



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

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

January 2021

**Human Trafficking
Awareness Day**

January 11



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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JANUARY SERMONS

1/3-“The Power of Communion”

John 6: 53-58

(How we worship.)

1/10- “Loneliness”

Matthew 11: 28-30

(How to deal with feeling alone.)

1/17- “Hope”

Romans 15: 13

(Hope trumps disappointment.)

1/24- “Blessings”

Ephesians 1: 3-8

(What God gives to us.)

1/31- “A Failure to Understand”

Isaiah 55: 8-9

(Our ways are not God's ways.)

Praying for a better and healthy

Happy New Year

God Bless !

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Allen Minor - Minister

Jackie Brown - Office Admin

Rod Phillips - Music Director

Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon –Wed 9am-2pm
Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair

Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair

Annette Sain - Treasurer

Jean Mueller - Secretary

Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

The Story of the Chalice Logo



The logo of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a red chalice with a white St. Andrew's Cross. The chalice represents the centrality of communion to the life of the church. The cross of Saint Andrew is a reminder of the ministry of each person and the importance of evangelism, and recalls the denomination's Scottish Presbyterian ancestry.

After the 1968 General Assembly, the Administrative Committee charged a sub-committee with the task of proposing a symbol for the church. Hundreds of designs were submitted, but none seemed right. By November the Deputy General Minister and President, William Howland, suggested that the committee's staff consultant and chairperson agree on a specific proposal and bring it back to the committee: that meant Robert L. Friedly of the Office of Interpretation and Ronald E. Osborn.

On January 20, 1970, the two men sat down for lunch. With a red felt-tip pen, Osborn began to scrawl a Saint Andrew's cross circumscribed inside a chalice on his placemat.

Immediately, Friedly dispatched the crude drawing to Bruce Tilsley, a commercial artist and member of Central Christian Church of Denver, with the plea that he prepare an artistic version of the ideas. Tilsley responded with two or three sketches, from which was selected the now-familiar red chalice.

Use of the proposed symbol became so prevalent that there was little debate when official adoption was considered at the 1971 General Assembly. The chalice is a registered trademark of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Congregations and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are free to use the chalice in publications, web sites and other media.

Because most congregations call themselves "Christian Churches," the chalice has become a simple way to identify Disciples of Christ Churches through signage, letterhead, and other forms of publicity.

Announcements & Reminders



Inclement Weather/Church Closing Information

Notification for cancelling Church Services will be done by E-Blast, information posted on KY3 cancellation list, Hometowndailynews.com (KRZK 106.3) cancellation list, Text Message, Facebook and Telephone Calling tree. If you would like to receive a text message, please contact Bobbie Wydeen at bobster218@aol.com or 417-699-4728 to be put on the text message list if you haven't done so.



Together, we can save a life



**Blood Drive ~12pm-5pm
February 5, 2021**



**"Souper" Bowl Sunday
Feb. 7**

Pastor Message



As we look back on the year 2020 we remember many things that went wrong; however, there were many things that went right for our church.

After talking about putting our church service on the internet for the past couple of years, we finally did it due to the pandemic. March 15th was the last church service as the pandemic caused church services to be cancelled. Our church staff began working from home. The very next Sunday I was excited to do our first "live stream" at home from my I-pad. There were 368 views. Baptismal classes for 6 young people were continued through FaceTime.

On April 3rd, we began filming the service (with no audience) and on April 5th showed the service at 10:45 a.m. There were 541 views. On Easter morning our service drew 922 views which included the baptism of 6 young people who had finished their baptismal classes. On May 31st, our church was reopened for regular church services and was available to be viewed online.

On September 27th, the Stained Glass in the sanctuary was unveiled revealing the artistic and painstaking work of Ron and Jan Bond. The remodeling of the Fellowship Hall bathrooms is almost completed. There were more events that have taken place but I am running out of room in this column.

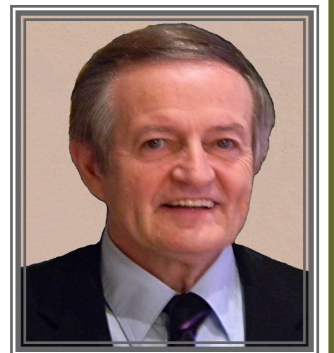
Most of all, as the Pastor, I am very thankful to all of you as you have been extremely generous and kind. On behalf of the entire church staff I pray God's love will be with you as we enter into the Year 2021.

See you in church,

Pastor Minor

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.



From the Board Chair

Another year has come and gone; and what a year this has been. Our children and grandchildren will remember this one. But even though the year brought unsettling events, it seemed to fly by. I'm sure it's just a matter of perception, but it appears to me that they're going by much faster than before. The year of 2020 was devastating to many people, but the hand of God was clearly working in the lives of His children. I've heard many testimonies of how 'all things work together for good, to those who love God and are the called according to His purpose.'

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for your vote of confidence by installing me as board chair. I wasn't seeking this particular job, but Julie and I are always looking for ways that we might better serve God and the church. I am well aware that the ultimate authority of this church is the congregation. I serve at your discretion. I am fortunate indeed to have people to lean on who have served before me. Jean Mueller has done a remarkable job as board chair the last couple of years. From my perspective, things are going remarkably well in our lovely church. We are blessed to have responsible people on the board and on the different committees doing an excellent job.

Our next board meeting will be held January 21, 2021, at 6:00 PM. Please plan to attend. A quorum was satisfied in all the board meetings last year, and I sincerely ask all of you to continue this excellent trend. Thank you, church family. May God richly bless you!

Johnie Groves
Board Chair

Kudos:

- Jean Mueller for her dedication and many hours of service she has given while serving as Board Chair for the past two years.
- Johnie Groves for filling in during Pastor Al's vacation and offering wonderful messages during the first two weeks of Advent.
- Cindy Baldwin thanked everyone who sent cards and emails during their illness.
- Johnie and Julie Groves for helping Bobbie and Russ Wydeen serve cookies and cocoa at the Adoration Parade.

Outreach & Missions

"Souper Bowl Sunday"

Project--January

January 2021 is a new start for our outreach into the community, as well as the country, and world. We have experienced a dark time with the virus, but are optimistic while awaiting the distribution of a vaccine. As I followed the Advent devotional, I was touched by one devotion most recently, that focused on John 23:46. It says... "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." We as His followers need to be a light, leading others out of darkness. I ask you that whatever outreach project you have enjoyed in the past, please continue to follow your heart with that.

January is sort of a slow month for special offerings, but there are always needs around our community whether it be with food, shelter needs, offering comfort to others, or just simply showing compassion .

Towards the end of the month we will promote the "Souper" Bowl project. PLEASE bring cans of soup, and other groceries that would go with the soup to the church over the next few weeks this month. I know that many of you are not yet attending services, or classes, but if you still wish to donate, you are welcome to send a donation that can be passed on to the collection for the cause. Be sure to designate whether you are supporting the North or the South. Above all, let's focus on being a light to others.

God bless you,
Cindy Baldwin
(Outreach Chairman)



Church Events



BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
Annette Sain - Treasurer
Jean Mueller - Secretary
Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Trustee:

Robert Baldwin
Jamie Haage

Elders:

Johnie Groves
Julie Groves
Teena Sims
Cindy Baldwin
Pat Davis
Glenda Lewellen

Second Deacons:

Janet Minor
Jean Mueller
Mike Goff
Teresita Goff
Jolene Herington
Kathy Wood

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through November 2020

Operating income NOVEMBER \$12,488.28
Operating expense NOVEMBER \$9,834.55
Year to date income \$140,265.72
Year to date expense \$127,114.99

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

Proverbs 16:9

**A man's heart plans his
way,
But the LORD directs
his steps.**



Worship Committee

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

-Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6pm -

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

Vision Committee

We are making good progress everyday with "The Restroom Upgrade" project. It will be well worth the wait when it is all completed! Thank you for all of the help and support we have received. Your continued prayers are always appreciated. May 2021 bring good vision and God's many blessings to all!

Thank you,
Tanya Armstrong
Vision 100/2024 Committee

A little progress
each day adds up
to Big Results!



Membership Committee Report

The Membership Committee served all the donated cookies and 10 gallons of hot cocoa at the Adoration Parade on Dec. 6!

Despite COVID, it was a great turnout! Many folks were happy to see Branson Christian Church participating!


Thanks to all for donating cookies and a BIG thank you to Johnie and Julie Groves for helping Bobbie and Russ!

Thanks & God Bless,
Bobbie



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	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day 	2
3 Second Sunday After Christmas	4 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	5	6 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 Installation of Officers	11	12 6pm - Worship Committee Mtg	13 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	14	15	16
17	18 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	20 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	21 6pm – Board Mtg	22	23
24 31	25	26	27 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	28	29	30

~January Birthdays

3-Jan	Jim Rice
4-Jan	Collin Delaney
5-Jan	Pastor Allen Minor
11-Jan	Harold J Baker
11-Jan	Robert Baker
15-Jan	Elle Pribble
18-Jan	Kylie Scott
18-Jan	Charlie Neff
21-Jan	Clint Cross
21-Jan	Rex Wood
23-Jan	Anita Brown
23-Jan	Jackie Brown
25-Jan	Joanne Gauwitz
25-Jan	Kirk Groves
28-Jan	Judy Adams
28-Jan	Mark Lindner

~Anniversaries~

Jan. 12	Jim & Sandy Rice
Jan. 21	Richard & Linda Keith
Jan. 22	Robert & Cindy Baldwin

Serving in January

Worship Leaders

3rd~ Judy Adams
 10th~ Stacy Eastridge
 17th~ Bobbie Wydeen
 24th~ Robbie Nelson
 31st~ Jamie Haage

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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Sunday, February 21-28

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February 2021



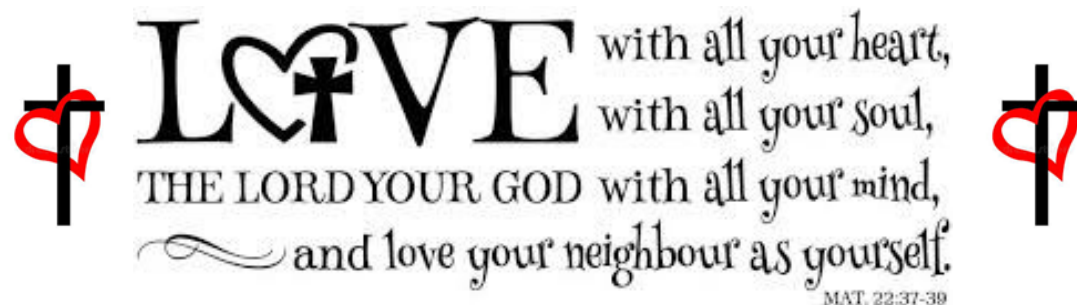
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FEBRUARY SERMONS

- 2/7- “Worship”
John 4:23-24
(What worship really means.)
- 2/14- “Loving God”
1 John 4:7-16
(How to love God deeply.)
- 2/21- “Getting Through Hard Times”
James 1: 1-12
(Keeping the faith no matter what.)
- 2/28- “The Season of Our Discontent”
1 Timothy 6: 6-19
(How to find contentment.)



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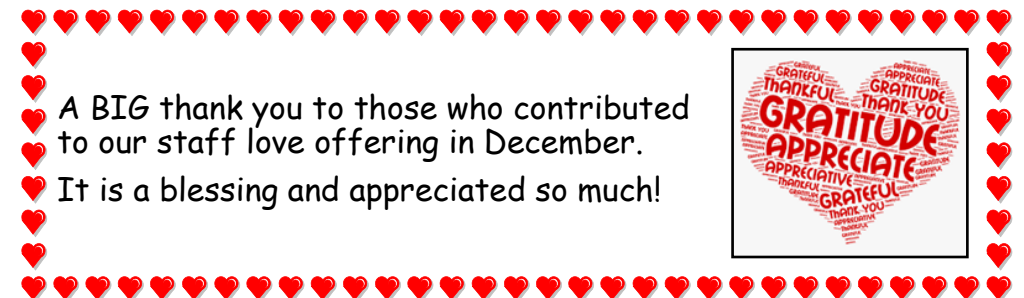
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Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Kudos

Kudos from the general board-----January Board Meeting.

- ~ Ginger Faragher, for her continued support and commitment to Branson Christian Church.
- ~ Lucy Johnson, for assisting Ginger in many aspects of the church financials. Lucy has an accounting background and she is invaluable at times; we are all thankful that she is willing to share her expertise.
- ~ Pastor Al, for coming to the rescue and assisting Tanya in getting the sheetrock into the fellowship hall. It was delivered and left on the sidewalk.
- ~ To all those who have been willing to serve as worship leaders. This is a critical part of our worship service because during that short period of time, the worship leader is the face of our church. Both to those in the pews, and those watching online.



Announcements & Reminders

The adult Sunday school class, "Seasons" will begin Sunday February 7th at 9:30am. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. We will observe social distancing guidelines. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Stacy Eastridge at 417-239-4477 or shortround9276@gmail.com

Thank you & God bless!
~Stacy

CHOOSE LOVE: TO HEAL, EMPOWER AND BLESS

A class, *Choose Love*, is a share experience in which we will discuss the many ways agape love is expressed and received. The course is based on *1 Corinthians 13:13*. The idea for the class actually came from Pastor Al's message about peace.

"Love God. Love Neighbor". World peace.

The class will meet weekly for four weeks, via Zoom, February 25- March 18 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The book *"The Mount of Olives"* will be used for discussion during the class. You may order this book on Amazon or the church will have a few copies to purchase in advance. The class will be taught by Susie Cook. Susie has been a member of BCC for many years and is the daughter of the late, Shannon Kimsey, Co-Pastor of OMCC.

This small group setting allows for us to interact and learn from one another. The goal is for each of us to be able to encourage others in following a path of love as we continue our spiritual journey.

Please email nsdcampbell@centurytel.net to register before February 21

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

On Feb 7th, children's
Sunday School will
be starting back
up at 9:45a.m!

So bring your
kiddos ages 5-12
for a wonderful
time of learning
and FUN!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Devotionals will be
available in the Narthex
Starting on Sun., Feb. 7.

Pastor Message

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

1 John 4:7-16

This is the fundamental Scripture of the early church. They would have described themselves in terms of love.

February is the month that features Valentine's Day. A day when people throughout the country reflect on love, Valentine cards, and chocolate candy. In 1923, Clara and Russell Stover began making candy in the kitchen of their Denver bungalow home. It soon became a small business known as, "Mrs. Stover's Bungalow Candies." Within a year they opened stores in Denver, Kansas City, Lincoln, Omaha and St. Louis. In 1928, with their business expanding they opened their first ice cream factory in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1943, the company changed the name to, "Russell Stover Candies," and Russell became known as, "The West's Candy Man."

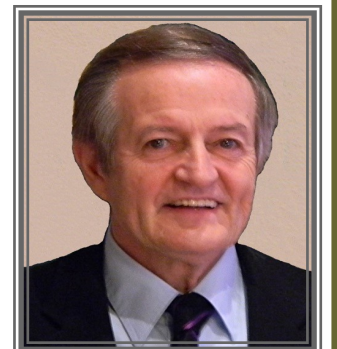
In 1995, "Forest Gump," won Best Picture at the Academy Awards. One of Forest's most memorable lines takes place while sitting on a bench waiting for the bus to arrive when he opens a box of Russell Stover Chocolates and says, "My momma always said, *life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get.*"

In many ways Forest is right. Life is like a box of chocolates and we don't always know what we are going to get. However, there is one thing we always know what we are going to get, and it's God's love. *Malachi 3:8* gives us these words, "For I am the Lord, I do not change . . ."



God's love for us is unbreakable and unchanging. May God's love be with you.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

The Branson Christian Church general board held it's first board meeting of the year on January 21. We had excellent attendance and a lot of enthusiasm for the new year and what we would like to get accomplished. Below are the highlights of the meeting:

We had two committee recommendations; one from the personnel committee and another from the worship committee. The personnel committee brought forth a recommendation that we split the church office duties; one person performing the duties of administration assistant ----which would be Jackie Brown, and another person handling all the financial matters of the church----which would be Ginger Faragher. The committee felt like this new approach was needed to make our office run more efficiently. The board agreed, and approved the recommendation.

The worship committee recommended that we place hymnals back into the pews. Several folks have requested this be done now because it would help them be able to read the music as well as the lyrics as we sing along during the worship service, since many of the songs are unfamiliar to the congregation. The committee felt like this could be done in a safe manner at this time, because the hymnals will only be touched once a week, and most folks sit in the same pews anyway. The board agreed and approved the recommendation. We are currently using two different hymnals: The Chalice and also Hymns for the Living Church. Both will be available in the pews for your use.

It was also reported during our meeting that the unsightly rocks that have been piled around the steps near the Narthex entrance for years are now gone. Also, the vision committee reported that the bathroom upgrade project in the fellowship hall is going well. The sheet rock will be placed soon. We also reviewed the church key policy during the meeting. This is important because church security is a serious matter these days. Many in our congregation may not be familiar with our key policy so we will be sending this information out to all of you via email, or regular mail to those who do not have email.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Thanks for reading this letter and may God bless you richly is our prayer.

Quote for the year: **"It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit."** -----John Wooden

Johnie Groves
Board Chair

Outreach & Missions



LET LOVE FLOW

Week of Compassion will be emphasized for the month of February. Moments for Mission will be February 21 & 28. The theme is *"Let Love Flow."*

In Missouri this past year, *Week of Compassion* donations were given specifically for Covid-19 relief and for natural storm disaster relief.

It is an opportunity for us to feed the hungry, shelter those who have survived disasters, or support a refugee family. Last year our church gave \$1010.00. Let us all open our hearts and minds, and set a goal to exceed that total this year.

God bless you,
Cindy Baldwin
(Outreach Chairman)



Church Events



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life



**Blood Drive ~12pm-5pm
February 5, 2021**



"Souper" Bowl Sunday

Feb. 7

PLEASE bring cans of soup, and other groceries that would go with soup to the church by Sunday, Feb. 7. I know that many of you are not yet attending services, or classes, but if you still wish to donate, you are welcome to send a donation that can be passed on to the collection for the cause.

Please designate whether you are supporting the North or the South. Thanks for your support!

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through December 2020

Operating income DECEMBER	\$10,217.86
Operating expense DECEMBER	\$11,828.32
Year to date income	\$150,483.58
Year to date expense	\$138,943.31

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, Feb. 2 at 6pm -

Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

Vision Committee

Bathroom Renovation Update:

The drywall and sheeting were delivered last week, so the drywall installation will begin soon. Once this is completed the city will be contacted for inspection. Then we will proceed to hanging the ceiling, light fixtures, and other finishes. Last, the beautification begins and then we will celebrate!! Thanks to everyone for the continued prayers over this project.

I would like to share a short story of what happened when the drywall was delivered. Lowes contacted me on short notice that they would be delivering the drywall (after a two-week delay) to the church. When I met the delivery man, he said he could only unload the drywall on the sidewalk and not help carry it inside.

I was angry and had to step away. After a call to Chris, I put my phone down and asked the Lord for help. Then I went into the church office announcing my dilemma. Pastor Al quickly came to the rescue! We had just begun moving the drywall inside when a family visiting from Minnesota & Texas stopped and offered to help. They asked what we were doing, and Pastor explained the bathroom renovation project. Without hesitation, they jumped in and helped us get the job done. They were given a small gift of gratitude and they said it was a blessing to them.

Thank you, Lord! I was so comforted by how God moved. As He has promised us, He would be with us, and He was with that situation, and is with everything we face today and the days to come!!!


With the bathroom project near completion, we will begin thinking about Phase 2 renovations. There are many things to consider, so if you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact me.

Yours truly in Christ,
Tanya Armstrong, (*Vision Committee Chair*)





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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	2 6pm- Worship Committee Mtg Groundhog Day	3 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	4	5 Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5 	6
7 "Souper" Bowl Sunday 	8	9	10 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	11	12	13
14 	15 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg  President's Day	16 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	17 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study  6pm	18 6pm – Board Mtg (Newsletter Reminder)	19	20
21 Week of Compassion Special Offering 	22 <i>*Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.</i>	23	24 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	25 6:30pm "Choose Love" class (via zoom)	26	27
28 Week of Compassion Special Offering 						

1-Feb	Steven Cade York
3-Feb	Jolene Herington
3-Feb	Larry Wallace
4-Feb	Sandy Poos
5-Feb	Bob Brown
7-Feb	Richard Keith
8-Feb	Diana Rice
9-Feb	Richard Groves
11-Feb	John Gillen
13-Feb	Johnie Groves
23-Feb	Jerry Yeutter
23-Feb	Darren Gillen
24-Feb	Kathy Wood
25-Feb	Rebecka Gillen

Feb. 11	Bob & Anita Brown
Feb. 12	Charlie & Linda Neff
Feb. 15	Johnie & Julie Groves

Serving in February

Worship Leaders

7th~ Jerry Yeutter

14th~ Janet Minor

21st~ Cindy Baldwin

28th~ 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.



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March 5, 2021 ~ worlddayofprayer.net



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MARCH SERMONS

- 3/7- “The Season of our Discontent”
1 Timothy 6: 6-19
(How to find contentment.)
- 3/14- “The Work of the Holy Spirit”
John 14: 12-17
(The Holy Spirit in our lives.)
- 3/21- “The Wonder of our God”
2 Samuel 7: 18-22
(How God loves us completely.)
- 3/28-“Palm Sunday”
Matthew 21: 1-11
(The triumphal entry of Jesus.)

Kudos

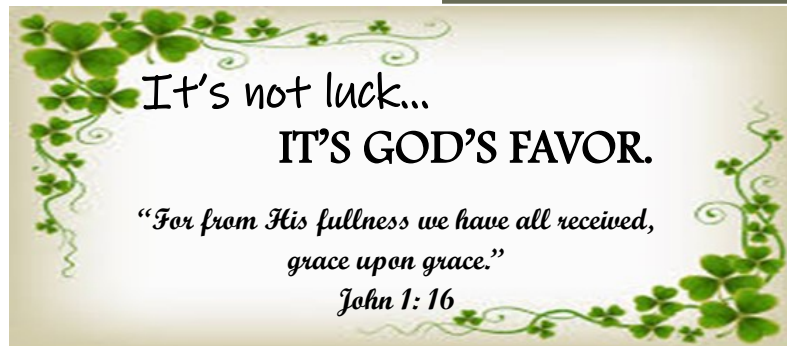
Kudos, a regular part of the monthly board meeting, are a time to recognize those who have given their support, encouragement and time to strengthen the work of the church.

~Jamie Haage and others who helped with snow removal to ensure for the safety of those attending services.

~Stacy Eastridge, Jamie Haage and Tanya Armstrong for providing special music solos while the choir is temporarily suspended.

~Jerry and Connie Yeutter for providing coffee and refreshments for Bible Study and DPS.

~Chris Hedenberg for leading the Worship Committee and managing changes in worship services during the pandemic.



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1 Thessalonians 5: 11-12

¹¹ Therefore, encourage each other and strengthen one another as you are doing.

¹² Brothers and sisters, we ask you to show your appreciation for those leaders who work among you and instruct you.

Announcements & Reminders

BCC Choir RETURNS!

Starting rehearsals March 10 at 5:30pm.

*Masks will be required until further notice.

Contact Rod Phillips at 417-337-0446
for more information.



MARCH 14

**Don't forget to set your clocks
ahead 1 hour for
Daylight Savings Time.**



Attention Key Holders

There will be a new Key Policy going into effect this month.

An email will go out explaining the new protocol and procedure that was adopted back in July.

This will apply to ALL keys to anywhere on church property.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.



~ **March** ~

Jean Mueller

Mike Goff

Teresita Goff

Janice Smith

Pastor Message

Jesus told a parable about a Pharisee and a Tax Collector. "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' "I tell you; this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14



This is the season of Lent. A time when we are to look at ourselves and consider whether we exalt ourselves or whether we humble ourselves before God.

"There's nothing wrong with me," the man says. "But sir, you've just been in a terrible car accident. You're bleeding and have some deep bruises. There may be internal damage!" "There's nothing wrong with me!" "At least have a doctor check you out sir. We have an ambulance right here - it wouldn't take very long . . ." "I told you, there's nothing wrong with me." "But sir." Then the man walks away from the car accident. His wife picks him up and drives him home. Later he dies from internal bleeding."

The Pharisee and the man in the car accident represent a picture of what Lent is not. They represent what it means to be proud. The humble tax collector is a picture of lent. Lent is a time of honesty and humility as we confess our sins to God. For things we have done wrong and the things we know we should have done but chose not to. But Lent is also a time of relief and joy, knowing that our sins have been forgiven when we repent to Him, and are willing to serve God.

During the seven weeks of Lent, we can take time to look into our heart. Perhaps we may choose to give something up or do something special for others. Whatever you choose, may God's love be with you as you begin your own Lenten journey.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

Greetings to the congregation of Branson Christian Church. I hope this letter finds you warm and comfy---and completely thawed out from the freezing temperatures. I spent a few years in Alaska back in the 60's and I thought for a while that I was trapped in some sort of time warp---because it sure felt like I was back in the Artic.

By all accounts, things are going quite well at Branson Christian Church. We are not back to full strength, but we're gaining with each passing day. We all long for the day when we can all come together without any fear or concern-----and I believe that day will come.

The general board held the February meeting last Thursday and I would like to share some of the highlights from that meeting:

We discussed church security and of how we might better handle any situation that might arise in our church. We have discussed this before, and we have decided to take it a step further. Jamie Haage, along with other men in the church, will meet with local law enforcement folks this week to discuss means, methods, and training to develop a plan to keep our church as safe as possible.

Rod Phillips came to the meeting and brought forth a proposal to get a small choir back and running-----and in a safe manner. He was very articulate in explaining how this could be done and still abide by the local mandates. The board members were quite enthused by this report and we hope to see Rod and the choir back soon----hopefully sometime later this month.

The thrift shop committee announced that a meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 13, at 2PM** in the fellowship hall to discuss the future of the thrift store. All volunteers and anyone that would like to be volunteer are encouraged to mark their calendars-----and attend that meeting---if at all possible. Important decisions will be made at that meeting.

I don't have the space here to share all the proceedings, but all the committee chairs gave reports from their particular committee. We had excellent attendance and I couldn't be more proud of our board members. They understand their role as servants-----to God and to the congregation. There are no Big I's and little U's among us----just a group of people trying to make things better for Branson Christian Church.

Our next board meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 18, at 6PM** in the fellowship hall.

Thanks for reading this letter, and our prayer is that God will richly bless you all.

Quote for the year: *"It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit."* -----John Wooden

Johnie Groves
Board Chair

Outreach & Missions

"IMAGINE WHAT GOD CAN DO" **Easter Offering March 28 and April 4, 2021**

The Disciple Mission Fund Special Day Offerings highlight specific ministries. Offerings are received each year during Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Easter Offering supports the General Ministries of the U.S. and Canada, as well as around the world. This offering supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, formation of new churches, and support for pastors and chaplains. Even the Disciple Women receive support. So just "Imagine What God Can Do" when you share generously in the Easter Offering.

Cindy Baldwin, Outreach Chair



Offerings & Memorials

March 28 and April 4, 2021

*Easter
Offering*

a special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund



supporting general ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Easter Lilly orders will
be received on
Sunday, March 7 & 14

Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the first and third Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

Both classes are held in the Fellowship Hall where social distancing and current protocols are observed.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Hope you will join us!



Church Events

Chain of Prayer Vigil

Good Friday, April 2

6am-12am

Sign up in the Narthex by March 28.

For more information, contact Chris Hedenberg
at chrishedenberg54@gmail.com
or [417-973-5342](tel:417-973-5342).



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through January 2021

Operating income JANUARY	\$8,145.11
Operating expense JANUARY	\$11,270.70
Year to date income	\$8,145.11
Year to date expense	\$11,270.70

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, March 2 at 6pm -
Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman



The Membership Committee is looking forward to planning some fun activities when the current protocols are relaxed.

The committee is exploring ideas for small group activities and how to safely resume Fellowship Dinners.

Watch for more information soon!



Class will be rescheduled later this spring!
Stay tuned for a new start date and time.

Email Pat Campbell for more information.

nsdcampbell@centurytel.net

MARCH





ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School

10:15am - Fellowship Time *(Temp. Suspended)*

10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	2 6pm- Worship Committee Mtg	3 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7 Third Sunday in Lent	8	9	10 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	11	12	13 Thrift shop committee meeting 2pm
14 Fourth Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time 	15 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg (Newsletter Reminder)	16 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	17 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 	18 6pm – Board Mtg *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	19	20
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent	22	23	24 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	25	26	27
28  Easter Special Offering	29	30	31 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study			

~ March Birthdays ~

1-Mar	Elizabeth Donaldson
3-Mar	Vanessa Wohl
4-Mar	David Hedenberg
5-Mar	Chris Armstrong
7-Mar	Cindy Etnyre
11-Mar	Marty Nutt
11-Mar	Blondie Smith
14-Mar	Mike Mueller
22-Mar	Gary Pendergraff
24-Mar	Jeff Eastridge
28-Mar	Lacy (Lankford) Parada
29-Mar	Michael Gauwitz
31-Mar	Pat Davis
31-Mar	Janet Minor



~Anniversaries~

Mar. 22 Chris & Tanya Armstrong



Serving in March

Worship Leaders

7th~	Judy Adams
14th~	Jean Mueller
21st~	Cindy Baldwin
28th~	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.



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

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

April 2021



March 28 and April 4, 2021

Easter Offering

a special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund



supporting general ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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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APRIL SERMONS

4/4- "The Seven Last Words"

Luke 24: 1-12

4/11- "Trust"

Proverbs 3: 5-7

~Johnie Groves

4/18- "The Race to Faith"

Hebrews 12:1-2

(How to win enduring faith.)

4/25- "How to Control Our Emotions"

Ephesians 5: 15-17

(Learning to be wise.)

Kudos

Kudos, a regular part of the monthly board meeting, are a time to recognize those who have given their support, encouragement and time to strengthen the work of the church.

~Judy Adams for providing delicious cinnamon rolls for our security meeting with the Branson Police Department.



1 Thessalonians 5: 11-12

¹¹ Therefore, encourage each other and strengthen one another as you are doing.

¹² Brothers and sisters, we ask you to show your appreciation for those leaders who work among you and instruct you.

Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ, he is a
new creation;
old things have
passed away; behold,
all things have
become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Allen Minor - Minister

Jackie Brown - Office Admin

Rod Phillips - Music Director

Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon -Wed 9am-2pm
Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair

Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair

Annette Sain - Treasurer

Jean Mueller - Secretary

Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Thanking all of you for the cards,
calls, prayers and well wishes
during my recovery.
It was deeply appreciated!

~David and
Ginger Faragher



Announcements & Reminders



Stay tuned for more
information about the
Church Thrift Store!
We hope to re-open soon!



REMINDER!

Attention Key Holders

There is a now a new Key Policy
in effect!

An email went out on March 15
explaining the new protocol and
procedure that was adopted
back in July.

This applies to ALL keys to
anywhere on church property
with the exception of the Thrift
Store key holders. We will
address those at a later date
when final decisions are made
on whether or not to reopen the
store. Thank you to those who
have already responded .
Your cooperation is much
appreciated.



~ April ~
Sandy Poos
Riley Lindner
Stacy Eastridge
Janet Minor

Pastor Message

It is hard to believe, but a year has gone by since the Corona Virus struck. On March 17th, 2020, we received word that our church would not be open for services until the virus had been eradicated. Churches were canceled all over America. I preached that coming Sunday as usual; however, this time it was live streamed from my home. The church Sound Team got together and we practiced for our first church service on Palm Sunday. It was video taped in the church sanctuary on Friday and shown at 10:45 that Sunday morning. Over 500 families saw that service and we were very inspired. We practiced diligently the following Friday and video taped the service which also included the baptism of four young people and two adults. The video of that church service was aired on Easter Sunday morning at 10:45. We were grateful that 972 families could watch it on our church website Facebook page. Our church opened its doors on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020, following the recommendations of face masks and social distancing, and has been opened since then.

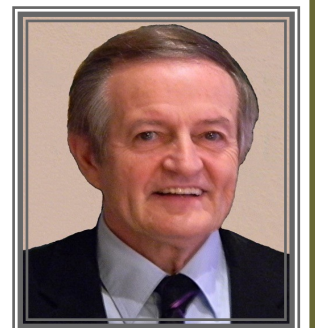


Although Easter was canceled last year in most churches throughout America, no one can really cancel Easter. Last year church doors may have been closed, but the promise of Easter is alive and well. What the angel said on the first Easter, he still says: "He is not here. He is risen from the dead as He said He would." *Matthew 28:6.*

We can entrust our life to the One who declared: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." *John 11:25-26.*

~ On behalf of Branson Christian Church,
we wish you and your family a wonderful Easter.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

Greetings, Branson Christian Church members and friends. We are so glad to have each and everyone of you as part of our family. Many of you have been unable to attend our services for a long time now; some for health reasons, and others because you don't quite feel comfortable enough yet due to Covid 19 and all that it implies. It's important for you to know that you are sorely missed, and we long for the day when we can all gather together again without any fear and reservations. I trust and pray that day is just around the corner.

Our monthly board meeting was held on Thursday, March 18. It was an excellent meeting, well attended with good discussions on many different issues that affect our church. Listed below are a few of those discussions.

Jamie Haage from the buildings and grounds committee, gave a report on church security. He, along with others on his committee met with Branson City Police to discuss steps that need to be taken to make our church as safe as possible. There is a process we will have to adhere to, and more meetings with the Branson Police will have to be scheduled. A subcommittee will be established under the umbrella of building and grounds and Jamie will head up that committee as we move forward. The subcommittee will be called 'Church Security and Safety'. It will not only involve church security, but also church safety in dealing with storms, fires, etc.

Bobbie Wydeen from the Church Growth and Membership committee proposed to the board that we go ahead with the Easter morning pancake breakfast; and do so in a safe manner that adheres to current mandates. A majority of the board members agreed that this should take place, so on Easter morning there will be a pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall. More details will be forthcoming----and you can also call Bobbie if you have any questions.

Our church key policy, which was approved by the general board last year, is now being implemented. This policy, by the way, is a critical part of church security. All current key holders are required to sign a form that is a part of the policy. Many have already done so. If you hold a key to the church, please call Jackie at the church office to set up a time that you can come in and sign the form; or turn your key in if you no longer need it.

The Thrift Store Committee met on Saturday, March 13, to discuss the possibility of reopening. After a long discussion, it was determined by the committee that we did not have enough human resources to open at this time, even for 3 days per week. I would like to encourage all members of our church family to get involved in this endeavor---if you have a mind to do so. If you have an interest, please call Diana Rice, current committee chair, at 417-331-0457 and make her aware of any commitments you would like to make. Also, you can plan to attend the next committee meeting which will be held on Saturday, April 10, in the fellowship hall.

Our next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." -----John Wooden

Johnie Groves
Board Chair

Outreach & Missions

Easter Offering

On April 4th, the church will be collecting the offering for Easter which supports the general ministries of the Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*). To help with local needs, the grocery cart will be available in the Narthex. Please consider those items that will help the homeless and needy for the spring months.

Cindy Baldwin,
Outreach Chair



Offerings & Memorials

Easter Lilies ~ In honor/memory of:

Victor Springer
Sarah Burnett
Carole & Glenn Defebaugh
Bob & Reba Hubbard
Don Hubbard
Helen Kelly
Janet Nokes
Kenny & Randy Herington
Dean & June Wiederstein
Wayne & Irene Baldwin

A.K. Holmes
Kimberly Johnson
Clifford Davis
Pearl Berry
Carl & Dora Yeutter
Paul & Bess Springer
Claudie & Irene Weinstein
Irena Kennedy
Marie & Lucean Finch



Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the first and third Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

Both classes are held in the Fellowship Hall where social distancing and current protocols are observed.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Hope you will join us!



Church Events

Chain of Prayer Vigil

Good Friday, April 2

6am-12am

Sign up in the Narthex by March 28.

For more information, contact Chris Hedenberg at chrishedenberg54@gmail.com or [417-973-5342](tel:417-973-5342).



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through February 2021

Operating income FEBRUARY	\$9,867.32
Operating expense FEBRUARY	\$11,213.53
Year to date income	\$18,012.43
Year to date expense	\$22,484.23

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, April 13 at 6pm -
Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast is back!!
Sunday, April 4th 9am-10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and juice will be served to each individual. Social distance seating and all COVID-19 precautions will be taken.

Please call *Bobbie Wydeen* for any questions
417-699-4728.

Thanks,
Bobbie





ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School

10:15am - Fellowship Time (*Temp. Suspended*)

10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday Prayer Vigil 6am-12am	3
4 <i>Happy Easter</i> Pancake Breakfast 9-10:30am Easter Special Offering	5	6	7 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	8	9	10 Thrift Store Mtg. 2pm
11 Second Sunday of Easter	12	13 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	14 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study (Newsletter Reminder)	15 6pm – Board Mtg	16	17
18 Third Sunday of Easter	19 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	20	21 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 Fourth Sunday of Easter	26	27	28 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	29	30 Arbor DAY	

~ April Birthdays ~

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



~ Anniversaries ~

Apr. 1 ~ Rod & Andrea Philips
 Apr. 7 ~ Vernon & June Doyle
 Apr. 8 ~ Harry & Brenda Wilhoit
 Apr. 11 ~ James & Kristen Lea

Serving in April

Worship Leaders

4th~ Chris Hedenberg
 11th~ Jerry Yeutter
 18th~ Laura Vestal
 25th~ Kathy Kaufman

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

Pentecost Special Offering ~ May 16 & 23



THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

May 2021



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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MAY SERMONS

5/2- "To Thine Own Self Be True"
Romans 12: 1-2
(Are we living the life we really want.)

5/9- "Mary"
Luke 1: 26-38
(Mother's Day message.)

5/16- "The Promises of God"
2 Peter 1: 1-4
(The assurances that guide our life.)

5/23- "The Secret Place"
Matthew 6: 5-6
(A place of prayer.)

5/30- "A Gift of Kindness"
Jeremiah 9: 24
(The gift we can give to others.)

Kudos

~To Stacy Eastridge for her willingness to share her computer technology skills and knowledge to support the needs of the church.


We Appreciate ALL You do!

to all the Moms,
 Step-moms, Grandmas,
 Aunts, Sisters and other
 women in our lives that
 care for us and love us
 unconditionally,
Happy
Mother's Day

Hoping your month of May
 is filled with good
 thoughts, kind people, and
 abundant blessings!

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

Office Hours: Mon -Wed 9am-2pm
 Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

May 31, 2021

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

MEMORIAL DAY

**Thank you for
 your service!**

Church
DEACONS

~ **May** ~

Chris Hedenberg
 David Hedenberg
 Jolene Herington
 Kathy Wood

Announcements & Reminders



Hello Everyone! Check out the updates to the church website. There is now a music page with videos of choir anthems and special music guests.

A new video is added weekly.

For those of you that do not have Facebook...we now have a *YouTube* channel, and you can access that link on our website www.bransonchristianchurch.com by clicking on the *YouTube* icon at the bottom of the homepage. Subscribe to the channel and watch the newest worship services. Past services will be added soon.

You can also search *YouTube* for "*Branson Christian Church*" and click on the one with our church picture.



By The Way

We are excited to announce the thrift store will reopen June 3rd! It will be open for business weekly on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. A BIG thank you to the 23 volunteers who have signed up to help make this happen.

The following are scheduled work days:

May 1st, 8th, and 15th at 10am

It will take a lot of team work to clean, sort, and ready the shop to open.

If you're available to help on one of these work days, please contact

Judy Adams at 417-544-4444.

We are asking that you postpone bringing donations until after June 3rd due to lack of space in our storage room.

By The Way thrift shop is more than a great place to shop.....it's an important mission that shares God's love to all of His children.

We give Him all the praise and glory!

Thank you,

Diana Rice & Judy Adams



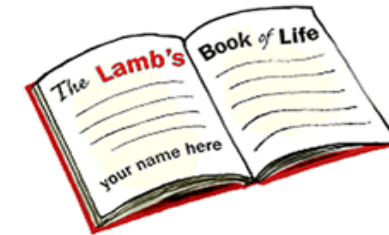
Pastor Message

Have you ever known anyone who was always late? Well, there is one appointment they will not be late for. The Bible says, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

Hebrews 9:27

According to the Bible there is a date when we will leave this earthly life, and for those in Christ their name is written in the Book of Life which signifies they will be going to heaven.

Imagine if you will, that the angel Gabriel paid a visit to your home and laid the Book of Life on your kitchen table when no one else was in the house but you. Gabriel would say to you that you have one hour to decide whether or not you want to open the Book of Life and see if your name is written in it and the date you will be leaving this earth. Would you open the Book of Life? Or would you decide you did not want to know the day you die? You would have 60 minutes to decide. What would you do?



It is a fascinating question. I have asked it many times during Bible classes and other groups. Typically, only one or two people would say they would want to know the day they would die. By far, the majority of people would say no for various reasons. What would you say?

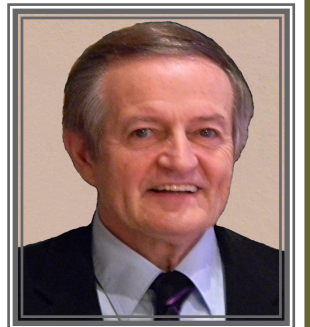
It is interesting how detailed people are in planning their summer vacation trips. They make reservations months in advance. How much time do we spend preparing for our last trip, our heavenly home?

"Surely, I am coming quickly." These are the last words that Jesus speaks in the last two verses of Revelation which is the end of the Bible. Together with the Apostle John, who is the author of Revelation, let us say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Revelation 22:20-21

See you in church,

Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

Greetings, Branson Christian Church members and friends. We are so glad to have each one of you as part of our family. I trust that the month of April was kind to you---and the month of May will be even better. In all my years living in the Ozarks, I don't recall ever seeing a more beautiful spring. The dog-woods are fuller, brighter and whiter than I've ever seen. And the redbuds---Wow!!!

Our monthly board meeting was held on Thursday, April 15. We had a good meeting, and quite lengthy. We did go through our regular routine with committee reports, but the main topic under discussion was the lifting of the facemasks mandate by the Board of Aldermen in Branson. All of our board members were encouraged to express their views on how the church should move forward. After a long floor discussion, the board voted to do the following:

1. Lift our existing facemask requirements on church property. The choice will now be left up to each individual whether they want to wear a facemask or not.
2. Lift our existing requirements on the 6' distancing rule.
3. Begin the process of moving back toward regular communion. This will be a slower process taken a step at a time. As an example, the communion elements will not be passed around for some time; we will continue to use the pre-packaged method. We do plan to engage the elders in some way---and that method is yet to be determined.
4. Open the fellowship hall-----however, the exact date is yet to be determined. There are a few issues that need to be resolved.
5. Return to our regular bulletin. A few bugs will have to be worked out so the exact date is also to be determined.

For over a year now we have all struggled through this. Our goal at Branson Christian Church has always been to survive this epidemic together and to keep everyone as safe as possible. People are desperate for normality----we are starting to see light at the end of that long tunnel. So hold on, dear church family-----this could be the best year ever!!

The thrift store committee met on Saturday, April 10, and decided on a plan to reopen the store. Diana Rice agreed to stay on as Committee Chair until the end of the year, and Judy Adams has agreed to do the scheduling, along the help of the Roger Kauffman family. We also had several new volunteers. This is great news, and I'm sure the thrift store will be successful. Judy Adams has shown excellent organizational skills in this process, and we all are grateful for her willingness to dedicate her time and energy to take on this demanding task. GO THRIFT SHOP---WE ARE EXPECTING GREAT THINGS!!!!!!

Space will not permit me to go into greater detail about the meeting, but I can assure you that the church board continues to work diligently on your behalf. Our goal is to serve the congregation and to make Branson Christian Church better and better as the days go by.

Thank you for reading this letter, and may God bless you richly in the coming days.

Our next board meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 21, at 6:00 PM** in the fellowship hall.

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit."
-----John Wooden

Johnie Groves
Board Chair

Church Events

LOVE. KINDNESS. CARING

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

The Program Planning Council (PPC) recently met and decided that the church committees would join to promote a month focused on LOVE. KINDNESS. CARING. Each committee will be promoting a special event, service project or focus on these words during the month of June.

The scripture text, *John 13:35*, sets the stage for this promotion by reminding us that, by our love they will know we are Christians and his disciples. This is an opportunity to put these words into action by, intentionally, engaging in acts of LOVE.KINDNESS.CARING. The Great Commandment "*to love our neighbor*" is the tangible, practical way of how we show our love of God, through gestures of goodwill, loving people, and showing God's compassion and kindness toward them; something that as Christians comes naturally. We hope you will plan to participate in a month of sharing in the LOVE. KINDNESS. CARING event. It will be exciting to share our experiences as the giver and recipient of these actions!

Following are some of the plans to make June a time of LOVE.KINDNESS.CARING!

~ May 30th will kick-off the promotion with the worship, message and music, being focused on LOVE. KINDNESS. CARING.

~ Provide a calendar of daily suggestions for ways to put the theme into action.

~ Provide a list of community non-profit and service agencies to learn more about their programs and support their mission.

~ Seek interest in community group activities such as, roadside trash pick-up or join a local effort called "Shield the Badge" to pray for individual fire, police or EMS providers.

~ Engage children through focused lessons and activities.

~ Messages shared on our Face Book page and outdoor sign.

Tentative... Fellowship Dinner on June 27 to provide a time of sharing of our experiences.

There will be more information about the upcoming events, so stay tuned! The PPC is excited about collaborating on this project and look forward to the LOVE. KINDNESS. CARING that abounds from Branson Christian Church to be an amazing and spiritual experience for everyone.



Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the first and third Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

Both classes are held in the Fellowship Hall where social distancing and current protocols are observed.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Hope you will join us!



Outreach & Missions

"Be Bold, Be Courageous, Be Generous, Be the New Church"



Let's all be the new church together. To have hope for the future, we need to stay rooted in the Truth. God is a good God with good plans for the good of all people. Through the anointing of the Spirit we discover gifts and resources towards the future God has for us.

The Pentecost offering is to be collected May 16 and 23. Half of the gifts go to Regions to support new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. What better to go out and tell the world about His love.

Cindy Baldwin, Outreach Chair

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through March 2021

Operating income MARCH	\$12,181.40
Operating expense MARCH	\$14,696.30
Year to date income	\$30,193.83
Year to date expense	\$37,180.53

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, May 11 at 6pm -
Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

Membership Committee

The membership committee is *tentatively* planning the post COVID-19 fellowship Dinner for **Sunday, June 27**, the 4th Sunday in June.
Stay tuned for more info....Hope the see everyone there!

When the church service returns to serving communion in the normal fashion we were accustomed to before the pandemic, we will also start distributing our visitor bread again. The committee will need bakers to fill the freezer with small loaves of banana or other types of breads that are fast and easy to bake.

Please call *Bobbie Wydeen* at **417-699-4728** if interested.

Thanks,
Bobbie





ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School

10:15am - Fellowship Time (*Temp. Suspended*)

10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Thrift shop work day—10am
2 Fifth Sunday of Easter	3 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	4	5 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	6	7	8 Thrift shop work day—10am
9 HAPPY Mother's Day Sixth Sunday of Easter	10	11 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm	12 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	13 (Newsletter Reminder)	14	15 Thrift shop work day—10am
16 Pentecost Special Offering Seventh Sunday of Easter	17 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	18 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	19 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	20 6pm – Board Mtg	21	22
23 Pentecost Special Offering 30 LOVE, KINDNESS, CARING Kick Off	24 31 MEMORIAL DAY	25	26 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	27	28	29

~ May Birthdays ~

Misty Coffelt	5-May
Marj Jones	9-May
Jody Nelson	9-May
Jared Lindner	13-May
Tara Groves	15-May
John Lea	16-May
Jim Kelly	20-May
Tanya Armstrong	23-May
Matt Sisson	23-May
Josiah Felder	25-May
Marlene Henderson	27-May
Rod Phillips	28-May
Charie Barton	30-May



~Anniversaries~

May 11	Garry & Debbie Weinstein
May 20	Jeff & Stacy Eastridge
May 25	Keith & Judy Adams
May 25	Larry & Sandy Poos

Serving in May

Worship Leaders

2nd~ Judy Adams

9th~ Annette Sain

16th~ Jean Mueller

23rd~ John Gillen

30th~ Cindy Baldwin

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

By The Way Thrift shop



Saturday, June 5th ~ 10am
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

June 2021



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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JUNE SERMONS

6/6- "Empathy and Compassion"
Luke 7: 11-16
(Listening and responding.)

6/13- "The Jailer's Cry"
Acts 16: 25-34
(A story of salvation.)

6/20- "A Father Named Jairus"
Luke 8: 40-42
(A Father's Day sermon.)

6/27- "Abigail"
Matthew 6: 5-6
(A woman of discernment.)



WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO
 WEAR **RED**, **WHITE**, AND **BLUE**
SUNDAY, JULY 4TH
 TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR
 NATIONS BIRTHDAY.

Kudos

~ Judy Adams for her efforts in preparing the thrift store reopening.
 ~ Worship committee
 ~ Stacy Eastridge for donating the Mother's Day gift bags.
 ~ Rosewood Floral for the Mother's Day flowers.

You are
Appreciated

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Church
DEACONS

~ June ~

Jean Mueller
 Mike Goff
 Teresita Goff
 Janice Smith



Announcements & Reminders



Don't have Facebook? No worries. You can now watch our services on YouTube now!

Go to www.bransonchristianchurch.com and click on the tab that says Social Media.

[Home](#) | [BransonChristianChurch](#)

Branson Christian Church shares God's love through worship, fellowship and ministry. We honor Him through public worship and through opportunities for personal devotions, meditations and prayers.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Month

Booklets with a variety of ideas, activities and opportunities are available in the Narthex for your convenience or you can contact the church office if you would like a copy.



Love. Kindness. Caring.

Scripture text is from John 13:35

*By this everyone will know that
you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

Pastor Message

Some years ago, a young man from Great Britain named Derek Redmond was running for the Gold Medal. He had trained many years for this event in the 400 meters. He was off to a great start and well ahead of everyone else; however, 50 yards from the finish line he ruptured his Achilles tendon and collapsed, screaming in pain. A man leaped out of his seat breaking all the rules and running past security. He reached down and lifted the young man off the ground. He put his arm around his shoulder and helped the young man across the finish line.

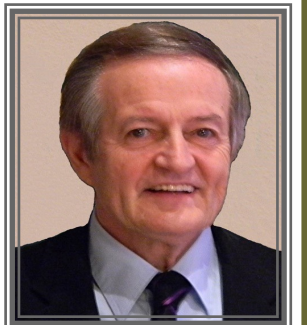


Who was that man? It was Derek's father. He saw his dreams of being a father whose son won the gold medal in the Olympics go down with his son, but no one was going to stop him from being a father to his son who needed him.

In a few weeks we will honor fathers all over America. A time to think about our own father. To remember all the good things and forgive the bad. It is also a time to think about our Father in heaven. God loves us with a love we will never understand. Let us always honor God every day of our lives.

On behalf of Branson Christian church, I wish you a happy Father's Day.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

Greetings, Branson Christian Church family and friends. Speaking on behalf of the general board, I hope and pray that this letter finds you making great strides, both physically and spiritually. We have just come through a long, hard year, and the remnants are still lingering -----something that most of us have never seen the like of. Some have suffered great loss and nearly everyone has been affected in some way.

At Branson Christian Church, we are starting to turn the pages---we are carefully seeking out ways to get back to normal. At the April board meeting, we started this process by ending the facemask policy along with the 6' distancing policy. At the May board meeting, we took further steps to get things back to normal by voting to reopen the Fellowship Hall for Sunday morning fellowship. This will be good news to many of our members who have been longing for this day to come. This policy will take effect on Sunday, June 6. And, with the opening of the Fellowship Hall, the monthly fellowship dinners will start back up. Please contact Bobbie Wydeen if you have any questions about these events.

Also, beginning on June 6th, at the recommendation of the Worship Committee, the board voted to change the order of the Sunday morning worship service by assigning elders to participate in the communion process by offering the communion prayers as was done in the past. However, the communion elements will still be served in the pre-packaged cups for now. The decision to use deacons to pass out communion elements-----and also to pass around offering plates, is on hold for now.

Also beginning on Sunday morning, June 6, the church bulletin that we are all familiar with will be available to the congregation as in days of old.

Judy Adams reported at the meeting that the By the Way Thrift Shop is on target to reopen on Thursday, June 3. We are grateful for Judy and all the volunteers for being willing to donate their time and talents to make a go of this, thus being a blessing to Branson Christian Church.

The Program Planning Council, (PPC) headed up by Jean Mueller, has chosen "Acts of Kindness" as a theme for the months ahead. The council will be coordinating this effort with other committees. Members of the general board have all agreed that this is indeed a very worthy effort. You will be hearing more and more about this in the coming days, and the goal is to make the church family more aware of the importance of random acts of kindness. This is one of the "fruits of the spirit" and should be a natural trait to the born-again Christian.

Tanya Armstrong, chair of the Vision Committee, reported that the bathroom remodeling project in the Fellowship Hall is moving along---a bit slower that she wanted perhaps, but moving just the same. She anticipates completing the project soon.

Thank you for reading this letter, and may God bless you richly in the coming days.
Our next board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit."
-----John Wooden

Johnie Groves,
Board Chair

Outreach & Missions

Reaching Out in Kindness

For the month of June we will be involved with the "Kindness" project of the church. Two items to emphasize will be the Operation Christmas Child and the OACAC Blessing Box.

While Christmas is over a half year away, the collections of items for the Christmas boxes sponsored by Samaritan's Purse can be started now. Pencils, markers, crayons, notebooks, rulers are some of the school supplies for that. Also fun items such as sunglasses, stickers, hair ribbons, and coloring books are suggested. Even a small plush toy, doll, balls, or foam toys are useful as well. Plastic or cardboard shoeboxes are also needed. More information will follow as to when we will assemble them in late Fall.

Many of you have seen the "Blessing Box" at the Yacht Club in Hollister or at OACAC in Branson. There is a wish for a new box by Branson Manor to collect items for senior citizens. With a provided picture and plans, perhaps a group of you can build one as an act of kindness for the church to give to this project.

As always the cart is ready for groceries to be distributed to CAM or other entities.

Cindy Baldwin, Chair



Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the first and third Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

Both classes are held in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided.

Hope you will join us!



On May 3rd, Rod Phillips volunteered to take a lie detector test administered by Rick Johnson, a retired highway patrol officer. Twenty-two people watched and participated in this recent Dead Philosopher's Society class.



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through April 2021

Operating income APRIL	\$13,080.74
Operating expense APRIL	\$10,604.41
Year to date income	\$43,274.57
Year to date expense	\$47,784.94

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, June 8 at 6pm -
Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

Membership News

The Membership Committee will start to distribute Visitor Bread on **Sunday, June 6th**. There will be a surprise for the congregation as well!

The Membership Committee in conjunction with the Worship Committee will sponsor a special *Father's Day* **Grab N Go Hot Dog Boxed Lunch** that will be available to everyone following the service on **Sunday, June 20th**. It will include a hot dog, chips, and a cookie!

The June 2021 Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for **Sunday, June 27th** (the 4th Sunday due to Father's Day on June 20th). Fried chicken will be served, and everyone is encouraged and welcome to bring a dish to pass. All table setting items, and drinks will be provided.

Thanks!
Bobbie





ALL SUNDAYS

9:30am - Sunday School

10:15am - Fellowship Time

10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	3  Re-opening 10am	4	5  Thrift Shop~10am
6 Second Sunday After Pentecost	7 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	8 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm	9 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	10	11	12
13 Third Sunday After Pentecost	14 	15 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	16 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	17 6pm – Board Mtg	18 (Newsletter Reminder)	19 Wedding 
20 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost 	21 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	22 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	23 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost Fellowship Dinner	28	29	30 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice			

~ June Birthdays ~

Teena Sims	1-Jun
Kathy Kauffman	1-Jun
June Doyle	2-Jun
Linda Neff	4-Jun
Juliana Tilden	6-Jun
Andrea Phillips	7-Jun
Connie Yeutter	7-Jun
John Rinehart	9-Jun
Lucy Johnson	12-Jun
Ruth Griffin	14-Jun
Easton Rein	16-Jun
Evan Kauffman	17-Jun
Laura Vestal	23-Jun
Joyce Dewell	28-Jun
David Faragher	28-Jun
Linda Endicott	30-Jun



~ Anniversaries ~

1-Jun	John & Gayle Rinehart
1-Jun	Terry & Karen Fisher
2-Jun	Alex & Holli Segura
11-Jun	Jerry & Connie Yeutter
21-Jun	Roger & Katy Kauffman
23-Jun	Mark & Jana Lindner

Serving in June

Worship Leaders

6th~ Cindy Baldwin
13th~ Bobbie Wydeen
20th~ Stacy Eastridge
27th~ Judy Adams



Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 6561
417-334-3453

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

July 2021



**This Independence Day, we're reaching out to say
the best things in life are FREE...
Just like God's love for you.**



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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JULY SERMONS

7/4- "Freedom"
Luke 4: 16-21
(Jesus sets us free.)

7/11- "Facing Fear"
Matthew 10: 27-31
(Dealing with our fears.)

7/18- "Living With Uncertainty"
Matthew 8: 23-27
(Believing in the words of Jesus.)

7/25- "The Heart of the Matter"
Matthew 22: 34-46
(Following out heart.)



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Church Events

SAVE THE DATE! **Church Picnic**

~ scheduled for Sunday, September 19th at the Tablerock State Park
 More information to come as the date approaches!

Bobbie



Kudos

- ~ Roger Kaufmann for refinishing the garden bench donated by Ozark Mountain Christian Church given in memory of Marjorie Herrington's son.
- ~ Jerry Yeutter for caring for the garden and keeping the yard mowed. It always looks GREAT!
- ~ Jackie Brown for working diligently to get the worship bulletin updated.

Thank you!
You make a difference.



Announcements & Reminders



Together, we can save a life



Blood Drive ~12pm-6pm

July 1, 2021

(BCC Fellowship Hall)

Schedule your appointment at

www.redcrossblood.org OR call 1-800-RedCross



Music Ministry News



On December 18 and 19, we are planning to perform a production of "The Christmas Lamb", an all-church musical which was written by Rod Phillips and was performed at BCC in 1998 and 2000. It features traditional and Ozark Christmas music plus 8 original songs, with one square dance scene.

Although the principals have been mostly cast, we will be welcoming volunteers for all the other roles and behind-the-scenes players.

Principal characters will be 6 singer/actors, 2 or 3 musicians, 6-8 singer/dancers, stagehands, prop people, costumes, dessert dinner organizers, a publicity person, and all the choir members.

Cast:

- | 1 narrator/singer/Uncle Jess (cast: Jamie Haage)
- | Reynard (Father, not yet cast) Lorelei (Mother, cast: Jackie Brown) and their daughters, Sara, (12yr.-old girl), (cast: Grace Rein) and Rachel, (6yr.-old girl, Matea Tilden.)
- | There is also a singing angel role, possibly cast.
- | There are 3 or 4 other speaking roles for adolescent (or younger) boys and girls.

The musical is set in the rural Ozarks in 1933. There are two scenes: *Scene One* in the Fellowship Hall at the "Christmas Pie Supper" (one-room schoolhouse) and *Scene Two*, in the Sanctuary (the Tipton Family Home).

The performances will be Saturday Dec. 18 at 4:30 PM and Sunday Dec. 18, 6:30 PM
Total time running: 75 minutes.

Pastor Message



I will be teaching a **Bereavement Support Group** beginning July 8th through August 26th, every Thursday from 10:30am–12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

It will be part teaching and part class interaction.

It is open to anyone in the church or community.

Each session will have a topic to be explored and discussed.

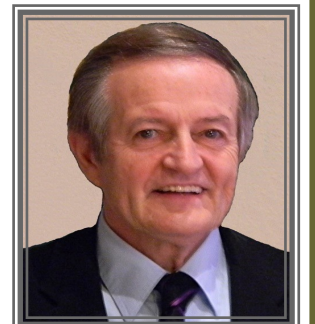
I encourage anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one or any type of bereavement to come to this class.

My favorite verse in the entire Bible is **Luke 4:18**.

This verse is the very definition of who Jesus is
and His mission on earth.

The part of this verse which applies to this Group is this:

"He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted."



See you in church,
Pastor Minor

From the Board Chair

The BCC general board met on Thursday, June 17, for our monthly meeting and we moved forward with several items that was on our agenda. The following items were discussed:

Pastor Allen Minor announced that the Bible study and the Dead Philosopher Classes are in full swing and well attended. He is also planning a bereavement group for an 8 week session beginning soon. Please contact Pastor Al for more information on this.

As many of you know, we have had church security on our agenda for awhile now, and at the meeting we took another step in what we feel is the right direction. The board voted unanimously to purchase surveillance cameras to be placed throughout the church property. This surveillance is necessary, especially the sensitive areas, like the office and sound room. Jamie Haage is also moving forward in other areas of church security, which include the selection of a few individuals who will be trained to remain vigilant during our church functions. We has been fortunate because we already have a select few in our congregation who have a background in law-enforcement or security. I can assure you there will be no Wyatt Earp or Lone Ranger want-a-Be's in this group; but rather it will be made up of level-headed individuals who know how to react in a crisis. It is sad that we have devolved into a society where this discussion is even necessary, but it would behoove us all to remain vigilant to some degree and report to Jamie anything that appears unusual---or 'not right'.

The board also approved a motion to replace the dilapidated awning over the sidewalk in front of the office. The existing awning is quite old now----and has several holes in it.

Tanya Armstrong, who chairs the Vision Committee, reported that the bathroom renovation in the Fellowship Hall is picking up steam now and should be completed in July. She has the work all scheduled out; everything is lined up for completion, but we all know how projects can go awry now-a-days. Its sometimes difficult to get people to break away from their busy schedule and do what they say they will do. Tanya is doing her best, and a few times I have noticed that she has worked way into the night trying to get things ready for the next phase.

Judy Adams reported that the Thrift Store has done very well. They have had several record sales since opening day. This is a great blessing to our church because it adds directly to our income and helps us to not only keep our own lights burning, but to be a blessing to the community around us. May God bless all the volunteers for their willingness to dedicate their time and energy into this effort.

Other committees gave their reports as well. Bobbie Wydeen reported that our first fellowship dinner is this month----and also the yearly church picnic at the Table Rock State Park is scheduled for September. Chris Hedenburg reminded us of the patriotic service coming up on the 4th of July. Overall, I am extremely pleased to report that Branson Christian Church is doing very well. Is everything perfect?-----of course not!! We will never have perfection in this life because people are not perfect. But we sure want to do our very best for BCC!

May God bless you all. Have a great July---stay in the shade as much as possible to avoid negative dermatology reports.

Our next board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 15, at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." -----
John Wooden

Johnie Groves,
Board Chair

Outreach & Missions



Traditionally our church has been involved with the project each summer of collecting money to be given to children in the community to clothe them for the start of the new school year.

While it seems that the school just let out for the summer, preparations need to be made for the coming year.

Children are given gift cards to purchase necessary items to help them start a new year from the Salvation Army.

During the month of *July*, the church will be collecting money to support this project. Last year we collected **\$1605.00**.

Our challenge is always to give at least \$1.00 more than the previous year.

Let's accept this challenge for our kids.

Cindy Baldwin
(Outreach Chair)

Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

All classes are held in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided.

Hope you will join us!



Serving this month



~ July ~

Sandy Poos
Riley Lindner
Stacy Eastridge
Janet Minor

Elders



Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

~ July ~

Anna Lankford
John Lea
(*filling in)
*Julie Groves
*Johnie Groves



~DEACONS MEETING~

SATURDAY, JULY 10 ~ 10:00AM

(SANCTUARY)

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through May 2021

Operating income MAY	\$14,569.04
Operating expense MAY	\$10,958.14
Year to date income	\$57,843.61
Year to date expense	\$58,743.08

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

Worship Committee



WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO WEAR **RED, WHITE, AND BLUE** **SUNDAY, JULY 4TH** TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR NATIONS BIRTHDAY.

The next meeting is scheduled in the Narthex on.....

-**Tuesday, July 13 at 6pm** - Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

By The Way



NOW OPEN!

(Thurs., Fri., Sat.)

10am-5pm

Accepting Donations

Contact Judy Adams

417-544-4444





JULY



ALL SUNDAYS

10:15am - Fellowship Time

10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	1 Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6 	2	3
4 	5	6	7 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	8 Bereavement 10:30-12:00	9	10 Deacons Meeting 10am
11	12 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	13 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	14 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	15 Bereavement 10:30-12:00 6pm – Board Mtg	16	17
18 Fellowship Dinner	19 (Newsletter Reminder)	20	21 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	22 Bereavement 10:30-12:00 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	23	24 Thrift Shop  Meeting 1:00pm
25	26 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	27	28 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	29 Bereavement 10:30-12:00	30	31

~July Birthdays~

Lexi Mati	3-Jul
Brynna Lindner Howell	8-Jul
Terry Fisher	8-Jul
Mary Holmes	12-Jul
Bill Burnett Sr.	16-Jun
Amy (Endicott) Delaney	22-Jul
Phil Endicott	28-Jul



~Anniversaries~

Jul. 5 ~ Phil & Linda Endicott



Serving in July

Worship Leaders

- 4th~ David Faragher
- 11th~ Jerry Yeutter
- 18th~ Chris Hedenberg
- 25th~ Kathy Kauffman

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 6561
417-334-3453

Just Summer Conversations of Healing

August 15 @ 8:00am-5:00pm ~ Sign up bit.ly/beingbravetogether



THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

August 2021



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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AUGUST SERMONS

8/1- "Who is Jesus?"
 Acts 9: 1-6
(How well do we really know Him?)

8/8- "Making the Impossible, Possible"
 John 6: 1-14
(Believing God can do miracles.)

8/15- "I'll Be With You"
 Exodus 3: 9-14
(We are not alone.)

8/22- "What is a Christian?"
 Matthew 4: 18-20
(How to follow Jesus.)

8/29- "Setting Yourself Free"
 John 14:27
(Achieving inner peace.)



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

Office Hours: Mon -Wed 9am-2pm
 Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Church Events

SAVE THE DATE! **Church Picnic**

~ scheduled for Sunday, September 19th at the Tablerock State Park
 More information to come as the date approaches!

Bobbie



Kudos

*Chris Hedenberg ---- For all the participants in the Fourth of July service, Stacy Eastridge, the Boy Scout Troop flag presentation and special guest performers.

*All those who donated to the By the Way Thrift Shop.

thank you

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, and cards
 during my son's illness, and death.

~Harold Nesbit

Announcements & Reminders



Music Ministry News

"The Christmas Lamb" production is needing the following:

Set construction, (3-4 people) to put together the set and find items for the downstairs one-room schoolhouse and the upstairs Tipton kitchen, bedroom, shed, and a Model T Ford Pickup. We need as many as 8-10 artificial Christmas trees of differing sizes, old style, (no lights attached.)

Props- In need of old-style, screw-down desks, wood stove and chimney, a small creche, kitchen furniture, a gas lamp, manger, and other items.

PR and marketing - need (2-3 promoters).

Stage crew (2-6 people) to work rehearsals and shows during performance week.

Costumes -30's style clothing for cast, choir, and musicians.

Cooks- Coordinate (Pie supper/dessert) kitchen volunteers/helpers for the two performances.

Church members, young and old, who want to participate in the cast onstage, even if you don't sing, dance, or say lines. **YOU ARE NEEDED!** Everybody is an actor!

If you want to volunteer for any of these tasks or have anything to contribute, please contact Rod Phillips at 337-0446 /rodphil549@gmail.com or the church office.

The performances will be Saturday Dec. 18 at 4:30 PM and Sunday Dec. 19, 6:30 PM

Memorial Service

At Branson Christian Church for
Hal Dewell on Thursday,
Aug. 19 at 1:00pm.



John Park Winkler

A memorial service will be held for the
Former BCC Interim Minister at
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in Fort Worth, TX on Saturday,
Sept. 18 at 11:00am.



Cards and condolences can be sent to:

Ruth Winkler
7201 Astoria Ct.
Watauga, TX 76148

Pastor Message

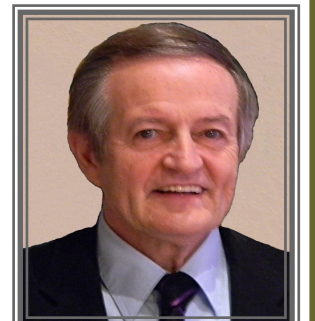
One of the great secrets of happiness is to choose the best possible people to spend time with. The neuroscience professor from Northwestern University, Moran Cerf, after a decade of research, has found that when two people spend a lot of time together their brain waves begin to look alike.

This is not just behavioral but rather neurological. We may not even be aware of this happening. Dr. Cerf discovered that, "just being next to certain people actually aligns your brain with them."

We need to choose our friends wisely because one of the great secrets of unhappiness is to choose the wrong people to spend time with. King Solomon warned us in Proverbs 13:20: "He who walks with wise men will be wise. But the companion of fools will be destroyed."



The greatest decision of your life is making Jesus your best friend. The more time you spend with the Lord, the more your brain waves will begin to align with His. Eventually you will become the man or woman, boy or girl, God wants you to be.



See you in church,
Pastor Minor

From the Board Chair

The BCC General Board met on Thursday, July 15, for the monthly meeting. In addition to reports, there were several items of business on the agenda.

Pastor Allen Minor announced that the Bereavement Class will be rescheduled in the Fall. The deacons will meet to discuss when to begin distributing communion. The Bible Study and Dead Philosophers Class continue to be strong in attendance.

Jamie Haage (*Building and Grounds/Property*) reported that the awning in front of the office had been ordered. (In fact, it is now in place.) The security cameras have been ordered. He is also researching church property insurance options.

Pat Campbell (*Christian Education*) is seeking a time for a class by Susie Cook called "Choose Love." Please let her know if you are interested.

In the Finance report, Ginger Faragher reported that it was a blessing for the Thrift Store to be active again. She also reported that our church was doing well with the finances.

Judy Adams (*Thrift Shop*) reports the thrift shop operations are going well. They are considering options for making deposits after banking hours through the night depository.

Church Growth and Membership chaired by Bobbie Wydeen reported 60 lunches were distributed on Father's Day and the first Fellowship Dinner, in 14 months, was served the last Sunday in June.

Chris Hedenberg (*Worship*) reported that the July 4th Sunday service was well received. The committee is developing a list of resources and guidelines to assist worship leaders.

In discussion of Unfinished Business, the landscaping around the Narthex area will be rescheduled for the Fall according to Stacy Eastridge. Jean Mueller reported an update on the Key Policy noting several keys are unaccounted for. Please check to see if you still have a key; if so, contact the church office.

In New Business Cindy Baldwin reported the Outreach committee decided to use funds previously designated from the Ozark Mountain Christian Church gift, to support two local programs. The funds will be used to purchase a "Blessing Box" that provides food and hygiene items for those in need located at Branson Manor. We will also donate \$2,000 to OACAC for their emergency fund assisting Taney County residents.

Board meeting will be August 19 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Just a note: We are members from many churches and denominations who have come together to work for God's mission here on earth. Remember that we always need volunteers to help us with that mission, so please let us know if you are willing to help. May God bless all of you in all that you do for the church and the community.

Cindy Baldwin, *Vice Chairman*

Outreach & Missions

OUTREACH REPORT

The Outreach Committee continues to support local Back-To-School programs such as.....

~ Clothe-A-Child- If you would like to make a donation, make a check payable to Branson Christian Church, and memo it Clothe-A-Child.

~ Junior Auxiliary- You may purchase items from the list provided in the Narthex, or contact *Cindy* at 620-654-7741 or the *church office*.

During the month of August, please continue to help fill the grocery cart or support any projects you choose for reaching out in our community. I thank you not only for your donations, but I also know that there are several of you who volunteer in "caring for others" organizations. May God bless you for the donation of your time, talents, and treasures.

Cindy Baldwin, *Outreach chairman*



Thank You!

Serving this month



~ August ~

Chris Hedenberg
David Hedenberg
Jolene Herington

Elders



Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

~ August ~

Johnie Groves
Julie Groves

Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

All classes are held in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided.

Hope you will join us!



CHOOSE LOVE: TO HEAL, EMPOWER AND BLESS

A class, *Choose Love*, is a share experience in which we will discuss the many ways agape love is expressed and received. The course is based on *1 Corinthians 13:13*. The idea for the class actually came from Pastor Al's message about peace.

"Love God. Love Neighbor". World peace.

The class will meet weekly for four weeks. The book *"The Mount of Olives"* will be used for discussion during the class. You may order this book on Amazon.

The class will be taught by Susie Cook. Susie has been a member of BCC for many years and is the daughter of the late, Shannon Kimsey, Co-Pastor of OMCC.

This small group setting allows for us to interact and learn from one another. The goal is for each of us to be able to encourage others in following a path of love as we continue our spiritual journey.

If you are interested in taking this class, please call **Susie Cook** at 417-593-6555.

She will see what days & times work best for you and then set a day and time for the group to meet.

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through June 2021

Operating income	JUNE	\$15,650.12
Operating expense	JUNE	\$10,813.88
Year to date income		\$73,493.73
Year to date expense		\$69,556.96

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 the Fellowship Hall on.....

-Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 6pm -
Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

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

Thanks - Chris Hedenberg -
Worship Committee Chairman

Membership News

The Membership committee is planning some activities in the fall.

- ~ A golf outing
- ~ A group to attend the current Sight and Sound production of "Jesus."

If you are interested in either of these activities, please call or text **Bobbie Wydeen** at 417-699-4728 or email bobster218@aol.com.



By The Way



What's Going On.....

~ \$2.00 Bag sale Aug 19-28

~ Seasonal changeover Monday, Aug. 30 at 10:00am

Volunteers needed!

Contact Judy Adams - 417-544-4444

AUGUST

ALL SUNDAYS

10:15am - Fellowship Time

10:45am - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	5	6	7
8	9 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	10 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm	11 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	12	13	14
15 Fellowship Dinner 	16	17 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	18 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study (Newsletter Reminder)	19 Hal Dewell Memorial service 1pm 6pm – Board Mtg	20	21 Thrift Store Volunteer meeting 1pm
22	23 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg 	24	25 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study	26 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	27	28
29	30 Thrift Store (seasonal changeover) 10am	31	10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study			



August Birthdays



Preston Segura	3-Aug
Larry Pribble	4-Aug
Cameron Pruitt	7-Aug
Grant Lindner	8-Aug
Lea Moore Baldwin	8-Aug
Amanda Sain	13-Aug
Keith Nelson	19-Aug
Harold Nesbit	24-Aug
Sara Endicott Pascucci	27-Aug
Malachi Felder	29-Aug
Helen Wells	29-Aug
Greg Haston	31-Aug

~Anniversaries~



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

Serving in August

Worship Leaders

1st~	Johnie Groves
8th~	Annette Sain
15th~	Jamie Haage
22nd~	Bobbie Wydeen
29th~	Judy Adams

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 6561
417-334-3453

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

September 2021



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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SEPTEMBER SERMONS

9/5- "Obedience"

John 28:30

(Obeying God.)

9/12- "Humility"

Mark 10:32-45

(Why humility is important to serve God.)

9/19- "Zacchaeus"

Luke 19: 1-10

(A message of salvation.)

9/26- "Choices"

Joshua 24: 15

(Who will we serve?)

Church Events

Church Picnic

~ September 19th *(Following Sunday Service)*

~ Table Rock State Park Pavillion

5272 State Hwy 165

Branson, MO 65616

BCC

Hamburgers, Brats, Hotdogs, with the fixin's, and beverages are provided.

Please bring a dish to pass. Games and Activities for ALL!!

Hope to see everyone there!

Kudos

- Robert and Cindy Baldwin and Jean Mueller for cleaning the landscape area at the Narthex entrance.
- Jerry Yeutter for faithfully mowing and keeping the landscape around the church well tended.
- Stacy Eastridge for promoting the church, thrift store and activities through various social media platforms.
- Jamie Haage for the extra work he did seeking new insurance coverage.

Serving this month

Church
DEACONS

~ September ~

Jean Mueller

Chris Hedenberg

David Hedenberg

~ September ~

Julie Groves

Johnie Groves

Cindy Baldwin

Jamie Haage

God doesn't give us what we can handle;
God helps us handle what we are given.



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Allen Minor - Minister

Jackie Brown - Office Admin

Rod Phillips - Music Director

Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon -Wed 9am-2pm
Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair

Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair

Annette Sain - Treasurer

Jean Mueller - Secretary

Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Announcements & Reminders

Memorial Service

A memorial service for John Park Winkler, former Interim Minister at BCC, will be **Saturday, September 18, 11 a.m.** at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 612 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

For family and friends who cannot travel to Fort Worth, you may join the service virtually at <https://zoom.us/j/97020083336?pwd=WkpDbThmOTZlc2pYb1N5Z0pVRmlhQT09>

Or the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FortWorthFCC> to view the service.

Cards and condolences can be sent to:



Ruth Winkler
7201 Astoria Ct.
Watauga, TX 76148



Would you like to join the handbell choir? No experience necessary.

Music reading skills are not required. You just need to be able to count to 4. Depending on the interest, rehearsals will start in October. Rehearsals will be one night weekly. Date and time TBA. If you are interested in joining handbells, please contact Stacy Eastridge at 417-239-4477 or shortround9276@gmail.com.



"The Christmas Lamb" production is coming together nicely, but is still in need of the following participants.

Participants must be able to commit to all rehearsals (TBA) & performance dates **Dec. 22 & 23 at 5:30pm.**

-6-8 young people ages 5-15 including 2 females ages 10-13 w/ small speaking parts. (*Participants do not need to be from our church...anyone is welcome*)

-2 dancers who can clog, and choreograph a traditional square dance.

-Set builders, prop and stage hands.

If interested, contact **Rod Phillips** at **417-337-0446** or rodphil549@gmail.com

Pastor Message

During this pandemic, we have seen, heard and read the news about the suffering of people throughout America and the world. The heart break of families who were not allowed to visit their loved one's in nursing homes. The tragedy of not being allowed to hold a loved one's hand to say good by. The soaring rate of suicides and divorces. Those families who lost their homes. Those who lost their businesses. Those who buried their dreams.

The words of Jesus speak to us throughout the Bible. Jesus understands all of our losses and all of our needs. The words he speaks in Luke 4:18 brings hope to all of us:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; **He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

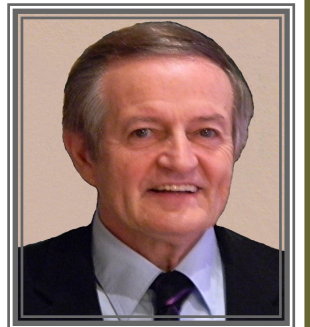


There is a need for those in our church family and throughout Taney County for a place where their sorrows and needs can be addressed. Where voices can be heard and hearts healed.

Beginning September 14th and ending November 2nd, we will be presenting a Bereavement Group for anyone, anywhere, can attend. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 until noon. During these eight sessions every facet of bereavement will be examined, discussed and hopefully worked through. Each session will be half teaching and half interaction. Every session will have a topic. Some examples of topics, "Can a broken heart really be mended?" "Now that I'm alone, what do I do?" "Why did God let this happen?"

I pray those who need to be in this group will come and that if you know someone who is in need, that you will invite them. Please call Jackie at the church office if you would like to come to it. All materials given out will be free.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

The BCC general board met on Thursday, August 19, for our monthly meeting and we moved forward with several items that was on our agenda. The following items were discussed:

Pastor Allen Minor announced that the Bible study and the Dead Philosopher Class are well attended. He is also planning an 8-week bereavement group session this fall. You may contact Pastor Al for more information on this.

Jamie Haage, chairman of the Building and Grounds committee, reported that insurance coverage on the church property for another year has been reconciled and a new company will provide our coverage. The existing company announced an unreasonable rate hike; therefore, the insurance broker searched for an alternate coverage, and found a company that provides the coverage we need for a little less than what we've been paying. Jamie also reported that he got an estimate on the two roof leaks; one over the nursery and another above the kitchen. The board approved a motion to get the work done.

Bobbie Wydeen, church growth and membership committee chair, reminded us that the church picnic will be on Sunday, September 19, at the State Park Pavilion. Plans are also under way to get up a group to see the "Jesus Performance". Also, a golf outing is in the works. Contact Bobbie for more info.

In the finance report, Ginger Faragher reported the church finances are doing well. The thrift shop has been a great blessing in helping provide for our financial well-being. She also announced that preparation for next year's budget is underway and being processed by each committee.

Cindy Baldwin, chair of the Outreach Committee, reported that the Clothe -A-Child project was a great success this year. She also announced that the 'Christmas Box' project will soon be underway and boxes are available now and will be collected by the 3rd week of November. Also, the 'Blessing Box' which was announced at the board meeting last month was received, painted and is waiting to be installed at Branson Manor soon. Please contact Cindy if you have any questions concerning any of these projects.

Judy Adams reported that the thrift store is doing very well. She announced that two new volunteers have stepped up to the plate to help carry the load. This effort at the thrift store has been a success story since they opened in June, and should be applauded by all of us. It has been a blessing to our church. (Judy will be out of commission for a while due to foot surgery. Please remember to pray for her swift recovery.)

Chris Hedenberg, Worship Committee Chair, discussed starting a Jr. Worship Leadership League to help train the youth to do worship related jobs. She announced that Acolytes will be scheduled beginning in September to get youth involved. Also, since Sunday, November 21 is World Youth Day, Chris announced that young people will be involved in the service as Acolytes, worship leader, and special music. We are looking forward to seeing more young people involved in our church in the future.

New robes are being ordered so it will be a wonderful blessing to see young, trained Acolytes bring in the Light of Christ!

Under new business the Worship Committee recommended to the board that deacons should resume their duties in passing around the communion elements and the offering plate. After a floor discussion this recommendation was brought to a vote and was approved. The deacons will resume their duties on Sunday, September 5.

Our next board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16, at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

**Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." -----
-John Wooden**

Johnie Groves —Board Chair

Outreach & Missions



- The Clothe-A-Child project collected a total of \$1,230 to provide school clothes/supplies distributed through the Salvation Army.
- A total of 768 school supply items were collected for area children for the "Back to School" project sponsored by Junior Auxiliary of Taney County.
- The Christmas Child Project for Samaritan's Purse began August 22. Stop by the display in Fellowship Hall to pick up a shoe box, flyer explaining the project and a list of suggested items to fill your box. Please plan to return the filled box by November 21. Thanks to Jolene and Marjorie Herrington for assisting with this project.
- The funds designated from the Ozark Mountain Christian Church gift for outreach has been allocated.
 - \$2,000 was given to the local OACAC office to use for their emergency fund.
 - A Blessing Box was purchased, painted and ready for installation to provide another location for individuals in need of food and hygiene products. A list of items will be made available when the Blessing Box is installed.
- Sunday, September 19, missionary families supported by the church will be recognized during the worship service. Please join us and learn more about their ministries.

Cindy Baldwin, *Outreach chairman*



As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said
"*The time is right to always do what is right.*"

The Disciples church wide mission fund supports programs that promote the belief that every life is precious and valued in God's beloved community. It allows Disciples to show up, speak up, and stand up on behalf of those who need our voices to proclaim that God's justice and mercy are present with us and available to all of us. Please consider your contribution to this important fund which will be collected
September 26 and Oct. 3.

Classes

The Dead Philosopher's Class

This class meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In each class, we discuss one philosophy question with topics such as, "What is the meaning of life? "Is there free will?" There are also others that are debated. It is a very interesting class that is sure to challenge your mind and hold your attention.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee and light refreshments are provided.

Hope you will join us!



THE GOSPEL PROJECT

Seasons Sunday School class will begin meeting on Sunday, September 12 at 9:30am.

This class is open to all Christians in various "seasons" of their life. We will be starting a new series called "The Gospel Project." This is a

Christ-centered chronological Bible study that helps adults dive deep into the big story of the Bible—God's plan to rescue His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. Every session shows how all scripture leads us to Jesus. The chronological study explores the uniting gospel story and essential truths of scripture. The gospel centered discipleship places our transformation on Jesus, not moralistic thinking. We look forward to seeing you in class. The Seasons class is located just off Fellowship Hall at the bottom of the steps.

See you there Sunday, September 12 at 9:30am.

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through July 2021

Operating income	JULY	\$15,682.43
Operating expense	JULY	\$11,051.94
Year to date income		\$89,395.52
Year to date expense		\$80,608.90

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 the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 6pm**
Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

~ **Acolytes**— There will be a meeting of all current acolytes, and any children interested in becoming an acolyte after church on **Sunday, September 5.**

The acolytes open and end our worship service by bringing in and carrying out the Light of Christ. All acolytes will be given formal training.

For more information contact Stacy Eastridge at 417-239-4477 or shortround9276@gmail.com.



Membership Committee

Golf Outing

An afternoon of golf is being planned for the end of September or beginning of October when the weather is cooler. Currently we have five members interested. More information to come.



The Production of Jesus at Sight and Sound Theatre

A list is being compiled of those interested in attending (date TBA) . If you would like to attend please contact Bobbie Wydeen at **417-699-4728** or bobster218@aol.com

Thanks,
Bobbie



September

ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	2	3	4
5 Acolyte meeting (following service)	6	7 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm	8 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	9	10	11
12 Seasons Sunday School Class 9:30am	13 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	14 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	15 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm (Newsletter Reminder)	16 6pm – Board Mtg	17	18 Thrift shop volunteer meeting 1:00pm
19 Missionary Sunday 	20	21 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00	22 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	23 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	24	25
26	27 10:30-12:00 DPS Mtg	28 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00	29 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	30		



Stacy Eastridge	2-Sep
Joseph Brandon Baldwin	3-Sep
Camille Phillips	3-Sep
Michael Lotten	3-Sep
Madison York	7-Sep
Rick Turpen	8-Sep
John Johnson	16-Sep
Austin McCray	17-Sep
Don Rice	17-Sep
Riley Lindner	18-Sep
Vernon Doyle	19-Sep
Janice Stucki	22-Sep
David Gauwitz	30-Sep

~Anniversaries~



Sep. 10	Kevin & Sarah Rein
Sep. 11	Jim & Dorothy (Dot) Polk



Serving in September

Worship Leaders

5th~ Chris Hedenberg
12th~ Jerry Yuetter
19th~ Cindy Baldwin
26th~ 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.



Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 6561
417-334-3453

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

October 2021



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

*Autumn shows us
how beautiful it is
to let things go.*

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SEPTEMBER SERMONS

10/3- "Humility"
Mark 10:32-45
(Why humility is important to God.)

10/10- "How Can I Know God?"
John 17:1-5
(How to understand God.)

10/17- "The Intimacy of God"
Revelation 3:14-22
(Understanding God's love for you.)

10/24- "Keeping On Keeping On"
2 Timothy 4:1-8
(Never give up.)

10/31- "Healing Damaged Emotions"
Ephesians 4:25-32
(How God sets us free.)



When everything seems like it's falling apart, that's when God is putting things together just the way He wants it.



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Kudos

- Thanks to those serving as Deacons.
- Appreciation to Lucy Johnson for sharing her financial skills that are an asset to the church.

You are making
A DIFFERENCE
EVERY DAY

Serving this month

Elders



Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)

~ **October** ~

Johnie Groves
 Cindy Baldwin
 Ginger Faragher

Church
DEACONS

~ **October** ~

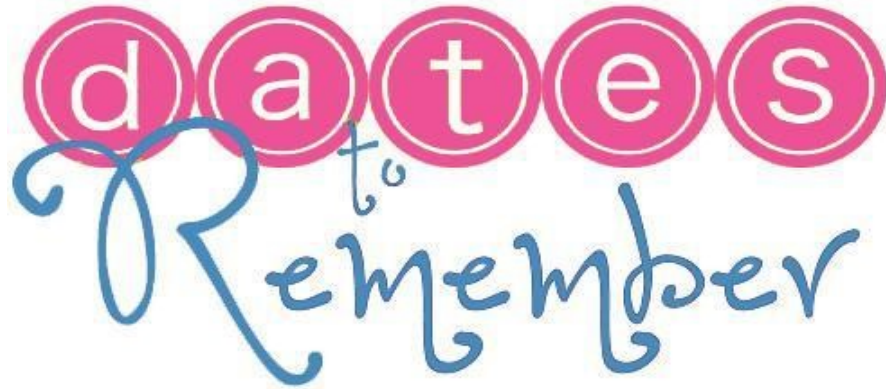
Sandy Poos
 Riley Lindner
 Stacy Eastridge



~ **October** ~

Grace
 John
 Easdon
 James

Upcoming Church Events



- Sunday, November 7 - Annual Congregational Meeting following the service.
- Saturday, November 13 - Cooking Party for the Thanksgiving dinner on 11/14
- Sunday, November 14 - Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner
- Sunday, November 21 - Hanging of the Greens following the church service. Lunch will be provided.
- Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday of Advent



Pastor Message

The Bible tells us the story of why Jesus came into the world and how he redeemed us. It begins with original sin when Adam and Eve were tricked by Satan and were disobedient to God's command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 3:15 (New King James Version) tells us a prophecy of what is going to happen:

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."



God is talking to Satan and telling him that from this point on there is going to be enmity, i.e., war. From that time forth there will be two kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil and they are still in conflict to this day.

The war will be between Satan's followers and "her Seed." Who is "her" and who is the "Seed?" The "her" is the virgin Mary. The "Seed" refers to the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Galatians 4:4 tells us, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman . . ." "He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Satan bruised the heel of Jesus on the cross. However, when Jesus rose from the grave, He bruised (crushed) Satan's head. Satan was defeated at the cross and his doom is predicted explicitly in Revelation 20:10, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire . . ."

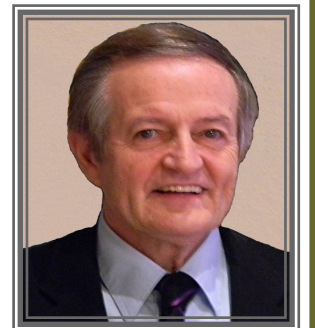
Due to Adam and Eve's fall from grace, their dominion of "every living thing that moves on the earth (Genesis 1:28) which God had given them authority over, was taken by Satan. Paul refers to Satan as the "god of this world" many times, e.g., II Corinthians 2:4.

To make this even more thorough, examine the "Temptations of Christ" found in Luke, especially Luke 4:5-6, "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish." So, who delivered all this authority to Satan? It sure was not God. Satan took it from Adam and Eve at their fall from grace when original sin came into the world.

Now, the coup de gras is delivered in Matthew 28:18, when Jesus, after resurrecting from the dead and immediately before ascending to heaven, says His last words on earth, which is called the Great Commission . . . "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth . . ." This means that Satan has none. Jesus, as the second Adam, has taken back the authority that the first Adam had lost.

And so, this is how the scheme of redemption happened. Our Redeemer lives and to Jesus goes all the power and glory, forever and ever.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

Greetings, members and friends of Branson Christian Church. I trust this article finds you doing well; and our prayer is that God is prospering you in health and strength---but most importantly of all, that your soul prospers.

The monthly board meeting was held September 16 and several items were discussed as follows:

~ Pastor Al announced a bereavement group will be offered September 21- November 9 that is open to the community. He also reported Acolyte training was held recently.

~ Jamie Haage, Building and Grounds chair, reported roof repairs have been completed and security cameras will be installed soon.

~ Bobbie Wydeen, Church Growth and Membership chair, reported:

- o All church picnic scheduled on September 19 at the State Park is planned
- o Golf outing is scheduled on October 3 at Thousand Hills Golf Course
- o The Sight and Sound performance outing date will be announced soon
- o Thanksgiving dinner date has been **changed to November 14.**

~ Ginger Faragher, Finance Chair, reported the church finances are doing well.

~ Cindy Baldwin, Outreach chair, reported:

- o The Christmas Child project was introduced to the congregation and completed boxes will be collected by the third week of November.
- o The Reconciliation offering will be received September 26 & October 3
- o September 19 is Missionary Sunday, focus on the two families the church supports
- o "Stocktober" will be the focus for October. Collecting food items for local pantries and a list of items to support area Blessing Boxes will be provided.

~Chris Hedenberg, Worship Committee chair, reported:

Christmas season planning is underway with the following:

- o Hanging of the Greens, November 21
- o Advent begins November 28
- o Christmas Eve candlelight service
- o Also, acolyte robes have been received and will order purple robes for special seasons
- o Plans are to provide additional worship leader materials soon
- o A different style of individual serving communion have been ordered

New Business the following items were brought to the floor:

~ Ginger Faragher, Finance Chair, presented a draft of the 2022 budget for discussion.
This budget will be presented to the general board for approval at the Oct. board mtg.

~ The board chair presented a list of nominees to serve on the 2021 nominating committee. This list of individuals was approved by the general board and will report at the Oct. board mtg

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 7, to attend the annual Congregational meeting. This is an important meeting and held immediately following the worship service.

Our next board meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 21, at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." -----

John Wooden

Johnie Groves —Board Chair

Outreach & Missions

"STOCKTOBER"

October is the month for helping local pantries with goods for the cooler weather. Please help to fill the grocery cart in the Narthex with items that you enjoy this time of year. In addition to that, once the Blessing Box is installed near Riley's thrift store, a list will be made available for you to help with that project.

Thanks for all of the outreach that you do. The monetary offerings, the gifts of food and essential items, and the volunteer hours are all appreciated. May God bless you all for what you are doing.

Cindy Baldwin, Outreach Chairman



Announcements & Reminders



For those who would like to know more about handbells or who are interested in joining the handbell choir, there will be a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 6:30pm following choir practice.

Hope to see you there!

Thanks,

Stacy Eastridge

(Handbell choir director)

417-239-4477 shortround9276@gmail.com

By The Way Thrift Shop

New Saturday Hours

Effective Oct. 2, the thrift shop will be open every Saturday from 10:00-3:00.

*Thursday & Friday hours remain the same from 10:00-5:00.

Come shop with us!

Classes

Better Together

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.

Please join us for the **Bereavement Support Group** every Tuesday from 10:30am–12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.



We will explore and discuss a different topic each week. It is open to anyone in the church or community.

This class would be good for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one or any type of bereavement. I encourage you to come.

Contact the church office at 417-334-3453 to register or for any questions you might have.

God bless ~ Pastor Minor

All classes are held in the Fellowship Hall.
Coffee and light refreshments are provided.
Hope you will join us!



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through August 2021

Operating income AUGUST \$17,556.26

Operating expense AUGUST \$14,765.05

Year to date income \$106,951.78

Year to date expense \$95,373.95

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

Vision Committee

Greetings! Our vision for the ADA compliant restrooms is still alive, and very close to completion. The project has gone over budget and we would like to reduce any further costs by asking for volunteers to assist in completing the project. Following are tasks that need to be completed:

- Trim work
- Painting
- Cleaning



If you're available to help, please call Tanya at (417) 294-4186. Thank you! Can't wait to celebrate!

Worship Committee

The next meeting is scheduled in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 6pm**. Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

Membership Committee

*An Afternoon of Golf- Sunday, October 3rd at Thousand Hills. Please call Bobbie Wydeen for more information.



*Sunday, October 10th is Pastor Appreciation. We will have goodies and punch following the service to celebrate with Pastor Al.



*The committee is pursuing discounted tickets for the Sight and Sound Production of Jesus, but a date has not been set. Please watch for updates via email or an announcement in the Sunday Church Service.



*The Church Picnic was attended by about 40 people. Burgers, brats, hot dogs, and turkey burgers were served with all the fixin's and everyone brought a great variety of dishes and desserts! A good time was had by all!



October

ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm		1	2 Thrift Shop Hours change (10:00-3:00)
3 Golf Outing 	4	5 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm	6 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm Handbell Choir meeting 6:30pm	7	8	9
10 Pastor Appreciation Reception (following service) 	11 Office Closed 	12 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00	13 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	14	15	16
17 Fellowship Dinner 	18 (Newsletter Reminder)	19 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	20 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	21 6pm – Board Mtg	22 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	23 Thrift shop volunteer meeting 9:30am
24 <hr/> 31 	25	26 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00	27 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	28	29	30

October Birthdays



Nolen Berry	4-Oct
Larry Campbell	6-Oct
Rick Johnson	9-Oct
Matea Tilden	9-Oct
Samantha Bailey	9-Oct
Marjorie Herington	11-Oct
Gayle Rinehart	11-Oct
Chris Hedenberg	12-Oct
Juanita Witcher	13-Oct
Jimmy Dan Pribble	14-Oct
Grace Rein	15-Oct
Brenda Archambeau	15-Oct
James Wallace	16-Oct
Pat Campbell	18-Oct
Jean Mueller	19-Oct
Neal Segura	25-Oct
Linda Hubbard	28-Oct
Gary Hammer	30-Oct



Anniversaries



Oct. 17 David & Chris Hedenberg
 Oct. 27 Allen & Janet Minor

Serving in October

Worship Leaders

3rd~ Tanya Armstrong
 10th~ Jean Mueller
 17th~ Judy Adams
 24th~ Laura Vestal
 31st~ Pat Campbell

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THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

November 2021

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

Colleges & Universities

Seminaries & Divinity Houses

2021 Thanksgiving Offering

Disciplesmissionfund.org



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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NOVEMBER SERMONS

11/7- "The Intimacy of God"
Revelation 3:14-22
(Understanding God's love for you.)

11/14- "Keeping On Keeping On"
2 Timothy 4:1-8
(Never give up.)

11/21- "Thanksgiving"
Psalms 100: 1-5
(Giving Thanks.)

11/28- "The Enemy of Love"
1 Corinthians 13: 11-13
(Overcoming immaturity)



*"Be thankful for
the blessings of
the little things,
even when you
don't get what
you expect."*

-VICTORIA OSTEEN



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 Annette Sain - Custodial Services

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 Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair
 Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair
 Annette Sain - Treasurer
 Jean Mueller - Secretary
 Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Kudos

- Evan Kauffman for the gift of a new stocking cart for the thrift store.
- Stacy Eastridge and others who have assisted to organize youth activities.

Serving this month



~ **November** ~

Jamie Haage
 Tanya Armstrong

~ **November** ~



Chris Hedenberg
 David Hedenberg
 Jolene Herington

~ **November** ~



Grace
 John
 Easdon
 James
 Preston

Office Administration



Due the administrative assistant's show rehearsal schedule for November and December, regularly scheduled office hours will be subject to change.

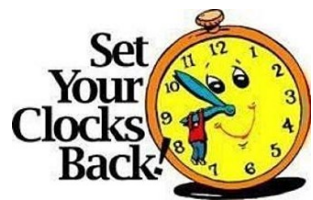
The changes will be recorded on the office answering machine and updated accordingly.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility.

~Jackie (BCC-Administrative Assistant)

Announcements & Reminders

Please Note!



Sunday, November 7

Hope Joy
Peace Love
Advent
Devotionals
(available in the Narthex)

In preparation of the 100th Branson Christian Church anniversary in 2024, a handprint banner is being created.



Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate.

Stop by the classroom adjacent to the sanctuary any Sunday after church and add your family handprint to the banner.

Painters Needed!

We need painters to help complete the bathroom remodel project.

For details, please call Tanya Armstrong at

417-294-4186

Your help is appreciated!

~Vision Committee~



Sunday, December 5

Christmas Poinsettias



*In Memory
Or
In Honor*

Place your order by Sunday, November 7

\$9.00 each

**Drop off at the church or in the offering plate during church service.*

Pastor Message

The Thirty Year's War was a violent and ruthless time on the European continent. From 1618 to 1648, Europe and especially Germany was devastated by famine, disease and destruction. In 1636, Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor in Eilenburg, Germany, wrote the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," a hymn of thanksgiving still sung today.

On the eve of this great war, Martin Rinkart was sent to minister to the town of Eilenburg. He was also a well known musician and writer. In 1637, the plague came and was destroying the town as thousands died that first year. All of the clergy either ran away or died and he was left alone to minister. He performed more than four thousand funerals that year. One of them was his wife. Following all of this came devastating famine, and even in the midst of poverty, Rinkart shared food with all he could help.

Pastor Rinkart decided to write a hymn, but what kind of song could possibly come out of such dire tragedy? A lament? A plea for vendication? A cry for mercy? Instead, he wrote a hymn of gratitude, *Nun Danket Alle Gott* ("Now Thank We All Our God.") The Lord had spared him and even sustained him through this terrible time of war, pestilence, and famine. The song that sprung from his heart was that of thankfulness.



Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next." All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Wherever you are this year and whatever your situation, know that you are loved by God. I encourage you to be inspired by this account of Pastor Rinkart, and to know that this hymn was composed as a bold statement of faith.

On behalf of Branson Christian Church and staff, may God bless you richly this Thanksgiving.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

The general board of Branson Christian Church met on Thursday evening, October 21. We had an excellent meeting-----we discussed one item that wasn't even on the agenda. We talked about the beautiful Ozark hills, especially this time of year. We're starting to see hints and promises of the annual fall revue, as the changing of the leaves turns these rocky old hillsides into a beautiful rose garden. We have an abundant variety of shrubs and trees here, and as that old man Jack Frost starts nipping at them, they give off a phenomenal display of color before losing their hold and dying out for another year.

As usual, the meeting went well---everyone working together as a unit; always endeavoring to make Branson Christian Church better. The church family should feel comforted in knowing that you have concerned, conscientious individuals serving on the board. These folks have been willing to donate their time and energy to serve you, and you should be proud of them.

From a fiscal standpoint, the church is doing well. We don't have money to throw around, but God has blessed us abundantly. We have managed to pay our bills, and we've also been able to bless the community in various ways, as our Outreach Committee is working diligently; always searching for ways that we can serve our community. I don't have the space here to list all these efforts, but if you're interested, please contact Cindy Baldwin, Outreach Committee Chair, and she will be happy to fill you in.

The two main items on our agenda in October were the 2022 budget and the slate of Officers, Trustee, Elders and Deacons for next year. These items have been approved by the board and are now ready to be presented to the entire church at our annual congregational meeting for final approval. This is the most important meeting of the year that involves the entire membership of the church so please mark your calendars. The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 7, directly following the worship service.

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." -----John Wooden

Johnie Groves —Board Chair

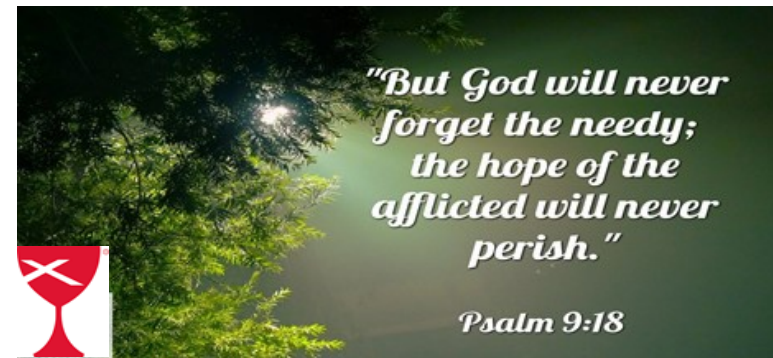


Outreach & Missions

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving offering supports the higher education program of the Disciples of Christ. There are 15 colleges and 7 seminaries and divinity houses. This offering helps to provide scholarships, diverse degree programs, religious life offices, and faculty growth and development. By donating to this special offering on November 14 or 21, we will be helping students to prepare themselves for leadership in the church and society. Please give.

Cindy Baldwin, Outreach Chair



Don't Forget!

By November 14 we need the Christmas boxes at the church. These boxes are for the "Operation Christmas Child" project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Place them on or below the card table in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your participation.

Cindy Baldwin, Outreach Chair



Classes

Bereavement Support Group

Meets every Tuesday from
10:30am–12:00pm in the
Fellowship Hall.



We will explore and discuss a different
topic each week. It is open to anyone in
the church or community.
The last meeting will be November 16.

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday
morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the
Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from
speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy
Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the
class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you
will grow in your faith.



**Every Sunday morning
at 10:15
in the Fellowship Hall.**

Upcoming Church Events



November 7

(following worship service)



November 14

(following worship service)

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through September 2021

Operating income SEPTEMBER \$10,170.04

Operating expense SEPTEMBER \$19,200.08

Year to date income \$117,058.40

Year to date expense \$114,574.03

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will be closed for the
Thanksgiving holiday as listed below.

November 25, 26, & 27.

We are happy to welcome Harold Nesbit
back and add Dot Polk to the volunteer
team.

A special thank you to Evan Kauffman for
donating a rolling cart that makes stocking
our shelves much easier.

Thanks to everyone for your continued
donations to support this ministry,
including some great items from Grand
Country.

Worship Committee

The next meeting is scheduled in the Fellowship Hall on

Monday, Nov. 8 at 6pm

Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

We will honor our veterans in the worship service on Sunday, November 14.



Membership Committee

~Thanksgiving fellowship dinner is Sunday, **November 14th**.

*We will have roasted, smoked turkey and ham.

Please bring a side dish to pass.



~The cooking party is cancelled.



~The membership committee serve lunch on **Sunday, November 21**,
after the Hanging of the Greens.

Thanks!!!
Bobbie



November



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	4	5	6
7 Annual Congregational meeting (following service) 	8 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm	9 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00	10 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	11 	12	13
14 	15 (Newsletter Reminder)	16 Bereavement Group 10:30-12:00 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	17 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	18 6pm – Board Mtg	19 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	20 Thrift shop volunteer meeting 9:30am
21  Following Service (Lunch is provided)	22	23	24 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	25 	26	27
28  Dedication Service First Sunday of Advent	29	30	10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm			



November Birthdays



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

Anniversaries

Nov. 5 John & Penny Lea
Nov. 24 Mike & Jean Mueller
Nov. 30 Richard & Janice Stucki



Serving in November

Worship Leaders

7th~ Bobbie Wydeen
14th~ Cindy Baldwin
21st~ Chris Hedenberg
28th~ Judy Adams

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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The Christmas Offering supports **regional ministries**. In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured, and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

IMAGINE
God's Love
REVEALED

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region



2021
Christmas
Offering

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

December 2021



Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at
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DECEMBER SERMONS

12/5- "The Elder"

James 5:13-14

(What exactly does and elder do?)

12/12- "Forever Young"

Psalm 92:12-15

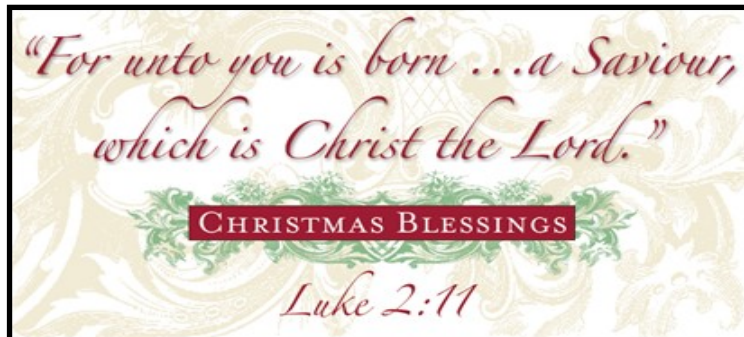
(How to be productive regardless of age.)

12/19- "Cantata"

12/26- "A New Year"

Luke 8: 34-38

(Making the world a better place.)



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Allen Minor - Minister

Jackie Brown - Office Admin

Rod Phillips - Music Director

Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon -Wed 9am-2pm
Thurs. 9am-Noon

BOARD OFFICERS 2021

Johnie Groves - Board Chair

Cindy Baldwin - Vice Chair

Annette Sain - Treasurer

Jean Mueller - Secretary

Ginger Faragher - Financial Secretary

Kudos

- Bobbie Wydeen expressed appreciation to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner.

Serving this month

~ **December** ~



Jean Mueller
Sandy Poos

~ **December** ~



John
Preston
Easdon
James
Grace

Elders ~ **December** ~



Johnie & Julie
Groves

New Members and Memorials

**New
Members**
W • E • L • C • O • M • E

~ **Matt & Katie Hedenberg**

~ **Jeff Eastridge**



Upcoming Church Events



Sunday, December 5 **from 3:00-5:00**

We will serve hot cocoa & cookies outside.

Volunteers are needed to bake cookies and bring them to church by Sun., Dec. 5.

Helpers are also wanted to prepare the cocoa, put cookies into individual bags, and serve outside.

Please contact Bobbie Wydeen if you would like to help.

417-699-4728

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 19 during the worship service.

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 · 6:00 P.M.

Pastor Message



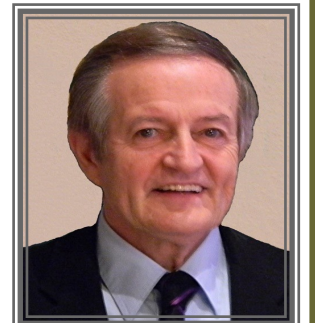
There is an old Christmas story about an old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true. So the next morning he got up and decorated his little cobbler shop and got ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him. The hours passed and Jesus didn't come but an old man did. He came inside for a moment to get warm. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way. Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come, but an old woman did. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way. Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come. Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy and discovered that the boy was lost and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat and took the boy home. When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied. Then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?" And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave something to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street." Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

During this Christmas season, let us continue to do random acts of kindness. Let us continue to make the world a better place to live. We never know when Jesus will be stopping by.



On behalf of Branson Christian Church and staff, we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

See you in church,
Pastor Minor



From the Board Chair

Greetings to all of you, my beloved church family. Julie and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Our hopes and prayers for you are that you would be in good health, and that God would bless you with everything you want this Christmas. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve alongside of you this last year, and as the last hours of 2021 tick away I realize that God has blessed our precious little church. We have come through a lot together this year; sometimes we have laughed together, and sometimes we have cried. We lost some precious people from among us; but we at Branson Christian Church have more to go to heaven for-----more than ever now!!

In this, my last article for the newsletter, I would like to leave this thought: We are an imperfect group of people serving a perfect God. We will never get it right all the time, no matter how hard we try. Mistakes are part of our nature-----but God looks beyond our faults. He searches out the very intents of our hearts, our motives. And, as God looks beyond our faults, we must look beyond the faults of one another. It is required of us that we love one another, and that we forgive one another. The teachings of Christ clearly indicate that our behavior toward each other is of great importance in the eyes of God. Again, I want to say that Julie and I are delighted to be among you, and we love you dearly. We felt the warmth of friendship the first time we gathered among you.

In the coming weeks, I would like to ask you not to forget those in our church who have suffered the loss of a loved one, or those who are facing serious health issues. There are some who will find it very difficult to be merry in heart. Very difficult indeed! So, I ask you, my dear friends, do not let a day pass without sending out a prayer for them.

And now to business:

The annual congregational meeting in November went very well. I would like to thank all of you for staying for the meeting; we had good attendance and enough for a quorum. The slate for next year, which includes officers, trustees, elders, and deacons was approved as presented. I'm proud of the entire church body for having the wisdom to choose such a qualified group. An excellent choice!!

Also, the general fund budget was approved as presented. No dissention----no fuss, no muss, no bother. THANK YOU!!

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS---GOD BLESS YOU AND HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Quote for the year: "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." -----John Wooden

Johnie Groves —Board Chair

Outreach & Missions



The Christmas offering will be taken December 12 & 19.

Key areas to support:

- Nurturing our ministers and congregations.
- Helping with camps and conferences in the region.
- Preparing and authorization of candidates for ordination.

Supporting these activities that help our church leadership and development are what this offering is all about.

Thank you for your contribution.



In this month of December, we ask that you support the project that you feel God wants you to be involved in.

Many of you are already involved in CAM, OACAC, or the Salvation Army.

There are many other concerns in our community and we are asking that you consider them as you approach the season of giving. Please do what you feel is important.

God bless you for all that you have done this past year in giving to our community.

Classes

The Bible Study Class

This class meets every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We have short video vignettes from speakers such as Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, and John Ortberg to begin the class discussions.

It provides wonderful fellowship and you will grow in your faith.



**Every Sunday morning
at 10:15
in the Fellowship Hall.**

Announcements & Reminders



In preparation of the 100th Branson Christian Church anniversary in 2024, a handprint banner is being created. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate. Stop by the classroom adjacent to the sanctuary any Sunday after church and add your family handprint to the banner.



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through October 2021

Operating income	OCTOBER	\$9,929.27
Operating expense	OCTOBER	\$10,968.77
Year to date income		\$126,987.67
Year to date expense		\$125,542.80

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 the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6pm**

Anyone that wishes to join is welcome!

Please contact Chris Hedenberg if you would like to serve as a worship leader during a Sunday worship service. We are always in need.

Thank you,
Chris (*Worship Committee Chair*)
417-973-5341



Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will be closed for the holidays as listed below....

December 24—January 3.

The Volunteer Christmas lunch will be Saturday, December 18 from 12:00 -3:00.

At the Lakewood Estates Clubhouse.


Thanks to everyone for your continued donations to support this ministry.





ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent “Adoration Parade” 	6	7	8 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	9	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent	13 Worship Committee Meeting—6pm (Newsletter Reminder)	14 6pm – Finance Com. Mtg	15 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	16 6pm – Board Mtg	17 *Need all newsletter info & articles Submitted.	18 Thrift shop volunteer Christmas luncheon 12:00-3:00 Christmas Cantata (Dress Rehearsal) 1:00pm
19 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata Fellowship Dinner	20	21	22 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00pm 	25 
26	27	28	29 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir Practice 5:30pm	30	31 	



December Birthdays



3-Dec Gaile Ball
9-Dec Dorothy Polk
10-Dec Naomi Felder
15-Dec Sandy Sisson
17-Dec Sandra Berry
18-Dec Bobbie Wydeen
24-Dec Anna Lankford
28-Dec Ashley Felder
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

5th~ Cindy Baldwin
12th~ Kathy Kauffman
19th~ Laura Vestal
26th~ Chris Hedenberg

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.