

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Chatham, Illinois 62629

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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School

9:15 AM
10:45 AM

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

The current issue of *Christianity Today* has a most unusual front cover. It declares, “The Most Astonishing Easter Miracle: and it’s not the empty tomb.” Obviously I had to read the article.

The article noted that during the 40 days after the resurrection Jesus only made ten appearances. Those appearances changed history and demonstrated that Jesus was truly alive again, but during that time He was absent much more than He was physically present. The author also noted that Jesus doesn’t seem to put too much stock in His resurrection body, telling Mary not to hold on to Him, and telling Thomas that those who would believe in Him without seeing Him would be even more blessed than he. The author then goes on to write:

“The bodily resurrection is not first and foremost intended to dazzle. It’s not a spiritual spectacular designed to knock our spiritual socks off. It clearly doesn’t do that, as the Gospel writers note. When Jesus appears to the 11 to give the Great Commission, for example, Matthew notes that while some worshiped him, some still doubted. And Luke notes that Jesus had to give ‘many convincing proofs that he was alive.’ His resurrection appearances were not a slam dunk for faith.”

After noting the crucial importance of the resurrection, he continues: “Still, why does Jesus seemingly downplay or relativize his bodily resurrection? Because he knew that what was coming was more miraculous and astonishing still. He was not satisfied to be a mere object of wonder and worship, someone we observe and marvel at from afar. Someone we could merely touch, see, and hear as someone separate from us. He did not want to establish a religion that memorialized this miracle, set it in lifeless stone.

“No, the great miracle that the gospel proclaims is not merely that Christ lived bodily after the Crucifixion but that he lives dynamically in us today. The Resurrection is one with the Ascension and Pentecost—we cannot grasp the meaning of the Resurrection in isolation, because these two other events display an even greater miracle: Christ in us, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).” God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

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CHATHAM MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
MAY 4, 7:00 CHATHAM METHODIST CHURCH
TRACY FORMEA, SPEAKER

STATISTICS

Worship 118
Offering \$3,896.00

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – 4/30/17

Greeters Judy Marlow
Visitors' Stand Beryl & Jamella Reese
Communion Meditation Paul Hunley
Doug Marlow
Ushers Connor Bales
Kent Ballard
Chris Luzio
Rick Polley
Will Bartels
Jeff Edmiston

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Sara & Regan Bartels
Infants Jeni & Kate Sperry
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Janet Polley



Let Us Pray For...

--Deb Sanner at the sudden death of high school friend.
--Pete and Deanna Langheim dealing with severe illnesses and care arrangements.

Life of Christ

Since we won't be meeting on Mother's Day, we only have two more Sunday evening studies scheduled for this season. This Sunday at 6:30 we'll be looking at chapter 17 in *Life of Christ*, "Our Lord's Testimony Concerning Himself." If we finish the chapter, we'll turn our attention to the Transfiguration for our last study on May 7th.



Farewell to the Carrolls

As most everyone has heard by now, Bill and June are moving north to be closer to their kids and grandchildren. After 38 years of service and leadership in our congregation, they will obviously leave a big hole in our church, and in our hearts. May 7th will be their last Sunday with us as residents of Chatham. We trust we'll see them again this side of heaven, but do want to honor them with a farewell dinner before they move. We are therefore planning a noon semi-pot-luck dinner to be held on Sunday, the 7th. The church will provide fried chicken, and those coming are asked to bring sides and/or desserts.



BALL-CHATHAM FOOD PANTRY

The Ball-Chatham Food Pantry has a new phone number for those desiring assistance. The number is 697-4663.

The pantry has also made known that they are currently in need of cereal, jelly, mayo, toothpaste, toilet paper, and sandwich and quart size plastic bags.

Items can be left in the container in the church hallway.



There is a nice group signed up to spend Friday evening at the church playing games and there is room for you if you would like to come join us. We will be starting around 6:00pm, but feel free to drop in anytime according to your schedule. The latest some (not me) have played is until around 3am. I heard that probably won't happen this time and you can conclude your game playing at your leisure.

If you would like to chip in on pizza, that will be a possibility. Please bring a snack, something very basic that requires little effort is fine, and a 2 liter bottle of soda to share. Lastly, bring your favorite game if you have one!



I'm so excited about this trip! This will be my first mission trip outside of the United States to serve a brother or sister in Christ. I'm really looking forward to putting together the details and some lessons for us to discuss during our time in Mexico!

To that end, I would like to know this Sunday if you have decided to participate, are still making up your mind, or will have to pass so I can begin establishing a master list of workers. Once I get that going, I'll talk with Casas about when in June of 2018 we can target for our trip.

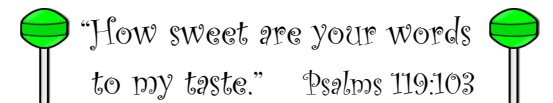
If you missed the meeting and need the information, please don't hesitate to call me or text me. I would love for as many of our family as possible to experience this together!



Did you go to SuperStart this year? If you did, then you will remember that we learned about generosity. We watched Malorie the Food Stylist and Chef Baysil explore ways in which God has been generous to all of us. That in turn showed us that all we have really belongs to God and therefore we should be generous with our time and possessions to glorify Him. Jesus has shown us the ultimate measure of generosity. Giving back to Him is a privilege and an honor.

During the weekend, we learned about some 4th and 5th graders who started a cookie ministry. Towards the end of SuperStart, they passed out cookie cutters in case we ever wanted to be generous and bake cookies for others.

I've been waiting for the right time, and it looks like this Sunday afternoon would be perfect. We will meet back here at the church right after lunch to start baking cookies. If you are in the 4th or 5th grade and didn't go to SuperStart, that is ok! Come on out and join us! After we bake and decorate, we will deliver them to some of our nearby neighborhoods and invite our neighbors to our upcoming VBS. We'll have to bake plenty because knowing all of you, many of them will find their way into your stomachs!



Kids: You know I am pretty lenient right? I mean, if you don't get the memory verse exactly right, often a ring pop still appears on your finger cause I love you and all of you bring a big smile to my face!

But, since this is the last Sunday of April and you have been practicing all month, let's shoot for 100% accuracy when reciting your verses. And you got it, that means Book, Chapter and Verse too! I know you will do fine and see you on Sunday!