

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
9897 So. Main St., P.O. Box 527
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Church Office 483-3987
www.chathamchristian.org

Rick Wenneborg, Minister
cell phone 836-4971
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister
cell phone 971-0940
hubemark2@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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When I said in Sunday's sermon, "For a theologian to pretend to be a scientist or a geologist is fraught with danger; and demanding that a particular view of science or geology is the only one a Christian can hold can lead to a rejection of the biblical record and stand in the way of someone accepting Christ," I wasn't speaking hypothetically. I know it can happen, because it actually happened here.

In the early 80s I preached a series of sermons on the first chapters of Genesis, focusing primarily on creation and the flood, and insisted that the view championed by Scientific Creationism was the only acceptable option. A gentleman who had begun attending CCC with his family had studied geology extensively, and couldn't accept the view I was insisting to be the biblical view. I even went so far as to say that if you couldn't accept the Genesis account literally, which was the way I was teaching it, neither could you accept the account of Jesus' life and ministry to be literally true. Eventually he had to agree, and decided he therefore couldn't believe in Jesus, and left the church.

I was devastated, but assured myself that I had faithfully preached the truth, and wasn't responsible for anyone's rejection of the truth. But then I discovered there were Bible-believing scientists who did not insist on holding to a literal six-day creation, and who felt that the earth could be as old as geologists said. After further study I took him a copy of a book that helped change my mind, and apologized with tears, but it was too late. The damage had been done.

We stayed in contact, and I was even asked to preside at his wife's funeral six years after they left, but he expressed no desire to resume his spiritual journey. Then, twenty years after he left the church, he called me out of the blue and said he wanted to be baptized! My tears of apology became tears of joy!

I'm so thankful that we have a God who can clean up our messes, and even undo some of the damage we do. Like Paul, who was convinced he was serving God when he persecuted Christians, I thought I was being faithful to Him and His word when I created an unnecessary barrier to faith in Christ.

May God give us all the wisdom to know when we are wrong, and the grace to admit it.
God Bless, Rick



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Five of our Jr. Hi. youth will be attending the Forge Conference at Lincoln Christian University this Friday evening. Kate, Madison, Anna, Jake, and Cooper will be leaving with Mark and Tina at 5:00 and returning at 10:00. Please pray that our kids will be challenged and strengthened while worshiping together with a chapel full of teens.

STATISTICS

Worship 120
Offering \$4,789.17

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-10/22/17

Greeters Rick & Janet Polley
Visitors' Stand Beryl & Jamella Reese
Communion Meditation..... Jonathan Sperry
Jack Stucki
Ushers Chuck McLaughlin
Rich Mann
Kent Ballard
Will Bartels
Chris Luzio
Brad Stirmell

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Shannon Higgins
Abbie Divjak
Infants Jeni & Kate Sperry
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Dixie Williamson



Let Us Pray For...

--Bob McKnight beginning radiation for bladder and prostate cancer.

BLOOD DRIVE
Chatham Community
Sponsored by Chatham Christian Church
Saturday, November 18th, 10:00 - 1:00

Touchstone
A Journal of Mere Christianity

Sunday at 6:30 adults are invited to examine a very thought provoking editorial from *Touchstone* entitled "The Pity & the Pride: One Difference Between Sins of the Flesh & Sins of the Soul."



Dear Chatham Christian Church,
On behalf of Christian Student Fellowship, thank you so much for your generous gift of \$400.00 for the General Support. Because of God using your generosity, 60 students gathered to worship at CSF's The Edge on campus last week. 4 CSF small groups, hosted by students, met in the residence hall and apartments. 25 students attended CSF Fall Retreat. Most exciting of all, 1 CSF student made the decision to be baptized. We're praising God for the way he is at work—and how He is using your partnership in the gospel to reach students. Thank You!

David Lasley,
Director CSF



Babies, and Toddlers, and Kids, Oh my! The nursery is in need of more volunteers during worship time and Sunday School to care for our littlest ones. If you have never volunteered or you aren't currently and would like to again, please see/call/text Rhonda @ 415-1826 this week. Our babies can't wait to see you!
Current volunteers: Be on the lookout for reworked schedules for November/December in the mail.

Thank you for all your help!
Rhonda Luzio



Get ready for some fun paintball action on Saturday, November 4th! The extended forecast for that day which is rarely wrong is for a temperature of around 41 degrees in the afternoon. Perfect for a couple of layers to soften the sting if you are hit while charging the enemy. It's always a fun time!

This year, we are going to play in the afternoon so some with morning commitments can join us. We will be leaving the church at 1:45 to start our two hour session at 3:00. When we are finishing spraying paintballs all over the place at 5:00, we plan to make our traditional stop at the Dairy Queen before heading home. I am anticipating returning to the church around 7:00pm.

If we get at least 10 players, which we most likely will, the cost will be \$20 per person which includes our group rate plus additional paintballs if needed. There is a sign up sheet posted, so if you are going, please make sure to sign up this Sunday!



Focus Springfield is a local event for all area High School students coordinated by Lincoln Christian University. If you are in High School and interested in going, let's talk on Sunday. It will be from 5-8 on Monday evening, November 6th here in Springfield. There will be praise and worship, fun games, and an important message to consider. Get your homework done early and let's enjoy an evening of worship!

GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

Recently, I was able to spend time with both the K-5 and Jr/Sr High group outside of our normal lesson time here at the church. The younger kids and I had a nice time at Pumpkin Creek farms where we bonded over donuts and the corn maze. The Jr/Sr High students and I had a great time at our game night, especially the nerf gun war throughout the church. What was really awesome about the game night was not only the participation of our kids, but the fact that many invited a friend. Friends that don't have a church home, friends that possibly have never heard about the beauty of the cross, friends that are loved deeply by our Lord.

I do hope they come back and we get a chance to share the gospel with them. Events like game night are casual. They are designed to be fun and as non-threatening as possible to serve as an introduction to our church. My prayer is that they return or another servant of our Lord reaches them with the good news of the cross and builds on the experiences they have had at our church.

What a great example for all of us! I try to challenge the kids in their thinking and behavior, in turn, they often challenge me! There are neighbors I could be inviting to church as well! Thank you kids for your willingness to reach out to friends, to invite them to church or events, to plant seeds that God will water and grow.



Don't forget to let me know if anyone would like their yard raked on Saturday, November 11th during our Youth Service Project! We would be happy to help!