



Congregational Christian Church
The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley
 (Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370
 Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370
www.theredbrickchurch.org
Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns

**SEPTEMBER 2017
 NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

Reviewing Tim Keller's comparison of "religion" and the "gospel" is a great exercise for our church family as I preach on 2nd Corinthians 8 – 9 this fall.

RELIGION	GOSPEL
"I obey; therefore I'm accepted."	"I'm accepted; therefore I obey."
Motivation is based on fear and insecurity.	Motivation is based on grateful joy.
I obey God in order to get <i>things</i> from God.	I obey God to get <i>God</i> -- to delight and resemble him.
When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself, since I believe, like Job's friends, that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.	When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle, but I know that while God may allow this for my training, he will exercise his fatherly love within my trial.
When I am criticized, I am furious or devastated because it is essential for me to think of myself as a "good person." Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.	When I am criticized, I struggle, but it is not essential for me to think of myself as a "good person." My identity is not built on my performance but on God's love for me in Christ.
My prayer life consists largely of petition and only heats up when I am in need. My main purpose in prayer is to control circumstances.	My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with him.
My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to people who fail. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel humble but not confident -- I feel like a failure.	My self-view is not based on a view of myself as a moral achiever. In Christ I am at once sinful and lost, yet accepted. I am so bad he <i>had</i> to die for me, and so loved he was <i>glad</i> to die for me. This leads me to deeper humility as well as deeper confidence, without either sniveling or swaggering.
My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work or how moral I am, so I <i>must</i> look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral. I disdain and feel superior to others.	My identity and self-worth are centered on the One who died for his enemies, including me. Only by sheer grace am I what I am, so I <i>can't</i> look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. I have no inner need to win arguments.
Since I look to my pedigree or performance for my spiritual acceptability, my heart manufactures idols -- talents, moral record, personal discipline, social status, etc. I absolutely <i>have</i> to have them, so they are my main hope, meaning, happiness, security, and significance, whatever I say I believe about God.	I have many good things in my life -- family, work, etc., but none of these good things are <i>ultimate</i> things to me. I don't absolutely <i>have</i> to have them, so there is a limit to how much anxiety, bitterness, and despair they can inflict on me when they are threatened and lost.

SEPTEMBER GREETERS

If you are interested in being on our "Greeter Team", please contact Bev Bjorklund at 815-234-5665.

Sept. 3rd: Dan and Lori Houston

Sept. 10th: Bruce and Deb Bonne

Sept. 17th: Grady and Millie McCoy

Sept. 24th: Dave and Pat Ewald

October 1st: Randy and Susan Stukenberg

SEPTEMBER NURSERY

September 3rd (Labor Day)

9:00 am Tessa Baker, Aly Behmer,
Donna Arnold

September 10th

9:00 am Chelsea Colon, Jaime Wrasse,
Jamie Brauns, Jeanne Baker,
Nancy Gelderloos (Rocker)

10:30 am Lee and Shannon Hickey
Jane Jones

September 17th

9:00 am Tom and Ashley Stahl, Deb Bonne
10:30 am Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
Vicky Boyd (Rocker)

September 24th (Fall Festival)

9:00 am Susan Stukenberg, Tessa Baker,
Mandy Poliska, Amy Michalek

October 1st

9:00 am Ryan Roberts, Justine Loyo,
Joanna Easley, Alice Daniels
Janice Amundson (Rocker)

10:30 am Stacy Jones, Betts Carby,
Tania VanBriesen

Our nursery is a busy place, praise God! As a result, we are looking for additional volunteers. We are hoping for some regular volunteers and some baby rockers. A baby rocker's role is to just sit in a rocking chair and rock a baby. If the baby is unhappy or needs changing, a regular volunteer will gladly take care of it. If you are interested in volunteering in either capacity, please contact Tessa Baker or Stacy Coester.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SS Superintendent:
Brooke Adams ~ 645-8561

Welcome back to Sunday school!!

In September, we will have Sunday School and Children's Church on the 10th and the 17th. On September 24th, there will be no Sunday School because of the Stillman Valley Fall Festival. We will have only one worship service on the 24th at 9:00 am along with Children's Church. In October, we will be back to our regular schedule which is Sunday School at 9:00 am and Children's Church at 10:30 am.

This year there is an enrollment form for Sunday School on www.theredbrickchurch.org. Please sign your up child/children before Sunday school starts. These forms are very helpful for our teachers. Looking forward to another great year!

God Bless you,
Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

Sunday School Begins September 10th!!

WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT

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

June Average: 163
July Average: 135
August: 174

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



STILLMAN VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL

September 22nd – 24th

On Fall Festival Sunday, September 24th, there will only be one worship service at 9:00 am. Please note: Only one service and Children’s Church at 9:00 am on the 24th! There will NOT be a 10:30 am service!! Sunday School will also not meet on the 24th.

Our AWANA Club will be having a float in the parade with the parade beginning at **1:00 pm**. Clubbers will receive information about the float at the AWANA Club meetings in September. See AWANA Commander Darren Daniels for more information.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 31st, 2017

Total Approved 2017 Budget = \$411,383

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

Budget Giving through Aug 31	\$276,920
Actual Giving through Aug 31	\$285,992
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	\$9,072
Actual Expenses through 8/31/17	\$244,615

September 2017 Worship Schedule

Labor Day Sunday, September 3rd

9:00 am Service only

Children’s Church (Preschool – 1st grade)

Fall Festival Sunday, September 24th

9:00 am Service only

Children’s Church (Preschool – 1st grade)

Please be sure to note both of these Sunday’s on your home calendar!



Women’s Bible Studies in September!

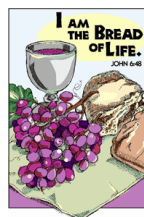
M&M (Moms and More) and WOW (Women of the Word Evening Bible Study) will start up in September!

Both Studies will be doing a study called “Romans” by Kay Arthur. In this study, you will learn about the righteousness of God and understand the bondage of sin in Paul’s life-changing letter to the Romans. We will study how God’s solution to man’s sinful dilemma through justification by faith in Jesus and the free gift of grace. Understanding these essential doctrines will strengthen your faith!

Mom’s and More Bible Study meets on Friday mornings beginning September 8th in the Adult SS Classroom from 9:00 to 10:30 am led by Amy Michalek. All ladies are welcome to join the group and childcare will be provided. If you have any questions about our Mom’s and More Bible Study, please contact Amy at 586-651-8680.

Women of the Word meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Adult SS Classroom, beginning on Tuesday, September 5th. All ladies are welcome to join this study as well. Jamie Brauns will be leading the Tuesday evening study and if you have any questions, contact Jamie at 815-262-8837.

Workbooks for both studies can be purchased at either study.



Communion will be served during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, September 3rd. Communion is open to all believers of Jesus Christ.



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

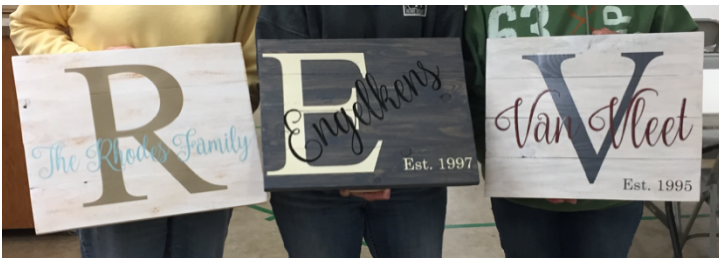
The email address for Pastor Tim is:

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.

You may also email into the office any prayer requests you might have, any announcements for the bulletins, etc. We will be sure the prayer requests are passed on to the prayer chains and all announcements get into the bulletin.

PALLET PAINT PARTY



The Pallet Paint Party is right around the corner! Registration deadline is September 29th at noon. The party dates are Thursday, October 12th and Monday, October 16th at 6:00 pm. In addition to the standard designs, there are Fall and Christmas designs to choose from. The pallet size for most designs is 14" x 18". Colors are chosen the night of the party. The cost for most projects is \$35 which is paid by credit card at the time of registration.

To register, go to www.clinescubby.com and choose your design. The stencil will be cut and waiting for you the night of the party. If you do not have internet, see Jana in the church office or give Deb Bonne a call. There are two dates to choose from, so if you are bringing a friend make sure you both register for the same night. We will meet in the church basement at 6:00 pm and should be done by 9:00 pm. Bring a snack to share!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

Youth Group is off and going. We had an amazing youth kick-off with over fifty people in attendance! After enjoying a taco bar (with fourteen different toppings to choose from) we reviewed the plan for the 2017-18 Youth Year. We have so many activities planned, the first of which is on September 9, 5-7pm, where we'll have a Water-Wars activity held at the church. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a towel! We will have a ton of fun!

Several things about youth group are only getting better. Our Wednesday Bible study is starting on September 20, and our first Youth Group is October 1. One of the major changes we've made to the schedule is that Senior High YG, which we had Sunday afternoon last year, has moved back to right after church. The teens will all eat lunch together, then the Senior High will go to the Michalek's home for their fun time and teaching time.

Some of the other activities we're especially looking forward to are 'Around the Table with Seniors & Teens' (Nov 5), Winter Retreat (Jan 12-14), Loving Our Widows Project (Feb 9-10), and a life-size CLUE activity (Apr 14). You can visit our website to see the full Youth Group schedule for this year.

You can also see the 2016-17 Youth Group video on our Facebook page.

FELLOWSHIP WALK

The Deaconess Board is organizing a fellowship walk to be held on Tuesday, September 19th at 10:00 am. (Rain date is Wednesday, September 20th.)



We will meet at the church and walk around town for about half an hour, then have some light refreshments in the church fellowship hall. Come join us for some exercise and bring a friend.



and in one _____,
 [with joy!] for
 the faith of the
 Gospel.

**October Newsletter
 Articles are due in the
 church office by
 Tuesday, Sept. 26th**

Sound familiar? Don't say "no" too close to Pastor Tim. He only had us rehearse our Philippians working theme 11 straight sermons! - "In one mind and in one spirit, partnering side by side [with Joy!] for the faith of the gospel!" Most Sundays I couldn't help but think of AWANA, among other things we do as a church where this fits perfectly. In fact, the reward of this partnering together was most evident on Baptism Sunday. Over 70% baptized were connected with AWANA and 2 people cited AWANA playing a key role in their testimony! However, I need to confess. I was really convicted during Tania's testimony. I knew AWANA played a big role in her being drawn to Christ. What I didn't realize, was that it was a small AWANA flyer from the Fall Fest AWANA float that kicked things off. You see, secretly for me, that event due to weather concerns, prep and the abundance of kid energy flowing that day, is one of my least favorite events - until now! From now on, I'll be willing ANY time to help with the AWANA parade float, if it means just one person might come to know Christ!

So, as we get ready to start the AWANA year or any of our ministries at church, it might be helpful to add an additional fill in the blank clause when you think of our Philippians working theme. Pick the common, key and sometimes dreaded parts of that ministry and include those too. Remember, Christ went after the 1 of the 99 lost sheep, won't you!

"and in one -- Kick-off night, regular club Night, Fall Fest Parade, AWANA derby--, [with Joy!] for the faith of the Gospel!"

Because God Restores,

Darren, AWANA Commander

BAPTISM and NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY

On August 20th, Abby Houston, Doris Dye and Sue Carpenter became members of our church family. The following members were baptized on the 20th: Judy Foster, Hanna, Hope, Harleigh Wallin, Preston Mrozek, Tania VanBriesen and Victoria Horton.





September 1 st	-	Austin Lamer, Teagan Meline
September 2 nd	-	Sandy Cox, Brenden Wrasse, Paul Baker, Estelle Jones
September 3 rd	-	Tom Hufford
September 5 th	-	Kyle Mast, Conner Wrasse, Elizabeth Jacobson
September 6 th	-	Owen Dunseth
September 9 th	-	Tim Halsmer, Bob Hoernecke
September 10 th	-	Jeanne Baker
September 11 th	-	Shelley Herlihy, Gloria Ennenbach
September 14 th	-	Ashley Stahl
September 15 th	-	Tania VanBriesen
September 18 th	-	Sharon Hildebrand
September 19 th	-	MyKenzie Beitel
September 25 th	-	Shawn Ross
October 3 rd	-	Lee Hickey
October 4 th	-	Don Miuccio, Bruce Carby,
October 5 th	-	Zachary Clinton



September 7 th	-	Shawn and Shannon Ross
September 14 th	-	Homer and Becky Bailey
	-	Nick and Chelsea Colon
September 17 th	-	Dave and Bev Bjorklund
September 18 th	-	Stan and Cheryl Lewis
September 20 th	-	Brent and Arlett Bonne
September 28 th	-	Ray and Kay Swanson

Learn God's Word, Play Games, Hang Out with Friends!
Have fun all year long...join us for AWANA Wednesday nights during the school year!

PARENTS: Mark Your Calendar for AWANA Opening Night!

Wednesday, September 6th, 2017 @ 6:00 pm

The Red Brick Church, Stillman Valley



- Register for AWANA! Preschool – 6th grades
Online Registration open @ www.theredbrickchurch.org
- Purchase AWANA handbooks, uniforms, etc.
- Dinner provided for the family!
- Meet your leaders!
- Fun fair games!
- LOTS OF FUN!!

Questions? Contact:

Commander Darren Daniels — 309-370-3617 | dmd2409@yahoo.com
www.theredbrickchurch.org



SEPTEMBER 2017 AWANA DATES

Wednesday, September 6th at 6:00 pm

AWANA Kick-Off and Family Fun Fair Night. See details above. Parents are asked to stay with their children this evening. Call the church office at 815-645-2526 or Commander Darren with any questions.

Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 6:00 pm

This is "Hat Night" at club. Wear your favorite hat to club tonight!

Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 6:00 pm

We have scheduled "Movie Night and Bring a Friend / Parent Night" for the 20th! Clubbers will be enjoying a movie while your parent(s) will meet over at the Administration Building with our commander to learn more about what goes on at our AWANA Club and meet other parents.

Sunday, Sept. 24th at 1:00 pm

AWANA participates in Fall Festival Parade. Clubbers who participate in the parade will receive \$5 AWANA dollars.

Wednesday, Sept. 27th at 6:00 pm

Tonight is "Western Night" at club! Come to club dressed in your best western wear as a cowboy, cowgirl or animal.

Wednesday, October 4th, at 6:00 pm

This will be our first M & M (Missionary Night). This year our club will support Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Clubbers are asked to bring in monies on M & M Night in either their M & M Bank or a baggie. In exchange for the monies, clubbers will receive an individual package of M & M's.

AWANA REMINDER: Children in AWANA must have on tennis shoes for game time!! Please be sure your child is wearing tennis shoes or brings a pair of tennis shoes with him or her to AWANA's for game time.



We are excited to start Sunday School on September 10th. Children's programs will meet during first service from 9-10:00 am. Parents, you will need to check in your Pre-K through 5th grade students at the check-in tables in the basement. We also ask that parents promptly pick up their children after Sunday School.

Preschool Sunday School is led by Cara Roberts and her crew of helpers. They meet in the preschool room in the church basement. They are studying New Testament stories this year. KG/1st grade is led by Carole Schaefer and Andria Brass. 2nd/3rd grade is led by Rick and Donna Dyal and Janice Amundson. 4th/5th grade is led by Carol Brauer. Grades kindergarten through 5th grade will meet in the church basement and will begin with praise and worship together before splitting into their classes. Each class of KG-5th grade is studying a different curriculum from Children Desiring God (www.childrendesiringgod.org).

Jr. High Sunday School goes through a Bible Instruction Course (BIC), and they meet in the basement of the Administrative building (next to the church). Dan and Lori Houston will be leading this class.

Sr. High Sunday School meets on the main floor of the administrative building. This class is led by Ken and Kathy Mrozek, and they will be studying "Your Word is Truth" from www.childrendesiringgod.com.

Children's church will be available for children Pre-K through 1st grade during 10:30 worship service, and on Sundays when there is only one worship service. During the 10:30 service, children will begin worship service with their families and will be dismissed to Children's church before the message.

Our church has two adult small groups on Sunday mornings as well. They both meet on the church's main level next to the nursery. The "early group" meets during the first worship service (9:00) and will be led by Eric Walker who is going to teach through Ephesians. The "later group" will meet during second worship service (10:30) and will be led by Clayton Midtsem.

Sunday, September 24th, is Stillman Valley Fall Festival weekend. We will only have one 9:00 am worship service, so there will not be Sunday School. Children's church will be available this day.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

