



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)

August 2025



*even the winds and
the sea obey him*

MATTHEW 8:27

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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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AUGUST DISASTER RELIEF OFFERING

Dear Ones,

Many of you have asked how we can show God's love to those who have experienced devastating floods and other disasters this year. You might remember just a year ago when our Church Fellowship Hall and the Thrift Store were flooded. That was a small disaster compared to what many have experienced this year.

The Week of Compassion was quick to respond with funds to help towards our repair costs. Now it is our opportunity to help others through this wonderful wing of our Disciples of Christ family. For the month of August all donations earmarked "Week of Compassion - disaster relief" will be sent on after the end of the month. This is a special added opportunity, separate and apart from our scheduled Outreach offerings. Please join us in seeing how God can use our gifts to bless others. Is it too much to set a goal equal to what we gave to CAM? Your generosity will be a great blessing to those in harm's way.

-Pastor Don

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 2025

Jean Mueller - Board Chair
John Lea - Vice Chair
Johnie Groves - Treasurer
Pat Campbell- Secretary
Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

Is the Lord calling you to be a Thrift store volunteer? We have openings on Mondays, Thursday mornings, and Saturdays. You will get a blessing from it!

In the next few months we'll have a \$5 Bag sale; Back to School Sale; Red, White, or Blue sale; and a BOGO Clothing Sale.

The Kauffman's are gone all of August. Greg and Ronni Haston will be in charge.

We welcome our newest volunteer, Shirley Runyon!

Sales for June: \$6,449.51
Needs: paperback books and jewelry.

Thanks for all of your support!

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~AUGUST~

Ronni Haston
Jody Nelson
Annette Sain
Greg Haston



~AUGUST~

08/03 - Maleah
08/10 - Mason
08/17 - Preston
08/24 - Neal
08/31 - Maleah



~AUGUST~

Johnie Groves
Cindy Baldwin
Jamie Haage



~Membership News~

Springfield Cardinal Game- We will attend the Faith and Family Night on Friday, August 15, 2025, 6:35pm. start. Tickets are \$11 - Contact Bobbie Wydeen to purchase tickets. We will meet at the church at 4:30pm. and carpool to Springfield for the game. There is a FREE concert and fireworks after the game if interested.

REMINDER, Hammons Field has a **Clear Bag Policy**. All bags are subject to search and only clear bags (approx. 6" x 12" x 12") will be permitted with the exception of diaper bags (with accompanying baby) or designated medical bags. Hammons Field is a cashless stadium, debit or credit cards only.

Fellowship Dinner is Sunday, August 17th!

The Membership Committee is hosting a Card Shower and Birthday Celebration for Harold Nesbit on Sunday, August 24th who will be 95!!! Cake and punch will be served after the church service to wish Harold a Very Happy Birthday! A card basket will be placed in the Narthex starting at the beginning of August.

Mark your calendar- Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 21st at the Oakmont Community Center in Ridgedale. You may want to practice for the Corn Hole Tournament!



Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

This week we received a 5-year financial overview for Branson Christian Church. I thought it would be interesting to share some of the specifics with you in this report. This report covers the period from January 1, 2020 - May 31, 2025, so it is not quite 5 years of history.

It is interesting to me that this report includes the entire COVID 19 timeframe, which wiped out so many churches. During this period total income was \$1,153,013. Of that amount, \$217,298 was brought in through our By The Way Thrift Store. A big THANKS to all of you who have helped with that ministry. Total expenses were \$794,250. Total personnel costs were right at 38 percent of those expenses. Property costs were 17 percent. We gave away to world and local missions about 6 percent of our total income.

I want to congratulate each of you who have helped to sustain and move this church forward even during a very difficult time period. You have been faithful and I know God will bless that as we review your surveys and listen for your input to help guide us into the next three years of Ministry.



**Blessings,
Pastor Don**

~All Church Survey~

The Listening Team is excited to share the results of the congregational survey with you. There were 47 surveys completed which was considered to be a great sampling of our congregation. Thanks to each of you who took time to complete a survey and share your thoughts.

The team believes it is important to share the complete survey results for your review. You will find below a QR code to access the results along with a summary of the comments. The comments are organized by category but are the actual comments taken from the surveys. If you cannot access the QR code, there will be paper copies available next Sunday or you may pick one up at the church office.

The next step for the Listening Team is to begin focusing on goals that God is leading the church to focus on over the next three years. The goals will come from the combined process the team has been following of bible study, prayer, survey results and listening to the Holy Spirit for direction.

Once again, thank you for participating in the survey. The results provided a snapshot of our congregation and is an important piece of the process to find where God is leading BCC! Please continue to keep the team in your prayers as we take the next steps.



The Listening Team

~Library News~

I just finished compiling an inventory list of all the items in our church library. Final count? 748 items! WOW! Here's the breakdown:

non-fiction: 225

fiction: 88

true stories: 65

inspiration, devo's: 57

pre-teens, teens: 17

children: 51

puzzles: 33

booklets: 31

reference & Bibles: 48

study guides: 23

DVD's: 72

BCC Authors: 8

Christmas books, DVD's and puzzles: 30

I think it's time to celebrate the growth of this library and all who have had a hand in its growth. SOOO, I'm inviting anyone who has given their time:

writing newsletter reviews; donating books; renovated the library room; those who have reviewed a book for me before it goes in the library; created art for the library; finance committee for allowing me to have a budget for new book orders; the thrift store for taking books that I could not put in the library; and any other way I have not mentioned...

....To a reception just for you after church, Aug. 3 at the library. A small gift and special treat is waiting for you as my token of appreciation. You are all awesome!

*Blessings,
Cindy Tharp*

~Christian Ed~

We are placing another Church t-shirt order. They will be \$15 each. Please order your shirts and prepay Rebecka, no later than August 17th! They will look the same as the previous shirts, color and symbols on the same color shirt.

NEW Kindergarten through 5th Grade Sunday Morning Sunday School Class! We need teachers - I want to have enough so we can do a revolving monthly schedule. Teachers would teach once a month. Volunteers? Please contact me. We are starting with Fruits of the Spirit and will begin on Sunday, August 17th.

6th grade and up come join us for Sunday School Class starting August 17th, will be led by John Gillen.

A NEW Blacklight Ministry is coming! The first meeting for this will be Sunday, September 28th. This is for 9th Grade and up.

We are still in search of Children's Worship and Wonder Teacher's. Please let me know, as training is required.



This summer, senior culinary arts major and event management minor Darren Gillen is turning up the heat as a private chef intern with The Rogue Chef Branson. Through this hands-on role, Darren has taken the lead at several private events, blending his passion for food and hospitality into unforgettable culinary experiences. He's also stepped into the spotlight – co-hosting a cooking show called Let's GoRogue with Chef Jeff on Eat This TV Network and presenting live demos at events like The Women's Show in Springfield, Missouri.

Rebecka Gillen, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through JUNE 2025

Operating income June	\$21,410.81
Operating expense June	\$20,726.73
Year to date income	\$124,664.40
Year to date expense	\$82,913.22

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Aug. 7	5:30pm.
~Christian Ed	Aug. 10	After Service
~Outreach	Aug. 11	10:00am.
~Worship	Aug. 12	1:00pm.
~Finance	Aug. 19	2:00pm.
~Board	Aug. 21	5:30pm.



~Outreach & Missions~

The August food pantry suggestions for donations are for pasta and pasta sauce.

We are still collecting school supplies for the Junior Auxiliary. Donations can be left in the Narthex.

Eighty handmade greeting cards for the residents of Shepherd of The Hills Nursing Home have been delivered. We hope the cards will brighten their day.

We will be meeting again to work on some projects for the Children's Christmas boxes on Tuesday, August 5th. Everyone is welcome.

Jolene Herington



ALL SUNDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Library Volunteer Reception after service	4	5 Christmas Shoebox Project 5:30pm.	6 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	7 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	8	9
10 Christian Ed Mtg. after service	11 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	12 Worship Mtg. 1:00pm.	13 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	14	15	16
17 Fellowship Dinner W&W Back! Youth Sunday School Class starts	18	19 Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	20 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	21 Board Mtg. 5:30pm. 10:30am. Women's Bible Study	22	23 PPC Mtg. 9:00am.
24 <i>Harold Nesbit</i> Birthday Cake & Punch after service 31	25	26	27 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study	28 10:30am. Women's Bible Study	29	30

~August Birthdays~

Aug. 3 Preston Segura
Aug. 7 Cameron Pruitt
Aug. 8 Grant Lindner
Aug. 13 Amanda Sain
Aug. 14 Michael Hedenberg
Aug. 15 Katie Hedenberg
Aug. 15 Mason Feeler
Aug. 15 Blenda Marquardt
Aug. 19 Keith Nelson
Aug. 24 Harold Nesbit
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



Serving in August

Worship Leaders

3rd ~ Larry Campbell
10th ~ Tanya Armstrong
17th ~ Russ Wydeen
24th ~ Jamie Haage
31st ~ Johnie Groves