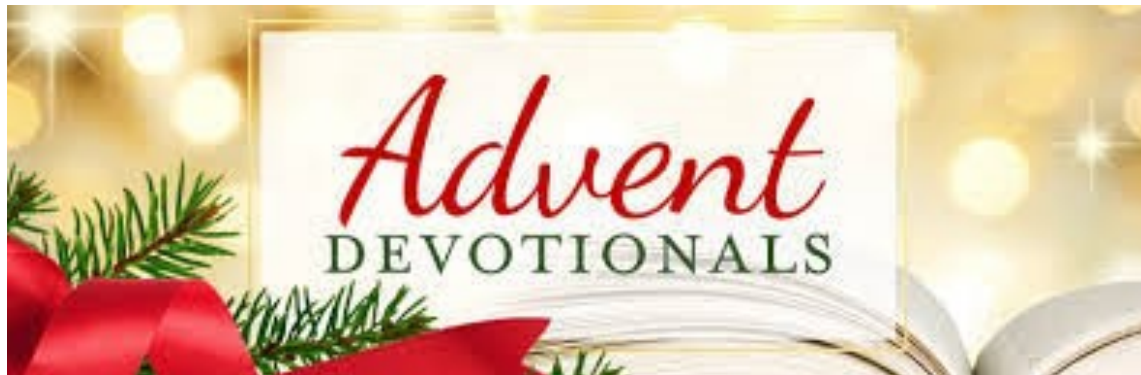
Rocks for Sale!!

The rocks that were left from the tornado repair are available for sale for \$1.00 each. If you would like to purchase some, please contact the office. We would like to have the rocks cleaned up by the end of December. It is first come first serve.



FYI.....From Music Leader:

There *will not* be a Christmas Cantata this year due to Covid-19 guidelines. Instead, there will be two (2) small ensembles on Sunday the 13th & 20th.



Available in the Narthex on the welcome table for you to take home.

Pastor Message



"I'll be home for Christmas
You can plan on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents on the tree
Christmas Eve will find me
Where the lovelight gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams"

Sung by Bing Crosby in 1943



We all remember this Christmas classic. It makes us feel happy, and we listen to Andy Williams singing about how Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. But . . .

It is no longer 1943 although the atmosphere may be similar. The song, "I'll Be Home For Christmas," was initially sung from the point of view of a soldier stationed overseas during WWII. He is writing a letter to his family telling them to get everything ready. He's been gone a long time but now he is coming home for Christmas, so get ready. But, the song ends with a rather melancholy note, as he writes, "if only in my dreams."

Many of us may feel like the soldier who longs to be with his family, but also realizes, due to the Corona Virus, that it may only be in our dreams. In some ways, so many things seem to be only in our dreams today. So many things seem to be "Cancelled - due to the virus."

And yet, there is one thing that will never be cancelled, and that is "hope." During this Advent season, we look for the presence of God. Mother Theresa said, "Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."

On behalf of Branson Christian Church, I pray our entire Christian family will be blessed with God's presence and fill you with hope and joy. May God's love be with you.



See you in church,

Pastor Minor

From the Board Chair

As we come to the close of this wild and crazy year we do so with praise and thanksgiving. There have been so many opportunities for the church to respond to unexpected challenges and find solutions, we have continued to plan and move forward, serve, love our neighbors, work together to accomplish things we could not have imagined. You, the Branson Christian Church congregation, have done all these things and more and you have done it with God leading the way. You have been prayer warriors. You have been faithful servants. You have been a blessing to the community locally and around the world. You have continued to financially support the church. It truly is a blessing to be a part of loving community that serves God with all their, heart, soul and mind.

Now we look forward to 2021 and let our prayers be for hope and peace. Scripture assures us, "And the peace of God, which *surpasses all understanding*, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). This is the peace that Jesus gives us, not the peace of the world, but peace from the Holy Spirit and through prayer we receive this peace. Let this be our continued prayer as we move into the coming year resting in the assurance that God is with us and guides us each and every step.

Peace be with you,

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

Highlights from the November Board Meeting:

- ~The sanctuary was painted.
- ~The ADA Bathroom Project is progressing on schedule. The plumbing, framing and electric work is on track for completion and will soon be ready for the city inspection.
- ~The rocks are going to be offered for sale (previously approved for \$1.00 each).
- ~Red Cross Blood Drive was approved to be held in Fellowship Hall on January 15.
- ~Approved a Finance Committee recommendation to consolidate a couple of small Special Funds line items into a single account.
- ~Discussion to encourage COVID prevention recommendations be more closely followed and ensure the health and safety of those attending services. Pastor Al will compose a letter to the congregation and send via email.
- ~2021 Committees were approved.

Kudos:

- ~To Bobbie Wydeen and team for providing a lovely and delicious Thanksgiving dinner.
- ~To Ginger Faragher for filling in as secretary while Jackie was out several days due to illness.

Outreach & Missions

There is a collection box in the Narthex for children ages 0-17.

For gift suggestions, there is a list available or you may contact
Cindy Baldwin at 620-654-7741 .

*Toys must be collected by **Dec.6th**

Thank you for your contribution!



"REJOICE" Christmas Offering

The 2020 Christmas Offering "*Rejoice*" will be taken
December 13 and 20.

This offering supports the Regional ministries. Some of the areas which are mentioned for support are as follows:
connecting congregations, fostering faith development, gathering Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies, etc.



One of the areas that is most important at this time is to help witness the power of God to make things new.
Please consider your Christmas giving as it stays in the region to help the local churches in these endeavors.



Church Events



The 72nd annual Adoration Parade will be held on **Sunday, December 6th**, beginning at 5:30pm. The church will continue our tradition of serving hot chocolate and cookies from 4:00pm-5:00pm outside the Fellowship Hall entrance.

The Taney County Health Department recommended that only **packaged (store bought)** cookies be served this year. If you would like to buy one or two dozen packaged cookies it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to church by **Sunday, December 6th**.

Following health and safety guidelines, cookies will be individually packaged and drinks served in disposable cups for easy "Grab & Go".

If you have any questions, please call *Bobbie Wydeen* at **417-699-4728**.

I bring you good tidings of great **joy**,
which shall be to
all people. For unto you
is born this day
in the city of David a **Saviour**,
which is
Christ the Lord.
— Luke 2:10 & 11 —



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through October 2020

Operating income OCTOBER	\$8,477.82
Operating expense OCTOBER	\$10,467.81
Year to date income	\$127,777.44
Year to date expense	\$117,280.44

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE



Worship Committee

The next meeting is scheduled in Fellowship Hall on.....

-Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6pm -

~Advent devotionals are here and available in the Narthex on the welcome table.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

chrishedenberg54@gmail.com
or **417-973-5342**.

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

Vision Committee

Progress report on the ADA Compliant Restrooms:

*All of our framing work is completed.
*Next week the electrician and the plumber will finish up the installation of the water heater and wiring.
*We will then get an inspection from the city, and will proceed after receiving the report.

Prayers are appreciated that all will go smoothly and we pass inspection! I am so appreciative of everyone who has been so encouraging, and I am happy everything is moving along so well.

Thank you,
Tanya Armstrong
Vision 100/2024 Committee

A little progress
each day adds up
to Big Results!





ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School (Temp. Suspended)
 10:15am - Fellowship Time (Temp. Suspended)
 10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 1st Sunday of Advent "Hanging of the Greens" special service	30	1	2 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent "Adoration Parade" 	7 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	8 6pm - Worship Committee Mtg	9 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent	14	15 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	16 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	17 6pm – Board Mtg	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent	21 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	22	23 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	24 Office Closed.  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed. <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27	28	29	30 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	31  Happy New Year		

~ December Birthdays ~

3-Dec Gaile Ball
 9-Dec Dorothy Polk
 10-Dec Naomi Felder
 15-Dec Sandy Sisson
 16-Dec Debbie Wilkerson
 17-Dec Sandra Berry
 18-Dec Bobbie Wydeen
 24-Dec Anna Lankford
 24-Dec Christina Baker
 28-Dec Ashley Felder
 30-Dec Claire Delaney
 30-Dec Mary Wallace

~Anniversaries~

Dec. 14 Dominic & Rebecka Gillen
 Dec. 21 Larry & Mary Wallace
 Dec. 31 Rick & Rhonda Johnson

Serving in December

Worship Leaders

6th~ Jerry Yeutter
 13th~ Kathy Kaufman
 20th~ Bobbie Wydeen
 27th~ Johnie Groves

All Services are video-taped. Photos taken at church events may appear on the Church website or Facebook. If you prefer not to have your photo online, please notify the church office.