



Congregational Christian Church The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley

(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370

Pastor Chris Brauns

Questions and Answers About Sabbatical 2017

Some of you --- especially those new to our church since 2010 – may have questions about my summer sabbatical.

- 1. When was it decided that you will take a sabbatical in 2017?**
When I was considering accepting the call to pastor this church in late 2004 and 2005, we looked to identify a way to find a sustainable pace at this church. A sabbatical after the first 5 years, and every 7 years thereafter, was an agreed upon part of the strategy.
- 2. What is a pastoral sabbatical?** A pastoral sabbatical is a scheduled time of rest and renewal. Notice there are both the elements of rest – so taking a break – but also of renewal – intentionally growing and stretching to be prepared to continue in ministry.
- 3. What dates will you be on sabbatical?** May 24-August 16.
- 4. Who will preach?** Pastor Tim will preach and take the lead in other matters. Recall, we've only had a full-time associate for 2 and a half years.

We should be in good shape for the summer.

- 5. What will you be doing during sabbatical?** First - - I will spend more time in spiritual disciplines (prayer, Scripture, worship, fellowship). Second, I will spend time studying and reading. It is hard to keep up with reading when the bullets of everyday ministry are flying. Yet, it is vital for the health of our congregation. Third, I will take some pure vacation. Fourth, I will work on big picture thinking for our church and the future. Fifth, I will still be doing some pastoral duties. I have three weddings and one grave-side service scheduled for this summer. Sixth, I will interact some with the wider body of Christ giving input on different ministries.
- 6. What should we do if we need to contact you?** Please coordinate through either Pastor Tim or deacon chair, Terrell Carby. They will only contact me in the case of dire emergencies. But we are confident that Pastor Tim and the other leaders can handle most matters that arise.
- 7. Should we send you emails that say, "I know you are on sabbatical but I wanted to send this to you to discuss when you get back?"** Please don't. Honestly, it's that sort of mental processing that I need to take a break from so I can focus on bigger picture study and renewal. Hopefully, I won't even open emails much of the summer.
- 8. Are sabbaticals really that necessary for pastors?** Think of it this way. In the 157-year history of our church, my tenure of 12 years is easily the longest of any pastor. Prior to my time here, the average pastorate length was 4 years and much of the last 45 years there has been turmoil within the church. All jobs are tiring. But pastoral ministry combines one's vocation, spiritual life, and family life in a unique way. All three are blended together. Breaks are essential for pastoral effectiveness.
- 9. Why should the congregation be excited about sabbatical?** The Bible motivates local churches to care for their pastors by assuring them it is in their best interests to care for their leaders. The author of Hebrews writes, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17." Likewise, Paul told Timothy, "Let the elders <https://www.esv.org/Rm12.8%3B1Th5.12%3B1Co12.28> who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." (1 Tim 5:17-18).

**MAY 2017
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
cccoffice1@comcast.net

TIME OF SERVICES

Early Morning Worship
Service – 9:00 am

Late Morning Worship
Service – 10:30 am

MAY GREETERS

GREETERS SCHEDULE

- May 7th: Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
 May 14th: Dan and Lori Houston
 May 21st: Bruce and Deb Bonne
 May 28th: Grady and Millie McCoy

If you would be willing and would like to be on our greeter rotation, please contact Bev Bjorklund at 234-5665.

MAY NURSERY

- May 7th
 9:00 am Alice Daniels, Jane Jones,
 Justin Loyo
 10:30 am Elliot and Rebekah Anderson
 Tania VanBriesen

- May 14th
 9:00 am Tessa Baker, Joanna Easley,
 Bettina Wiltse
 10:30 am Aly Behmer, Stacy Jones

- May 21st
 9:00 am Deb Bonne, Kendra Booker,
 Jamie Brauns
 10:30 am Terrell and Terri Carby

- May 28th
 9:00 am Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson,
 Tessa Baker

- June 4th
 9:00 am Barb Hale, Mandy Poliska,
 Jaime Wrasse
 10:30 am Lee and Shannon Hickey

NURSERY NEWS

Parents with children under the age of 5 years are invited and encouraged to use our nursery during either of the worship services. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help in the nursery, please contact our nursery coordinators, Tessa Baker (815-645-7040) or Stacy Coester (815-762-2865).

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS . . .

SS Superintendent:
Brooke Adams
815-645-8561

Our average weekly Sunday School **Attendance** for the past two years during the month of April is listed below:

April 2016: 78
 April 2017: 81

Our average weekly Sunday School **Offerings** for the past two years during the month of April are listed below:

April 2016: \$26.31
 April 2017: \$10.25

WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT

Our average attendance at Worship Services for the past three months is listed below:

February Average: 255
 March Average: 264
 April Average: 278

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Terrell Carby	630-661-9962
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne	979-0885
Trustee Board – Jeff McLindsay	440-2042
CE Committee – Janice Amundson	645-7010
Memorial Committee – Jeff McLindsay	440-2042
Missions Committee – Cathy Midtsem	979-3715
Music – Pastor Tim Michalek	645-2526

*June Newsletter Articles
 are due in the
 church office by
 Tuesday, May 30, 2017*



Children's Prelude

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th, we will have our children/youth begin both services with a prelude! Any one up through high school age who would want to play an instrumental song as part of our prelude should let Jamie Brauns or the church office know!



If the church office does not have your email address, please be sure to email your address to the office at the following email address:

cccoffice1@comcast.net

The email address for Pastor Chris is:
cdbrauns@gmail.com

The email address for Pastor Tim is:
timothymichalek@gmail.com

We will be emailing out announcements, news articles, coming events, etc., so don't miss out!! Be sure we have your email address.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 30, 2017

Total Approved 2017 Budget = \$411,383

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$7,912/week**

Budget Giving through April 30	\$142,416
Actual Giving through April 30	\$143,155
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	\$739
Actual Expenses through 4/30/17	\$109,907



On Memorial Day **Sunday, May 28th**, there will be only a **9:00 am worship service**.

MEMORIAL DAY
SERVICE TIME

Baptism

A baptism service will be held on Sunday, August 20th following the 9:00 am worship service. Contact the office to schedule a meeting with a pastor if you are interested in being baptized.

HONORING GRADUATES

On Sunday, May 14th, we will be honoring our 2017 SVHS and BHS graduates as well as those from our church family who are also home schooled graduates. We will be honoring all graduates during the 9:00 am worship service. If you have a graduate in your family or know of a graduate from our church family, please contact the church office 645-2526.

Following the 9:00 am service, we invite all graduates and our church family down to the fellowship hall for a cake and coffee reception in honor of our graduates.

On Sunday, May 14th, along with our high school graduates, we will also be honoring our 2017 BIC (Bible Instruction Course) and 8th grade graduates. We will be honoring our graduates during the 9:00 am worship service.

2017 Summer Schedule

Our Deacon Board has revised our Summer Worship Schedule. Please note the service times and changes as follows:

Memorial Day Sunday, May 28th

9:00 am Service only

Children's Church (Preschool – 1st grade)

The Month of June

9:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services

Children's Church (Preschool – 1st grade)
during both services

The Months of July and August

9:00 am Service only

Children's Church (Preschool – 1st grade)

Labor Day Sunday, September 3rd

9:00 am Service only

Children's Church (Preschool – 1st grade)

Please be sure to note these on your home calendar for 2017!

A sign-up sheet for camp scholarships has been placed on the back bulletin board. Please sign up for what camp you will be attending along with the week. A camp scholarship of \$100 will be given to your parents a week prior to camp.



CONNECTION CARDS

We have just started using "Connection Cards" which can be found in all the pockets on the back of the pews, along with a pencil. Please use these Connection Cards to let the Pastors and the church office know of any prayer concerns, if you would like to meet with Pastor Chris or Pastor Tim, and address/phone/email changes, or any other question or concerns you might have. We encourage all visitors to fill out a Connection Card with their family information.

Once you have filled out a Connection Card, please place it in the offering or leave it on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Along with celebrating our High school and 8th Grade / BIC graduates, we would also like to acknowledge and congratulate our college graduates.

Jackson Halsmer, son of Tim and Shari Halsmer, will graduate from the University of Iowa this May with a BA in Communication studies.

Spencer Halsmer, son of Tim and Shari Halsmer, will graduate from Rock Valley College in May with an Associates Degree in Science and a Certification in Zoo and Aquarium Science from the Animal Behavior Institute in North Carolina.

Katie Stukenberg, daughter of Randy and Susan Stukenberg, will graduate from Eastern Illinois University this May with a Master's in Science Degree in Communication Disorders.

Jeff Cialkowski, son of Jana Cox, graduated in December 2016 from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training. He is pursuing his Master's Degree at EIU in Kinesiology and Sports Studies with an emphasis on Sports Administration.

Brittany Bjorklund, daughter of Dave and Bev Bjorklund, will be graduating from Northern Illinois University this May with her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with Special Education endorsement and ESL (English as Second Language) endorsement.

Reid Sealby, son of Randall and Jan Sealby, will be graduating from Southern Illinois University this May with a Bachelor's Degree in Sports Administration.

Ben Wiltse, son of Bettina Wiltse, will graduate this May from Greenville College in Greenville, IL with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pastoral Ministry and Psychology minor.

Jessica Gerig, daughter of Scott and Karen Gerig, graduated in January 2017 from Olivet Nazarene College with her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

Trevor Gerig, son of Scott and Karen Gerig, will graduate this May from Illinois State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance.



On Thursday evening, May 4th at 6:30 pm Pastor Chris will be at the church to answer questions about going to the next level of connection at our church. If you have questions about membership or some other area, this is a chance to informally chat with Pastor Chris and other leaders.

PALLET PARTY

The Pallet Paint Party held on April 11th was loads of fun! There were 30 ladies in attendance. Everyone chose their own design when they registered. Clines Cubby brought all the supplies and every one went home with a finished pallet. It was a great time with lots of good food and fellowship.

We are going to schedule another party in the fall, so if you were not able to attend, mark your calendar for one of these dates:

Thursday, October 12th – 6:00 pm

OR

Monday, October 16th – 6:00 pm

We will be painting again on those nights. There will be Fall and Christmas designs available as well as the standard choices. The website is www.clinescubby.com if you would like to check out the designs. The cost is \$35 which you pay on-line at the time of registration.

The size of the pallet is 14 x 18" and you choose your colors at the party. (If you are unable to attend, the stencil and pallet can be taken home to complete.) The painting is done using a stencil, so artistic ability is not required!

Here are some photos of our completed pallets:



Rec Night

The Rec Night held on Saturday, April 22nd at Nash in Oregon was huge success. It was great to see so many families come and enjoy the evening. Approximately 120 people attended and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to everyone that helped promote the event. Also thank you to Jeanne Baker for bringing treats! We will definitely be doing another Rec Night again.



JR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY!

WHEN: Sunday, May 21st
Noon to 3:00 pm

WHERE: The Houston's
520 Valley Drive, Stillman Valley

All Junior High students and their families are invited to a Jr High SS Party on May 21st hosted by Dan and Lori Houston.

There will be food, fellowship, fun – both indoor and outdoor games. Please bring a liter of pop or a bag of chips with you to the party.

RSVP to Dan or Lori if you are planning on coming to the party.

Red Brick Church VBS

July 10 - 14 from 9:00 to 11:30

Prepare for a boatload of excitement at OCEAN COMMOTION
as we dive deep into the account of Noah and the Flood
from the book of Genesis!

*Our VBS is open to all 4 year olds (potty trained only) through those
who have completed 6th grade this year.*

For more information, contact the church office at 815-645-2526.



We are trying to get workers organized. Workers are needed in all areas, from teaching to snacks to crafts to nursery. Thanks, we couldn't do it without you!

If you have any questions about VBS, please contact Tom and Ashley Stahl at 815-440-1286 or 815-520-3050 or the church office.



From Pastor Tim ...

The Youth Group had two great ministry activities in April. You can see pics on our Facebook page of the teens helping pack Easter baskets for Bread of Life and a large group of teens helping the Nelsons with some yard work.

We wrapped up our Weekly Wednesday Bible Study. Four teens reached their scripture memory goal for this year earning the pizza/ice cream party - Evan Jones, Abby and Emily Houston, and Lucy Daniels. The three girls also memorized an additional 21 verses. **Stay tuned for our summer Bible**

Study date, beginning in just a few weeks.

Our JH, SH and Graduate Youth will combine for an activity on May 7 at the Rhodes home for s'mores, capture the flag, and delicious food. 5:00-7:30pm.

Mission Trip: Red Brick is taking a mission trip in July to Wisconsin. Visit our church website to fill out the interest form.



May 2 nd	-	Lucas Behmer
May 4 th	-	Tyler Herlihy
May 5 th	-	Evan Jones, Micah Stahl
May 8 th	-	Jameson Griffin
May 9 th	-	Stanton Lewis
	-	Cheri Schabacker
May 10 th	-	Cheryl Lewis
May 12 th	-	Storm Hickey
May 15 th	-	Claudia Pihl
May 16 th	-	Bernice Kruse
	-	Eunice Aden
May 17 th	-	Aiden Carby
May 18 th	-	Kaitlyn Adams, Carl Jacobson
May 19 th	-	Hope Hickey
May 20 th	-	Moses Michalek, Aileen Gatz
May 21 st	-	Becky Bailey
May 22 nd	-	Evan Stahl
May 24 th	-	Donna Dyal
May 25 th	-	Heather Wallin
May 26 th	-	Kane VanBriesen
May 27 th	-	Jazzy and Gia Raber
May 28 th	-	Kelly Midtsem, Wyatt Brass
	-	Susan Stukenberg
May 30 th	-	Brianna Mrozek, Mandy Poliska
May 31 st	-	Ellie Griffin
June 1 st	-	June Lewis
June 2 nd	-	Brittany Raber
June 3 rd	-	Bailey Wiltfang
June 4 th	-	Jeff Cialkowski



May 1 st	-	Gary and Julie Larson
May 4 th	-	Bob and Patsy Hoernecke
	-	Eric and Kendra Booker
May 10 th	-	Roland and Lonna Nelson
May 12 th	-	Tom and Deb Sparks
May 23 rd	-	Dave and Aileen Gatz
May 26 th	-	Wilbur and Nina Whetsel
June 1 st	-	Don and Heather Wallin



AWANA NEWS ...

AWANA By the Numbers - Some Things to Celebrate!

Well AWANA came to its close for our 2016 - 2017 year on April 19 with our annual leader appreciation dinner celebrating almost 60 dedicated leaders dropping 28 weeks of their Wednesday evenings into the "service offering plate" as it were! This marked a great finish to strong year of "bricks" serving King Jesus by welcoming another group of almost 150 kids to AWANA (Matt 18:5). Sometimes we are asked, "hey what about this number or what about that number? Do we have those numbers?" AWANA Sunday in March, we shared a few of those key numbers speaking to how we are reaching our community for Christ through the AWANA ministry. Here are a few more key details adding to what we shared:

Families Served - 92 (compared to 67 in 2013)

Children reached - 149 (~750 over 5 years)

Cities reached - 9 (pecking order - DJ, Stillman, Byron) ☺

Adult Leaders - 38 (average 40 to 45 over 5 years)

Youth Leaders (LITs) - 19 (average 15 to 20 over 5 years)

Combined Adult Experience - 245 years (next year this should surpass 300)

Leader to Kid Ratio - 1:3 -- This is Exceptional! Many churches struggle with 1:4 or 1:5+

Demographic - 2/3 families not from Red Brick Church - of those 2/3, 75% have no church affiliation.

Key Activities Observed Weekly - Kids having fun (Prov 17:22), learning and reciting scripture (Ps 119:11) and worshipping the one true God in singing (Ps 150).

Leaders engaging with kids in service to Christ (Ps 78:4; Col 3:23; Matt 18:5).

Next key milestone? Next year 2018 is 20 years of AWANA ministry at The Red Brick Church!!

At this time there are several key things on our minds as AWANA leaders that we could race ahead to prepare for next year -- even as we pause to try and take a break and be renewed in the off season. However, we need a much longer pause to appropriately reflect and give thanks to God for his continued sustaining of and blessing on the AWANA ministry. We thank you for your prayers and support this past year. Join us in celebrating His goodness and faithfulness to the AWANA ministry!

Darren and Deb, AWANA Co-Commanders

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED **

