



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

2025 Reconciliation Ministry - Special Offering



Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community

Sunday, September 28th - Sunday, October 5th



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com



THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

September 2025



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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[We are updating our directory!!!](#)

[If you haven't already please
send updated addresses, emails,
& phone numbers to the church
office!!](#)

office@bransonchristianchurch.com

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

Income for July was \$6,259.

The 50% sale on the entire store (except golf balls, handmade cards, scrubbies and jewelry) was very effective in selling long-standing inventory items and increasing sales. The same 2 weeks last August (with a sale only on summer clothes) brought in \$1,928. Those 2 weeks this year brought in \$2,042.

In anticipation of fall turnover, \$5.00 bag sale on all clothes/wearables will begin September 1st through 13th.

We welcomed back 2 volunteers – Linda Snyder and Brenda Archambeau. We need volunteers for Monday morning, Tuesday morning and Saturday consistently and will be happy to train people for this fun ministry.

Needed items – jewelry, fiction (paperback and hardback), bubble wrap and newsprint.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped in to pick up extra shifts and for organizing the shelves so that it truly is the neatest, cleanest thrift store in town!

We miss Kathy, Roger and Evan!

Ronni Haston on behalf of Roger & Kathy Kauffman



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~SEPTEMBER~

Gretchen Schultz
Kathleen Lenore
Ronni Haston
Greg Haston



~SEPTEMBER~

09/07—Easton
09/14 - Neal
09/21 - Maleah
09/28 - Mason



~SEPTEMBER~

Jean Mueller
Tanya Armstrong



~Membership News~

The Church Picnic is Sunday, September 21st at the Oakmont Community Center, 2308 State Hwy 86, Ridgedale, MO. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats will be served with all the fixin's. Please bring a dish to pass. Don't forget about the Corn Hole Tournament! Hope to see everyone there!

Everyone had a great time at the Springfield Cardinals on Friday, August 15th. It was warm but there was a cool breeze. The Cardinals lost to Wichita in an exciting game.

Thanks to everyone for the birthday cards for Harold Nesbit to celebrate his 95th birthday. He was surprised and grateful for all the cards!

The Gillen Family and Bobbie Wydeen attended the College of the Ozarks Church Fest on Tuesday, August 26th to invite the C of O students to Branson Christian Church! A new retractable banner was purchased to promote BCC.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

Karen Pool joined our church on August 14th. If you haven't said hello to her please do! :)

~Outreach & Missions~

The Outreach Committee's recommendations for the food pantry are rice and beans this month.

The special Reconciliation Offering will be on September 28th and October 5th. This offering leads to pro-reconciliation /anti racism work of the church.

We have continued to work on homemade items for the Christmas Children's Boxes for Samaritan's Purse. This month we will be finalizing the 20 boxes we are filing from the Outreach Committee. Won't you help by filling boxes with gifts or contributing money to help with this effort? These Christmas boxes go to over 100 different countries around the world along with spreading the great news of Jesus. Most of these children have never had a Christmas present before.

You can pick up the Christmas boxes, pamphlets, and labels for the boxes in the Narthex. Remember to add a check for \$10.00 for shipping and handling in each box. The pamphlets will give you gift ideas for boxes and information for web site donations. These boxes must be returned to the church by November 3rd, so we have time to deliver them to the drop-off location.

Jolene Herington, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

They may call August the "Dog Days of Summer," but this month has been anything besides slow and lazy:

Sunday School Reboot: Many thanks to Rebecka Gillen for her many hours recruiting, equipping and preparing teachers so that we can once again offer Sunday School classes for all ages. It wasn't just finding a good curriculum and putting teaching staff in place. There were also walls to paint and rooms to equip physically with furniture and the needed equipment. Thanks to all who have pitched in to help and signed up to serve in our new and redesigned educational program.

All Church Survey: With the oversight of our church consultant, Dr. Chad McMullin, our Listening Team compiled and distributed a survey which was completed by many of our folks by the end of July. It was tallied and the results were made available online and in printed form over the past few weeks. This process held quite a learning curve for the Team, and we appreciate your patience as we negotiated the best ways to share the information. Our goal was to make sure every interested person had a voice, and all responses were made available for congregational review. If you have not yet seen this amazing compilation of our thoughts and ideas, copies are available in the church office. The Listening Team will be carefully studying this information to bring our top priorities and ideas back for approval and completion during the coming months and years. Pray with us as we seek to follow God's best for this church and our future together.

Gearing up for Fall Programming: This week, as I write this article, our schools and colleges are reopening, and students are returning. As a church, we gear up for Fall as well! "Children Worship, Wonder and Welcome," is the new name for our "Worship and Wonder" program that helps our little ones in their faith journey. You will see more in the coming months on this updated approach that is seeking greater inclusion and deeper understanding for our children. Choir members will be returning to the pulpit area the first Sunday of September. Maybe you are ready to join their ranks as they inspire us in worship each Sunday. New youth events and activities are already in the works, watch Rebecka's articles for more details. I was thrilled to find out we had 20 people attend the Youth Kickoff event held on August 16. It was amazing that on that same day, 17 of our folks attended the "Faith and Family Night" ballgame at Springfield. WOW! It is gearing up to be a great new Fall term here at Branson Christian Church and we hope you will join in with gusto!

*Blessings,
Pastor Don*

~Christian Action Ministries~

Christian Action Ministries (CAM) recently established an Advisory Board comprised of representatives from local churches. The board will meet quarterly with the purpose of improving communication about CAM operations, funding, events, and engage congregations to volunteer and support the ministry.

The first meeting was held on August 19. They shared lots of information with a summary listed below:

CAM experienced budget cuts earlier this year and have made necessary adjustments to staffing, budget and programming to continue to provide food assistance to our neighbors in need in Taney and Stone Counties.

The main CAM location is at 2400 St. Hwy 165 which houses operations, warehouse and client food distributions. There is also a pantry in Forsyth and the Neighbor2Neighbor mobile distributions provided in several locations each month. They serve over 7,000 individuals monthly with the majority being families, with at least one person working in the household and seniors, individuals over the age of 60.

There is a community garden located at the main location that provides seasonal fresh produce. Most of the food is purchased through Ozark Food Harvest at a reduced rate and several received donations from several local grocery stores and businesses to help keep the shelves full. Examples of food that is provided are: eggs, milk/dairy products, meat, non-perishable items, bread, hygiene items/cleaning supplies and diapers. They noted their most needed donations are peanut butter and baby items diapers, wipes, etc. Of course, all donations are welcomed.

September is Hunger Action Month. Several events are planned to include "Cram the Van" sponsored by BCC...see details in the newsletter.

CAM received a \$11,500 matching Hunger Challenge grant from Ozark Food Harvest. The "Tackle Hunger Tailgate" fundraiser will be held Monday, September 8 from 5:30 - 7:30 at 2400 State Hwy 165. Plan to attend to enjoy fellowship, food and games (\$10 fee for food). Scan the QR code for more information and hope you can plan to attend.

October 1 "Tee Up for Hunger" golf tournament will be held at Ledgestone contact laney@christianactionministries.org for details.

The annual fundraiser "Festival of Trees" will be held at The Landing October 31 – December 6.

More information will be shared closer to the event.



~Library News~

God Has Never Failed Me, but He's Sure Scared Me to Death a Few Times.

I'm always on the lookout for books to purchase for the BCC library. One of my favorite places to shop is the Apple Tree Mall. There are several booths with new books at a discounted price (and we all love a discount, don't we?). The books are also in the "clean" or Christian category, so I don't have to worry too much about picking some up before reading them through. Here's a sample of my latest shopping trip, and the first book title made me chuckle:

God Has Never Failed Me (But He's Sure Scared Me to Death a Few Times), by Stan Toler

Praying for America (40 Inspiring Stories and Prayers for Our Nation), by Dr. Robert Jeffres

The Grumble Free Year (12 Months, 11 Family Members, and One Impossible Goal), by Tricia Goyer

Thanks for the Mammogram! (Living Through Breast Cancer With Faith, Hope, and a Healthy Dose of Laughter), by Laura Jensen Walker

My Name is Tani...And I Believe in Miracles (the Amazing True Story of One Boy's Journey From Refugee To Chess Champion), by Tanitoluwa Adewumi. Note: You may have seen this young man on the news some time back

The Bishop's Daughter, by Wanda E. Brunstetter (she is a prolific writer of Amish fiction)

God Is For Real (And He Longs to Answer Your Most Difficult Questions), by Todd Burpo. Note: This is the same author as Heaven is for Real.

That's it for now. Blessings!

Cindy Tharp

~Christian Ed~



Cram the Van for CAM is on Saturday, September 27th, 2025 in front of Price Chopper (2210 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson, MO 65616), from 9am until Noon. We will have the CAM Van there to cram full of groceries.

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to let you know how thankful I am for your contribution to my going to Church camp the past 3 years. It has been an amazing experience each time and I really enjoyed growing relationships with God and other people. Here is a quick summary of the types of things we do. Every morning before breakfast the entire camp meets to sing songs and hear a director give a message. After breakfast we split off into our cabins for small group time to study and talk about the bible. In our free time there are crafts to do or we can go canoeing at the lake. Each afternoon we have time to swim at the pool and go down the slip and slide. The games director gives us activities to do throughout the day such as ultimate frisbee and kickball. In the evening each age group has their own worship time which is led by the campers. At night, after showers, we go back to our cabins for a nightly devotional before lights out. Once again, thank you guys for helping me get there and I hope to go again next year.

Sincerely,

Mason

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JULY 2025

Operating income July	\$17,264.32
Operating expense July	\$10,266.83
Year to date income	\$141,928.72
Year to date expense	\$93,180.05

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Sept. 4	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Sept. 8	10:00am.
~Worship	Sept. 9	1:00pm.
~Christian Ed	Sept. 14	After Service
~Finance	Sept. 16	2:00pm.
~Board	Sept. 18	5:30pm.



~Highlights from the Board Meeting~

- Approved funding to replace the sanctuary window blinds.
- Approved funding to add privacy window coverings to the Worship and Wonder classroom window and back entrance door.
- Approved funding to upgrade the CDM Membership Module. CDM is the accounting software we use and adding this option will expand capacity to better manage our membership list, etc.
- Church and Thrift Store property insurance is due for renewal in September. The Trustees reviewed coverage with the insurance representative and recommended renewal without any changes.
- Recent meeting with the City of Branson representatives to discuss shared landscaping responsibilities. The areas they are responsible for have been trimmed and new mulch added. Parking issues were also discussed. We have been in touch with the Convention Center and will try to improve communications regarding large events that impact parking spaces for Sunday services.
- Committees will be working on budgeting plans for 2026.
- Committees are busy with upcoming events and plans that are shared in the newsletter.
- Kudos to everyone who helped prepare the church school classrooms, agreed to teach and Rebecka Gillen for leading the effort. The lady's trio was also recognized and a recent visitor who commented on our church is the friendliest she has attended.

Jean Mueller, Board Chair



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 Christmas Shoebox Project 5:30pm.	3 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm.	4 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm. 10:30am. Women's Bible Study	5	6
7	8 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	9 Worship Mtg. 1:00pm.	10 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	11 10:30am. Women's Bible Study	12	13 Thrift Store Fall/Winter Turnover w/Pizza Party 3:30pm.
14 Christian Ed Mtg. after service <i>Light a Candle for Children</i>	15	16 Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	17 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	18 10:30am. Women's Bible Study Board Mtg. 5:30pm.	19	20 Elder Mtg. 9:30am.
21 Annual All Church Picnic after service @ Oakmont	22	23	24 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	25 10:30am. Women's Bible Study	26	27 Cram the Van Drive Thru CAM @ Price Chopper 9:00am. - 12:00pm.
28 Special Reconciliation Offering	29	30				

~September Birthdays~

Sept. 2 Stacy Eastridge
Sept. 3 Camille Phillips
Sept. 3 Michael Lotten
Sept. 7 Madison York
Sept. 16 John Johnson
Sept. 17 Don Rice
Sept. 18 Riley Lindner
Sept. 19 Vernon Doyle
Sept. 22 Janice Stucki



~Anniversaries~

Sept. 10 Kevin & Sarah Rein
Sept. 10 Kirk & Becky Groves
Sept. 11 Jim & Dorothy Polk
Sept. 19 Cliff & Annette Sain



Serving in September

Worship Leaders

7th ~ Cindy Baldwin
14th ~ Annette Sain
21st ~ Janet Minor
28th ~ Kathy Kauffman

All services are videotaped. 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.