



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



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com



THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

January 2026



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



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WASH ME,
AND I SHALL BE
- WHITER -
THAN SNOW.
PSALM 51:7

~Weather & Safety Protocol~

The plan for BCC is to always have the church open at designated service time for those who choose to attend during questionable weather conditions or other safety situations.

Because our congregation drives from such a large geographic area is impossible to determine hazardous driving conditions for everyone. Therefore we will strive to always be open at service times.

Messages will ONLY be sent if there is an emergency situation.

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

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

BOARD OFFICERS 2026

John Lea - Board Chair
Cindy Baldwin -Vice Chair
Johnie Groves - Treasurer
Pat Campbell- Secretary
Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

We had 32 volunteers and friends attended our Christmas party at Golden Corral. We all had a great time!

Our November income \$6,813.78.

Our needs this month: purses, paperback books-Amish/romance/westerns, and jewelry. We are also getting low on plastic bags.

Thanks for all the great donations. And a BIG THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Roger & Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~JANUARY~

Alex Segura
Roger Kauffman
Maxine Church
Kathleen Lenore



~JANUARY~

01/04 - Maleah
01/11 - Mason
01/18 - Neal
01/25 - Jude



~JANUARY~

Jamie Haage
Johnie Groves
Kirk Groves
Cindy Baldwin



~Membership News~

The membership committee finished the year with a bang! 327 cups of hot cocoa, dozens and dozens of cookies were served at the Adoration Parade Open House.

Thanks to all who donated cookies, helped serve cookies and hot cocoa, and sang/played Christmas Carols to the guests.

The January 2026 Fellowship dinner is scheduled for Sunday, January 18th.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

~Christian Ed~

The Youth Christmas Party was on Saturday, December 20th. We ate pizza, watched a movie, played a game and did a craft. Each youth attending received a gingerbread type house to build at home over their break.

No Children's Worship, Wonder & Welcome on January 4th.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

A Time for Everything...

This month has been both beautiful and challenging for our church family—a season of supporting and encouraging one another. The Advent services have been a blessing, weaving together ministry and music to guide us toward the celebration of Christ's birth. Yet alongside these joys, we have faced moments of sorrow and concern.

We were saddened by the hospitalization and passing of Ron Bond. His funeral was held in Shell Knob, near his home, and I was deeply proud of our congregation for showing up in such numbers to honor him. The service included full military honors, and Jan expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the love and support she received from our church family.

Soon after, David Hedenberg underwent open-heart surgery. While the procedure was less complicated than initially expected, it still required three bypasses. We are thankful that David was able to return home on December 17, and he joins me in thanking you all for your prayers and encouragement.

"Tis the season to be jolly." Life brings both joys and challenges, but we are truly blessed to walk together as part of The Branson Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is a gift to share life with such a faithful and caring community. May you and your family experience a most blessed and joyful Christmas and New Year!

—Pastor Don

~From Our New Board Chair~

I am writing this note for the newsletter mainly to say I am honored that you, as a congregation, elected me as Board Chair for 2026.

I also want to thank all the individuals who accepted chairperson positions, various committee assignments, Elders, Deacons, and Trustees.

These are the people who keep this church moving. It takes a village and we have a strong one.

Pray for me, and I will be praying for our church

John Lea, Board Chair

~Library News~



We have new books on the shelves, and there are two that I'd like to highlight:

***23 Minutes in Hell by Bill Wiese.** This is one man's story about what he saw, heard, and felt while in Hell, and he also includes many scriptures to back up the reality of Hell (we also have Heaven is For Real by Todd Burpo and 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper, for those wanting to read about the place we all want to go!)

***Being Elisabeth Elliot, by Ellen Vaughn.** Elisabeth was a missionary in Ecuador when members of a remote Amazonian people group killed her husband and his four colleagues. But Elisabeth remained to minister and forgive the very people that had drawn the spears. Amazing story!

That's it for now. Blessings!

Cindy Tharp

In Memoriam

John A. Johnson Jr.
September 16, 1942 ~ October 8, 2025

Memorials contributions may be made to:

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

Ronald Lee Bond
November 22, 1939 ~ December 10, 2025



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through NOV. 2025

Operating income Nov.	\$21,733.73
Operating expense Nov.	\$26,469.51
Year to date income	\$221,741.22
Year to date expense	\$170,385.95

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Christian Ed	Jan. 4	After Service
~Membership	Jan. 8	5:30pm.
~Worship	Jan. 13	12:30pm.
~Finance	Jan. 14	9:00am.
~Board	Jan. 15	5:30pm.



~Outreach & Missions~

CHRISTIAN
ACTION
MINISTRIES



FOOD PANTRIES SERVING STONE AND TANEY COUNTY

**Upcoming Souper Bowl Sunday is February 8, 2026. Get ready
to bring your canned goods and pick a side!**