



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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NUMBER 3



If you had trouble reading the graphic on the front page, I encourage you to read the text in Zephaniah 3:17. Jeremy Treat had a most encouraging article in a recent issue of CT that focused on that amazing verse in Zephaniah, entitled, “God Is Not Out to Get You.” I want to share a few excerpts from his article with you, and invite you to pick up a copy of the entire article from the hall rack.

“Zephaniah 3:17 begins by declaring one of the most basic yet beautiful truths: the Lord saves. While most of us tend to focus on what we are saved from, this verse emphasizes what we are saved for. Not only are we saved from judgment, we are also saved for joy—God’s joy. Zephaniah paints a picture of the God who delights.

“When Zephaniah says that the Lord “will no longer rebuke you,” it’s not that God’s character has changed but that by his love, our status has changed. We are no longer under his judgment; instead, we are under his care.

“The third part of the declaration is that the Lord “will rejoice over you with singing.” The God of the Bible sings—and he sings over his people.

“The Lord is just and joyful. He is a fierce warrior because he is a compassionate father. Throughout the Old Testament, God’s justice and mercy are both boldly proclaimed. But how can a just God take joy in a rebellious people? This tension is ultimately resolved at the Cross, where Jesus’ atoning death displays the righteous character of God and delivers an unrighteous people from sin.

“The Cross is a constant reminder that our sin is great but that our Savior is greater. Why would Jesus endure the pain of the Cross and the shame of such a horrific death? As the author of Hebrews says, because of “the joy set before him.” Through Christ, we are saved from judgment and for joy.

“Our view of God greatly dictates the way we live. If we see God as a cosmic police officer, then we will live in fear of punishment. If we view God as a heavenly firefighter, then we’ll talk to him only when we’re in trouble. But if God is the mighty warrior who sings over his people, that changes everything.” God Bless, Rick

### CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Sunday Worship Service

Bible School

9:15 AM  
10:45 AM

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chatham, IL  
Permit No. 9



STATISTICS

Worship NC  
Offering \$3,121.00

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-1/22/17

Greeters .....	Jack & Bonnie Ruebush
Visitors' Stand.....	Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation.....	Bill Carroll
	Jack Stucki
Ushers .....	Connor Bales
	Kent Ballard
	Chris Luzio
	Brad Stirmell
	Jim Trimmerger
	Kirk Polley
<b><u>WORSHIP NURSERY</u></b>	
Toddlers.....	Nikki & Grace Hunley
Infants.....	June Carroll
	Kate Morris
	Sunday School
Toddlers.....	Julie Divjak
Infants.....	Dixie Williamson

Let Us Pray For...

- Family of Wayne Ellis who passed away on Wednesday. Visitation at the church will be Saturday from 9:00-10:00 with service at 10:00.
- Nancy Barry's brother having surgery for a brain tumor.
- Debbie Sanner with fractured elbow after fall on ice.
- Wes & Linda Green's daughter Katie recovering from three-day hospital stay for ulcerative colitis.
- Dan and Nancy Martin with health problems at home.



We are still looking for someone to plan an evening of laughter and romantic thoughts for the Sweetheart Banquet scheduled for Valentine's Day. Please let Rick know if you are willing to consider doing such. If not, he may just have to dig up an old sermon on love!

JACK STUCKI'S MEDITATION

Have you ever gotten into the routine of doing something, and have since forgot the motive you had for doing it in the first place? I'm not talking about when you walk into a room for a reason, but by the time you complete the journey you can't remember what is the reason was. I'm referring to something like helping an elderly neighbor with chores, or maybe warming up and scraping the ice off of your wife's or children's cars. Perhaps you started doing these things because you wanted to reflect God's love, or your love of someone, by helping them, but now its just something you do out of habit.

The Ephesian church gives us an example of this. The Apostle Paul wrote: "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you."

That was written about 61 A.D. and tells of the love the Ephesians had for God, and for the gift of grace that He had granted them. Fast forward to about 90 A.D. and the book of Revelation. Jesus had these words for the Ephesians: "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

The Ephesians had fallen in love with God and His Son when they heard the gospel message. Paul commended them for their love. It appears over the years they had become very good at rooting out sin and imposters who wanted to be called apostles. They played "church" very well. But Jesus pointed to the fact that they had forgotten the reason why they were doing what they were doing. Without the love they once had for God, they lost their true witness.



So far, there are 16 adults signed up for our Game Night this Friday starting at 6pm. That is awesome and there is always room for more! We will set up as many tables as needed and with this many people, there will be plenty of options to choose from.

Please bring a few of your favorite games and a snack to share with the group. Also, there are always people who want to chip in for pizza so that is an option for dinner. Even if you are a little late depending on your schedule, we just want you to come fellowship with us! These have been great nights in the past as we get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ even better. Hope to see you there!



4th & 5th Grade Students

It looks like we will be learning about two of my favorite subjects: God and Food! Your annual SuperStart conference will also be here soon with the early registration deadline approaching fast.

This year, the early registration cost will be \$45 per student if we complete the process by 2/8/17. A sign up sheet will be posted soon, in the meantime, keep the weekend of March 10 & 11 open as we will be traveling to Bloomington for SuperStart. Should we go indoor rock climbing again???



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Jr./Sr. High Students

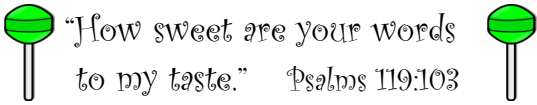
We are cancelling our surprise service project on Saturday due to the funeral service for Wayne Ellis at CCC that morning. Thanks for being flexible and we will talk on Sunday to determine a date for the service project in the near future.



Junior High Students

One of our favorite events is just around the corner! The Believe Conference will be held March 3 & 4 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center here in Springfield. Please be sure to sign up this week if you are planning on attending as our early registration deposit is due by February 1st. The early bird price is \$55 per person.

During your study time, please start reading II Corinthians Chapter 9. This will help put the theme of "Open" in proper context when we begin to focus on verse 11. In verse 11, Paul writes, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." This will lead to good discussions and application to our lives!



Kids: I love it when you tell me about your Sunday School lesson or memory verse! That will always be worth a treat. For a SPECIAL reward, recite the following verse found in Ephesians 3:12. "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." See you Sunday!