



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

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370
Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns
Associate Pastor Tim Michalek

**DECEMBER 2017
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS
Cccoffice1@comcast.net

TIME OF SERVICES
Worship Service – 9:00 am
Sunday School – 9:00 am
Worship Service – 10:30 am

“Eighty-two percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.” – Dr. Thom Rainer, *The Unchurched Next Door*

“Only two percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church. Ninety-eight percent of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year.” – Dr. Thom Rainer, *The Unchurched Next Door*

The script is simple, “We’d like for you to be our guest at church. If you came to our 9:00 service, we could sit together and go out for breakfast afterwards.”

Or, “Our Candlelight Christmas Eve service is 4-4:55 PM. We will sing Christmas carols together, hear the Christmas story read aloud, and wish one ‘Merry Christmas.’ How about we meet you there?”

Or, “I don’t know about you, but this time of the year can be an emotional roller coaster. I love Christmas, but the combination of so little daylight, changing weather, and family drama can leave me worn out. This year our pastor is preaching a series on how we can lead our emotions. Why not visit and be encouraged?”

**LEADING
OUR EMOTIONS**
through the
HOLIDAYS

DEPRESSION • FEAR • WISTFULNESS • GRIEF


The Red Brick Church

* * * * *

Even though many of us don’t have our Christmas trees up, our church is already actively planning 2018.

- Our Trustees will likely bring a motion to the Annual Meeting about the rental properties to the north of our church. We are also laying the ground work for a Master Plan process.
- We are planning a 2018 sermon series with the working title, “Free Indeed!” – bearing in mind Jesus’s wonderful promise, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:31-38).”
- Our Personnel Committee is working hard to recruit next year’s leaders. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would raise up workers (Matt 9:35-38).

DECEMBER GREETERS

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

- Dec. 3rd: Tom & Ashley Stahl
Dec. 10th: Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
Dec. 17th: Dan and Lori Houston
Dec. 24th: Bruce and Deb Bonne
Dec. 31st: Grady and Millie McCoy
January 7th: Dave and Pat Ewald

DECEMBER NURSERY

December 3rd

- 9:00 am Barb Hale, Susan Stukenberg,
Justine Loyo, Mandy Poliska
10:30 am Betts Carby, Aly Behmer
Vicki Boyd (Rocker)

December 10th

- 9:00 am Jeanne Baker, Tessa Baker,
Chelsea Colon, Sharon Rhodes
10:30 am Jane Jones, Tania VanBriesen,
Stacy Jones

December 17th

- 9:00 am Lee & Shannon Hickey,
Deb Bonne, Joanna Easley,
Donna Arnold
10:30 am Alice and Elaine Daniels,
Shannon and Noah Ross

December 24th

- 9:00 am Jamie Brauns, Amy Michalek,
Ryan Roberts
10:30 am Elliot & Rebekah Anderson,
Kendra Booker
4:00 pm Tania VanBriesen, Tessa Baker

December 31st – Only One Service

- 9:00 am Tom & Ashley Stahl
Brad & Tessa Baker

January 7th

- 9:00 am Jeanne Baker, Barb Hale,
Susan Stukenberg, Mandy Poliska
10:30 am Betts Carby, Aly Behmer
LucyBeth Sierra

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SS Superintendent: Brooke Adams

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

November 2016: 86
November 2017: 77

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

November 2016: \$ 11.95
November 2017: \$ 19.13

WORSHIP SERVICE REPORT

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

Fall Festival Worship Service: 180
9/11 and 9/18 Worship Services: 290
October: 259
November Average: 261

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

**January Newsletter
Articles are due in the
church office by
Friday, Dec. 29th**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 30th, 2017

Total Approved 2017 Budget = \$411,383

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

Budget Giving through Nov 30 \$379,776

Actual Giving through Nov 30 \$398,675

Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving \$18,899

Actual Expenses through 11/30/17 \$349,988



If the church office does not have your email address, please email it to Jana in the office at our email address of:

cccoffice1@comcast.net

The email for address for Pastor Tim is:

timothymichalek@gmail.com

The email address for Pastor Chris is:

cdbrauns@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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 am - Worship Service
Children's Church
- 10:30 am - Worship Service
Children's Church
- 4:00 pm - Candlelight Service
Children's Prelude
Lighting of the Candles



Sunday, December 10th

9:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School
SS Dept sings

10:30 am Worship Service
SS Dept sings
Children's Church

Sunday, December 17th

9:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service
Children's Church

Sunday, December 24th

See Christmas Eve Article in Newsletter.

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 am ONLY ONE SERVICE
Worship Service
Children's Church
**(No 10:30 am Worship Service)
(No Sunday School)**

Sunday, January 7th, 2018

9:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service
Children's Church

CHILDREN'S PRELUDE

4:00 pm Christmas Eve

We would like to have an *instrumental* prelude involving anyone Preschool through high school at our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

If you are interested in playing an instrument during the prelude at the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, please contact Jamie Brauns at 645-8676 or the church office 645-2526.

LADIES BIBLE STUDIES

Women of the Word

Our Tuesday evening Ladies Bible Study will conclude their fall study on Tuesday, December 5th.

Mom's and More

Our Friday morning Ladies Bible Study will meet on Friday, December 2nd and then conclude their fall study on Friday, December 8th.

Both studies will resume again after the first of the year. Watch your bulletins and January Newsletter for more information.

Youth Group Christmas Parties!

The Jr. High Youth Group Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Dress warm! The Jr High will be going down the SV Cardinal Community Christmas for hayrides, judging Christmas trees and hot chocolate. Bring a white elephant gift. Food and drinks will be served.

The Sr. High Youth Group Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the home of Dave and Aileen Gatz (5241 E Walden Road, Byron). Bring a white elephant gift. Food and drinks will be served.



THANK YOU to the Deaconess Board for heading up decorating the church this year for Christmas. A BIG THANK YOU to all those that helped decorate the church on November 26th. Many hands made the task go fast. The Deaconess Board appreciates the assistance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

What an exciting time of year to celebrate the birth of our King! Our preschool through 5th grade students have been busy learning and preparing for their Sunday School Christmas Program. Mark your calendars - We will have a run-through practice of the program on **Saturday, December 9th from 3:00 – 4:30 pm** for KG-5th grade students. The children will then be **performing on Sunday, December 10th** in both church services. Please have your child in the fellowship hall by 8:45 on the 10th, and plan on staying for the beginning of second service to let your child sing.

There will be two services on December 24th, although there will be no Sunday School. Children’s Church will be provided for both services on the 24th. On December 31st, there will be only a 9:00 am worship service. There is no Sunday School on the 31st, but Children’s Church will be available.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Brooke Adams, SS Superintendent

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you don’t see your birthday and/or anniversary in the church newsletter, please be sure to let the church office know!! We want to include everyone!!

Email (cccoffice1@comcast.net) or call the church office with the information!

RED BRICK SR. FELLOWSHIP



On Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 pm, the Sr. Fellowship will go see "Christmas Spectacular" presented by the Byron Civic Theater in Byron.

Please contact Lonna Nelson at 815-904-2935 before December 10th if you are interested in going so she can reserve a ticket for you. Cost for Seniors are \$12 per ticket.

After the play, the group will go to the Sunrise Restaurant in Byron for dinner.

AWANA STORE

Donations of new items are needed for our upcoming AWANA Store. If you would to make a donation, drop off items in the AWANA Office downstairs by December 13th.

Items our clubbers like to purchase are: art kits, balls, pillow pets, stuffed animals, sidewalk chalk, matchbox or hot wheels, winter toys for outside, sports trading cards, nail polish.

AWANA® AWANA NEWS

"Repeat the Sounding Joy"

November brought much to be thankful for and it was evident in the collections taking up for Bread of Life on the 15th. We celebrated that Sunday with a skating party bringing a good crowd of families and kids (almost 100!). (See pictures below).

One of the best things came on M & M night, our 2nd update from the Hooks of MAF. John told of a story tying to our theme of God's mission of restoration. A little girl, Emma Grace, was left to die in the sun because of a culture that did not value girls born to families. Through MAF's help, she was rescued and restored to physical health. Under their care and teaching she was later restored to spiritual new life. She wrote a song speaking of Jesus' blood that saves and how it was enough to save us all. We saw an older video clip of Emma singing that song with the village children her age.

As we look forward to December and more stories of Jesus' restoring power to tell kids at AWANA each week, I'm reminded of the Christmas carol, 'Joy to the World.' It reminds us of the promise fulfilled through Christ to restore souls and the earth "no more let sin and sorrow grow ... nor thorns infest the ground" and how we can sing of His glory like little Emma Grace ~ Joy to the earth the Savior reigns, let men their songs employ!

Have a Blessed Christmas!
Darren Daniels, AWANA Commander



FROM PASTOR TIM

The youth group had another fun-ministry-filled month. Around the Table with Seniors and Teens was amazing. We enjoyed getting to know each other, playing games (50's slang and texting abbreviations), and hearing testimonies. The seniors all encouraged the teens to be sure of their faith and to reach out to any of them with any questions.

On top of weekly Bible Study and two youth groups, we packed thanksgiving baskets for Bread of Life this month. We also had fifteen teens attend the lunch "Party at the Parsonage" on Friday before Veterans day. We even had a special activity for JH teens to decorate a Christmas tree downtown. The tree has an angel-theme with huge wings and verses that referenced angels.



This month, we have our Christmas Parties on Dec 3. The Junior High will meet at Church, have a white elephant gift exchange, and go downtown for the Cardinal Community Christmas. We always love the hayride around town. The High School will meet at 6pm at the Gatz home for a white elephant gift exchange and games.

We have a Christmas Caroling activity on Friday, Dec 15 from 5:30-8pm. We hope to visit a few of our widows and shut-ins.

We will have Youth Group on Dec 17 but not on Jan 3. We then resume our schedule of 1st and 3rd Sunday through May 5 (except Easter April 1). We won't have Bible Study on Dec 27 or Jan 3.

The winter retreat is coming soon. It is open to both JH and SH. Be on the lookout for registration in the next few weeks. The retreat will run from 5:30pm on Jan 12 through Jan 14 at noon. It costs \$50.

We added another Bread of Life packaging activity this month on Dec 11 at 3:30-4:15.

Christmas CAROLING

"O, Come All Ye Faithful" to our Youth Group Christmas Caroling event!

The youth group would like to invite the church to join them in caroling to our widows and shut-ins this year. It will be **Friday, December 15th** from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Pizza, cookies, and hot chocolate will be served before we leave.

Needed: A few drivers for the night (we will be caroling to our widows and shut-ins in the Stillman Valley and Byron area) and cookie bakers. Even if you can't join us but would like to provide cookies, we would appreciate it!

Sign up in the back if you are coming, can drive, and/or bring cookies. Or, contact Lori Houston at 815-871-5740.





December 2 nd	-	Rod Wetzig
	-	Dave Ewald
December 3 rd	-	John Stout
December 4 th	-	Karen Friedrich
December 5 th	-	John Anderson
	-	Marv Dahm, Zach Poliska
December 6 th	-	Tom Sparks
December 8 th	-	Pete Mazanec
	-	Jacob Mrozek
December 11 th	-	Lana Lamer
December 12 th	-	Elaine Daniels
December 13 th	-	Karen Hilliard
	-	Abigail Houston
December 14 th	-	Bettina Wiltse
December 15 th	-	Cody Bennett
	-	Donna Jacquet
December 19 th	-	Betty Carby
December 21 st	-	Ryan Roberts,
	-	Stacy Coester, Jim Warner
December 22 nd	-	Raymond Swanson
December 23 rd	-	Kendra Booker
December 26 th	-	James Daniels, Steve Arnold
	-	Meredith Jones
December 27 th	-	Mary Beth Brauns
December 29 th	-	Deb Sparks
January 4 th	-	Lawrence (Wren) Hickey



December 5 th	-	Carl and Elizabeth Jacobson
December 8 th	-	Zach and Mandy Poliska
December 13 th	-	Ron and Cherry Lewis



DECEMBER 2017 AWANA NEWS

Wednesday, December 6th

It is "M & M Night" (Missionary Night) at club on the 6th. We will view our third John and Nancy Hook video clip update from Mission Aviation Fellowship. Clubbers should bring in change or dollars in their M & M Bank and will receive a package of plain M & M's in return. If your clubber does not have a bank, please pick one up in the AWANA office downstairs.

Wednesday, December 13th

We are having "Wrap Your Leader" night at club. Clubbers will have a great time tonight decorating their leaders!! For every section a clubber completes, they will get to decorate their leader with a piece of Christmas wrapping paper! Be working on your sections so that you will have the best "wrapped" leader at club on the 13th! We are having our Praise and Worship Night during devotions.

Wednesday, December 20th

It's "AWANA STORE and King and Queen" night at club on the 20th. Come to club dressed like royalty ... kings and queens! Clubbers will have a chance to spend their earned AWANA dollars at our AWANA store this night! Clubbers will receive their earned dollar amount on an "AWANA Debit Card" from their leader, but make sure to bring other dollars given out during club this night to spend. DONATIONS FOR OUR STORE ARE NEEDED!

Wednesday, December 27th and January 3rd: There will be NO club on December 27th or January 3rd. Our AWANA Club wishes everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas! AWANA will resume meeting again on Wednesday, January 10th, 2018 with our first M & M Night of 2018!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

