



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)

March 2026

Lent



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



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**For a glimpse into 2025
 pick up a copy of our new
 annual report.**



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS

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

Our January receipts were \$3,882.50 (we were closed for four days due to snow).

Spring/Easter items are being added to the store.

March Sales

~ March 2 - 7 - White Bag Sale. Fill a bag with clothes for \$5.00 (bags provided).

~ March 9 - 14 - Customer Appreciation Sale: select the clothing items you need. In return, we kindly ask for a donation for outreach in our community.

Items needed: purses, books-romance/westerns/adventure, spring/Easter items.

Thanks for all the great donations!

*Roger & Kathy Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs*



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~MARCH~

David Hedenberg
 Chris Hedenberg
 Alex Segura
 Jody Nelson



~MARCH~

03/01 - Maleah
 03/08 - Easton
 03/15 - Jude
 03/22 - Neal
 03/29 - Mason



~MARCH~

Larry Campbell
 Pat Campbell



~Membership News~



The Fellowship Dinner for March is scheduled for Sunday, March 15th. with a St. Patrick's Day theme. Please bring your favorite Irish dish you would like to share! Also dress in green!

Save the date! Saturday, April 25th is Family Game Day 4:00pm. - 8:00pm. in Fellowship Hall.



Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

Address Update: Keith & Jody Nelson 1049 E. Siler Pkwy Springfield, MO 65810

~Christian Ed~

Next Christian Education meeting will be after service on Sunday, March 1st.

The youth are looking forward to performing on Thursday, April 2nd at Maundy Thursday Service.

Graduation is two short months away. Please let me know if a church member is graduating High School, College or any Continuing Education degrees. Please contact me by April 10th, that way we can celebrate them.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

January proved to be one of the most difficult months our family has faced since returning to Missouri. It became "Kidney Stone Month" for us, marked by significant pain and hardship for Cindy. What a relief it was when the doctor finally stepped into the waiting room at Cox South, called my name, and said the procedure was successful and the stone was out.

Cindy is now back on her feet, and our home has returned to its usual rhythm. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and kindness during this stretch. We felt every bit of it.

Bethel Update

I am thrilled to share that our Bethel teachers began their training on January 10th. All but one, that is—Holli Segura will complete the 10 day Summer Intensive in July when she is on break.

Having gone through Bethel training myself back in the 1980's, I am amazed at how new technologies have transformed the learning experience. The material is more accessible, more engaging, and far easier to absorb or refresh.

The Bethel Bible Series—a 40 lesson overview of Scripture—has equipped more than 2 million people in churches of every size, from 15 members to more than 5,000. Our first group of teachers will complete their training by December and will then be certified to lead small group Bible studies for our congregation.

New Sound System Update

A BIG THANK YOU goes to Chris Armstrong. Already this year, Chris has:

- Received and set up our new digital sound system
- Spent many hours learning its features so he could train others
- Built a custom cabinet to house the system and our other media equipment
- Offered multiple training sessions for those helping with worship

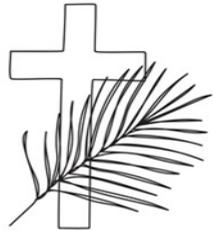
If you didn't even notice a change in the media room, that's a sign of just how smoothly Chris and his team have handled this transition. Many have commented on how much clearer and more understandable everything sounds.

We are deeply grateful—so here's a BIG SHOUTOUT to Chris and his crew for their excellent work.

Pastor Don

~Upcoming Holy Week~

Plan to join the special services as we celebrate the Easter season together.



Palm Sunday, March 29: The choir will present the Easter cantata, "Calvary's Lamb," during the morning worship service.

Maundy Thursday, April 2: A special communion service observing the Last Supper will be held at 6:00 pm. with the first performance of our Children's Black Light Ministry directed by Holli Segura.



Good Friday, April 3: We will hold the annual Prayer Vigil with continuous prayer from 6:00 am. to 6:00 pm. in half-hour intervals. You may choose to pray from home between 6:00 am and noon, or at the church from 12:30 pm. to 6:00 pm. A schedule will be available on March 15 to select your time.

Easter Sunday, April 5: Pancake Breakfast served 9:00am.– 10:30am. Come join us! The handbell choir will present special music throughout the worship service.



~Library News~

"We're not climbing, I said to myself. We're not going to clear those trees. Every muscle in my body froze. We're going to crash! Chuck lunged for the flight controls. I braced myself for impact..."

The excerpt above is from a book I'm currently reading, "Flight to Heaven, A Plane Crash...A Lone Survivor...A Journey to Heaven--and Back (A Pilot's True Story), by Capt. Dale Black. While my favorite read is historical fiction, I also like reading about people who have gone through challenging circumstances. I like to see how God helped them through to the other side of that challenge. It lifts my spirit and encourages my faith.

Reading in general helps us slow down and live in a quiet space for a time. It encourages us to use our imaginations. And we can learn about people, places, and things we may not be able to see for ourselves.

Who knew books could do so much for us!

We have 800 volumes/DVD's now in your own private church library. It's there just for you. Come in and check it out!



**Be Blessed,
Cindy Tharp**

~Sharing Joyful Moments~

Pat Campbell's mother, Bonnie Garrett, was recently recognized as the 2026 "Best in the Nest" at the Bungalow Assisted Living facility. Following her nomination by the local facility, she was selected as one of the top ten candidates nationwide by the Phoenix Assisted Living Corporation.

Amy (Endicott) Delaney, daughter of Phil and Linda Endicott, was recently named Teacher of the Year at Brittany Hill Middle School in Blue Springs, where she teaches English Language Learners. Amy grew up at BCC and now resides with her family in Independence, Missouri.

Darren Gillen was recognized in the College of the Ozarks, Ozark Visitor Magazine. Watch for the article on our new bulletin board coming soon!

BCC received a note from CAM expressing their sincere appreciation for our congregation's commitment to assisting those in need.

BCC donated 30 Chalice Hymnals to Memorial Blvd. Christian Church (D.O.C). They sustained damage during the tornado in St. Louis last May and required replacements for their hymnals. Their congregation expressed sincere appreciation for the donation.

A lovely note was received from our recent visitors from First Christian Church (DOC). They expressed sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality shown by our congregation during their visit. On a lighter note, they also shared how much they enjoyed the bread provided; apparently, it was such a hit that not a single loaf made it back to their hotel!

Elevate Branson sent us a note of appreciation for our kindness and generosity.

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JAN. 2025

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Operating income Jan. | \$15,150.07 |
| Operating expense Jan. | \$14,513.38 |
| Year to date income | \$15,675.07 |
| Year to date expense | \$15,035.38 |

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

| | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| ~Christian Ed | Mar. 1 | After Service |
| ~Membership | Mar. 5 | 5:30pm. |
| ~Worship | Mar. 10 | 12:30pm. |
| ~Finance | Mar. 18 | 9:00am. |
| ~Board | Mar. 19 | 5:30pm. |



~Outreach & Missions~



March's suggested items for CAM are canned meat or fish.

For the Souper Bowl we were able to donate 365 items to CAM to help tackle hunger! Thank you for your generous donations.

Congratulations to the ramp side for bringing the most items!

