

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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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

You never know where it's going to lead, especially when exploring the internet.

I was recently looking through articles in *USA Today*, and a picture of a beautiful church caught my attention. I clicked on the article, "Great Protestant Churches Around the World", and enjoyed looking at 44 pictures of beautiful churches. Then I noted that several of them were located in the Netherlands. In fact, when I went back to see how many, I discovered that seven of the great Protestant churches were in the Netherlands.

Since my daughter-in-law's mom is Dutch, I hate to admit that I had to double check to make sure that the Netherlands was the same place as Holland. Then my curiosity led me to explore the current status of Protestant churches in the Netherlands. I almost wish I hadn't.

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands, the largest Protestant body there, was founded in 2004 when three Protestant denominations merged. Nearly 12% of the population, or over 2 million people, claim membership in the church. Of those members, however, 42% consider themselves to be non-theists, meaning they don't believe in God, and one in six of the clergymen are either agnostic or atheist.

Then things got even more interesting. I discovered that while 17% of the population do claim to be theistic, 25% are atheists, 31% are agnostic, and 27% are ietsists. Obviously, I had to hit the link to "ietsism."

Ietsism is Dutch for "somethingism." It's the belief that "there must be something undefined beyond the material and that which can be known or be proven." They have not found any of the "pre-packaged" gods offered by traditional religions to be satisfactory. The term was coined in 1997, and is now more widely used in Europe than the "spiritual but not religious" that is used here.

As I pondered this, I couldn't help but think of Paul in the midst of the idols of Athens. I could almost hear him standing in a great Protestant church, declaring, "What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."

Sadly, what secularization has done to the great churches of Europe, it's doing to many of the historically great churches here as well. May we have the courage to be a Paul in the midst of unbelief. God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

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NUMBER 39

BLOOD DRIVE

Chatham Christian Church



Saturday, November 18

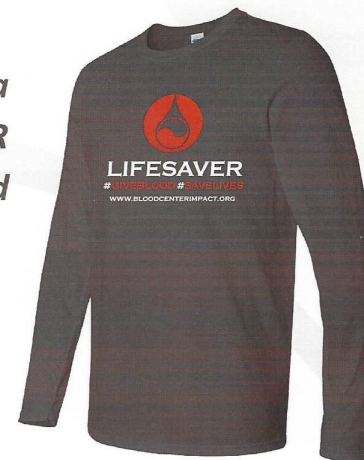
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All presenting donors at donor centers and mobiles will receive a choice of a long-sleeve LIFESAVER T-shirt -OR- a \$10 Amazon eCard -OR- a \$5 plastic gift card (Starbucks, Subway or Target)!



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER**

Give what's in your heart.



STATISTICS

Worship 130
Offering \$9,156.67

SERVING THIS SUNDAY--11/12/17

Greeters Rhonda Luzio
Visitors' Stand..... Bob & Dixie Williamson
Communion Meditation..... Jack Stucki
Chris Luzio
Ushers Paul Hunley
Scott Bales
Duane Carrell
Kirk Polley
Jack Ruebush
Jim Trimmerger

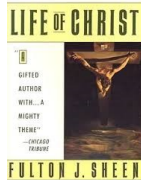
WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Shannon Higgins
Emily Hughes
Infants Karen Mann
Courtney Bales
Sunday School
Toddlers Rhonda Luzio
Infants Bonnie Ruebush
Erica Blakley



Let Us Pray For...

--Amy Mann's mom having difficult time recovering from knee replacement.
--Katie Green having colon surgery on November 15th.
--Rose Miller has requested prayer for her 91 year old mother who lives in London with her sister. She has a non-malignant mass in her chest that makes breathing difficult, but is too frail for surgery.



We will be looking at The Son of Man in our study of *Life of Christ* this Sunday at 6:30.

All adults are encouraged to attend.



All-Church Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner

Sunday, November 19th

Decorate Church at 5:00

Dinner at 6:00



If you would be willing to prepare a turkey for our dinner, please sign up on the bulletin board

News from Jamaica

Theo & Rose Miller, Missionaries

As you may be aware, Theo suffered a mild stroke some months ago, and Rose feels that as a result he tires more quickly. Fortunately, God has now provided him with an assistant minister. Bro. Dixon, a married man with two children, and a good preacher, will be filling the pulpit in Claremont when Theo is preaching in the three other churches he helps oversee.

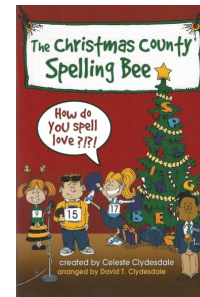
We are very thankful that God has enabled us to help the Millers minister in Jamaica for nearly 25 years.



We have supported the Oblong Children's Christian Home for many years, and I inquired recently to see if there was a way we could help make sure all the children would have some gifts to open on Christmas morning. I was happy to hear they have commitments for almost all the children, but there is one child who still needs a Christmas sponsor.

We have decided to sponsor that child together. They will send us a list of items of interest to the child, and then we will purchase them. As soon as we get the list we will post it, and those who are interested will be able to select something to buy for that child's Christmas.

Be watching the bulletin board for an opportunity to make a difference in the life of child who lives at Oblong.



We are getting closer and closer to the Christmas play on December 10th! So, this week will be the first double rehearsal to continue fine tuning all the scenes. Practice will begin 5:15 through the normal break time of 6:15. At 6:30, practice will resume until around 7:30. Continue to work on memorizing the songs and your individual lines!

Youth groups that are not included in the play will meet as usual.



Junior and Senior High

I am hoping a few more leaves fall before Saturday! With the holidays coming up and the fact that the village will pick up bags through the end of November, this Saturday was our best option. And, it seems like a lot of you will be able to attend so that is GREAT!

We will meet here at the church at 1pm. The extended forecast is for around 44 degrees that afternoon so dress appropriately as we will be outside most of the time. Also, if there is a rake handy in your garage, please bring that along so we can all work together. Finally, you will need to have a little money to go out for a bite to eat when we are finished, ten bucks or so should cover it.

My best guesstimate would be that we would return to the church around 6pm. If anyone needs a ride home that evening, no problem just let me know. Thank you kids for your willingness to serve others in our church family.



Two of our kids are in productions at the Hoogland Center for the Arts this Fall. Courtney Bales will be performing in the play "Once on this Island Jr." beginning this Friday for two weekends. Then, Kate Sperry will be performing in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on December 9th & 17th at 1:30, December 10th & 16th at 4:00 and December 17th at 7pm. Good luck girls and have fun!