

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

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Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

I'm not a big fan of rollercoasters, even figurative ones. Especially when the ups and downs are on rails of cancer. I really wasn't afraid, but I wasn't riding with my hands in the air either. I was hanging on tight.

First the eye doctor suggested that since she couldn't find anything wrong in my eye that explained my recently noticed blurred and double vision, the problem might be behind my eye. I'm not an expert in anatomy, but the only thing I could think of behind my eye is my brain, and the possibility of brain cancer did cross my brain. Fortunately, and gratefully, a blood work-up, an MRI, and exams by three other doctors led to the conclusion that the problem was caused by a wrong lens that had been put in my glasses nearly a year ago!

Then it was time to follow up on a PSA that had gone from 5.5 to 7 in six months. As I noted last week, the biopsy was a piece of cake. The resulting phone call, not so much.

I was told the biopsy had tested positive for cancer, and the doctor wanted me to read a book on prostate cancer before meeting with him for consultation on how to proceed. After hearing the relatively good news that even though the cancer was on both sides of the prostate it was low grade, and having the options explained, I was weighing the pros and cons of surgery or radioactive seeds. I then asked what I hope was a Spirit-led question. I asked him what he would do if he had what I have. His answer stunned me. He said he would do nothing!

I haven't yet talked with my family doctor, but at this point I think I'll probably do the same. I will, however, follow up with periodic PSA's, and if there is a radical change, I'll obviously reconsider the options.

As I mentioned Sunday, I really do appreciate all the prayers and expressions of concern that have been shown to me. And I do ask that you continue praying, especially for discernment to know how God would have me ride out this rollercoaster.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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All adults are invited to a game night in the fellowship hall this Friday evening, beginning at 6:00. Pizza will be ordered for those interested, and we are asking that those coming bring favorite games, munchies and a bottle of soda to share. A large variety of games will no doubt be here, so come enjoy a night of fellowship and food!

Babysitting will be provided.

STATISTICS

Worship 132
Offering \$3,901.00

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-1/21/18

Greeters Chuck & Janice McLaughlin
Visitors' Stand Rich & Karen Mann
Communion Meditation Paul Hunley
Chris Luzio
Ushers Chad Formea
Will Bartels
Chuck McLaughlin
Brad Stirmell
Kirk Polley
Duane Carrell
WORSHIP NURSERY
Toddlers Kelly Donaldson
Kate Sperry
Infants Nikki & Anna Hunley
Marilyn Wenneborg
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Janet Polley
Rebecca Smith



Let Us Pray For...

--Chad Coombs grandfather in very poor health.
--Beryl Reese having knee replacement surgery.
--Friend of Beryl's recovering from open heart surgery.
--Customer of Gary Gredzieleski who shared spiritual concerns about a son in need of Christ.

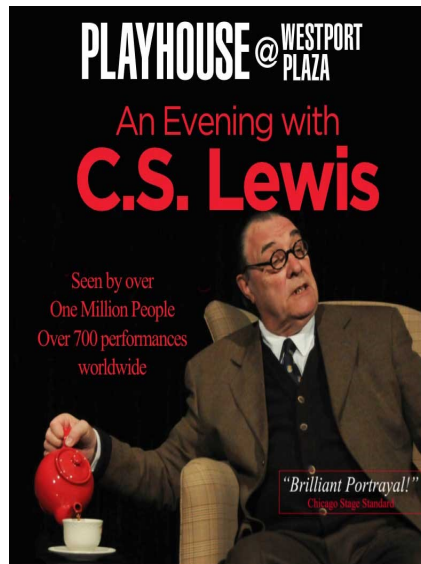


The following have Christmas greetings on the ledge outside of the office. Mann, Mohler, Montgomery, Morris, Noll, Rice, Ridge, Willey and Williams.



Our annual Sweetheart Banquet has been set for February 14th at Fulgenzi's. Cory and Nicole Moore have volunteered to once again plan the program, and the meal will be our favorite roast pork with sides, and cheese tortellini. The cost will be \$40 per couple, and that includes gratuity.

Reservations can be made by signing up on the bulletin board, and placing a check made out to the church in the envelope.



We have an opportunity to spend an evening with C.S. Lewis in St. Louis on Friday, May 18th. Tickets are \$25 and a sign-up is on the bulletin board. We'll be taking the van and carpooling as needed.



As in years past, we have rented out the Lakeview Lodge at LSCA to provide a place to gather and watch the game together. Some pay no attention to the game whatsoever but enjoy laughing at the commercials together. Further proof that you don't have to be a football fan to attend is the fact that half the people are usually visiting with one another and/or playing games. Also, because everyone brings food to share, there is a delicious smorgasbord of goodies to feast upon throughout the evening. Details will be forthcoming but we definitely hope to see you there!



Rescue, Mentor, Community. . .and in everything, Christ

High School Service Project

The Refuge Ranch is hosting their second annual Partner Up Dinner at LSCA on Saturday, January 27th. The evening will consist of live music, a home-style meal and an opportunity to hear about what God is doing at Refuge Ranch. If you have questions and aren't familiar with Chris or Steve, feel free to reach out to me anytime.

For the High School Students, there is an opportunity for us to give back to the Ranch in a very tangible way. They are in need of some servers to bring out drinks and serve food at the proper time. We will talk about it on Sunday, but in the meantime, please check your availability for that evening.



4th & 5th Grade Students

Last week I highlighted the Believe conference for Jr. High Students, this week I'll tell you a little about your upcoming conference. We have all played video games in our life. Usually, within each game, there is a precise moment where you can "Power Up", get a little extra boost of energy to get you to the next level. This year at SuperStart we are going to learn how to "Power Up."

We are going to get our power from God's Word! In Luke 11:28, Jesus says "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." Within the video game theme, we are going to see how it is through God's word and the Holy Spirit that we receive the power to become an effective worker in His kingdom.

SuperStart will be held in Bloomington this year on March 9th and 10th. We will be spending the night in Bloomington and returning to the church at 4:30pm on Saturday. The specific details will follow in future newsletters.

Just like the Believe conference, there is a substantial early bird discount if we register by 2/7/18. I'll put a sign up sheet on the bulletin board this Sunday so we can be sure to get the discounted price of \$50 per student.



Jr. High School Students

Don't forget to be checking your schedules for the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd! Believe will be held that weekend here in Springfield and it is a conference you won't want to miss. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board so we can register by January 31st!