



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 2023

Special Offering Received Sunday, November 12th & 19th

**Faith. Education.  
 Leadership  
 Development.**

**15 Colleges & Universities  
 7 Seminaries &  
 Divinity Houses**

DONATE HERE!



Your Thanksgiving Offering  
 will be Part of a 129 Year  
 Legacy of Educational Support



Visit our website at: [www.bransonchristianchurch.com](http://www.bransonchristianchurch.com)



Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch)  
 or on our website at [www.bransonchristianchurch.com](http://www.bransonchristianchurch.com)

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**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 5, 2023**  
**After Service.**  
**2024 Budget & Nominations**

**BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP**

We are delighted to welcome **Maxine Church** to our Thrift store team. **Dot Polk** is also rejoining us. Greg Haston has been busy restocking our golf ball supply before he and Ronni go south for the winter. There have been some record days of sales from \$300+ to \$500+. The quality donations keep coming in.

We plan to be open Monday through Saturday the weeks of:  
 November 5th and 12th in honor of Veterans Day.

Consider joining our team! We work in shifts of 4 hours and we have a lot of fun as we welcome customers to our store. We could easily be open Mondays and Tuesdays if we had more volunteers.

This months needs: jewelry, fall/winter/Christmas knick knacks, and fiction paperback books.

*Kathy & Roger Kauffman*  
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



**Branson Christian Church Staff & Board**

**STAFF**

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

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

**BOARD OFFICERS 2023**

Cindy Baldwin-Board Chair  
 Kathy Kauffman-Vice Chair  
 Annette Sain-Treasurer  
 Jean Mueller-Secretary  
 Johnie Groves-Financial Secretary

**-SERVING THIS MONTH-**

**~NOVEMBER~**

Bobbie Wydeen  
 Chris Hedenberg  
 David Hedenberg  
 Alex Segura



**~NOVEMBER~**

11/05 Lilly C.  
 11/12 Mason F.  
 11/19 Grace R.  
 11/26 James G.



**~NOVEMBER~**

Jean Mueller  
 Tanya Armstrong



## ~Shout Out To The Youth~

*Jude* has completed Cross Country by improving his personal best by 1 minute 24 seconds. He took 12 out of 70 at the conference meet. He will also be in the upcoming Branson Jr. High production of :

**"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat".**  
Directed by: **Holli Segura**

*Jude and Mason* are both doing well with top grades in school.

Despite breaking an ankle, *John* has completed Football Cheer Season and is planning to try out for Basketball Cheer Season.

*Darren* has just finished up his Sophomore midterms at College of the Ozarks.

*James* is making great progress through his 8th grade year. He has been learning great business skills through a youth program offered at Coffee Creations. If you see him getting creative with his coffee during fellowship time, we have a barista in training on our hands.

*Lilly* and the Pride of Branson Marching Band traveled to State and made finals. They placed 7th overall.

*Preston, Neal and Elias* have been doing a great job drying dishes and helping in the kitchen after Fellowship Dinners.



## From the Pastor's Desk

First, let me say my family and I have been overwhelmed with the thoughtfulness and warm reception of the members of Branson Christian Church during these first 90 days since our arrival. We are absolutely delighted to be living in Branson and are finally starting to find our way around without a GPS for every trip. (There are lots of new roads that did not exist when we lived here in the late 70's).

I was delighted to find in the office The Vision statement this church had written after completing a visioning process 13 years ago. It holds a wealth of information and insights into this church and its history. Here is the final summary statement developed then: "Branson Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) passionately proclaims God's love through worship, community, learning, and service." What a great statement! In the next few weeks and months, you will be hearing about our current Visioning work. I am thankful we already have an established Visioning Committee and look forward to the many helpful insights such work can give us as we reach toward God's will for our future together.

Finally, I am so glad to report Julie Groves, elder chair has worked hard with me to organize meetings with the elders. Our first session in October went very well. We are using training material created by our regional office. We had such a good experience that we plan to meet again November 4th at 9:00am.

Sincerely, Pastor Don



## Board Report

### *~From the Board~*

The board met October 19, 2023, with 12 members present. Several committee chairmen made their reports and articles throughout this newsletter will cover those activities.

In unfinished business, the search for a construction company to repair the issue of the air conditioning units on the roof has been a challenge. More information will be shared hopefully in our next meeting.

There were 3 main items in new business:

1. Social Media committee proposed 3 different policies to be implemented in our church.
  - a. Social media use policy with guidelines for a family-friendly content only.
  - b. Administrator access policy with guidelines for vetted user supervision. A vetted user is defined as an active participating member who has been properly trained in all aspects of the social media sites and website.
  - c. Photograph consent form policy with guidelines for those who do not wish their image to be shown on our media as well as a required signed consent form for any member under the age of 18(to be updated yearly).

All three policies were approved by the board for implementation to begin immediately. Upon completing this project, the Social Media committee, chaired by Stacy Eastridge, was disbanded.

2. Nominations for the 2024 Officers—the slate presented by the Nominating Committee chaired by Johnie Groves was approved by the board for presentation to the congregation at the annual church meeting November 5, 2023 following the service.
3. Budget for 2024 church year—this item was presented at the last board meeting for study during the past month. The board approved the budget as it was presented at the meeting for the presentation to the congregational annual meeting Sun. Nov. 5, 2023.

Many thanks to all who served on the committees involved in these items. The time and expertise are greatly appreciated by all of us as all these issues are essential to the business of the church.

**Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting, November 5, 2023, following the church service to approve the nominations for officers and the budget for 2024.**

**Blessings to all of you,**  
*Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair*

## Membership News

The committee is back at work researching more Pictorial Directory companies after the first company was found to be too cost prohibited.

**November and December** are busy months.

Saturday, November 18 at 12 noon is our cooking party where the turkeys and ham are prepared, the Fellowship Hall is set up, and everyone enjoys the fellowship as many hands make light work!

Sunday, November 19th is our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey and gravy, as well as ham are served. Please bring your favorite holiday dish to pass.

Sunday, November 26 is ***Hanging of the Greens*** following the church service where membership provides a light lunch after the Sanctuary is transformed into the Christmas spectacular.

Sunday, December 3rd 3:30p-5:30p is the **Adoration Parade Open House** where cookies and hot cocoa will be served. The committee is asking for church members and friends to bring cookies by Sunday, 12/3 church service. 12 gallons of hot cocoa was served last year!

*Bobbie Wydeen, Chair*

## *~Outreach & Missions~*

**The November food pantry suggested donations include baking goods (flour, sugar, cake mixes ...)**

**November 12 and 19** is the Thanksgiving Offering that supports Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Gifts from this offering continue the tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the church.

The Operation Christmas child boxes are due by November 5th. There are some boxes in Fellowship Hall you can use or any regular size shoe box will work fine. Don't forget to tape the label on top of the box and place your check inside the box.

*Jolene Herington, Chair*

## ~Christian Ed~

Christian Education has been working on many upcoming events and are starting to discuss activities for the upcoming year. We plan to work together with the Membership Committee for some church activities.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Cram the Van Food Drive. We collected over 500 pounds of food as well as \$50 in cash donations. We are hoping to turn this into an annual event. "Queen Esther" was a success with 34 in attendance. We thank Alex Segura for helping us obtain the tickets.

The youth surprised Pastor Don with a multi-course meal for Pastor appreciation. Each course was complete with one on one time for each of the youth and Pastor Don. A fun time was had by all. We are hoping to turn this into an annual event as well.

Lastly, we have had 2 successful community fundraisers so far at Fuddruckers and Pizza Ranch. We have raised a little over \$1100 that is being set aside for a 100th Anniversary give-back project. That project has yet to be decided.

While we have no plans for events in November, we are gearing up for a fun December, complete with crafting, caroling and the youth sharing the Nativity Story on December 24. Be watching for all these events and more.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

## Committee Reports

### FINANCE REPORT

#### Finance Report through SEPT. 2023

Operating income Sept.	\$16,411.39
Operating expense Sept.	\$18,124.61
Year to date income	\$154,162.73
Year to date expense	\$86,079.02

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

**SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Nov. 2	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Nov. 12	After Service
~Outreach	Nov. 13	4:30pm.
~Worship	Nov. 14	10:30am.
~Finance	Nov. 14	6:00pm.
~Board	Nov. 16	5:30pm.



## ~Church Updates~



**It has been decided to no longer do Memorial Flowers for Christmas and Easter.**



**\*\*ALL Congregational Group Picture November 12th after service!\*\***

Directory Updates:  
Larry & Mary Wallace new phone #  
417-699-3847



Please help welcome our new members to the church!  
Lee Walker, Kelly Pratt, Lacy Hartig, and Kathleen Lenore.



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

**~November Birthdays~**

Nov. 2	Marge Derry
Nov. 3	Andi Jo Howell
Nov. 10	Jan Harper
Nov. 11	Trevor Sain
Nov. 12	Sarah Rein
Nov. 12	James Gillen
Nov. 12	Javier Carrasco
Nov. 16	Susie Cook-Knapik
Nov. 18	Julie Groves
Nov. 19	Keith Adams
Nov. 19	Sharon Fairless
Nov. 20	Dominic Gillen
Nov. 21	Ross Stuckey
Nov. 27	Roger Kauffman
Nov. 30	Jamie Haage

**~Anniversaries~**

Nov. 5	John & Penny Lea
Nov. 24	Mike & Jean Mueller
Nov. 24	Joe & Jeanie Burns
Nov. 30	Richard & Janice Stucki

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	2  Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.  Teen Bible Study 5-7pm.	3	4  Elder Mtg. Fellowship Hall 9:00am.  Thrift Store Mtg. Fellowship Hall 3:15pm.
5 Annual Congregational Mtg. after service  Daylight Savings Time	6 Youth CAM workday 8:00am. –12:00pm.	7 The Chosen @ 6pm. (S3E2)	8 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	9 Teen Bible Study 5-7pm.	10	11  Veterans Day
12 Teen Worship Service  <b>ALL Congregational group picture after service for Centennial</b>  Christian Ed Mtg. after church  Thanksgiving Offering	13  Outreach Mtg. 4:30pm.	14  10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.  6:00pm. Finance Comm. Mtg.	15 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	16  <b>5:30pm. Board Mtg.</b>	17	18  Thanksgiving Cooking Party @ 12:00pm
19  <b>Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner</b>  Thanksgiving Offering	20	21 The Chosen @ 6pm. (S3E3)	22 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	23 <b>Office Closed</b> 	24	25
26 Hanging of the Greens preparations with light lunch	27 100th Mtg. 4:00pm.  7pm. Branson Jr. High “Joseph & Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”	28  7pm. Branson Jr. High “Joseph & Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”	29 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study  Choir rehearsal 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	30 Teen Bible Study 5-7pm.		

**Serving in November**

**Worship Leaders**

5th ~ Laura Vestal  
 12th ~ Bobbie Wydeen  
 19th ~ Cindy Baldwin  
 26th ~ Larry Campbell

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.