

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

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Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

How quickly the years roll by. It's hard to believe that Chatham Christian Church celebrated its 47th Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service this past Christmas. Marilyn and I have only been here for 45 of them, but I believe Jim and Mary Sexton have been to all 47.

Over the years we've done a variety of things on Christmas Eve in addition to the communion service, presenting cantatas and the like, but I have to say I really enjoy what we do now more than any. Some of the enjoyment may come from the fact that I don't have to be a part of the musical presentation, and can just enjoy the service. But I also really do enjoy seeing how all the pieces come together.

When I make it known that we need special music, and invite any who might have something to share to do so, I never know what to expect. But as I start hearing from those willing to share a song that reflects their love for Christ and Christmas, it quickly becomes obvious that we're going to have a great night of celebration. And according to the comments I heard, this year's was one of the best.

The attendance this year was also very encouraging. Attendance had slipped a bit over the years, and I was beginning to wonder how long we would be able to continue with this tradition. If this year is any indication of our future, I think we can plan on hosting many more.

I put out 200 candles this year, thinking that would be more than enough. When I went through the baskets after the service, however, I only found six that had hadn't been used. And then I started hearing about some who didn't get a candle because their basket was empty. I know we haven't had 200 at our Christmas Eve service in a long time, and I have to admit it really felt good to see so many here.

I don't know what God has in store for us in 2018, but I know our future is in good hands. In fact, I believe our big Five-0 will be here before we know it. And, Lord willing, I'm looking forward to my big Five-0 as your preacher.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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Winter 2017 Newsletter



Helping Students Find Their Way Back To God

THE REAL CAMPUS MINISTERS: Students on Mission in the Fall of 2017

By David Lasley - CSF Director

There are few things on campus that get us more energized than when we hear of a student actively choosing to share his/her faith on campus. Even though our staff are all called campus ministers, we see students as the REAL ministers on campus. In fact, we can't think of anything more important for them to do once they come to faith than join the CSF community in being about Jesus' ministry at UIS. This year, we've seen God do remarkable things as students have surrendered themselves to Jesus' mercy and mission.

On average, between 50-60 students showed up weekly to CSF's Monday night worship service to worship God. Many of these attenders were intentionally invited by CSF students at their work, in the classroom, or through random acts of kindness on campus. We worshipped with students from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Georgia as well as from India, Nigeria and China.

Well over 200 new students had a significant connection with a CSF student during the first week of school whether at a CSF event or through a student follow up. *This comprises nearly 20% of the entire UIS on-campus population!*

CSF's 10 Student Leaders each committed themselves to regularly discipling other students who are younger or new to the faith. This pursuit led to our student leaders having weekly discipleship meetings with 8 newer or younger believers and a whole host of other ongoing relationships with students who need to know Jesus.

We're thrilled by how God is at work in His vision for seeing students be disciples who make disciples while on campus and for the rest of their lives. Thank you for the ways you've allowed Him to use you by partnering with CSF!!!

STATISTICS

	12/24	
Worship		150
Offering		\$3,905.23
	12/31	
Worship		111
Offering		\$2,882.23

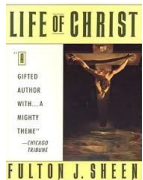
SERVING THIS SUNDAY-1/7/18

Greeters	Lee & Schar Zimmerman
Visitors' Stand	Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Communion Meditation	Rick Polley
	Chris Luzio
Ushers	Chad Formea
	Will Bartels
	Chuck McLaughlin
	Brad Stirmell
	Kirk Polley
	Duane Carrell
WORSHIP NURSERY	
Toddlers.....	Sara & Regan Bartels
Infants.....	Kristin Polley
	Janice McLaughlin
	Jake Divjak
Sunday School	
Toddlers.....	Julie Divjak
Infants.....	Bonnie Ruebush
	Kileen Huber



Let Us Pray For...

--Kristin Polley and the family of a soldier under her command who lost his battle with depression last week.
 --Friends of Brad Stirmell who lost loved ones last week.



Our Sunday night study of *Life of Christ* will resume this Sunday at 6:30. We will be looking at chapter 25, "His Hour Had Not Yet Come." All adults are invited to attend.



We were thrilled on Christmas Eve morning when Lily Divjak and Kileen Huber came forward to confess their faith in Christ and to be baptized into Him. Their baptisms were made even more special when Lily was baptized by her dad, and Kileen by her husband.

What a joy when family members not only share their faith with one another, but actually have a hand in baptizing their loved ones into Christ.



Be sure to check out our new directional sign. We left our old one up long past it's prime because we knew the new intersection was coming, and assumed we would relocate the sign. When we discovered the area around the new intersection is classified as a scenic by-way and had far more restrictive regulations on signs, we decided to stick with our original location and take advantage of our forty year old state permit.

We have heard from a number of people over the years that our sign is what led them to us, and we are thankful that we have been able to retain our spot in a highly visible location.



After supporting Victor Banda and the church in Agujita, Mexico for a number of years, they were able to become a self-supported congregation this year. Victor recently sent us the above picture of the congregation, and expressed gratitude for the blessing we have been to them for all these years. He also sent wishes for a merry Christmas and a new year full of purpose and plans made for the honor and glory of God, and assured us that we would always be in their prayers.



For the New Year's Eve celebration, Casey brought in two huge bags of games to try if time allowed. He cleaned up this Christmas! While Casey, Chris, Zach and Elizabeth found the energy to play games until 4:30am on New Years Day, the rest of us ran out of time to try some of the new games available. So, let's open the church up the evening of Friday, January 19th for all adults who are interested to come and fellowship around multiple game tables. Last time we didn't need anyone to watch the younger kids, but if that is needed, please let me know and I can try to arrange a sitter. I'll be good until around 10:00 or 11:00 that evening, but definitely not 4:30am!



I'm excited for the Youth Groups to start meeting regularly again in 2018! Even if you didn't attend in 2017, you are welcome to come this year to interact with others while we deepen our faith in Christ. In addition to our weekly meetings, some dates have been established for our overnight conferences if you are interested in going! Here is a breakdown for the various age groups.

- **Junior High:** The Believe conference in Springfield has never been a disappointment. Every year we are challenged in many ways. This year, we will be studying Matthew 28:20 and applying what we learn to our ongoing relationship with Jesus. The conference will be on March 2nd & 3rd. The fee is reduced by \$10 per person if we register by February 1, so start planning now!
- **4th & 5th grade:** We always have a good time in Bloomington at the SuperStart conference where we have a tremendous amount of fun while learning more about our Lord. The theme this year is "Power Up" through the study of God's Word. The SuperStart conference will be on March 9th and 10th. Early registration will be done towards the end of January so keep a look out for that information.
- **High School:** CIY conducts MOVE conferences for High School students all across the country. It is a 5 day conference where usually around 1,000 kids gather together to worship and learn. This year, it looks like our best option will be for the week of July 16th through the 21st. We might have to travel a little farther than Missouri, but it will be worth it! In the meantime, I'll be working on scheduling some of our other events we brainstormed last Sunday.