



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

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

November 2025

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING



SUPPORTING
HIGHER EDUCATION



Bringing Students and Resources Together

November 16th & 23rd

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com



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



In This Issue

From the Pastor.....	3
Committee Reports.....	5
Outreach & Missions.....	5
Calendar	6
Serving This Month.....	6
Birthdays.....	6
Anniversaries.....	6
Christian Ed.....	8
Library News.....	9
Church Events.....	10
Serving this month.....	11
Thrift Shop News.....	11



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Don Tharp - Pastor
 Samantha West - Office Admin
 Rod Phillips - Music Director
 Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon. through Thurs.
 9:00am. -2:00pm.

BOARD OFFICERS 2025

Jean Mueller - Board Chair
 John Lea - Vice Chair
 Johnie Groves - Treasurer
 Pat Campbell- Secretary
 Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

Fall Fest was a success, bringing in new customers and over \$1,040.00 in 2 days.

Our September receipts totaled \$6,058.25!!

We will celebrate Veterans Day with a 2 week sale on November 3rd through 15th. All clothing you can wear 50% off and all books .25 cents.

Our needs are purses, jewelry, watches, holiday items, fiction- paper-back and hardback, and Bibles.

We welcomed three new volunteers: Michelle Enright, Don & Diane Round!

We are looking for someone that would like to steam our wrinkled clothing donations. Let Kathy know if interested.

Thanks for all the great donations!

Roger & Kathy Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~NOVEMBER~

Linda Stinger
 David Hedenberg
 Chris Hedenberg
 Gretchen Schultz



~NOVEMBER~

11/02 - Maleah
 11/09 - Jude
 11/16 - Preston
 11/23 - Mason
 11/30 - Easton



~NOVEMBER~

Pat Campbell
 Larry Campbell



~Membership News~

October was busy with hosting a coloring table for Fall Fest on October 3rd & 4th, hosting the Pastor & Staff Appreciation Celebration on October 12th, and the monthly Fellowship Dinner on October 19th.



November will be busy as well. The annual Cooking Party for the Thanksgiving Dinner is Saturday, November 15th 9am-Noonish. We will be cooking 1 large turkey, 2 turkey breasts, and preparing the ham. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner is Sunday, November 16th following the church service.

The committee will provide the luncheon on Sunday, November 23rd after the decorating the church for Christmas.

Mark your calendar- The Adoration Parade is Sunday, December 7th and we will be hosting our Open House from 3:30p-5:30p. We will need cookie bakers!



Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

Let me begin with a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our first-ever Staff Appreciation Day such a meaningful and joyful event! Cindy and I both felt deeply appreciated, and I believe the entire staff did as well. A simple pat on the back is a powerful reminder of how God uses our efforts to bless others.

Now, I'm excited to share that our Listening Team has wrapped up their work, and their insights will significantly shape the future of our ministries. Their full report was presented at the October Board meeting, so I won't go into detail here. Instead, I want to highlight the incredible ways your feedback from the Congregational Survey is already bearing fruit. Isn't God good?

Here are just a few of the exciting developments already underway:

🎵 More traditional hymns: Our wonderful music team, led by Rod, has begun incorporating more of the hymns you love.

🔊 Hearing assistance devices: These have been purchased, installed, and are receiving enthusiastic reviews from early users.

📖 Sunday School for all ages: This long-held dream became reality on the first Sunday of September, thanks to Rebecka Gillen and our Christian Education Committee.

🌱 Expanded adult education and Bible study: In September, the Board approved our enrollment in the Bethel Bible Series. More details will be shared soon!

🕊️ Vision Statement reaffirmed: The Listening Team was so inspired by our current Vision Statement, they recommended we keep it exactly as it is. In case you need a refresher, here it is:

"Branson Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) passionately proclaims God's love through Worship, Community, Learning and Service"

Let's continue living this out—faithfully and boldly—with God's help.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Don

~Highlights from the Board Meeting~

- Two sanctuary furnaces are planned for installation.
- The fall clean-up days were held and a big thank you to those who gave their time to help with the annual deep cleaning and maintenance projects. You are appreciated!!
- New window coverings were added to the Education Wing back entrance door and classroom windows...stop by to see the beautiful new addition. The window coverings provide privacy and security from outside viewing of the interior door/room.
- Blinds have been replaced in the sanctuary.
- The Nominating Committee presented the 2026 slate of officers, trustees, elders and deacons. The slate was approved as presented.
- The Finance Committee presented the proposed 2026 budget. The budget was approved as presented.
- The Listening Team concluded their work and Pastor Don presented the results; including our strengths that will be embraced and continued along with three-year goals. The goals were approved as presented.
- The Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 2, 2025. The 2026 slate, budget and Listening Team goals will be presented for approval.
- Kudos to Pastor Don for the impromptu sermon change a couple of weeks ago and Domonic Gillen expressed appreciation to all those who assist with the media duties for Sunday worship services. It is a team effort, and all are appreciated for sharing their time and talents!

Don't forget to check out the committee reports included in the newsletter. There is always a need for more people to support the various activities that are planned for our congregation. Take time to pray for where you might fit and reach out to Pastor or committee chair for more information about how you might assist.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks to God for His provision and guidance for the many blessings we received this year! Thanks to each of you who have supported our church through prayer, generously giving of your resources and time and working together to make a difference in the world around us. It is a joy to be a part of a loving, compassionate and giving congregation.

Blessings,

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

~Library News~

Last month I reported on the Left Behind series, and the fact that someone had donated one of the two needed books in that series. It remains a mystery who that was, but I would still love to know! The timing of that was impressive! And we've had another donation for the remaining book in the series, so it's a full set now. Even though the donor tried to be anonymous, you've been found out. What fun! And thank you for joining in the scavenger hunt.

It's amazing to me what books and the library can do when God is in it. I love the stories I've been hearing of people finding peace in the room itself, and how the books have been life changing or added some fun or comfort into your lives. I thank God for it all!

That's it for now. Blessings!

Cindy Tharp

WAY TO GO RUTH STUDY LADIES!

I want to brag on the diligent women who stayed the course in our Ruth Bible study. We did some serious digging into the old and new testaments, watched our video teacher Kelly Minter, and enjoyed great discussions and some laughter along the way. Who said studying the Bible is boring? Great job ladies!

For anyone who would like to join us, our next study will be on the book of Daniel beginning in January of '26. Our video teacher will be Beth Moore this time around, for 13 weeks (12 weeks of study). More info to come as time gets closer. Looking forward to digging in again!

~Christian Ed~

Many hands make light work!

The phrase "many hands make light work" is not a direct Bible verse, but the principle it represents is illustrated in several biblical passages, particularly in Exodus 18:22 and the book of Nehemiah chapter 3. In these instances, a large, difficult task is made more manageable by having many people work together. The principle of people working together for a common goal is also found in the New Testament, for example, in Ephesians 4:16, which speaks of how the body of Christ functions when each part helps the others.

Christian Ed is in search of several people to help!

~ A Sunday School Teacher for the younger class from 9:15am until 10:15am(All of the curriculum is already set up, this is needed for the 3rd Sunday of every month).

~ A Hall Monitor for the Education Wing during Sunday School from 9:15am until 10:15am(Ensure the safety of the youth by sitting in the hall, be there in case a Teacher needs assistance).

~ A Juice Helper for the younger class after Sunday School in Fellowship Hall from 10:15am until 10:30am(juice is provided by the church, need to be attentive to the children, clean up any spills and so on).

~ An Acolyte Helper, assisting getting the Acolyte in their robe, lighting the Acolyte stick and hanging the robe & stick back up. Then retrieve Acolyte for end of service doing the same as before.

~ A Children's Worship, Wonder & Welcome Storytellers and Greeters, during regular church services. Training is needed for this, that will be set up after we get volunteers.

~ A Music Coordinator for youth songs.

Requirements to fill these positions are as follows- Member of the Church, Have both a Federal Background check and a State Background check. Please see Pastor Don for any and all questions regarding this.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through SEPT. 2025

Operating income Sept.	\$20,883.86
Operating expense Sept.	\$20,485.55
Year to date income	\$180,838.76
Year to date expense	\$126,922.48

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Nov. 6	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Nov. 9	After Service
~Outreach	Nov. 10	10:00am.
~Worship	Nov. 11	1:00pm.
~Finance	Nov. 18	2:00pm.
~Board	Nov. 20	5:30pm.



~Outreach & Missions~

The Food Pantry suggestions for November are for baking goods. (This includes items like flour, sugar, cake mixes, muffin mixes, and anything you might use for baking).

The next Special Offering is the Thanksgiving Offering on November 16th and 23rd. This offering supports Disciples colleges, universities, and Theological institutions.

We will have a Minute for Mission from The Options Pregnancy Clinic on November 2nd.

The Christmas Children's Boxes are due back to the Church on November 3rd. Please place them in the Narthex.

We delivered 80 handmade Fall Greeting Cards to the residents of Shepherd of the Hills Nursing Home. We hope it will be a blessing to them and bring some smiles.

Jolene Herington, Chair