



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)

October 2024



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Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at
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In This Issue

From the Pastor.....3
 From the Board 4
 Committee Reports.....5
 Calendar6
 Serving This Month.....6
 Birthdays.....6
 Anniversaries.....6
 Christian Ed.....8
 Church Events.....9
 Serving this month.....11
 Thrift Shop News.....11



**Annual
Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, November 3, 2024
 After Service.**

2025 Budget & Nominations

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 2024

Jean Mueller - Board Chair
 Kathy Kauffman-Vice Chair
 Ginger Faragher - Treasurer
 Cindy Baldwin - Secretary
 Johnie Groves - Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

We want to say a HUGE thank you to Ronni, Greg, Jolene, and all the wonderful volunteers who kept the Thrift store thriving while we were gone on vacation in August. We want to welcome our newest volunteers Dave Riddle, Jana Lindner, Kelly and Greg Schlicht, Linda Stinger, and Susan Adams. Some of these folks are friends of our volunteers and we are grateful for their willingness to volunteer their time.

It is officially Fall at the Thrift store as we had 8 hardworking volunteers help with turnover.

We had a great August selling merchandise in the amount of \$4,380.24.

Our needs this month are jewelry, Fall/Thanksgiving items, and XL/plus size clothing. Thanks for your support.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~OCTOBER~

Jody Nelson
 Greg Haston
 Ronni Haston
 Kathleen Lenore



~OCTOBER~

Lily C.
 Mason F.



~OCTOBER~

Jean Mueller
 Keith Nelson



~Outreach & Missions~

The Reconciliation Offering continues through October 6. This special offering leads to pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of the Disciples Church.

The food pantry donation suggestions for October are soup, chili, and crackers.

On Sunday, October 6th we will have a Ministry Moment about The Outreach Committee.



The Children's Christmas Boxes for Samaritan's Purse Project is moving along. Boxes, pamphlets and labels are available for you to take in the Narthex. The pamphlets give you ideas of what to include in your boxes and what ages you can choose. The boxes will be due any time before November 11th. We will all be filling a few boxes from the church and we will be asking for some small items to add to these. We will share the list of items starting October 13th.

Jolene Herington, Chair

From the Pastor's Desk

What an amazing month September has been! This Fall season has brought out the people and started off our church program year in a beautiful way. Attendance in worship and Sunday School has jumped up dramatically. Our Program Planning Committee and all our functional committees have been working on their various plans and events. Our Light a Candle (and prayers) for our youth have been central to each worship service. Choir and Handbells have dazzled us after a long summer of wonderful solos and special performances in worship. Top it all off with the church picnic at the Oakmont Recreation Center and I have to say, it is very exciting to see how God is working in this place!

One of the highlights of being your pastor is working with our Elders. We have a highly dedicated group of women and men who quietly work in the background (other than when they are leading us in prayer each Sunday) to promote the Spiritual health and vitality of our congregation. Many also spend countless hours in volunteer work for our community. It has impressed me so much to get to know them better as I have met with them. We have been studying our spiritual gifts and how we can best share them with others. This month we focused on the Spiritual Disciplines and what helps each of us maintain our faith-walk and keeps us close to Christ.

As we come to this time of year where new leaders are sought for our church, it is significant that our Elders are praying together for God's guidance in placing the best qualified persons in the spot that fits their gifts best. Please pray with us. Please be open to what God is calling you to offer in the next church year. Please consider those from our Nominating Committee who will be asking people to serve in all the many positions they will need to fill. Let's all give our best to the Master in the coming year. Now is the time to seek to know where each of us can help best.

*Sincerely,
Pastor Don*



Board Report

~From the Board~

As we begin the last quarter of the year the church is alive with planning for upcoming celebrations. The Program Planning Council (PPC) met prior to the board meeting with all the committees working together to plan for end of year celebrations. Check out their reports in the newsletter and mark your calendars to participate in upcoming events.

The September board meeting sets the stage for the preparation for 2025. The 2025 draft budget was presented. The Nominating Committee was appointed to begin the task of filling open positions for 2025. In the next few weeks, the committee will be working to find candidates for board officers, elders, deacons and trustees. You may be asked to serve in some capacity; if so, please give prayerful consideration to the request. The Nominating Committee members are: John Lea, Kathy Kauffman, Sandy Poos, Gretchen Schultz and Pat Campbell.

Other board actions include:

- A request from the Branson Arts Council to use the church facility for rehearsals on an as needed basis. The board voted to decline, at this time, due to potential scheduling conflicts.
- The social media policy was revised and approved.
- Approval to purchase a new computer for the media room, due to recent storm.

Kudos this month are to... Marjorie Herington for making 13 little girl dresses for the Christmas Box project; the Thrift Store volunteers who work tirelessly to provide this outreach ministry and to Cindy Tharp for coordinating the updates to the church library.

Blessings,

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

~Membership News~

A successful Church Picnic took place on Sunday, September 15, 2024, at the Oakmont Community Center. Approximately 40 people attended feasting on burgers, turkey burgers, brats, and hot dogs, as well as many salads, beans, and yummy desserts. The Cornhole Tournament was great, and fun was had by all. The "Church Band" of Pastor Don, Rod Philips, Jamie Haage, and Johnie Groves played for a great sing-along of Old-Time Hymns.

Pastor Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 13th. There will be a reception after the service with cake and punch. A basket for cards for Pastor Don will be available in the Narthex starting on Sunday, October 6th.

Please note- The Women of Joy convention is Friday, October 4th through Sunday, October 6th. Parking will be an issue on Sunday, October 6th. An Email blast will be sent out with parking options for that Sunday.

Fellowship Dinner October 20th.



Please welcome our newest member Dave Riddle!

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

*Thank you so much for your support of
Junior Auxiliary projects and the
children and families of Taney County
We appreciate all the school
supplies you donated for our
project. We are in great shape
for this project to take place
in January, and a large part
of that is due to your
contributions! I know the
teachers and kids will appreciate
it. I thank you from all the
Ladies at J.A. Cheryl Schiller
Chair of Project*

~Christian Ed~

Christian Ed has been busy looking at events for the remainder of this year and next. In November we will be rolling out a new youth Sunday School class! This will be for all youth who have aged out of Worship and Wonder thru High School. Watch for more information to come. We are also looking to start back up on monthly Teen Worship Services and some Thursday teen nights.



A coffee bar has been set up in the adult Sunday School class. This class is thriving and seats are filled every week. The lesson for the day is based around the scripture for that day's worship service.

At time of print, information regarding our Cram the Van event, September 28th, was not available. We will have more information in the November newsletter. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the youth and CAM.

Reminder, registration for the "The Miracle of Christmas" at Sight & Sound is due by October 27. Registration forms can be found in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, Office and Website.



Stacy Eastridge, Chair

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through AUG. 2024

Operating income Aug.	\$15,858.24
Operating expense Aug.	\$10,298.45
Year to date income	\$156,576.83
Year to date expense	\$91,883.16

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

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Oct. 3	5:30pm.
~Worship	Oct. 8	2:00pm.
~Christian Ed.	Oct. 13	After Service
~Outreach	Oct. 14	10:00am.
~Finance	Oct. 15	2:00pm.
~Board	Oct. 17	5:30pm.



~Library News~

We have lots of news from the library this month:

***There are four comfortable chairs now. Stop by to test them out and pick up a book to read or sit for awhile and pray. The room is perfect for that.**

***20 new books have arrived! Fiction, non-fiction, teens, and children.**

***Books are categorized now. We have fiction; non-fiction; inspiration; teens; children; true stories; new arrivals; DVD's; and BCC authors (which will be on the shelf on Oct. 20).**

***BCC's Author Reception is set for Oct. 20, which is also a luncheon day. Eat some great food and then go to the library to meet our church member authors. You may know who they are, or you may be surprised!**

Cindy Tharp

October

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

~October Birthdays~

Oct. 2 Becky Groves
 Oct. 4 Nolen Berry
 Oct. 5 Steve Fairless
 Oct. 6 Larry Campbell
 Oct. 8 Rick Johnson
 Oct. 9 Linda Snyder
 Oct. 9 Matea Tilden
 Oct. 11 Gayle Rinehart
 Oct. 11 Marjorie Herington
 Oct. 12 Chris Hedenberg
 Oct. 13 Juanita Witcher
 Oct. 14 Jimmy Dan Pribble
 Oct. 15 Grace R.
 Oct. 15 Karen Pool
 Oct. 15 Maxine Church
 Oct. 15 Brenda Archambeau
 Oct. 16 James Wallace
 Oct. 18 Pat Campbell
 Oct. 19 Jean Mueller
 Oct. 25 Neal S.
 Oct. 28 Linda Hubbard
 Oct. 30 Gary Hammer
 Oct. 31 Dave Riddle

~Anniversaries~

Oct. 17 David & Chris Hedenberg
 Oct. 28 Ron & Margie Derry

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	3 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	4	5
6 Outreach Ministry Moment World Communion Sunday <i>Reconciliation Special Offering</i>	7 Women's Crisis Center Vigil 6:00pm.-8:00pm.	8 Worship Mtg. 2:00pm.	9 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	10	11	12 4pm Youth Meal for Pastor Don Youth Bonfire @ The Segura's
13 Christian Ed Mtg. after service Pastor Appreciation	14 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am	15 Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	16 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	17 Board Mtg. 5:30pm.	18	19
20 BCC Author Reception in Library Fellowship Dinner	21	22 Vision Mtg. 5:00pm. PEO Mtg. 1:00pm.	23 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	24	25	26
27 Miracle of Christmas registration and payment due	28	29	30 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	31 		

Serving in October

Worship Leaders

6th ~ Johnie Groves
 13th ~ Larry Campbell
 20th ~ Laura Vestal
 27th ~ Kathy Kauffman