



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 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
www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch
or on our website at www.bransonchristianchurch.com

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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 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

ELDERS



~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.

October

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

| 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 | | | | |

Serving in October

Worship Leaders

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