



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



 2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING
supporting the work of your Region and its ministries

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

...the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it ...
~Philippians 1:6

December 14th & 21st

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com



THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

December 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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Standing Committees 2026

Building & Grounds - Jim Stinger & Jamie Haage
Christian Ed - Rebecka Gillen & Holli Segura
Church Growth/Membership - Bobbie Wydeen
Finance - Tanya Armstrong
Special Gifts - Jana Lindner
Outreach - Ronni Haston
Thrift Shop - Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Worship - Jean Mueller
Elder Chair - Cindy Baldwin
Deacon Chair - Annette Sain

Elders' News: Communion for the Home-Bound

The elders—at their bi-monthly meetings-have been discussing how they can help be of better service to our members who are home-bound at any given time. **Beginning in the new year (January)**, they will initiate what they hope will be **Phase 1** of this project. On the first Sunday of each month, after the church service, the two elders who are serving that month will be delivering communion to those home-bound members who have requested it that month. (Members will not be visited unless they wish.) You will be hearing more details in future notices, but if you wish to request this service (or learn more information), **please call the church office.**

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

Christmas has definitely come to the Thrift store. Lots of Christmas shoppers. On Saturday, December 6th, we will participate with the Downtown Branson Merchants in "Mingle, Jingle, and Shop" from 5 to 8pm. Any donated Christmas items will be greatly appreciated.

Our October receipts were \$8,027.02 which was the 2nd largest month we've ever had.

The Thrift store will be closed on Saturday, December 13th to say a BIG thank you to our wonderful volunteers! We will treat them to lunch at Golden Corral and a party afterward.

Our needs this month are fiction- paperback and hardback (especially romance and westerns), Christmas items, cookware, and Bibles. Thanks for your generous donations!

Roger & Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~DECEMBER~

Kathleen Lenore
Roger Kauffman
Linda Stinger
Maxine Church



~DECEMBER~

12/07 - Maleah
12/14 - Mason
12/21 - Jude
12/28 - Easton



~DECEMBER~

Keith Nelson
Jamie Haage
Pat Campbell
Larry Campbell
Jean Mueller



~Membership News~

November was a busy month for the Membership Committee. The cooking party, the Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner, and the decorating party luncheon were all a success and very yummy!



Sunday, December 7th, 3:30p-5:30p is the 68th Annual Adoration Parade Open House. Hot Cocoa and cookies will be served. Lots of cookies will be needed! Please bring your cookie donations by Sunday, December 7th.

The December Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, December 21st.



There are a couple of reminders -

1. The Kitchen is overflowing with plastic cottage cheese, yogurt, and butter containers. Please do not bring any plastic containers.
2. The kitchen is missing silverware that was purchased over a year ago - 20 spoons, 14 forks, and 5 knives. Please ensure you put the silverware in the tub and not the trash at Fellowship Dinners. Thank you!

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

Taking Another Look

The Elders asked me to share this reflection in our newsletter. It comes from one of the messages I heard at the Pastor's Conference in Phoenix, and I believe it speaks directly to us as we enter the Advent season.

We live in a world that is always rushing. Everyone seems pressed for time, and few pause to truly enjoy the season. Advent, however, invites us to slow down and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

That's why I'd like us to take another look at the familiar phrase ASAP. Instead of "As Soon As Possible," let's turn it around and let it remind us of how to savor these precious days:

- As Slow as Possible – take time to notice God's presence.
- As Soft as Possible – speak with gentleness and kindness.
- As Soulful as Possible – let worship and prayer flow from the heart.
- As Sustainable as Possible – live in ways that honor creation and endure.
- As Sincere as Possible – be genuine in love and faith.
- As Steady as Possible – remain faithful and consistent in hope.
- Allow Space and Pause – create room for silence, reflection, and joy.

This Advent, may ASAP remind us not to hurry, but to prepare with patience, reverence, and joy as we await the birth of the Christ Child.

—Pastor Don

~Highlights from the Board Meeting~

- Approved funds to cover registration fees for individuals participating in the Bethel Bible Series. This year-long study will prepare participants to lead small group Bible studies.
- Approved the purchase of a digital soundboard to expand and improve the sanctuary sound system.
- Approved the purchase of several needed bell choir items.
- Voted to surplus metal tables that are no longer in use.
- Approved the 2026 committee chairs (see appointments in the newsletter).
- The finance report remains in a positive position, and the Thrift Store reported a record setting month with sales of \$8,370!
- The committees are busy planning special services and activities for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season noted in their reports. Mark your calendars to join in these celebrations.

As the year comes to a close, I am in awe of God's blessings that continue to lead BCC. As we begin the new year continue to hold each other and the church in your prayers. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season as we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Blessings,

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

~Library News~

The cold has come, and the church has been decorated for Christmas, including the library. Thanks to all who have created special touches so the room will look festive!

Is someone missing a small decorative pillow? About a month ago I noticed a pillow sitting in front of the library window. If someone has donated it, thank you. If not, now you know where to find it:)

Many new books have arrived. And soon all the Christmas books will be on the shelves as well.

It has finally happened: we have very little space left on the shelves! What a blessing! Unfortunately, that forces me to weed out many older books as I try to keep our library up to date with newer material. The good news is that the thrift store can sell the books I can no longer take, so it's a win-win for everyone. What a blessing the thrift store is!

A note on donations:

*Please donate books that are in good condition (No markings inside, no damage).

*As always, we keep the contents of the books in the church library "clean."

Many thanks to those who have donated books and decor, making our library pleasant to be in.

That's it for now. Blessings!

Cindy Tharp

~Christian Ed~

Christian Ed is in search of several people to help! Without volunteers the youth programs will not be able to continue...

~ 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 all questions regarding this.

There will be no in person meeting after Church on the 14th. Date and time to be announced.

No Children's Worship, Wonder & Welcome on December 14th and December 21st. Back on December 28th.

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	Dec. 4	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Dec. 8	10:00am.
~Worship	Dec. 9	1:00pm.
~Finance	Dec. 16	2:00pm.
~Board	Dec. 18	5:30pm.



~Outreach & Missions~

The Outreach Committee is happy to report that 64 Christmas Shoebox gifts were completed and taken to the drop off site on Monday, November 17th (that is 7 more than last year). Thank you to everyone who helped with this project!

The special Christmas Offering is on December 14th and 21st. This special offering helps support regional ministries.

The food pantry suggestions this month are for canned vegetables and fruits.

Jolene Herington, Chair