



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



Jan. 6

**Guide us on the path of salvation, O God,
that the radiance and power of your Holy Spirit
working in the world will gather together
all peoples and nations in one community
to offer you worship and proclaim your splendor. Amen.**

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

January 2023



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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JANUARY PULPIT SUPPLY

1/1 David Faragher

1/8 Suzie Moore

1/15 Suzie Moore

1/22 Larry Campbell

1/29 Ross Stuckey



*A special thank you for the
Staff Love Offering at Christmastime.*

It is much appreciated and you truly bless us by your love and generosity!

~BCC Staff~

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Samantha West- Office Admin
Rod Phillips - Music Director
Annette Sain - Custodial Services

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

BOARD OFFICERS 2022

Cindy Baldwin-Board Chair
Jamie Haage-Vice Chair
Annette Sain - Treasurer
Jean Mueller-Secretary
Ginger Faragher-Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

We had a busy December at the Thrift store. We can use winter clothes, mittens, gloves, and jewelry.

Many, many Christmas items were donated and bought by our happy customers. They are usually pleasantly surprised at our low and fair prices. And we are glad to tell them it's all from donations, we are 100% volunteer staffed and the proceeds all go back to our church. It's amazing how many customers will say , " keep the change".

We welcomed a new volunteer this month. Her name is *Christy Kawabata*. She volunteers at several places and she liked our store and asked to work on Thursday mornings. That's an answer to prayer as we needed someone for that day. Thank you Lord!

Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop Co-chair



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ JANUARY ~

**Bobbie Wydeen
Sharon Fairless
Steve Fairless**



~ JANUARY~

**1/1 James Gillen
1/8 Mason Feeler
1/15 John Gillen
1/22 Preston Segura
1/29 Jude Feeler**



~JANUARY~

**Jean Mueller
Tanya Armstrong**



~Memorial~



~In Loving Memory~

Beverly Davis

April 17, 1922 - December 11, 2022



The Installation Service for the 2023

Officers,

Elders & Deacons

will be held

Sunday, January 8th

BOARD REPORT

~From the Board Chair~

There was no board meeting for December. Committee chairmen were asked to submit their reports/articles for the newsletter.

As we come to the end of this church year, I wish to say thank you to all the board members who served our church faithfully attending the meetings and doing the work that was necessary for the church. Each member's contributions were greatly appreciated. Thanks also goes to the committee chairmen and their members for all that they did to carry out the responsibilities they were assigned. Last, but not least, thank you to all of the people in the congregation who have helped in many different ways. When visiting pastors compliment us on being a warm, friendly church, my heart is so grateful.

People have passed on, but their memories live on in our hearts. We lost our pastor, Allen Minor and several of our dear members. But, as a church family we know that God held us in the palm of His hand and comforted us and gave us the direction to help each other.

As we approach a new year, may we continue to do the work of the church and its mission. God bless you all and continue to guide you in doing His work while helping each other as well.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

HAPPY
New Year

~Christian Ed~

The Christian Education committee is pleased to announce some new and exciting things happening in 2023.

Beginning January 8 and continuing throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday of the month (except in February), all youth 12 and up are invited to a special youth worship time. This will be held at the same time as the normal service. The youth asked for it, so we are providing it. They will focus on the less commonly told stories of the Bible. We are looking for volunteers that are willing to lead one Sunday in a month.

Beginning January 14 at 2pm we will begin a monthly movie day/night. Odd numbered months will be movies for adults and families, while even numbered months will be movies for kids. Our first movie will be "Running the Bases". Everyone is welcome, bring a light snack to share.

In February, we will have a Youth led Sunday service on Feb 12th, followed by a Super Souper Bowl supper and raffle. This is a free-will lunch with proceeds going towards youth events.

Mark your calendars - we are already starting to plan for Vacation Bible School which will be held June 23-25. We will be looking for volunteers.

This is just a few of the fun things we have planned. Be watching for more All-Church events. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the Christian Education committee, please contact Stacy Eastridge.

Membership News

We have a New Record!

We served 15 gallons of Hot Cocoa at the Adoration Parade.
Our Free-Will Offering was \$168.63!

Everyone enjoyed the cookies, hot cocoa, and coffee!
Rod and Choir Members sang Christmas Carols
outside before the Parade.

One family informed us that they have been coming to Branson Christian Church before the Adoration Parade for the Hot Cocoa and Cookies for 42 years.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/CHURCH CLOSING INFORMATION

Notification for cancelling Church Services will be done by E-Blast, KRZK cancellation list- www.legends1063.fm, Text Message, Facebook, and Telephone Calling Tree.

If you haven't done so, please contact
Bobbie Wydeen at bobster218@aol.com or 417-699-4728
to add your number to the text contact list.



DIRECTORY UPDATES

Glenda Lewellen
The Bungalow's
5351 Gretna Rd. #405
Branson, MO 65616
glewellen299@gmail.com
C- 417-294-3475

Tanya Armstrong
C- 417-294-4186

Karen & Terry
Fisher
C- 417-439-7228

~Installation of Officers 2023~

Officers:

Board Chair- Cindy Baldwin

Vice Chair – Kathy Kauffman

Treasurer – Annette Sain

Secretary – Jean Mueller

Finance Secretary – Johnie Groves

Elders: 3-year term ending in 2025

1. Jamie Haage
2. Jean Mueller
3. Kathy Kauffman

Deacons: 3-year term ending in 2025

1. Alex Segura
2. Ronnie Haston
3. Gregg Haston
4. Roger Kauffman

Trustee: Three-year term ending in 2025

John Lea

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through NOV. 2022

Operating income November	\$15,764.79
Operating expense November	\$5,919.35
Year to date income	\$171,779.80
Year to date expense	\$116,049.49

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Jan. 5	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Jan. 9	4:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Jan. 11	6:30pm.
~Finance	Jan. 17	6:00pm.
~Worship	Jan. 17	10:30am.
~Board	Jan. 19	5:30pm.



Happy New Year
2023



January

ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day	2	3 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Episode 7)	4	5 Membership Committee 5:30 pm.	6	7
8 Teen Sunday Worship Begins Installation of Officers	9 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	10	11 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm. Christian Ed Mtg 6:30pm.	12	13	14 2pm Adult Movie (Running the Bases)
15 Fellowship Dinner	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg. 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Episode 8)	18 10:30am. – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	19 5:30pm. Board Mtg	20	21
22	23	24	25 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	26	27	28
29	30	31				

~January Birthdays~

Jan. 3 Jim Rice
Jan. 4 Collin Delaney
Jan. 6 Richard Stucki
Jan. 15 Sharon Carrasco
Jan. 15 Elle Pribble
Jan. 17 Mary Ann Geer
Jan. 18 Kylie Scott
Jan. 21 Clint Cross
Jan. 21 Rex Wood
Jan. 23 Anita Brown
Jan. 23 Jackie Brown
Jan. 25 Kirk Groves
Jan. 28 Judy Adams
Jan. 28 Mark Lindner

~Anniversaries~

Jan. 21 Richard & Linda Keith
Jan. 22 Robert & Cindy Baldwin



Serving in January

Worship Leaders

1st ~ Cindy Baldwin
8th ~ John Gillen
15th ~ Annette Sain
22nd ~ Stacy Eastridge
29th ~ 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.



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FEBRUARY PULPIT SUPPLY

2/5 Julie Pappenfort

2/12 Youth Sunday

2/19 Johnie Groves

2/26 Jamie Haage



Samantha West: We are so pleased to have Samantha as the new secretary. She has been very cooperative and pleasant to work with us.

Ginger Faragher: Thanks to Ginger for all the extra time she has given to us in helping Samantha through the training time. Her commitment to seeing that Samantha is exemplary. We are all so very grateful for Ginger.

Dominic Gillen: Thanks for helping in the media room. He has stepped in to assist with the camera views for the viewing of our services. We really appreciate the work that he is doing for us.



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Annette Sain-Treasurer
Jean Mueller-Secretary
Johnie Groves-Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

Greetings from the Thrift store. We had a busy December. Now, we are decorated for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Our back-room floor got several coats of acrylic paint, and it is easier to keep clean. Keep saving plastic bags and packing materials. Spring items and knick knacks are welcome. Thanks for all your donations.

Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop Co-chair



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ FEBRUARY ~

Chris Hedenberg
David Hedenberg
Jolene Herington



~ FEBRUARY~

2/5 James Gillen
2/12 Easton Rein
2/19 Preston Segura
2/26 Jude Feeler



~FEBRUARY~

John Lea
Kathy Kauffman



~Memorial~

~In Loving Memory~

Brenym Shae McDonald
(Great-Grandson of Linda Hubbard)
February 18, 2014 - January 1, 2023



-Search Committee-

It has been a while since the Search Committee has provided an update. In part, our committee was struggling through unforeseen barriers of illnesses and holiday schedules that slowed our progress. However, we are back to full speed and working through the process of searching for the pastor to be called to serve at Branson Christian Church.

We have received and reviewed some profiles sent from the Area office. That being said, it is a process of prayer and discernment.

As we move forward, please continue to hold the search process in your prayers. Pray for the church and those serving during the transition, the search committee for discernment and wisdom, for the next pastor waiting to be called to serve Branson Christian Church and for patience as we wait on the Lord's timing.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.
The Search Committee

BOARD REPORT

~From the Board Chair~

Another year has begun, and the board is busy working for the church. Our church is blessed with the leaders and committee members that are dedicated to the work that needs to be done.

The Branson Christian Church Board met January 19, 2023, at 5:30 PM. The following committee reports were given:

Building and Grounds/Property--No report was given; however, a letter was read with information that the defibrillators donated from Pat Davis should be shipped in February.

Christian Education—Teen Worship Sunday will start this month. Need volunteers to help in the coming months. Super Souper Bowl Sunday is planned to follow the Youth Sunday Feb. 12 to help raise funds for the upcoming Young Christian's Weekend at Silver Dollar City. An all-church day at Grand Country Splash center Feb. 26 with pizza is being planned. VBS will be June 23-25.

Church Growth & Membership—Planning for the coming year included fellowship dinners, Easter breakfast with the youth serving, church picnic, Thanksgiving Dinner, Hanging of the Greens luncheon, and Adoration Parade. Collaboration with the Christian Education committee for the Souper Bowl Soup luncheon was also discussed. Discussed new ideas to get new members.

Finance—The church ended the year with total income of \$200,665 and expenses of \$128,458. It was noted that the difference was largely due to no minister's salary for several months. Totals receipts for the Thrift Store totaled \$38,134.14, well beyond the \$18,000.00 budgeted.

Outreach—The group discussed collection of food items for Super Bowl Sunday. Also discussed was the Week of Compassion Special Offering to be received February 19 & 26.

Personnel—The group met December 20 and reviewed the secretary's first 90 days and was very impressed with her work. The Love Offering taken for the paid staff was then discussed and distributed to the personnel.

Continued on next page....

Board Report

Thrift Store--The floor in the back of the store was painted and greatly improved the look of the room. A donated mirror was given to the church for use in the bathrooms. Donations have been very well received.

Worship Committee--The committee reviewed the Christmas Eve and Christmas day services. Plans are being made for the Lenten and Easter season. Ash Wednesday services will be at 6:00 PM on February 22.

Lenten devotionals are being ordered and the choir will be performing a cantata. The prayer vigil is being planned as well.

Vision 100/2024—Will be meeting January 24 at 5:00 PM.

Search—Will be reviewing new profiles that have been received.

In new business, the meeting time of the board was reviewed. It was decided to keep the 5:30 PM time.

The other item of business was a request from the Branson Regional Arts Council who has purchased the Owens Theater for granting permission for them to obtain a permit for serving alcohol of any kind in concessions during shows or as a refreshment during art galleries and special events. Their property is within 300 feet of our church and city and state codes do not allow them to apply for a permit without prior written permission from the church. In the past, our church denied a request from another venue for the same reason. The board voted to deny the request for the Branson Regional Arts Council.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Doxology. The next meeting will be held February 16, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

A Thank You from Kisse Mills Head Start!

Thank you for your generous gift to our kids at Kisse Mills Head Start. we are thrilled to have your support. You truly made a difference for our children at the center.

Membership News

The Membership Committee met on Thursday, 1/5/23.

The committee reviewed activity dates for 2023 which will be put on the Church calendar.

The Membership Committee will collaborate with the Christian Ed committee on Souper Super Bowl Luncheon. Committee members will assist the youth with the event.

The February Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for 2/19/23 with a Valentine/Love theme.

Picture is with Kayla Combs Boyd, she has been attending the BCC Adoration Parade open house for 42 years! Her parents started bringing her as a baby!

Thanks! Bobbie



SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for an All-Church Family movie event, March 11 at 3pm. Bring a snack to share. We will be showing "Running the Bases".

When a small-town baseball coach gets the offer of a lifetime from a larger 6A High School, he uproots his family and leaves the only home he's ever known. However, as a man of faith, he soon faces extreme opposition to his coaching methods from the school superintendent. Rated PG.

Watch the trailer at:
https://youtu.be/g0nlx_Fjdk

~Christian Ed~



The Christian Education Committee has been busy planning many fun things for the upcoming year. Join us for the following events in February:

Friday, Feb 10 at 5pm - Kids/Youth Movie night.
Sunday, Feb 12 - Youth Sunday and Souper Super Bowl Supper Fundraiser

Sunday, Feb 26 - Teen worship
Sunday, Feb 26 - All church afternoon as Splash Country. We are seeking adults who are willing to give one Sunday to lead the Teen Worship time. Materials will be provided. Contact Stacy Eastridge if you are interested or have any questions.

Join us Sunday, February 12 for a special youth led service including an opening flag ceremony led by Boy Scout Troop 290. Then stay and join us afterwards for a Souper Super Bowl Supper and Raffle. We have several soups to choose from. You can stay and enjoy them along with some great fellowship or you can get your soups to go. This is a fundraiser to send our teens to Young Christians' Weekend (April 1) at Silver Dollar City.

Sunday, February 26 following the Sunday worship service is an all-church afternoon at Papa Grand's Pizza and Splash Country Waterpark. We will meet at Papa Grand's Buffet for lunch and then journey over to Splash Country for a fun afternoon in their newly expanded indoor waterpark. This is open for all church members. There will be more information to come with cost and signup information soon.

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through DEC. 2022

Operating income December	\$19,458.35
Operating expense November	\$6,959.88
Year to date income	\$191,238.15
Year to date expense	\$123,009.00

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Feb. 2	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Feb. 6	4:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Feb. 8	6:30pm.
~Worship	Feb. 14	10:30am.
~Finance	Feb. 14	6:00pm.
~Board	Feb. 16	5:30pm.



John Gillen, (Junior) was recently featured as the Missouri Association of Student Councils Alumni Foundation December Student Spotlight. Branson High School Student Adviser, Sunshine Ridinger, describes John as an “all in” kind of student. “He is always willing to do whatever job is needed and he does everything with such a happy heart. He is loved by his peers and teachers because of his attitude, motivation, and all-around love to help and make people better,” says Ridinger. His peers note he is a leader not by voice, but completely by action. Ridinger says, “John is always role-modeling what it is to be a great leader and a great Branson Pirate.”



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Membership Committee 5:30 pm.	3	4
5 Teen Sunday Worship Begins	6 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	7 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Season 2 Episode 1)	8 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm. Christian Ed Mtg 6:30pm.	9	10 Tentative - 5pm Kids Movie Night	11
12 Youth Sunday Boy Scout Sunday SouperBowl Freewill Lunch & Raffle	13	14 Valentine's Day 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg. 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	15 10:30am. – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	16 5:30pm. Board Mtg	17	18
19 Fellowship Dinner *Week of Compassion	20 President's Day	21 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Season 2 Episode 2)	22 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm. Ash Wednesday Service 6pm.	23	24	25
26 Tentative - Teen Sunday Worship *Week of Compassion	27	28				

~February Birthdays~

Feb. 1 Steven Cade York
Feb. 2 Gretchen Schultz
Feb. 3 Jolene Herington
Feb. 3 Larry Wallace
Feb. 4 Sandy Poos
Feb. 5 Bob Brown
Feb. 8 Diana Rice
Feb. 9 Richard Groves
Feb. 11 John Gillen
Feb. 12 Alex Segura
Feb. 13 Johnie Groves
Feb. 18 Gary Weinstein
Feb. 23 Jerry Yeutter
Feb. 23 Darren Gillen
Feb. 25 Rebecka Gillen
Feb. 27 Debbie Weinstein

~Anniversaries~

Feb. 11 Bob & Anita Brown
Feb. 12 Charlie & Linda Neff
Feb. 15 Johnie & Julie Groves

Serving in February

Worship Leaders

5th ~ Jamie Haage
12th ~ Youth Sunday
19th ~ Pat Campbell
26th ~ Bobbie Wydeen

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.



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March 2023



LENT

*Fast
Pray
Give*



**Guide us on the path of salvation, O God,
that the radiance and power of your Holy Spirit
working in the world will gather together
all peoples and nations in one community**

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MARCH PULPIT SUPPLY

3/5 David Faragher

3/12 Suzie Moore

3/19 Johnie Groves

3/26 TBD



Jerry Yeutter, Jamie Haage, Roger Kauffman, & Robert Baldwin--Many, many thanks for the ice/snow removal that was done recently. It was so much safer for our members the next morning to attend church.

Stacy Eastridge--For all the work that you have done for the youth in our church and their events.

Jan Bond--For the beautiful hats you crocheted for our children of the church. They were so appreciated.



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BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

Our Thrift store meeting was on February 11. We plan to have our \$4 bag sale February 23rd to March 11th. Turnover to put out Spring/Summer clothes will be Monday March 13 at 8am till done. A suggestion was made to be open Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 5pm if we can find willing volunteers. We welcomed back Matt Sisson to our volunteer staff this month. We also discussed being open all week for Spring break and Easter week. We had some great donations from our BCC members this month. Thanks to all of you who donate time and items.

Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chair



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ MARCH ~

Roger Kauffman
Jody Nelson



~ MARCH~

3/5 Grace Rein
3/12 Easton Rein
3/19 John Gillen
3/26 James Gillen



~MARCH~

Cindy Baldwin
Keith Nelson



~ATTENTION ALL KEY HOLDERS~



If the reason you've been issued a key to the church, thrift shop, or office has expired, please return your key to the office during business hours.

Thanks for helping to keep costs down and our key log up to date!



Thank you to my church family for your love and support in the loss of my great grandson, Brenym. I am grateful for all the cards, prayers of comfort and expressions of condolences that have lifted my spirits during this difficult time.

God bless you all for blessing me and my family.

Linda Hubbard

BOARD REPORT

~From the Board Chair~

The Branson Christian Church Board met February 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

The following information was reported to the board:

Building and Grounds/Property—Jamie Haage

- Still trying to get help for the roof problems, ice removal
- Still waiting for AEDs to arrive

Christian Education—Stacy Eastridge

- The youth event on Super Bowl Sunday raised over \$900.
- All splash event is being planned for at Grand Country with pizza Feb. 26.
- On March 11 a VBS planning session will be held at 10:00 am. At 3:00 the movie, "Running the Bases" will be shown for all.

Church Growth & Membership—Bobbie Wydeen

- Fellowship Dinner Feb. 19.
- Easter Morning Breakfast is scheduled for April 9.
- Ordering new coffee pots hopefully in March.

Finance—Johnie Groves

- Still operating in the positive.
- Noted that utilities due to weather were high and will again be high for the month of Feb.

Outreach—Jolene Herrington

- Continuing the Adopt A Teacher project with the Hollister schools
- Planned the Super Bowl collection for the food pantry with prizes for first, second, and third place. For each 5 items donated, ticket with name was placed in a drawing.
- March food donations will be macaroni and cheese and applesauce
- Purchasing bracelets to be given out at the Thrift Store, "God's Got This"
- Emphasizing Week of Compassion Feb. 19 and 26

Board Report

Thrift Store—Roger and Kathy Kauffman

- Opened for the week of Valentine's Day from Monday through Saturday
- \$4 bag sale will be February 23 to March 11.
- Turnover for changing to Spring/Summer clothing will be 8:00 am Monday, March 13.
- Have had some great donations from our BCC members this month

Worship—

- The Sundays in Lenten season will have a thought read from the devotional that is being used this year.
- Lenten devotionals were ordered and are available in the narthex.
- The Prayer Vigil will be from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Friday, April 7th. Sign up sheets will be available the last week of March.
- Plans are for Palm Sunday and Easter week activities are being made.
- Edited Worship leader guides will be distributed soon.

Vision 100/2024—Tanya Armstrong

- Planning to meet soon

Search—Jean Mueller

- Continuing to meet and reviewing candidate profiles

In unfinished business, the board was informed of the response to the Branson Regional Arts request for serving alcoholic beverages. As in the past, the board voted No to the request.

Under new business, the closing procedures of the church were reviewed. Lists will be posted to assist volunteers when needed. Parking issues were discussed as well.

The board members work diligently for the church. If members have concerns, please contact me or a board member. We are very fortunate that so many members have been willing to help the church and its activities whenever problems have arisen. We are so very blessed. God is so good.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

Membership News

Fellowship Dinners have been a great success in 2023 with yummy food and great fellowship.

Please remember to take home any leftover food. Otherwise, we have science projects growing in the refrigerator!

There are lots of casserole dishes, platters, and containers that have been left. Please check the kitchen for any dishes you may have left behind.

Next Fellowship Dinner is March 19th - We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day and asking everyone to make their favorite Irish dish.

Mark your calendar! Easter Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, April 9th 9-10:30am

Thanks!
Bobbie



~Outreach & Missions~

Food Pantry donations for March are macaroni & cheese and applesauce.

The upcoming special Easter offering which supports General Ministries of the Church that serve across the U.S. and Canada, and around the world, will take place on April 2nd and 9th.

Jolene Herington, Outreach Chairman

~Christian Ed~



All-Church Family movie event, March 11 at 3pm. Bring a snack to share. We will be showing “Running the Bases”.

When a small-town baseball coach gets the offer of a lifetime from a larger 6A High School, he uproots his family and leaves the only home he’s ever known. However, as a man of faith, he soon faces extreme opposition to his coaching methods from the school superintendent. Rated PG

Watch the trailer at: https://youtu.be/g0nlx_Fjdlk

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth through the Super Souper Bowl Supper and Raffle.

The winners of the raffle were Sandy Poos and Johnie Groves.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped by making soups, desserts or helped in the kitchen. Also thank you to the hospitality committee for helping man the kitchen and get everything set up so the youth could lead the worship service.

Through everyone's support and generosity we raised \$960. This money will be used to send the teens (of which we have 6 eligible) to Silver Dollar City for Young Christian's Weekend on April 1.



Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JAN. 2023

Operating income January	\$12,871.47
Operating expense January	\$10,236.29
Year to date income	\$12,871.47
Year to date expense	\$10,236.00

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

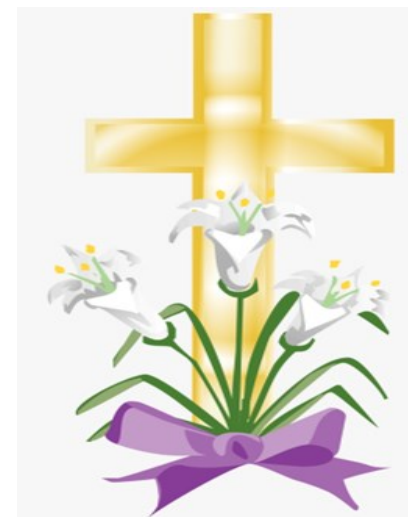
SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Mar. 2	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Mar. 11	10:00am.
~Outreach	Mar. 13	4:30pm.
~Worship	Mar. 14	10:30am.
~Finance	Mar. 14	6:00pm.
~Board	Mar. 16	5:30pm.



~ Easter Lilies~




Envelopes for Easter Lily orders will be in the bulletin on Sundays, March 19th & 26th. The cost will be \$12.00 each. If you would like to order please fill out the envelope designating In Memory Of or In Honor Of and place in the offering plate. They will be on display in the sanctuary for Easter Service on Sunday, April 9th.



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	2 Membership Committee 5:30 pm.	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Lent	6	7 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Season 2 Episode 1)	8 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	9	10	11 10am VBS Planning/ Christian Ed Mtg. 3pm - Family Movie "Running the Bases"
12 Teen Sunday Worship (Led by The Gillens) 3rd Sunday of Lent	13 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	14 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg. 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	15 10:30am. – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	16 5:30pm. Board Mtg	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18
19 Fellowship Dinner Lily Orders Accepted 4th Sunday of Lent	20 First Day of Spring 	21 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Season 2 Episode 2)	22 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	23	24	25
26 Lily Orders Accepted 5th Sunday of Lent	27	28	29 10:30am – 12:00 Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	30	31	

~March Birthdays~

Mar. 4 Avery Mueller
Mar. 4 David Hedenberg
Mar. 4 Harry Wilhoit
Mar. 5 Chris Armstrong
Mar. 6 Mark Schultz
Mar. 7 Cindy Etnyre
Mar. 11 Marty Nutt
Mar. 11 Janice Smith
Mar. 14 Mike Mueller
Mar. 24 Jeff Eastridge
Mar. 31 Janet Minor

~Anniversaries~

Mar. 14 Steve & Sharon Fairless
Mar. 22 Chris & Tanya Armstrong



Serving in March

Worship Leaders

5th ~ Jean Mueller
12th ~ Kathy Kauffman
19th ~ Chris Hedenberg
26th ~ John Lea

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.



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

Special Easter Offering
Received on Sunday's 04/02 & 04/09



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

April 2023



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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APRIL PULPIT SUPPLY

- 4/2 Easter Cantata**
- 4/9 Johnie Groves**
- 4/16 Suzie Moore**
- 4/23 Larry Campbell**
- 4/30 Russell Alexander**



~Prayer Vigil~

BCC will participate in the church wide Chain of Prayer on Friday, April 7 from 6:00 am - 6:00pm. This is a continuous prayer event where we are joined together in unbroken prayer with Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations.

Resources are available at: www.discipleshomemissions.org



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

This has been a busy month for us. We had a donation of a tall jewelry display from a local jewelry store. That enabled us to get rid of the bulky white display case. We sold that to a small business owner. This will give us more space for small furniture, etc. Turnover went well so it's already Spring for us. We are seeing a sharp increase in customers and were open all week for spring break. We could still use a few more as needed volunteers. The Lord continues to bless us with donations from locals and out of towners. Our next meeting is May 6th.

Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chair



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ APRIL ~

Bobbie Wydeen
Sharon Fairless
Steve Fairless



~ APRIL ~

4/2 Preston Segura
4/9 Mason Feeler
4/16 Grace Rein
4/23 Jude Feeler
4/30 John Gillen



~APRIL~

Johnie Groves
Julie Groves



~Easter Offering~



Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
received in most congregations

Sunday April 2 and 9, 2023

On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news. General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through:

- Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by climate change.
- Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- Mental health resources for pastors and congregations.
- New congregations worshipping in a variety of languages and worship styles.
- Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.
- Stewardship education for congregations to grow in their practice of generosity.
- Opportunities like the General Assembly, where the church can gather for worshipful work.
- Support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world.
- And so much more...

The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana), Communication Ministries, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, New Church Ministry, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Office of the General Minister and President, Treasury Services

We are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Please give generously in your congregation on April 2 and 9, or make a gift at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.



-Directory Update-



The correct numbers for:
Maxine Church is 417-527-3205
Terry & Karen Fisher is 417-439-7228

~Upcoming Holy Week Events~

April 2nd— Palm Sunday

Easter Cantata (The Easter Story)



April 6th—Maundy Thursday Service 6pm.

April 7th—Good Friday

Prayer Vigil 6am.-6pm.

*In the Sanctuary. Sign up in the Narthex
Or online at bransonchristianchurch.com*

April 8th—*Easter Egg Hunt/Luncheon/Movie 10am.
In Fellowship Hall*

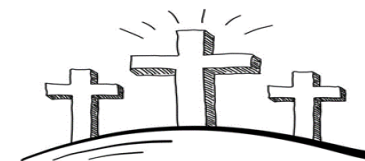
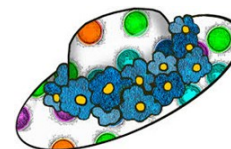
April 9th—Easter Sunday

*Easter Pancake Breakfast 9am.-10:30am
In Fellowship Hall*

Easter Sunday Service 10:45am

*Easter Bonnet Contest wear your fanciest bonnet
Or hat for a chance to win a prize*

*Family Photos in classroom off Sanctuary
10am.-10:30am & after service-12:30pm*



Board Report

~From the Board Chair~

The Branson Christian Church Board met March 16, 2023. While there are several articles in this newsletter about the activities of the various committees, the report will basically cover those items not stated elsewhere. The following committee reports were as follows:

Building & Grounds—Repair on the gutter by the office will be taken care of by Dominic Gillen. The youth have offered to help with the grounds upkeep, and lights need to be replaced in the kitchen area.

Worship—March 26—Prayer rocks painted by Sandy Poos will be made available to the congregation as a reminder to pray for the search for pastoral leadership for BCC, as well as the church, its missions, and members.

In unfinished business, the AEDs loving provided by Pat Davis have been delivered and the next step is installation and training.

In new business, the Finance Committee recommended approval of 3 fundraising events—tips for servers for Easter Breakfast, spaghetti lunch for raising funds for VBS, and an event in the fall to support the youth and their events. The board approved the recommendation as presented.

The other business that was approved was the establishment of an ad hoc committee for the purpose of the actual 100th year celebration for the church. Co-chairs appointed will be Pat Campbell and Jean Mueller. Other appointed committee members will be Susie (Cook) Knapik, Tanya Armstrong, Bobbie Wydeen, and the board chair (Ex Officio).

Please remember that all elders, deacons, and trustees are members of the board. Others may visit at any time to observe the business of the church. Please come.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

Membership News

Easter Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, April 9th 9-10:30am. Pancakes, Sausage, and Beverages will be served.

We will need Pancake flippers!



We will join the Christian Education Committee in Hosting a Spaghetti Fellowship Dinner Sunday, May 21st.



THERE IS NO FELLOWSHIP DINNER IN APRIL!

Thanks Bobbie!

~Outreach & Missions~

Many thanks for all the items for the Super Bowl. A carload and a half were delivered to CAM and some to the House of Hope for the Blessing Box.

Our Week of Compassion donations added up to \$875.

The Easter special offering will be received on April 2 and 9.

The food pantry donations being emphasized for April are peanut butter and canned vegetables.

In addition, Christian Action Ministries (CAM) is having a grand opening on Friday, March 31, in their new building at 2400 State Highway 1645 at 12:00 p.m.

New bracelets which say “God’s got this” were purchased and are being given out for free at the Thrift Store and here in the church.

~Christian Ed~

The education committee is pleased to announce several upcoming events. First, we will have an Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 8th at 10 AM. You do need to register, and forms can be found in the Narthex, or you can email Stacy Eastridge @ shortround9276@gmail.com by no later than Monday, April the 3rd. Just send the child's name and age.

On Easter Sunday the youth will be serving the pancakes at breakfast for tips that will go into the youth fund for activities throughout the year.

The youth have asked that we bring back the Easter bonnet contest. So, wear your most decorated Easter bonnet or hat. You will also have the opportunity for family Easter pictures in the seeker's room, just off the sanctuary. 10am. - 10:30am. and after church till 12:30pm.

The teen worship monthly Sundays have been a great success. We are still looking for volunteers to take one Sunday a month to facilitate. The youth have chosen to study the lesser-known prophets. So far, we have learned about Joel, Amos, and Obadiah. We look forward to the upcoming sessions where we will learn about Micah, Malachi, Zachariah, Zephaniah.

The education committee has chosen a theme for this year's vacation Bible school. It will be "Treasure Cove" and we will be journeying through a treasure map to learn all about the wonderful things Jesus has to offer.

Mark your calendars for May 21, for a free will spaghetti luncheon. This will be in place of the monthly fellowship Potluck dinner. The main course and sides will be provided and we ask congregation members to bring a dessert to share if they would like. Money raised will go towards vacation Bible school to provide craft materials, lesson materials, and food for the event. VBS is scheduled for June 23 to 25.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through FEB. 2023

Operating income February	\$18,582.79
Operating expense February	\$7,178.28
Year to date income	\$31,454.26
Year to date expense	\$17,414.57

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Outreach	Apr. 10	4:30pm.
~Worship	Apr. 11	10:30am.
~Christian Ed	Apr. 12	6:30pm.
~Finance	Apr. 18	6:00pm.
~Board	Apr. 20	5:30pm.



~ Welcome~

Welcome our new church member

Mary Ann Geer

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Contact information to add to church directory:

114 Cozy Ct. Apt. 153-2

Branson, MO 65616


lendma@sbc.global.net

417-773-6021



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 SDC Young Christians Weekend
2 Easter Cantata Palm Sunday Easter Offering	3	4 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 3)	5 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	6 Maundy Thursday Service 6pm.	7 Prayer Vigil 6am.-6pm. Good Friday	8 Easter Egg Hunt 10am. with Movie & Lunch after
9 Pancake Breakfast  Easter Sunday Easter Offering	10 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	11 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.	12 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm. Christian Ed Mtg. 6:30pm.	13	14 Kids Movie Night 5pm.	15
16 NO Fellowship Dinner Earth Sunday	17	18 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 4) 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	19 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	20 5:30pm. Board Mtg	21	22 Earth Day
23 Teen Sunday Worship 30	24	25	26 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	27	28	29

~April Birthdays~

Apr. 2 Wilma Springer
Apr. 3 Rhonda Johnson
Apr. 3 Kelly Weinstein
Apr. 4 Ron Derry
Apr. 7 Annette Sain
Apr. 8 Kelly Pratt
Apr. 11 Jana Lindner
Apr. 15 Carol Turpen
Apr. 15 Karen Fisher
Apr. 16 Qorban Tilden
Apr. 17 Glenda Lewellen
Apr. 19 Robert Baldwin
Apr. 19 Sydnee Hey
Apr. 22 Sandy Rice
Apr. 27 Lynn Defebaugh
Apr. 28 Lydia Pribble
Apr. 28 Cindy Baldwin
Apr. 29 Joe Burns
Apr. 30 Rosemary Pribble
Apr. 30 Annika Wydeen

~Anniversaries~

Apr. 1 Rod & Andrea Phillips
Apr. 7 Vernon & Judy Doyle
Apr. 8 Harry & Brenda Wilhoit
Apr. 11 James & Kristin Lea

Serving in April

Worship Leaders

2nd ~ Cindy Baldwin
9th ~ Jerry Yuetter
16th ~ Pat Campbell
23rd ~ Jamie Haage
30th ~ Annette Sain

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.



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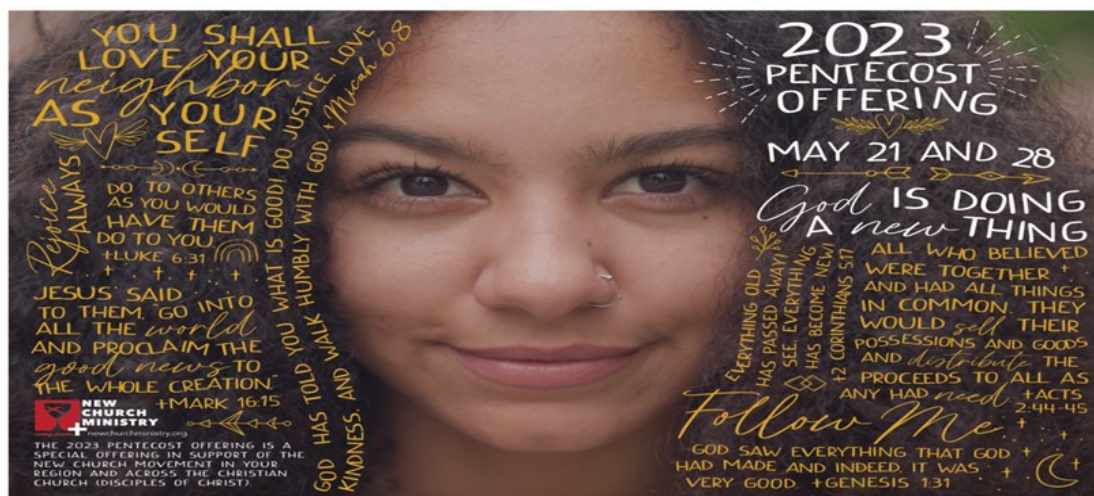
THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

May 2023



Special Pentecost Offering Received Sundays May 21 & 28



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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MAY PULPIT SUPPLY

5/7 Pat Campbell

5/14 Jamie Haage

5/21 Juli Nelson

5/28 Ron Routledge



BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

We have had a busy April. We were open all week at Easter and saw many new customers. Our water leak was fixed and we are so thankful to have water again. This month we welcomed a new volunteer. Teena Sims is back and we are so glad to have her. We still need volunteers for Wednesday afternoons. We could easily be open Monday through Saturday if we had more volunteers. Our needs this month are baby/ toddler clothes, gardening items like flowerpots and jewelry . Please continue to save plastic sacks and packing supplies.

Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chair



Rev. Dr. Allen Minor

In Memoriam

01/05/1944-05/14/2022

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

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-

~ MAY ~

Chris Hedenberg
David Hedenberg
Jolene Herington
Roger Kauffman



~ MAY ~

5/7 Easton Rein
5/14 James Gillen
5/21 Preston Segura
5/28 Mason Feeler



~ MAY ~

Kathy Kauffman
Jamie Haage
Cindy Baldwin
Julie Groves

ELDERS



~Youth News~

If you know of a congregation member who will be graduating from High School or College this year, please send Name and School (if college, include course of study) to Stacy Eastridge at shortround9276@gmail.com so they may be recognized.

Join us Saturday, May 13 at 3pm for Family Movie Afternoon. Bring a snack to share. We will be showing "Greater". Based on the true story of Arkansas Razorback football player, Brandon Burlsworth. Told he wasn't good enough to play Division I football, Brandon took a risk and walked on in 1994, and he became the most respected player in the history of the program.

If you had Easter picture taken and have not received them – they are waiting for you down in Fellowship Hall.

Shout out to several of our youth:

~Grace Rein – inducted into the Junior National Honor Society (4.0 GPA)

~Mason Feeler – for his outstanding performance in the Jr. High Production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" – directed by our very own Holly Segura

~Jude Feeler – (and his traveling baseball team) – for recent win at the Forsyth Invitational

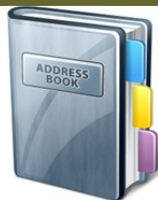
~Darren Gillen - accepted for summer work program at C of O.

~John Gillen - purchase of 1st car while balancing work, school & sports.

~James Gillen - finishing his 1st year of homeschool.

To all the rest of the youth...we praise you too.. keep being you!

-Directory Update-



Cindy Etnyre
114A Vista View Dr.
Branson, MO 65616

Linda Hubbard
211 Timberlake Rd.
Branson, MO 65616

Board Report

~From the Board Chair~

The Branson Christian Church Board met April 20, 2023. While there are several articles in this newsletter about the activities of the various committees, this report will basically cover those items not stated elsewhere. The following committee reports were as follows:

Building & Grounds—Lights were replaced in the kitchen area. Plans are being made to improve the outside grounds soon. A recommendation came from the committee to replace the lights in the Thrift Shop with LEDs.

Worship—Plans are being made to honor the women of the church for Mothers' Day.

Vision 100/2024—Costs of materials for remodeling of the sanctuary are being pursued.

100th Anniversary Ad Hoc—The 100th anniversary of the church will be celebrated June 22-24, 2024. More details will follow later.

In new business, the Finance Committee recommended approval of 2 events—the replacement of the lights in the Thrift Shop for the Building and Grounds committee and requesting donations for a volleyball play area at the Crisis Center in Rockaway Beach. Both requests were approved by the board.

The meeting was well attended. I thank all of those who participated as well as those members who faithfully help with the committees and other business of the church. We are so blessed to have such devoted members. God bless them all.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

~Kudos~

1. All of the adults who are volunteering to help with Teen Church.
2. Sandy Poos--painted rocks for the distribution at the Thrift Shop. Customers are very grateful to have one.
3. Larry Campbell--The Coffee King at the Easter Breakfast.
4. Dominic Gillen--handling all of the kitchen duties for various youth events.

Welcome New Member

Maxine Church 04/09/2023



Charm is deceptive, and beauty
is fleeting; but a woman
who fears the Lord
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending
favor, kindness and love this

Mother's Day
and always.



Membership News

Easter Breakfast was very popular! The Youth served more than 50 people. The pancake flippers went through 10 pounds of pancake mix and over 100 sausage patties! Thanks to the Youth and kitchen volunteers!

The May 21st Fellowship dinner is a special Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Vacation Bible School. The committee is currently working with local grocery stores for donations of pasta, sauce, salad, and bread. The ground beef has been donated. We are asking the congregation to bring desserts such as brownies, sheet cakes, etc. Please watch for more information through email blasts and Sunday announcements.

First Quarter Attendance

Sunday attendance has averaged the following:

January-	60 attendees
February-	70 attendees
March-	70 attendees

Ash Wednesday 25

Maundy Thursday 31

Easter 117

Our attendance keeps growing! Keep inviting friends and neighbors!

Bobbie Wydeen

~Outreach & Missions~

The Outreach Committee is planning a workday at the Crisis Center on Saturday, May 6th from 9:00 to 3:00. We hope for volunteers from the church to help. Our plans include purchasing a volleyball set and installing permanent poles for it. Other possible projects that are needed are small repairs, power washing cabins, and organizing storage units. The number of volunteers will dictate which projects we can tackle. If you are willing to help, please contact Jolene Herington.

The donations for CAM in May are cans of tuna.

Jolene Herington

~Christian Ed~

- Ø The Christian Education Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the Easter Pancake Breakfast. The youth had a great time serving you and are very appreciative of the tips that were raised. Through your kindness, \$535 was raised for the youth fund. These funds are used to provide events and assist with conference admissions and camp admissions. We thank you for all the support you have given to the youth. The youth will be paying it forward to the Church with a workday to spruce up the outside and work on cleaning out some closets and the old nursery on May 27.
- Ø Join us Saturday, May 13 at 10am for a Mother's Day Crafting Event. This is open to all youth and adults. We have 2 crafts available. We will be making wooden jewelry boxes and we will be decorating pots and planting flowers. Please let Stacy Eastridge know by Wednesday, May 10 if you plan to attend so we have enough flowers for everyone. Snacks will be provided during the event.
- Ø Many events are planned or in the works of being planned. Most exciting is we are working on an All-Church event to attend Sight & Sound's production of ESTER. We have been communicating with Alex Segura and are working on establishing a date. Be watching for more information to come.
- Ø Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School June 23-25. We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help for an hour or a day, please contact Stacy Eastridge. Help is always needed with decorating & teardown, teaching (classes still available for a teacher), child wrangling, or just about anything. We will always find something for you to do. Vacation Bible School will be open to all youth. Youth up to age 12 will attend the classes. Youth 12 and up will help as mentors and guides. Be watching for more information and online registration. Monies raised at the Spaghetti Dinner on May 21 will go towards VBS to purchase food, craft supplies, lesson materials, etc. We serve a full lunch and two snacks over the course of the 3 day event as well as having a craft for every lesson (total of 5 lessons) and opening day craft.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through MAR. 2023

Operating income February	\$16,252.49
Operating expense February	\$7,942.18
Year to date income	\$47,731.75
Year to date expense	\$25,323.42

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Christian Ed	May 7	After Church
~Outreach	May 8	4:30pm.
~Worship	May 9	10:30am.
~Finance	May 16	6:00pm.
~Board	May 18	5:30pm.



Search Committee


The Search Committee has received several profiles from the Region to review and give consideration. There are many facets to this process and can take time to work through. Please be assured the committee is prayerfully committed to finding the best candidate to serve as our pastor.

We acknowledge this process is in God's hands and only He can lead us to the individual who is waiting to be called to serve as pastor of Branson Christian Church. Please join the committee in prayer as the search process continues.



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 5)	3 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	4	5	6 Thrift Store Mtg. 3:15pm. 9am.-3pm. Crisis Center at Rockaway
7 Christian Ed Mtg. After Church	8 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	9 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.	10 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	11	12	13 Mother's Day Craft 10am.-12pm. Family Movie Night 3pm. "Greater"
14  <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> Mother's Day	15	16 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 6) 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	17 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	18 5:30pm. Board Mtg	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21 Freewill Spaghetti Dinner (Proceeds to VBS) Pentecost Offering	22	23	24 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	25	26	27 Youth Work Day At Church Time TBA
28 Teen Sunday Worship Led by The Gillen's (Book of Micah) Pentecost Offering	29 Office Closed  Memorial Day	30	31 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.			

~May Birthdays~

May 2	Phyllis Rotrock
May 3	Marilyn Johnson
May 9	Jody Nelson
May 11	Carmelita Segura
May 13	Jared Lindner
May 15	Tara Groves
May 16	John Lea
May 23	Tanya Armstrong
May 23	Matt Sisson
May 25	Josiah Felder
May 27	Marlene Henderson
May 28	Rod Phillips
May 29	Jeanie Burns
May 30	Charie Barton



~Anniversaries~

May 11	Garry & Debbie Weinstein
May 17	Javier & Shan Carrasco
May 20	Jeff & Stacy Eastridge
May 25	Keith & Judy Adams
May 25	Larry & Sandy Poos

Serving in May

Worship Leaders

7th ~ Stacy Eastridge
14th ~ Johnie Groves
21st ~ Jean Mueller
28th ~ Tanya Armstrong

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.



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213 S. Commercial St.
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Office: 417-334-3453

VBS June 23-25



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

June 2023



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

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JUNE PULPIT SUPPLY

6/4 Russell Brammer

6/11 Russell Brammer

6/18 Johnie Groves

6/25 VBS



~DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING~

The church received a bequest from the estate of Pat Davis to purchase 2 Automated External Defibrillators (AED). One unit is hung in the Narthex and one is hung by the kitchen door in the Fellowship Hall. Some members have asked for training on how to use the AEDs. Taney County Ambulance District (TCAD) can host a group training at their Headquarters in Hollister. The training includes Hands-Only CPR as well as how to use the AED.

This training will be held on a weekday between 8am-4pm. Please contact the office by Monday, June 5 if you are interested in the training. After a preliminary head count is obtained, I can schedule a group training time with TCAD.

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

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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

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift store has been busy receiving many quality donations and putting out the new items into the shop. The new LED lights are up and have brightened up the store. We had our quarterly meeting and decided to be open Memorial Day week Tuesday through Saturday. We still need infant clothes. Please continue to save plastic bags and bubble wrap packing for us.

Kathy Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chair



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ JUNE ~

Alex Segura
Jody Nelson
Ronni Haston
Greg Haston



~ JUNE ~

6/4 Grace Rein
6/11 Preston Segura
6/18 James Gillen
6/25 Jude Feeler



~JUNE~

Jean Mueller
Tanya Armstrong



~Youth News~

John – Outstanding character for month of May, representing the trait of self-discipline. Making the Varsity Cheer Squad for his Senior Year. Accepted into the National Society of High School Scholars (must be in top 10% of class and have a GPA of 3.8 or higher). Completed requirements to become A+ eligible. Will serve as a Junior Counselor for the State Student Council in June.

Grace - Learning spotlight and running it at the Mansion Theatre for Forsyth graduation & Miss Teen America

Darren – Student Manager at The Keeter Center at C of O for the summer work program.

Mason – Received the 8th grade Choir Award of the Year and will be one of only 2 Freshmen in the Chamber Choir next year.

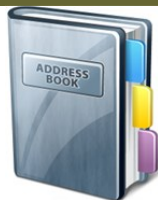
James – Completed his first year of homeschooling and completed the 6th grade as a straight B student.

Jude – Scored in the top 10% of over 43,000 6th graders around the US in a math competition. Recognized for his leadership in FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes).

Carmelita – Turned 1 Year Old!!

Easton, Preston, Neal, Elias – You were all a great help at the Spaghetti Dinner.

-Directory Update-



Pat Campbell
Email: nsdecampbell2@gmail.com

Board Report

~From the Board Chair~

The Branson Christian Church Board met May 18, 2023. Many reports were given to the board with just a few items for business. Those reports will be shared throughout this newsletter. Those not covered include the following:

Building & Grounds—Waiting for responses from a company for roof repair. We cannot take care of water damage in the various ceilings of classrooms and the kitchen until the roof is free from leaks. Repairs needed for the electronic sign are under warranty and should be done in a couple of weeks. The AEDs donated by Pat Davis are now in place.

100th Anniversary Ad Hoc—next meeting will be May 30 at 10:00 am.

In unfinished business, the board approved the appointment of Bobbie Wydeen to develop a maintenance plan and training for the AEDs that were installed. A plaque will also be purchased recognizing the donor, Pat Davis, for these AEDs. This work will be done through the Building and Grounds Committee.

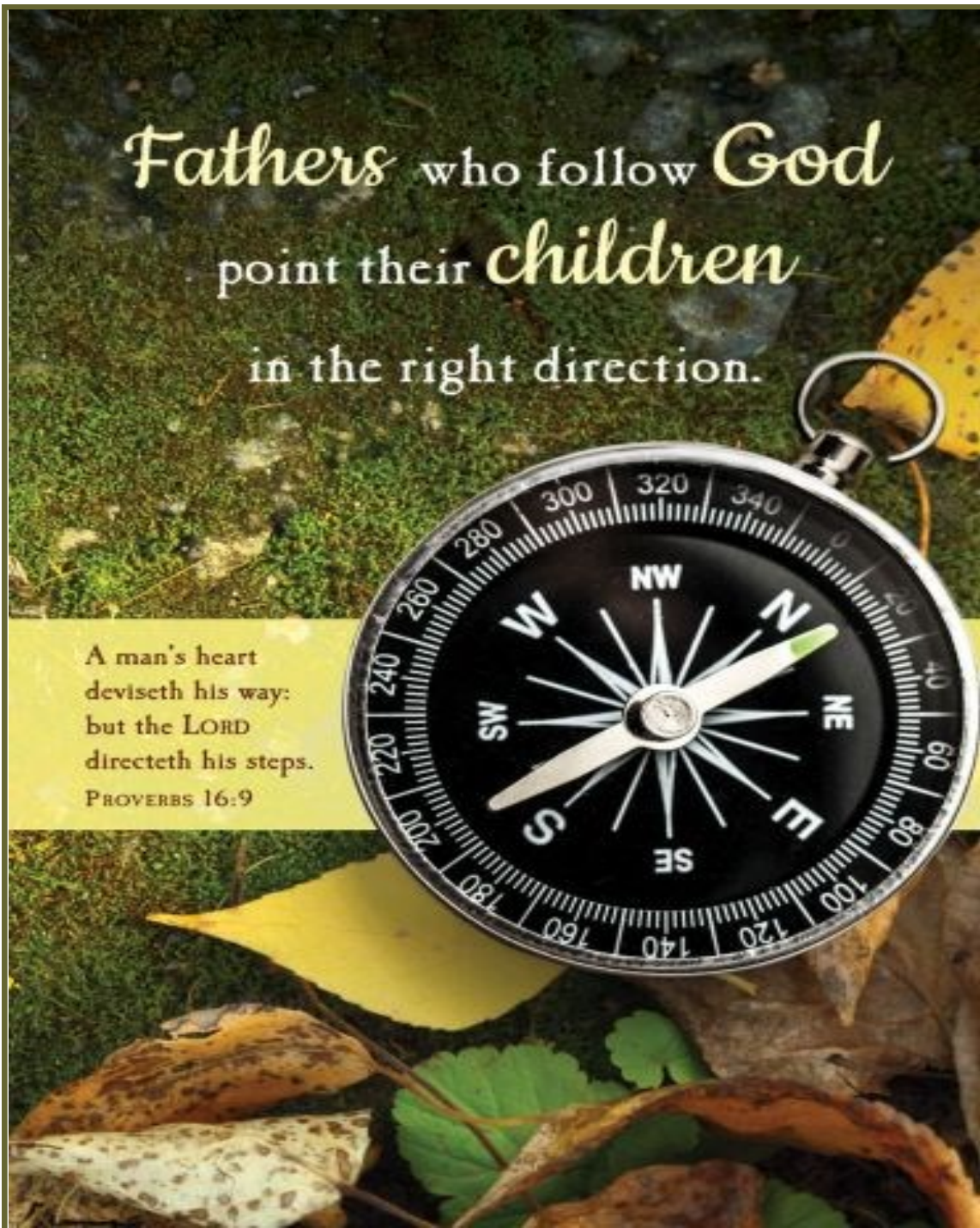
In new business, it was recommended to establish a Social Media Committee to write a policy and procedure for social media, visual and audio presentations generated by/for the church. This committee will work under the Worship Committee. The committee that was appointed is the following: Stacy Eastridge, Chair; John Gillen, Dominic Gillen, Russ Wydeen, Chris Armstrong, Johnie Groves, and the board chair (ex officio).

In conversation, it was noted that the prepackaged individual communion cups have increased in price and is sometimes on back order. The consensus of the board was to start using the former process of communion prior to the pandemic as of July 1. The prepackaged cups will be available for those who prefer to receive communion by this method as well as those seated in the balcony and visitations to shut-ins. Deacons will be meeting soon to discuss the proposed changes and responsibilities for preparing communion in advance.

Also brought to the attention of the board was the use of KUDOS. Instead of recognizing them in the newsletter, as many do not want their names mentioned, personal thank notes will be written from the board to the individuals. Kathy Kauffman volunteered to write notes for this month.

There is great appreciation for all who attended and gave reports for their committees. Thanks also to those who accepted new assignments to help our church. It takes a community of people to make the decisions and volunteers to carry out the tasks at hand. May God bless each one of you.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair



Membership News

We hosted a fundraiser spaghetti dinner for the Youth Program/Vacation Bible School on Sunday, May 21st with Spaghetti, meat sauce, marinara sauce, alfredo sauce, chicken, bread, salad, and desserts made by the congregation. Everyone left with full tummies!

Dishes, dishes everywhere! There are lots of dishes that have been left in the kitchen, after each Fellowship Dinner. The dishes will be set out in the Fellowship Hall the next few Sundays. Any dishes not claimed will be given to the Thrift Shop to sell.

The committee is discussing wearing the name tags again. We will be welcoming a new Pastor in the future and it will be easier for that person to learn many new names. The name tags have been reviewed and new tags will be made for our new members and attendees.

June Fellowship Dinner is moved to Sunday, June 11th due to Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday of the month so families can celebrate.

Mark your calendar- The Annual Church Picnic at the Table Rock State Park is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th.

Bobbie Wydeen

~Outreach & Missions~

On May 6th we had a volunteer workday at the Crisis Center. Some of the projects we worked on included: power washing cabins, cleaning out gutters, replacing screens, and sorting and organizing clothes. Thanks to all our volunteers. We are planning another workday for Monday, June 26th and would appreciate anyone who can join us. Let Jolene Herington know if you would like to help. We are still taking donations to help purchase a volleyball set and permanent poles for the Crisis Center also.

Food pantry suggestions for June are ramen noodles and granola bars. There are marked boxes in Fellowship Hall for both CAM and the Blessing Box donations along with the basket in the Narthex.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School. Signup on the church website www.BransonChristianChurch.com and click the VBS tab at the top of the page. We are still looking for adult help. Registration will be open until June 10. VBS is open to attendees 3-12. VBS will be June 23-25. Times are Friday, June 23 6pm-8pm / Saturday, June 24 9am-3:30pm / Sunday, June 25 10:15am after Church. We will be providing the Sunday service.

We are in the planning stages for setting up a date to go as a group to “Esther” at Sight and Sound Theater. We are looking at the end of August or first part of September. If you are interested, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex to find out the best time for the majority. You can also email Stacy Eastridge at shortround9276@gmail.com. We are looking into a Friday or Saturday evening.

Coming soon!! It’s time to get the ding-a-lings back together. In other words, it’s time to bring back the handbell choir. We will start practicing in September. If you are interested, please let Stacy Eastridge know. You do not need to be able to read music, we will teach you everything you need. Practice day and time will be decided later to fit the schedules of everyone wanting to participate.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spaghetti Luncheon. Over \$500 was donated to go towards Vacation Bible School. These funds will help with the purchase of food (we have 2 meals, snack and drinks), purchase of craft materials, purchase of lesson materials, and decor. We look forward to showing you everything we’ve learned at “Treasure Cove” during the Sunday Worship service, Sunday June 25th.

If you’ve noticed that there are a few more flowers around the church and the bushes are trimmed, the youth and adult volunteers were hard at work Saturday, May 27. We pulled weeds, laid landscape material and mulch, painted planters, planted flowers and trimmed up the hedges. Inside we were also hard at work cleaning out closets and cleaning up the old nursery.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through APR. 2023

Operating income April	\$15,529.38
Operating expense April	\$8,032.98
Year to date income	\$63,261.13
Year to date expense	\$33,389.73

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Jun 1	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Jun 4	After Church
~Outreach	Jun 12	4:30pm.
~Worship	Jun 13	10:30am.
~Finance	Jun 13	6:00pm.
~Board	Jun 15	5:30pm.



~Worship Committee~

The Worship committee met and discussed plans for Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, and Father’s Day. We also talked about how to introduce a new or unfamiliar Hymn to the congregation. It was decided to sing 1 verse of the new Hymn for several Sundays after announcement time. That would get us familiar with the Hymn before singing it in its entirety.



ALL SUNDAYS

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

~June Birthdays~

Jun 1 Teena Sims
Jun 1 Kathy Kauffman
Jun 2 June Doyle
Jun 6 Juliana Tilden
Jun 7 Andrea Phillips
Jun 7 Connie Yeutter
Jun 9 John Rinehart
Jun 12 Lucy Johnson
Jun 14 Ruth Griffin
Jun 16 Easton Rein
Jun 17 Evan Kauffman
Jun 23 Laura Vestal
Jun 26 Bill Knapik
Jun 28 Joyce Dewell
Jun 28 David Faragher
Jun 30 Linda Endicott

~Anniversaries~

Jun 1 John & Gayle Rinehart
Jun 1 Ross & Paula Stuckey
Jun 1 Terry & Karen Fisher
Jun 2 Alex & Holli Segura
Jun 11 Jerry & Connie Yeutter
Jun 19 Matt & Katie Hedenberg
Jun 21 Roger & Kathy Kauffman
Jun 23 Mark & Jana Lindner

Serving in June

Worship Leaders

4th ~ Jerry Yeutter
11th ~ Larry Campbell
18th ~ David Faragher
25th ~ VBS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	2	3
4 Christian Ed Mtg. After Church	5	6 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg. 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 5)	7 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	8	9	10
11 Teen Sunday Worship Led by Tanya Fellowship Dinner	12 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	13 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 6) 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	14 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	15 5:30pm. Board Mtg	16	17
18 Last W.O.W. Day Father's Day	19	20 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 7)	21 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	22 Decorate for VBS 5pm.	23 VBS 6pm. - 8pm.	24 VBS 9am.-3:30pm.
25 VBS Sunday	26	27 6-8pm. Chosen Bible Study (Episode 8)	28 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	29	30	

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.



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

2023 General Assembly

KINDOM OF GOD WITHIN US AMONG US

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

July 2023



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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JULY PULPIT SUPPLY

- 7/2 **Jerry Yeutter**
- 7/9 **David Faragher**
- 7/16 **Juli Nelson**
- 7/23 **Johnie Groves**
- 7/30 **Johnie Groves**



Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

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Annette Sain - Custodial Services

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Annette Sain-Treasurer
Jean Mueller-Secretary
Johnie Groves-Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

June has been a very busy month for us as we picked up 6 garage sales and have many new and unique items to add to the store. *We will have a special 16th Anniversary Sale in July and plan to be open all week.* Thanks to all the volunteers and workers over the years that brought the store into fruition and kept it going as a service and outreach to the community.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ JULY ~

Bobbie Wydeen
Sharon Fairless
Steve Fairless



~ JULY ~

7/2 Easton Rein
7/9 Mason Feeler
7/16 John Gillen
7/23 Mason Feeler
7/30 James Gillen



~ JULY ~

John Lea
Kathy Kauffman



~Youth News~



Vacation Bible School was a huge success. We hope you enjoyed the Sunday Worship service and our trip to Treasure Cove. If you missed it, you can find the links on the church website, Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter. We had 6 youth ages 1-10 that participated and 7 teen mentors ages 12-17. The teen mentors paired up with the youth the entire event. They assisted with crafts and classes. Everyone had a great time with stories, crafts, puppet shows, games, music and of course food. A huge shout out to Dominic Gillen for making sure the kids were well fed over the 2 days. Thank you to the teachers who each prepared a class complete with story and craft. Some classes even had a small snack. Be watching for pictures of the event to be coming soon.

**Thank you to everyone who stayed through the Church Service, we went over time just a little, but how everyone enjoyed it.*



Are you interested in learning how to play the handbells? You do not need to be able to read music, you only have to count to 4 and know your right from your left hand. If you are interested, please contact Stacy Eastridge. Practices will start up in September if there are enough interested people.

-Directory Update-



Bob & Marilyn Johnson
7373 E. US Hwy 60 Lot 91
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
Email: dmcarlson12@gmail.com

Board Report

~From the Board~

The church board met on Thursday, June 15th at 5:30pm. The following reports were given as well as the others throughout the newsletter:

Building and Grounds: There was much discussion on how to fix the roof. One bid was received for approximately \$15,000 to coat the roof with a special material that would be guaranteed for 20 years. It was suggested that we gather another bid for a pitched roof option so we will pursue that for now. The electronic church sign would need thousands of dollars to repair one side so will get a second opinion.

The 100th anniversary ad hoc committee reported many possible ideas and will continue to meet and refine those plans.

The Pastor search committee stated they are working closely with a potential candidate.

Thanks to all who work diligently on our committees and those who are supportive so the work of BCC can continue.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Kauffman, Vice Chair





2023 General Assembly Save the Date

When the General Assembly meets in Louisville, Kentucky July 29-August 1, 2023, it will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered in person. The theme for the **2023 General Assembly** is “Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us.” The theme is based on three scriptures: Luke 17:20- 21, Genesis 11:1-9, and 2 Peter 1:3.

The planning committee described the theme, “There are multiple words, scriptures, languages, and ways to share and shape our common life. The church has more than one story to tell, and more than one tool for innovation and distinctive witness in the future. God is with us. What is life before God like? Salt, an open table, zoom, and treasure in clay jars. What have Disciples learned about life before God in the midst of the uncertainty the church and its members faced over the last three years?”

The theme “Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us” is a call for Disciples to strengthen their relationship to God both individually and communally through an expansive in-person and digital gathering of the church in Louisville. The past two years, local congregations and the wider church have needed to be separated but have also innovated new ways for God’s limitless love to be revealed in our church, our communities and around the world. God’s limitless imagination holds so many possibilities for the church.

This four-day event will encourage Disciples to gather online and in-person to celebrate the way that God’s expansive love connects each of us as “kin” and to part of the larger kindom of God. Save the date and join the church **July 29-August 1, 2023 for worship, workshops, Bible study, opportunities to explore Louisville, mission, and the sacred work of the church.**

Membership News

Name Tags- New name tags have been made for newer members and will be placed on the name tag boards in Fellowship Hall or the Narthex. The committee is asking everyone to wear his/her name tag since in the future we will be welcoming a new pastor!

New coffee pots with thermo pots have arrived and the air pots will be retired.

Hands-Free CPR

The Taney County Ambulance District Education office suggested that anyone interested in the Hands-Free CPR class, register on the Hollister Chamber website for the free class that is held once a month at the TCAD office. The next 2 classes are scheduled for Thursday, 6/22 & Thursday, 7/13.

www.hollisterchamber.net

Under events

If there are any problems registering on-line,
please call Alice Yeager, Administrative Assistant
at 417-334-3050

Classes held at Taney County Ambulance District Office
106 Industrial Park Dr
Hollister, MO 65672
417-334-6586

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

~Outreach & Missions~

July food pantry donations suggestions are for personal care items. Also watch for those back-to-school sales as we will be collecting school supplies soon.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

The Christian Education committee has spent most of this month planning for Vacation Bible School. We are looking into various other activities and will get that information out as soon as the dates are finalized. We are looking into activities to get the youth and the church more visible and involved in the community. More details to come soon. Thank you to everyone who came and planted and cleaned closets. We will be planning another cleaning day to work on the former nursery. We have been talking about a youth project to give back to the church for the 100th anniversary. We are still in the discussion phase and hope to move to the planning stage soon. Be looking for information on church t-shirts. Hopefully we will have designs submitted by the youth to choose from. These shirts will be worn when in the community for service and activities. This is just another way to make us visible.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

~Youth Kudos~

A big shout out to Neal, Preston and Easton for coming in voluntarily and helping dry dishes for the June fellowship dinner.

John Gillen - served as Junior Counselor for the Missouri Association of Student Council (MASC) leadership council. He did such a great job he was asked to fill out an application to be a Head Junior Counselor.

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through MAY 2023

Operating income May	\$19,042.94
Operating expense May	\$7,407.52
Year to date income	\$82,304.07
Year to date expense	\$40,797.25

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Outreach	Jul 10	4:30pm.
~Worship	Jul 11	10:30am.
~Finance	Jul 18	6:00pm.
~Board	Jul 20	5:30pm.




~Thank You~

Laura Vestal would like to thank her church family for the prayers, calls and cards after her surgery.



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Office Closed  Independence Day	5 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	6	7	8
9 Teen Sunday Worship Led by Tanya	10 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	11 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg	12 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	13	14	15
16 Fellowship Dinner	17	18 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	19 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	20 5:30pm. Board Mtg	21	22
23 30	24 100th Anniversary Mtg. 4:00pm 31	25	26 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	27	28	29

~July Birthdays~

- Jul 3 Lexi Mata
- Jul 8 Brynna Lindner Howell
- Jul 8 Terry Fisher
- Jul 12 Mary Holmes
- Jul 15 Melanie Mayes
- Jul 15 Brenda Wilhoit
- Jul 16 Bill Burnett Sr.
- Jul 21 Bill Stoll
- Jul 22 Amy Delaney
- Jul 22 Michele Enright
- Jul 28 Phil Endicott
- Jul 28 Jude Feeler

~Anniversaries~

- Jul 5 Phil & Linda Endicott



Serving in July
Worship Leaders

- 2nd ~ Cindy Baldwin
- 9th ~ Johnie Groves
- 16th ~ Jamie Haage
- 23rd ~ Annette Sain
- 30th ~ Chris Hedenberg



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THE SPIRIT

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Where
God guides,
He provides

ISAIAH 58:11



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Rod Phillips - Music Director
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Kathy Kauffman-Vice Chair
Annette Sain-Treasurer
Jean Mueller-Secretary
Johnie Groves-Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

Wow! We had a very good July with our 16th Anniversary celebration. Despite everything being 1/2 price, we broke all records for the week of July 4th selling just under \$2000 worth of merchandise. Most of our items are priced \$0.25 to \$4.00 so you can see how much inventory was sold. God continues to bless us, and we get beautiful donations at just the right time. We still need plastic sacks, jewelry, knick knacks, and bubble wrap.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ AUGUST ~

Greg Haston
Ronni Haston
Jody Nelson



~ AUGUST ~

8/6 Grace Rein
8/13 Jude Feeler
8/20 Easton Rein
8/27 Preston Segura



~AUGUST~

Johnie Groves
Julie Groves

ELDERS



~Youth News~

Darren continues to thrive at College of the Ozarks as a student manager at the Keeter Center. He has even made the Dean's list.

John is a member of the Varsity Cheer Squad at Branson High School and has begun his practices.

Lilly is currently attending Branson High School band camp. She plays flute in the Pride of Branson Marching Band.

James (and his mom) have survived his first year of homeschooling. He has already begun his 7th grade year and is looking forward to succeeding.

Mason & Jude had the opportunity to attend Chi Rho Adventure Camp in El Dorado Springs. They are very appreciative to the Church for sending them.

-Welcome New Members-

Marlin & Sharon Browne
640 State Hwy 248 #12
Branson, MO 65616

Board Report

~From the Board~

July was a very busy month for the board and the church as well with 2 board meetings and a special congregational meeting.

First of all, a special board meeting was called for July 6 for the purpose of selecting a settled minister and the negotiated package of salary and compensations to be presented to the congregation. Jean Mueller and the search committee presented Rev. Dr. Don Tharp as a candidate for the position. The board voted unanimously to present him to the congregation.

On July 19, the special congregational meeting was held. Along with the presentation by Jean Mueller and the search committee, Rev. Dr. Don Tharp presented a short message and answered questions from the congregation. The salary and compensations package were also presented. Following a written ballot, it was announced that Rev. Dr. Don Tharp was approved by the congregation. He will start August 1, 2023, and his first Sunday will be August 6.

On July 20, the regular board meeting was held. The minutes of the June 15th board meeting were approved as amended and the July 6th special meeting was approved as presented.

Reports were heard from the various committees and most of that information is included in other articles of this newsletter. Two of the reports are as follows:

Worship Committee

- Worship & Wonder will begin August 20, 2023.
- Once a month for the next year, a special emphasis will be on the Centennial this coming year including music from the different decades.
- Reminders of changes of the service in any way need to be no later than Wednesday morning prior to the Sunday service. Regular information needs to be in Monday morning prior to the service.
- Need to have an overall captain for the deacons for organization and Personnel.
- Also need to clarify the acolyte schedule and substitution when needed.

Continued on next page....

Board Report

Finance Committee

- The BCC Board requested another bid on the roof to create a taper on the flat roofs with a new membrane for draining.
- A bid was submitted for \$43,038.45 plus \$100.00 for carpentry repairs if needed in case of rot and mold.
- The Finance Committee made the recommendation to accept this bid. Under unfinished business, the Finance Committee's recommendation to accept the bid was approved as presented. The Building and Property Committee will meet with Branson /Springfield Roof Company to work on the details of the project.

There was no new business. The meeting adjourned with prayer. The next meeting will be August 17, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Our last 14 months have been an experience of many blessings. First of all, to have a Search Committee consisting of Jean Mueller (chair), Johnie Groves, John Lea, Annette Sain, Sandy Poos, Robert Baldwin, and Roger Kauffman to commit themselves to hours of meetings, reading profiles, following up references, and interviews was awesome. Our church was well represented in this endeavor to find the right settled minister for us. Please thank them for all that they did.

Secondly, I wish to thank the following people for filling in when we needed someone in the pulpit. There were many times when no one was available from the region, but people from our congregation were willing to help. Those individuals were Johnie Groves, Jerry Yeutter, Jamie Haage, David Faragher, Pat & Larry Campbell, Tilden & Felder Missionary Families and VBS both years. Please thank them as well for all their time and commitment to help our church in this time of need.

Lastly, we have gained new members and have improved programs for our congregation. God has blessed us indeed. Please thank Him for all that He has done for us.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

Membership News

1. The August Fellowship Dinner will be held 1 week earlier on Sunday, August 13th to celebrate the installation of our new Minister Rev. Don Tharp. Let's show the Tharp Family our best dinner ever!
2. The committee is asking everyone to wear their name tags for our new minister to learn our names. New name tags have been printed and are being added to the boards in the Fellowship Hall and in the narthex. New name tag holders are being purchased to complete the project.
3. The committee is planning a new Pictorial Directory. Be watching for more information.
4. The Church Picnic is fast approaching on September 17th. The committee needs your input of your favorite old-time hymns for the Sing-A-Long. There will be a clipboard on the table in the narthex for your suggestions.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

~Outreach & Missions~

August donations for CAM are pasta and pasta sauce.

Thank you to everyone who helped our nursing home project by signing and writing notes in the greeting cards. We are supporting the Clothe A Child project in August. If you would like to contribute, write Clothe a Child on the envelope or check. We are also collecting donations for the animal shelters. They need old blankets, towels or sheets, puppy or kitty food and anything else pet related.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

We are pleased to announce a Special Event!
An All-Church Evening at Sight & Sound Theatre.

Saturday – October 14 – 7:30pm

Adult Tickets (13+) are **\$35.95** (Regular \$71.90)
Child Tickets (3-12) would be less. (Price not avail at time of print)

Reservations and pre-payment are required by Friday, Sept 15 for the discounted rate.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and on the church website starting Sunday, August 13. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy Eastridge at shortround9276@gmail.com or 417-239-4477.



Signups for the handball choir will begin Sunday, August 13. If you are interested in being a part of the bell choir, please fill out the sign-up sheet that will be located in the narthex. You do not need to have musical experience to participate.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JUNE 2023

Operating income June	\$17,405.33
Operating expense June	\$9,377.64
Year to date income	\$99,709.40
Year to date expense	\$49,788.65

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Aug 3	5:30pm.
~Worship	Aug 8	10:30am.
~Outreach	Aug 14	4:30pm.
~Finance	Aug 15	6:00pm.
~Board	Aug 17	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Aug 20	After Service



~Welcome Pastor Don~

On July 19, 2023, the congregation called Rev. Dr. Donald Tharp as pastor of Branson Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Pastor Don, as he prefers to be called, and his wife Cindy recently moved to Branson from Victoria, Texas. They have two daughters, Amber, and her family live in Washington and Desira' in Branson.

Pastor Don brings a wealth of experience and talent to the church. He has served as Disciples of Christ pastor for 30 years and has a versatile music background. His father was a Disciples pastor and from childhood he wanted to follow in his footsteps and become a pastor. Fun fact, Pastor Don and Cindy served as youth leaders at Branson Christian Church in 1977-78 while he was attending School of the Ozarks and working at Silver Dollar City.

Pastor Don is anxious to begin his ministry at BCC on August 1. His first Sunday in the pulpit is August 6 and installation service on August 13.

The Search Committee is grateful for your prayers and support as we worked through the process and waited for God to reveal the individual that He had chosen to serve at Branson Christian Church.



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	3 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	4	5
6 Thrift Shop Mtg. After Service	7	8 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg	9 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Installation Sunday Fellowship Dinner	14 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	15 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg	16 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	17 5:30pm. Board Mtg	18	19
20 W&W starts back Christian Ed Mtg. After Service	21	22	23 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	31		

~August Birthdays~

Aug 2 Joann Dassero
Aug 3 Preston Segura
Aug 4 Larry Pribble
Aug 7 Cameron Pruitt
Aug 8 Grant Lindner
Aug 8 Lea Moore
Aug 13 Amanda Sain
Aug 15 Katie Hedenberg
Aug 15 Mason Feeler
Aug 19 Keith Nelson
Aug 24 Harold Nesbit
Aug 27 Sara Endicott Pascucci
Aug 29 Malachi Felder
Aug 31 Greg Haston

~Anniversaries~

Aug 7 Jimmy Dan & Lydia Pribble
Aug 19 Keith & Jody Nelson
Aug 25 John & Lucy Johnson
Aug 30 Larry & Rosemary Pribble

Serving in August

Worship Leaders

6th ~ Cindy Baldwin
13th ~ Ron Routledge
20th ~ Pat Campbell
27th ~ Jerry Yeutter

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.



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

**Reconciliation Offering celebrates our
journey toward wholeness and imagining
a world where racism is dismantled and
all of God's children can flourish.**

**The offering is received on Sundays
September 24th and October 1st.**

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

September 2023



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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~In Loving Memory~

Dorothy Wiebe

May 9, 1930 - July 24, 2023



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

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Store continues to see great foot traffic and sales from visitors and locals. People continually comment on the cleanliness of the store and the prices. There is still a \$1 t-shirt sale. A "back-to-school" sale will start 8/23 through 9/2 with "Fill a plastic grocery sack for \$5". Eligible items are clothes, shoes, scarves, belts, underwear, and socks. We will also likely have a 1/2 price sale for frames and art-work since we have had some wonderful donations of those items. Turnover from summer to Fall/Winter will take place Sept. 5. We will not be open on Labor Day. We have been blessed with many beautiful donations from members, College of the Ozarks, Flea Market, garage sales and home relocation overflow. If anyone sees a garage sale with quality items, please ask them if they are willing to donate what they do not sell to us. We have loyal golf ball customers and are grateful that Greg Haston and his friend Robin Carlock are both recovered enough to start collecting them again. As part of our church ministry work, the Thrift Store will be helping to supply back-to-school clothes and shoes to Salvation Army clientele. We always need grocery sacks and other bags of all sizes, bubble wrap and newspaper, jewelry, knick knacks and other small house decor.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ SEPTEMBER ~

David Hedenberg
Chris Hedenberg
Jolene Herington
Roger Kauffman



~SEPTEMBER~

9/3 John Gillen
9/10 Mason Feeler
9/17 Lilly Carpenter
9/24 Grace Rein



~SEPTEMBER~

Cindy Baldwin
Tanya Armstrong
Jamie Haage

ELDERS



~Upcoming Events~

An All-Church Evening at Sight & Sound Theatre.

Saturday – October 14 – 7:30pm

Adult Tickets (13+) are \$35.95.

Child Tickets (3-12) are \$16.29.

Reservations and pre-payment are required by Friday, Sept 15 for the discounted rate.

There are reservation forms in the Narthex. Reservations can also be made through the Church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy Eastridge at shortround9276@gmail.com or 417-239-4477.

Handbell choir will have our first meeting/practice on Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Come find out what handbells are all about. No musical experience required.

The Christian Education Committee and the Youth are busy planning lots of community and fundraising events including:

- Sept 30, 11am-9pm – Cleaning tables for tips @ Fuddruckers (monies raised for Youth 100th anniversary project)
- Oct 7, 9am-12pm – CAM Drive Thru Food drop-off at Liberty Plaza
- Oct 16, 4pm-9pm – Cleaning tables for tips @ Pizza Ranch (monies raised for Youth 100th anniversary project)
- Oct 29 – Fall freewill meal fundraiser (monies raised for the Higher Education Fund and Youth Fund)
- November – Volunteering at CAM, packing food boxes
- June 28-30, 2024 – Vacation Bible School

From the Pastor's Desk

A heart-felt thanks from my family and I. We have felt very warmly welcomed from the moment we arrived in Branson and want to take this moment to thank each and every one of you.

I am very excited as I look to the next month and all the great things coming up. School has started and that means Fall is upon us! Sunday school class will begin again, youth programming is in full swing, and cooler temperatures are just around the corner.

We are especially excited to see the Fall foliage again. We have missed that for the past 27 years while living in South Texas.

Every week in worship is an amazing experience here at Branson Christian Church, with a small slice of history to carry us right up to the Centennial Celebration. It is so eye-opening to see the faces and hear of the marvelous work of those who have built and maintained this lighthouse of love, on the corner of College and Commercial Streets.

Let me offer some special Kudos to all those helping the needy through our By the Way Thrift shop. It has been a banner year, so far, and many lives have been touched by the caring volunteers and wonderful finds. If you have not been for a visit recently, I highly recommend it.

God is working in our midst, and I believe great things are ahead for this congregation. Take time to think about who you know, that needs a good church home. Make a list and keep it in a place where you can lift up a prayer every day for those people. Then, when you think of it, invite them to take part in a service or church activity. You might be surprised by what happens.

Pastor Don

Board Report

~From the Board~

The Branson Christian Church Board met August 17, 2023. A welcomed part of our meeting was to have a pastoral prayer and report from Pastor Don Tharp as we had not had those items in the agenda fulfilled for over a year.

Reports were heard from the various committees with most of their articles being included in this newsletter. The Building and Grounds/Property committee reported that the roof does have a pitch but that the leakage problem is coming from the weight of the HVAC units on the roof. They are working with the contractor to solve that problem. More information will be shared on this project.

The Financial committee's report was approved as presented. The offerings in July were very good, but it was pointed out that there were 5 Sundays that month. All in all, the church's situation is quite good at this point.

There was no new business introduced for board approval. I again thank all of the board members and congregation for their support, love, and prayers. Our church is very blessed.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

Membership News

The Church Picnic is Sunday, Sept 17th 12p-4p Rain or Shine!
Table Rock State Park Pavilion, 5272 Historic Hwy 165, Branson

Hamburgers, Brats, and Hot Dogs with all the Fixin's will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.
We will have a Sing-a-long of Old Time Hymns.



The committee is in process of choosing a new company to create a new pictorial directory. More news to come.

Name Tags- everyone should have a name tag. Please check the name tag boards in the Fellowship Hall as well as in the Narthex. Please contact the office if you do not find your name tag. 2 more Name tag boards will be hung soon since they are very full.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair



~Outreach & Missions~

September food pantry suggestions are rice and beans.

Planning ahead for the Operation Christmas Child boxes for Samaritan's Purse. Hobby Lobby has available information and plastic boxes. You can also use a shoebox or there are some printed boxes left at the church. Boxes need to be turned in no later than November 5.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

The Teens will be starting up the Teen Sunday Worship on September 10. This will be a teen led worship service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. They are also looking to start up a weekly after school Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons. (Start date TBA). We would like to upgrade the Teen Room with some current technology for these gathering, as well as future movie nights or other events. If you have any items sitting around that you feel might fill this need, please let us know.

The Youth have designed a Church T-shirt and would like to offer them to anyone interested. T-shirts will be a Caribbean Blue with the Chalice on the front and unique cross design on the back. T-shirts are \$10.50 - \$14.50 depending on size. If you are interested, contact Stacy Eastridge.

Shout out to the youth:

- John has been accepted to Evangel University and has an interview scheduled with College of the Ozarks.
- Lilly has become a member of the Branson Pep Band.
- Neil will be starting Kindergarten and is now able to start Acolyte training.
- Jude has made the advance drama class and will be a cast member in the Branson Jr. High fall production of "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" directed by Holli Segura. Be watching for show information.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JULY 2023

Operating income July	\$20,385.53
Operating expense July	\$7,618.51
Year to date income	\$120,392.11
Year to date expense	\$58,493.40

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Sept 7	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Sept 10	After Service
~Outreach	Sept 11	4:30pm.
~Worship	Sept 12	10:30am.
~Finance	Sept 19	6:00pm.
~Board	Sept 21	5:30pm.



~Centennial Update~

The Centennial Committee have been busy working on plans to celebrate the Branson Christian Church 100th anniversary in June 2024.

Each month the committee will highlight a "Centennial Moment" sharing bits of our history. In July the topic was all about our "Beginnings", August featured the Quilters and September we will hear about the how the music shared by so many talented individuals through the years has been central to our worship and spiritual journey.

Along with the Centennial Moment, a hymn will be featured that was written during a descending decade all the way down to this present. Plus, we will sing old gospel songs from time to time, which everyone enjoys!

Please "save the date" for our big 100-year celebration on June 21, 22 and 23 of 2024! Friday night there will be a catered dinner, Saturday an ice cream social, and Sunday will be a joyous day of worship together. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year.

We are in the process of collecting contact information for former members to invite to the event. If you have information for any of these folks, please share it with Pat Campbell or Jean Mueller.

--The Centennial Committee



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Office Closed 	5	6 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	7 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	8	9
10 Teen Worship Service Christian Ed Mtg. after church Grandparents Day	11 Outreach Mtg. 4:30pm. Youth Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch	12 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.	13 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	14	15 Due Date for Queen Esther Reservations	16
17  Church Picnic @ the Lake 12pm.-4pm.	18 Outreach & Missions Comm. Mtg. 4:30pm.	19 6pm. Finance Comm. Mtg.	20 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	21 5:30pm. Board Mtg.	22 .	23 Youth Fundraiser @ Fuddruckers  First Day of Fall
24 Reconciliation Offering	25 100th Mtg. 4:00pm.	26	27 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 5:30pm.	28	29	30

~September Birthdays~

Sept. 2 Stacy Eastridge
Sept. 3 Joseph Brandon Baldwin
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
Sept. 24 Jeanie Raulston
Sept. 28 Harold Baker



~Anniversaries~

Sept. 10 Kevin & Sarah Rein
Sept. 11 Jim & Dorothy Polk
Sept. 28 Bill & Susie Knapik-Cook

Serving in September

Worship Leaders

3rd ~ Kathy Kauffman
10th ~ Johnie Groves
17th ~ Jean Mueller
24th ~ John Gillen

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.



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Reconciliation Offering

**celebrates our journey toward wholeness and
imagining a world where racism is dismantled
and all of God's children can flourish.**

**The offering is received on Sunday
October 1st.**

Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

October 2023



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

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

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

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Store did well in August. The \$5 bag sale was a hit and was extended an extra week, allowing us to reduce the summer clothes inventory. The inventory of artwork, frames and vases was reduced because of the half-price sale. Turnover from summer to Fall/Winter took place on Sept. 11 with nine volunteers making this process go smoothly. Fall and winter clothes are now out, and the store is looking like fall is in the air. Christmas decor is not far behind. There is a half-price t-shirt sale for kids and men. Two new volunteers will be starting to work at the thrift store - June St. Laurent and Marlin Browne. We continue to be blessed with many beautiful donations from members, Flea Hag, garage sales and the public. If anyone sees a garage sale with quality items, please ask them if they are willing to donate what they do not sell to us. The golf balls continue to fly off the shelves so the prices have been raised 10% to 20% (approximately 33% of retail) so that people will stop buying them to resell them. Golf ball sales have generated over \$500 so far this year. We always need grocery sacks and other bags of all sizes, bubble wrap and newspaper, jewelry, knick knacks and other small house decor.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~ OCTOBER ~

Greg Haston
Ronni Haston
Steve Fairless
Sharon Fairless



~OCTOBER~

10/01 James G.
10/08 Easton R.
10/15 Jude F.
10/22 John G.
10/29 Preston S.



~OCTOBER~

Cindy Baldwin
Keith Nelson



~Outreach & Missions~

The October Food pantry suggestions for donation are:
soup, chili and crackers.

The Outreach committee finished our sponsorship of a Middle School Teacher in the Hollister School District. The Program was called Adopt A Teacher and we supported and encouraged her throughout the school year by sending her notes, cards, and gifts.

We ran a successful Souper Sunday Food Pantry Program for food donations for CAM and also attended the open house for their new facility. We also delivered the food items to the Blessing Box at House of Hope and CAM monthly.

Our committee volunteered on May 6th and June 26th at the Crisis Center where we kept busy with projects of cleaning gutters, fixing screens, sorting, and hanging up clothing, pressure washing cabins, cleaning out storage areas and organizing linens and other household items. We were fortunate to have Jean Mueller join us and several of our family members as well.

On Sunday, August 27, we visited the Shepherd of The Hills Nursing Home with around 20 church members; we sang hymns and delivered the greeting cards that members of the congregation had signed. Thanks to Tanya and Stacy for their help getting the children involved and leading the singing,

Our next big project is to promote the Operation Christmas Child boxes. We will be giving you more details and brochures with the details but keep in mind they need to be turned in no later than November 5th to give us time to deliver them to a gathering location during collection week.

Jolene Herington, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

Daily Bible Reading

Nothing has been a more significant part of my spiritual journey than daily Bible reading. My theological grounding and my faith development rely upon keeping close to scripture. That's where we learn about God's love and God's plan and purpose for our lives. My struggle has been how to approach this task. I have read through the Bible many times in many translations. Sometimes I am able to keep my concentration on the text, sometimes my mind wanders. Have you ever experienced this?

Several years ago, the church we attended offered a study by Pastor Brian Hardin that was very inspiring. As we worked through that study, I found out that Pastor Brian has worked for many years helping people all over the world maintain their daily study of God's Word. He calls it Daily Audio Bible. For almost 7 years now Cindy and I have utilized this excellent resource. You can find it at:

dailyaudiobible.com

You can access all the study help right at this website for free (it is paid for by donations). We prefer to use their free version for our phone: daily audio bible mobile app. We love listening to the daily readings (Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm, and a short Proverb) right before we retire each day. Listening about 20 minutes a day will get you through the entire Bible in a year.

I added their chronological readings a couple of years ago. That is a fascinating read, as you hear the Bible in chronological order (as the best scholars can discern). Again, their family members read the texts of the day, offer some brief explanations, and you can see and read right along with them on the app or online.

Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Let daily audio Bible become an enrichment for your faith journey too! Try it out for 30 days, I dare you. Let me know if you find it helpful too!

Pastor Don

Board Report

~From the Board~

The Branson Christian Church Board met September 21, 2023. A quorum was present.

Reports were heard from the various committees with most of their articles being included in this newsletter. The Building and Grounds/Property committee reported that there is a need for fencing around the roof over the kitchen once the roof is repaired to discourage people from sleeping there.

The Financial committee's report was approved as presented. The proposed budget for 2024 was presented to the board to be studied and voted on at the next board meeting in October.

In new business, the Board approved the funding of costumes for the children's Nativity play on Christmas Eve Sunday. The Nominations Committee was named for the 2024 slate. Johnie Groves, Kathy Kauffman, Susie Cook Knapik, Jean Mueller, and Keith Nelson have agreed to serve on the committee.

Unfortunately, I can't name them one by one, but THANK YOU to all who are serving our church as well as the congregation for all that you do for our church. God bless you.

Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

Membership News

Help celebrate Pastor Appreciation on Sunday, October 8th. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the church service. A card will be in the Narthex for individuals to sign and a basket for cards will be located in the Fellowship Hall.

The September 17th Church Picnic was a great success! We actually ran out of grilled meat. We believe this was the largest crowd in recent memory. A great time was had by all! A big Thank You to Rod Phillips, Jamie Haage, David Faragher, and Pastor Don for sharing their musical talents with us.

The committee has reviewed a few companies for a Pictorial Directory and have struck out. We will continue to research the topic. Watch for updates.

The updated name tag project is now complete. There are extra magnetic name tag holders and frames to store the name tags. Please contact Bobbie Wydeen if there are any issues with your name tag.

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

~Christian Ed Cont....~

Shout out to the youth.

John & Mason have made the District Choir.

Jude is doing great with Cross Country. He has medaled or finished in top 20 for all races so far.

Come out to a Branson Football game and support the youth. John is a cheerleader and Lilly is in the marching band. Upcoming games: Oct 6 – Senior Night, John will be escorted by his parents / Oct 20. Games are at 7pm.

~Christian Ed~

Cram the Van Drive-Thru Food Drive Saturday – October 7 – 9am to Noon Liberty Plaza

BCC Youth in conjunction with Christian Action Ministries (CAM) will be collecting food for families in Taney and Stone counties. Please come out and support.



The youth have 2 Community Impact events this month with Pizza Ranch.

1 – They are selling Pizza Ranch discount cards for \$15 each. Cards can be purchased from any of the church youth.

2 – They will be bussing tables for tips at Pizza Ranch on Sunday, October 16 from 4pm-9pm.

(The monies raised will go towards a 100th Anniversary giveback project and the Higher Education Fund.)



Do you have any educational needs or wishes? Please send your suggestions to the Christian Education Committee c/o Stacy Eastridge shortround9276@gmail.com



October 28 from 3pm-5pm, we will be having a Fall Fun Fest. There will be carnival type games, snacks, and trick-or-treating from room to room with Bible based questions for kids to answer. If anyone would like to man a room, asking questions and handing out candy we would gladly accept the help. Kids of all ages are always welcome to attend. Church appropriate costumes are welcome.

We will also graciously accept any candy or carnival type small prizes. There will be a basket in Fellowship Hall for any donations.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through AUG. 2023

Operating income July	\$17,336.83
Operating expense July	\$8,628.61
Year to date income	\$137,751.34
Year to date expense	\$67,144.41

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Oct. 5	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Oct. 8	After Service
~Outreach	Oct. 9	4:30pm.
~Worship	Oct. 10	10:30am.
~Finance	Oct. 17	6:00pm.
~Board	Oct. 19	5:30pm.



~Worship Committee~

Advent Devotional

The Worship Committee, in honor of the 100th year celebration, plans to republish an Advent devotional written by members of our congregation. The first edition was published in 1991 and updated in 2001 and 2010.

The 2023 Advent devotional will include some selections from past editions and additional ones from our current membership. If you are interested in submitting a devotion to be included in the revised edition please contact Jean Mueller for more information. Details regarding the format will be provided to those interested and due by October 22.



ALL SUNDAYS

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

~October Birthdays~

Oct. 2 Becky Groves
Oct. 4 Nolen Berry
Oct. 5 Steve Fairless
Oct. 6 Larry Campbell
Oct. 8 Rick Johnson
Oct. 9 Linda Snyder
Oct. 9 Matea Tilden
Oct. 11 Marjorie Herington
Oct. 11 Gayle Rinehart
Oct. 12 Chris Hedenberg
Oct. 13 Juanita Witcher
Oct. 14 Jimmy Dan Pribble
Oct. 15 Grace Rein
Oct. 15 Maxine Church
Oct. 15 Brenda Archambeau
Oct. 16 James Wallace
Oct. 18 Pat Campbell
Oct. 19 Jean Mueller
Oct. 23 Douglas Rimmel
Oct. 25 Neal Segura
Oct. 28 Linda Hubbard
Oct. 30 Gary Hammer

~Anniversaries~

Oct. 17 David & Chris Hedenberg
Oct. 28 Ron & Margie Derry

Serving in October

Worship Leaders

1st ~ Tanya Armstrong
8th ~ Bobbie Wydeen
15th ~ Stacy Eastridge
22nd ~ Jerry Yeutter
29th ~ Pat Campbell

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Reconciliation Offering	2	3	4 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	5 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	6	7 Youth Drive-Thru for CAM @ Liberty Plaza 9am-12pm Elder Mtg. Fellowship Hall 9:30am
8 Teen Worship Service Christian Ed Mtg. after church	9 Outreach Mtg. 4:30pm.	10 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.	11 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	12 Teen Bible Study 5-7pm.	13	14 Queen Esther @ Sight & Sound 7:30pm.
15 Fellowship Dinner	16 Youth Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch 4:00pm.-9:00pm.	17 6:00pm. Finance Comm. Mtg. 6-8pm Chosen Bible Study (Season 3 Ep. 1)	18 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	19 5:30pm. Board Mtg.	20	21
22	23 100th Mtg. 4:00pm.	24	25 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	26 Teen Bible Study 5-7pm.	27	28 Fall/Halloween Festival 3-5pm.
29 Youth Freewill Lunch after service	30	31				

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.



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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**

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



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

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



-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

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 ALL Congregational group picture after service for Centennial 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 5:30pm. Board Mtg.	17	18 Thanksgiving Cooking Party @ 12:00pm
19 Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner Thanksgiving Offering	20	21 The Chosen @ 6pm. (S3E3)	22 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	23 Office Closed 	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.		

~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

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.



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)

December 2023

**Special Christmas Offering received on
Sundays, December 17th & 24th**



Visit our website at: www.bransonchristianchurch.com



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

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BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

November has been a good month, with lots of customers and \$200-\$500 days. We have sold lots of Christmas items along with fall clothes. The Thrift store will be closed on Thanksgiving but open on the Friday and Saturday following. We plan to have our Christmas party for our wonderful volunteers on Saturday, December 16 so will close the store that day. Looking forward to staying open between Christmas and New Years.

Needs: anything Christmas or jewelry.

Thanks for all of your donations.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~DECEMBER~

Roger Kauffman
Jody Nelson
Jolene Herington



~DECEMBER~

12/03 Easton R.
12/10 Jude F.
12/17 John G.
12/24 Preston S.
12/31 Grace R.



~DECEMBER~

Kathy Kauffman
Jamie Haage
Johnie Groves
Julie Groves



~Vision Committee~

We would like to take this time to begin the information process to the congregation about plans to refurbish the sanctuary. Plans and objectives have been approved by the board and we would like to begin the information process by providing posters of what the finished Sanctuary would look like as well as hand-outs that will be made available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. We will also have a video on the TV in fellowship hall that will show different angles of the Sanctuary in its finished state.

After you have viewed the information and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me: Tanya Armstrong 417-294-4186. I will do my very best to help.

The renovation will provide a wheelchair ramp up to the Chancel area from the main floor of Sanctuary and more available space coming out of the room where the elevator is located and entering into the Sanctuary. New carpet in Narthex and Sanctuary. We will use one pulpit instead of two and it will be centered and on wheels, should we need to view baptisms or have programs, it can easily be moved for better viewing by the congregation. All woodwork will remain to preserve the overall look and appeal of our existing structure. All musical instruments will be located on the Northeast corner of Sanctuary. We will have one organ, one electric piano, one acoustic piano, one harp, one hammer dulcimer, and space for other instruments and musicians. Choir will be on the southwest side, angled towards the congregation. Everything will be clean and provide a more inclusive and inviting atmosphere for our worship service. Please take time to look over and study the information when available in the Narthex & fellowship hall. We hope to have a special congregational meeting January 14, 2024.

Thank you for your patience and prayers.

Tanya Armstrong
Vision Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

~A Time of Thanksgiving~

Colossians 3:15-16- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Peace is something we all need. Especially during these times of wars, unrest, and financial insecurity. Paul says we are to let the peace of Christ rule our hearts. He says we are "Called to peace." Not my peace, not a peace you can get from the world, but the peace that only Christ himself can give. And with that, we can be truly thankful. In these 2 short verses, we have our call to peace and thanksgiving, and also the call to worship. What is our worship to include?

1. The Word of Christ - dwelling in us richly (The Gospel read aloud)
2. Teaching and Admonishing each other with all wisdom (Solid preaching)
3. Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

Then the promised outcome - Gratitude in our hearts to God

The centerpiece of each service here at Branson Christian Church is Holy Communion. In the past, this has been referred to as, "The Great Thanksgiving." Let me give some more details, since this may be a new term to some people. The Great Thanksgiving is the name of the prayers that surround the Lord's Supper or Communion. These prayers (by our elders) follow the pattern of prayer from the earliest days of the Church. What a great tradition to continue. A weekly remembrance of God's presence in our lives through the sacrifice of Jesus. As we continue in this season of Thanksgiving, let each of us put a priority on worship, that we might experience the peace of Christ dwelling among us richly.



Sincerely, Pastor Don

Board Report

~From the Board~

The Branson Christian Church met November 16 and the following items were discussed.

1. In unfinished business, the roof repair is still being sought. Several contractors have been contacted, but we have not been able to secure a bid to take care of the problem that is causing the roof leaks. We are currently waiting on another contractor to look at the problem.
2. Also in unfinished business, the board was presented with a visual demonstration of what the changes would look like in the chancel remodel in the sanctuary. With discussion of what needed to be done, the board voted to take the presentation to the congregation on the second Sunday in January (January 14) for a vote on the project.
3. In new business, a request for renovations for the pastor's office was granted for a \$2500 limit from the Pat Davis Gift Fund.
4. The website and office email has been restored! Please thank Stacy Eastridge for all of her help in taking care of getting back access to our website and email. Please continue to use: office@bransonchristianchurch.com to contact the office.

Reports were heard from the various committees. It was noted that our internet was upgraded for use in Fellowship Hall. A thank you was sent to Chris Armstrong for his help in setting this up. Please read the other reports from the committees in this newsletter. Also check out the calendar for all of the activities planned during this next month.

In this beautiful time of the year, we have so many blessings to count from our fellowships and friendships that have helped this congregation. We also have new members who have joined us by transfers and baptisms. As we celebrate the Christmas season of our Savior's birth, please remember that through Christ we have hope for our future.

May God continue to bless all our families and friends,
Cindy Baldwin, Board Chair

Membership News

The Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner was a great success! There was such a variety and number of yummy dishes that two card tables were set up for the overflow of food. Everyone was grateful for the food and fellowship!

The committee served a light lunch for after the sanctuary was decorated for Christmas.

The 75th Adoration Parade Open House is Sunday, December 3rd from 3:30pm.-5:30pm. in Fellowship Hall. Again, this year, hot cocoa and cookies will be served. Please bring your homemade or store-bought cookies no later than Sunday, December 3rd church service. Please leave the cookies in the kitchen. Volunteers are always welcome!

The December Fellowship Dinner is Sunday, December 17th. We will celebrate Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

Please welcome Blenda Marquardt on becoming a member and her baptism on 11/17/2023!

~Outreach & Missions~

The Christmas Offering will be on Dec. 17 and 24.

This offering supports regional ministries. Ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship.
(Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences.)

There are no suggestions for December food pantry.
Please give to the charity of your choice.

A great charity event for December is a collection of small toys for ages 0–5-years old. The Outreach Committee is sponsoring this for the Junior Auxiliary for the Head Start Children of Taney County.

There will be a collection box in the Narthex for the toy donations.

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

In order to strengthen the educational and spiritual needs of our congregation, the Christian Education committee will be providing Bible reading guides. We will start in December with 25 days of Christmas reading challenge. These 25 days of reading will encompass the life of Jesus from birth to ascension. Printed guides will be provided for the congregation as well as digital copies on our website and daily postings to the Facebook page.

In January we will be rolling out a couple of yearly readings as well as monthly readings. Again, with printed and digital copies available. There will be two yearly readings. One that was created by Billy Graham and one that will be a chronological reading. Monthly readings will be provided, each with a different theme for the month. In addition to these readings, we will also be providing both a 90-day and a 365-day reading guide for youth.

We will also be giving a Christmas story and activities books for all families with children, including our Missionary families, in early to mid-December.

The first teen bible study went well with the theme being Thankfulness. All attendees wrote and posted in the Teen room what they were thankful for. These lists are available for all to see. We are going to be doing some rejuvenating of the room and have been blessed with some seating and a video projector.

The monthly teen worship services have been a great success. John Gillen has been preparing and leading the services, focusing on David. John has shared his lessons with Pastor Don. We look forward to what the future holds for John as he has chosen to continue his education into Christian Youth Ministry and Secondary Education.

Five of our youth volunteered on Monday morning at CAM. They unloaded pallets of shelf stable milk (6360 cartons), bagged them for individuals and re-packed them for storage. They helped unload a couple trucks and learned how to use a pallet lift. There are plans to return in the spring and help with handing out food.

Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through OCT. 2023

Operating income Sept.	\$24,442.45
Operating expense Sept.	\$9,602.54
Year to date income	\$173,433.50
Year to date expense	\$96,316.56

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Dec. 7	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Dec. 11	4:30pm.
~Worship	Dec. 12	10:30am.
~Finance	Dec. 19	6:00pm.
~Board	Dec. 21	5:30pm.



~Shoutouts to the Youth~

Lilly got into the Branson High School student council.

Jude did a great job in the Branson Jr. High production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" directed by Holli Segura. He was one of the brothers, Izacar.

Jude was student of the month (for October).

Darren has skipped an entire semester in college! He started this semester as a sophomore, next semester he's a junior!



John made the varsity basketball cheer squad.



December

ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Advent Begins Adoration Parade	4	5 The Chosen @ 6pm. (S3E4)	6 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	7 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	8	9 Christmas Caroling 9:30am. - 2:00pm
10 	11 Outreach Mtg. 4:30pm.	12 10:30am. Worship Comm. Mtg.	13 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	14 Teen Bible Study 5:00-7:00pm.	15 Christmas Craft Day 5:00-7:00pm	16
17  Fellowship Dinner	18	19 6:00pm. Finance Comm. Mtg. The Chosen @ 6:00pm (S3E5)	20 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	21 5:30pm. Board Mtg.	22	23
24 Nativity Play Candlelight Service 6pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir rehearsal 6:00pm.	28	29	30

~December Birthdays~

Dec. 3 Gaile Ball
Dec. 6 Lilly C.
Dec. 9 Dorothy Polk
Dec. 10 Naomi Felder
Dec. 15 Sandy Sisson
Dec. 16 Bob Johnson
Dec. 17 Sandra Berry
Dec. 18 Bobbie Wydeen
Dec. 20 Holli Segura
Dec. 24 Anna Lankford
Dec. 24 Ronni Haston
Dec. 28 Ashley Felder
Dec. 30 Mary Wallace
Dec. 30 Elias S.



~Anniversaries~

Dec. 14 Dominic & Rebecka Gillen
Dec. 17 Greg & Ronni Haston
Dec. 21 Larry & Mary Wallace
Dec. 28 Bob & Marilyn Johnson
Dec. 31 Rick & Rhonda Johnson

Serving in December

Worship Leaders

3rd ~ Russ Wydeen
10th ~ David Faragher
17th ~ Johnie Groves
24th ~ Youth
31st ~ John Lea

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