



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

blessed  
is the one  
who TRUSTS  
in the Lord  
Jeremiah 17:7



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



# THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

August 2026



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



### In This Issue

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| From the Pastor.....     | 3  |
| Outreach & Missions..... | 4  |
| Committee Reports.....   | 5  |
| Calendar .....           | 6  |
| Worship Leaders.....     | 6  |
| Birthdays.....           | 6  |
| Anniversaries.....       | 6  |
| Christian Ed.....        | 8  |
| New Online Giving.....   | 9  |
| Church Events.....       | 10 |
| Serving this month.....  | 11 |
| Thrift Shop News.....    | 11 |



### August Special Music

08/02 – OLD GOSPEL SING

08/09 – LARRY & JAMIE

08/16 – KIRBY GOULD

08/23 – OPEN-ASK ROD

08/30 - CHOIR BACK!

If you are interested in doing special music this summer, contact Rod Phillips.

### Scriptures for August

08/02 - Matthew 14:13-21

08/09 - Matthew 14:22-33

08/16 - Matthew 15:21-28

08/23 - Matthew 16:13-20



### **Branson Christian Church Staff & Board**

#### STAFF

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

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

#### BOARD OFFICERS 2026

John Lea - Board Chair  
Cindy Baldwin -Vice Chair  
Johnie Groves - Treasurer  
Pat Campbell- Secretary  
Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

### **BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP**

We want to extend a massive thank you to everyone who made our **Christmas in July** event such a festive success! Thanks to your incredible generosity and shopping, our June receipts reached an amazing **\$7,136.35!**

Our success is only possible because of our community. We want to give a special shout-out and **heartfelt kudos to our wonderful volunteers** who show up faithfully week after week. You are the heartbeat of this organization!

Get ready for a busy month of shopping and saving! Mark your calendars for these upcoming August events:

- **\$5 White Bag Sale:** Fill up a designated white bag with select items.
- **1/2 Price Clothing Sale:** Refresh your wardrobe with 50% off all clothing items.
- **Customer Appreciation Sale:** Our special way of saying thank you to our loyal shoppers.

Our current donation needs are purses, handbags, jewelry, towels and bed sheets (especially twin size).

Thank you again for your continued donations and support!

*Roger & Kathy Kauffman*  
*Thrift Shop co-chairs*



### **-SERVING THIS MONTH-**

#### ~AUGUST~

Janet Minor  
Annette Sain  
Alex Segura  
Maxine Church



#### ~AUGUST~

08/02 - Maleah  
08/09 - Mason  
08/16 - Neal  
08/23 - Jude  
08/30 - Preston



#### ~AUGUST~

Jean Mueller  
Jamie Haage



## ~Membership News~

Summer is wrapping up, but our community is just getting started. Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors to these three great upcoming events!

### Faith & Family Night at the Ballpark

- **When:** Friday, August 14, 2026 at 7:05pm. Gates open at 6:05pm. To carpool meet at church at 4:30pm.
- **Where:** Route 66 Stadium
- **What:** Join us for a special night out as we cheer on the Springfield Cardinals!

### August Fellowship Dinner

- **When:** Sunday, August 16, 2026

### Annual Church Picnic & Corn Hole Tournament

- **When:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 (Immediately following morning service)
- **Where:** Oakmont Community Center (2308 State Hwy 86, Ridgedale, MO)
- **Food:** The church supplies the grilled burgers, hot dogs, brats, and fixings. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass!
- **Activities:** Get your teams ready—the Corn Hole Tournament is back!

*Bobbie Wydeen, Chair*

## From the Pastor's Desk

### A Historic Moment

Our first-ever Online General Assembly is now one for the history books, but it appears it won't be the last. We were told that over 2,300 people registered to attend and most sites (like ours) had others watching and taking part. We had a total of 9 persons in attendance over the 2-day event. After a few moments of shaky connection from the main site it was finally reset and all became stable and clear. Kind of like how we used to adjust the rabbit ears on top of our television sets - only this was all through the internet.

### The Voting

Because this was the first online voting opportunity, they gave us a few trial questions to vote on, just to test the system. I am so glad they did, as all of us had difficulty figuring out the system. Thanks to one of our guests, David Nordyke, he shared what worked for him and then the rest of us were able to vote. We were told that almost 1,000 votes were cast for each item reviewed. This is also a first for a General Assembly, as now there is an actual count, not a voice vote or show of hands.

### Overview

We saw several excellent speakers, including our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Ownes. There were visits to the exhibit hall, where we heard from the Church Extension representative on building, insurance and safety suggestions. We attended a small group workshop each day, where a keynote was given and assignments handed out for each small group to discuss. It was very interesting seeing 4 people on our screen and our group being able to interact with them on the topic of Outreach and community ministries. For me, personally, the best part was the worship and the amazing variety of music offered. From Contemporary, to large choirs and even folk duets of favorite gospel hymns - the music was outstanding.

### The Future

The goal of making the General Assembly more accessible for all congregations was achieved! Next year there will be our Regional Assembly - in person April 15-17 at Community Christian Church in Camdenton, MO. The following year, 2028 will be our in-person General Assembly in Chicago, July 8-11 at Rosemont, IL. Please keep these dates for future reference.

*Blessings, Pastor Don*

## ~Outreach & Missions~



**August's suggested items for CAM are pasta & sauce.**

The church's Outreach Committee has expanded to 11 members, recently welcoming Jana Lindner, Sandy Poos, and Gretchen Schultz. They join returning members Kirk Groves, Ronni Haston, Jolene Herrington, Evan Kauffman, Kathleen Lenore, Karen Pool, Alex Segura, and Linda Stinger. Supported by insights from Pastor Don and Jean Mueller at their July 7 meeting, the committee reaffirmed its core mission to help our congregation serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, both locally and globally.

### **New Initiatives and Liaisons**

The committee is launching a new three-year plan to host one homeless outreach event and one mental health event annually. Kathleen Lenore and Kirk Groves will lead this sub-team. Additionally, dedicated "point persons" have been assigned to local ministries to streamline communication. Congregants are encouraged to contact these representatives with ideas or suggestions:

- **Crisis Center:** Kirk Groves
- **Elevate:** Gretchen Schultz
- **CAM:** Kathleen Lenore
- **Junior Auxiliary:** Jana Lindner
- **Samaritans Christmas Boxes & Kindness Cards:** Jolene Herrington

**Note: Liaisons for House of Hope and Options Pregnancy are not yet assigned. (Please reach out if you are willing to help.)**

### **Stay Connected**

Keep an eye on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for ongoing updates. The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 10:00am. in the Fellowship Hall. As always, donations of food and hygiene items are urgently needed for the Blessing Box.

**Ronni Haston, Chair**

## Engage - CDM Online Giving

THIS UPCOMING SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND we are ROLLING OUT our new way TO give ONLINE. our goal IS TO eventually get rid OF GIVELIFY and JUST use ENGAGE. ENGAGE IS THROUGH OUR CDM ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE. THIS WILL HELP Make our BACK END PROCESSES MUCH easier.

Here are FEW STEPS TO HELP WITH GETTING IT ALL SET UP IF YOU CHOOSE TO give ONLINE. YOU OF course can STILL give IN PERSON.



~SCAN THE QR CODE AND THEN YOU WILL WANT TO create a new account.

~once you have created an account (before you can give.) you WILL need TO go ADD your DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD.

~IN ORDER TO add your CARD you WILL need TO CLICK THE 3 LINES IN THE TOP RIGHT CORNER AND THEN SELECT TO add a new CARD.

IF YOU have any QUESTIONS you can call THE OFFICE and I WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP!

~SAMANTHA

## ~ Christian Education ~



### Sunday School Returns

Exciting news! Sunday School for all ages is starting back up on **Sunday, August 2nd, 2026**. We have a wonderful team lined up to teach our children and youth this year.

### Our 2026 Teaching Team

- **Teen Class:** Annette
- **Younger Class:** Chris H., Ronni H., Tanya A., and Rebecka G.
- **Substitute Teacher:** Bobbie W.

### We Need Your Help!

We are currently looking for a volunteer **hall monitor** to help keep our classes safe and running smoothly. If you are willing to serve in this role, please see **Pastor Don** for details.

*Rebecka Gillen, Chair*

## Committee Reports

### FINANCE REPORT

#### Finance Report through JUNE 2026

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Operating income June  | \$23,238.94  |
| Operating expense June | \$15,420.56  |
| Year to date income    | \$118,593.36 |
| Year to date expense   | \$88,733.49  |

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

**SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

|               |         |               |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| ~Christian Ed | Aug. 2  | After Service |
| ~Membership   | Aug. 6  | 5:30pm.       |
| ~Outreach     | Aug. 10 | 10:00am.      |
| ~Worship      | Aug. 11 | 12:30pm.      |
| ~Finance      | Aug. 19 | 9:00am.       |
| ~Board        | Aug. 20 | 5:30pm.       |



## A Big Thank You!!!

We, as a congregation want to give a **HUGE shout out to The Kauffman's!! Roger, Kathy, & Evan THANK YOU** so much for the delicious sweet corn from IL.

**They gave out 77 quart bags of corn!!**