

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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Chatham, IL
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I really hadn't planned on going. I thought 96% would be good enough. Then Nikki told me she had read that not going to where the totality of the eclipse could be seen would be like going the gate of the Grand Canyon, but not going in to see it. That really hit me, because several years ago I gave some friends a lot of grief for driving past the Grand Canyon on their tour of the West.

So yes, Marilyn and I joined in a CCC caravan to see the eclipse. Several others from our church had planned on going to other locations, and while we couldn't get into the park where Jonathan had made reservations, he did direct us to Chester, the home of the cartoon character who encouraged me to eat spinach. We left at 6:00, thinking the traffic would be bad, but had smooth sailing, and made it to Barb's Bounty where parking spots had been made online for \$10. Waiting for several hours gave us quality time together.

When the action began, the sky was clear, and the glasses came out. We saw chunks of the sun being covered by the moon until the sky went dark, the cicadas started singing, and the corona around the sun came into full view. It went so far beyond the pinhole view of a partial eclipse I saw as a child that I can't even put it into words. It was totally awesome!

On the six hour drive home where traffic on Route 4 often came to a complete stop, I heard on the radio that the temperature on the surface of the sun was 11,000 degrees, but the temperature in the corona exceeded several million degrees. Then, when I opened the Chronological Bible for my morning read on Tuesday, the heading was "The Lord's Refining Furnace."

The reading from Ezekiel 22 included these words: "As silver, copper, iron, lead and tin are gathered into a furnace to be melted with a fiery blast, so will I gather you in my anger and my wrath and put you inside the city and melt you. I will gather you and I will blow on you with my fiery wrath, and you will be melted inside her...and you will know that I the Lord have poured out my wrath on you."

I doubt that many who viewed the eclipse thought about the judgment of God, but I found it enlightening to realize that as we enjoy the warmth and life-giving energy that God sends to us from the sun, His judgment is merely hidden from view by His grace. I thank God for that, but I do pray we never forget that some day His wrath will be in plain sight.

May we have eyes to see both His grace and His essential righteous judgement.

God Bless, Rick



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Sunday School Promotion will be taking place during the announcement time in our worship service so everyone can celebrate with the students who are receiving awards and being promoted to new classes. A brief overview of the curriculum will be shared and tables will display the children's work.

Our Sunday School program provides Biblical foundations that last a lifetime and we want everyone to get a glimpse of what goes on in our children's classrooms every Sunday.

STATISTICS

	8/13	
Worship		141
Offering		\$8,496.00
	8/20	
Worship		122
Offering		\$3,875.17

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-8/27/17

Greeters	Duane Carrell
Visitors' Stand	Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation	Otto Huber
	Paul Hunley
Ushers	Jack Stucki
	Jim Trimberger
	Scott Bales
	Duane Carrell
	Chad Formea
	Brad Strimell

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers	Julie & Abbie Divjak
Infants.....	Sara & Regan Bartels
	Sunday School
Toddlers	Julie Divjak
Infants.....	Dixie Williamson



Christian Student Fellowship at UIS has helped numerous college students stay focused on Christ during their years here in Springfield. I am so thankful that Otto could plug into a campus ministry while attending UIS. CSF is hosting a breakfast at Applebees to raise necessary funds for their ministry. It will be held from 8:00am-10:00am on Saturday, September 16th. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased from Otto any time or at the door.



A big thank you to everyone who had a hand in our huge carpeting project. The hallways, classrooms, and fellowship hall look amazing. The turnout for moving day was far beyond expectation! We hoped we could get it done in several hours, but it was done in less than one! The parking lot looked like Sunday morning!

The only one who was disappointed was Micaiah. She was upset because they couldn't get here at 3:00, and everything was pretty much done by the time they got here. She made sure they got here on time for our second moving day, and even then we ordered pizza for lunch earlier than expected because everything was done in just over an hour. We have an amazing church family, and it was great seeing so many involved in freshening up our building to reflect our love for the Lord.

We also want to thank the contractors who went the extra mile to get the job done. Jeremy at Patterson Commercial Flooring helped us find a carpet that went far beyond the "I don't hate it" that had been the best we could do during the initial weeks of our search, and beat the two other contracts we had been offered. The installers did an excellent job, and were not only fast, but really cared about what they did. Jeff Hazelwood worked us into his busy schedule when we decided at the last minute to paint the hallways, and did a great job as always. All we have yet to do is install the new fabric covered bulletin boards and tackable wall panels that are being fabricated.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped with this project. And, as Casey noted, the best thing is that we did it without a capital campaign!



It was a pleasure to see Andrew and Lacey Sexton again when they visited our church on the 13th. The stories they share about when a need is met, when lives are touched through the kindness of others, when the love of Christ is shared in a very real tangible way, those stories are heartwarming. I am so glad that we have decided to participate in a build with Casas por Cristo.

A date was set! We will be building a house for a family in Mexico the week of June 25th, 2018. If this week works well for you, there is still plenty of time to join the group. As a reminder, our body here is providing the funds for the house and a few peripheral expenses. The participants financial responsibility comes to around \$500 per person. I'm available anytime to answer questions and discuss the trip further if you are interested in going!



No we are not planning a mission trip to Ireland in addition to Mexico, although maybe we should???? The High School kids and I were moved at CIY this year when we heard about the definite need in Ireland to reach kids there for Christ. We promised to raise \$100 for this purpose.

If you are in the High School class, let's plan on meeting at the church on Labor Day, September 4th at 10:00 to work on our Ireland project. Kim Deiro has agreed to help us with our idea. We will finalize all the details on Sunday morning in class.



In case you missed the date during announcement time on Sunday morning, our Fall Kick Off will be the evening of Sunday, September 17th. Be sure to mark this one in your calendar! We are planning a church wide cook out with games and activities to begin around 5:00pm. Then, for those interested, we will head into the auditorium around 6:45 for a Community Youth Concert which will start promptly at 7:00.

The concert will definitely be a venue which parents and kids alike can invite friends and family. The band we are hosting, Mass Anthem, currently resides out of Nashville but a few of their members actually grew up in Chatham! They have been mentored by some outstanding Christian bands, like Citizen Way for example, and are really starting to make a name for themselves. They are quality young men who love Jesus and are using their gifts to serve our Lord. It will be a fun evening of worship at CCC!



Are you looking for a way to serve here at CCC? If so, please consider volunteering in the nursery during our Youth Group time on Sunday evenings this Fall. Two of the cutest babies in the world will be in there for you to love on for a whole hour!