

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

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I mentioned in my Sermon last Sunday that several of us attended a Sheepdog Seminar in Peoria. The seminar took a hard look at the violence that is not only in our society, but that is invading our churches as well. It explored ways that we should prepare for the possibility of armed aggression from without, and the need to protect our children from predators that often come from within.

Our shepherds and sheepdogs will be giving serious consideration to action that should be taken to keep us all safe in the near future, but for now you shouldn't be shocked to find doors locked more than usual. We recently started locking the front doors after the service begins, and will probably begin locking even the side entrance doors after the offering has been taken. Doors will also be kept locked during the week.

The main presenter for the afternoon sessions was Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman. Not only does he instruct military and law enforcement agencies on how to handle violence, he has also written books on the relationship between violent video games and the explosion of violence in our schools and homes. We showed one of his videos nearly twenty years ago that called our attention to this problem, but now I have his latest book on the topic, *Assassination Generation*.

The connection between violence in the media, violent video games, and violent behavior is indisputable. Col. Grossman concludes his book by stating: "Early childhood exposure to cartoons and media violence lays a foundation for bullying and violent behavior at a young age. This, in turn, sets the stage for a society where children and adolescents immerse themselves in addictive video games that teach them how to kill, attack, and bully. In this way, media violence is a progressive problem. What starts with cartoons, movies, and television shows in the early years slides into violent video games in adolescence, causing children to sink deeper and deeper into the psychological and biological conditions that I've explored in these pages."

If you aren't controlling what your kids are watching and playing, you need to read this book. God Bless, Rick

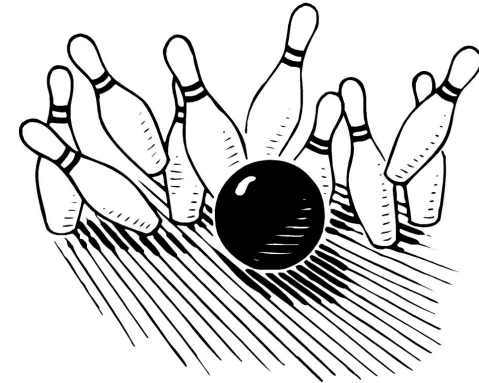


THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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Kindergarten through 5th grade students are invited to participate in an afternoon of bowling and pizza! We will be leaving after Sunday School this Sunday for the Showtime Lanes in Virden. The cost will be \$15 for two games of bowling, shoes and pizza for lunch. We will be returning to the church at 3:15pm. If you missed the sign-up sheet on Sunday, just come this week ready to join us in an afternoon of fun!

STATISTICS

Worship 91
Offering \$3,089.21

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-2/18/18

Greeters Brad Stirmell
Visitors' Stand Beryl & Jamella Reese
Communion Meditation Chris Luzio
Paul Hunley
Ushers Scott Bales
Rich Mann
Jake Divjak
Rick Polley
Jim Trimmerger
Otto Huber

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Marilyn Wenneborg
Anna Hunley
Infants Julie Divjak
Vicki Small
Jake Divjak
Sunday School
Toddlers Rhonda Luzio
Infants Janet Polley
Erica Blakley



Let Us Pray For...

--Beryl Reese with pain in his side that is hindering recovery from knee replacement.
--Troy Smith and family at the unexpected death of an aunt who was caring for an uncle with cancer.
--Dixie Williamson's cousin recovering from bone marrow transplant and friend with cancer.
--Chuck & Janice McLaughlin's daughter and son-in-law on mission trip to Honduras.

Touchstone

A Journal of Mere Christianity

In Defense of Prudery

The Wisdom of the Victorian Quest for Innocence

This Sunday at 6:30 the adult class will be looking at another article from *Touchstone*. This one explores the reasons behind, and benefits of, Victorian morals and manners. In Victorian thinking every book, play and conversation was viewed as contributing either positively or negatively toward the development of one's character. Media were viewed as having a decisive effect in shaping individuals and society, and the arts were viewed as existing first and foremost for moral improvement.

The article concludes, "In a society that has abandoned any claim of being Christian, it is perhaps no longer appropriate for us to engaged in an all-out effort to purify the public space. Surely, however, we should be seeking to purify our private ones."

All adults are encouraged to join us for an examination of something that is usually ignored, or demeaned, in our society, but is very important for us to reconsider.



We haven't forgotten about adult volleyball this year! While we couldn't begin as early as usual, we have been able to schedule the camp gym for Sunday evenings, February 25 - March 25. All adults are therefore encouraged to start stretching and getting ready for five weeks of fun!



We are off to a good start with our food drive for the Ball Chatham Food Pantry! It started with a desire to reach out from Anna who set our original goal at 100 cans of food. However, it has evolved into not just cans of food, but any practical item a family in need could use. Looking through the items this morning, you all have donated canned goods, boxed items like macaroni & cheese, and a few items to help with laundry. I am sure the pantry will be most appreciative!

We will keep the drive going for a few more weeks to see how close we can get to our goal. The collection area is by the visitor's stand in the hallway. Thank you to all to have donated or will be donating over the next few weeks.



Junior High Students

Believe is just a couple weeks away! To date, we have 12 kids signed up for this impactful event at the Bank of Springfield Center downtown. On Friday, March 2nd, please bring your overnight supplies and plan on being dropped off at our house around 5pm. After Friday's session, we'll play some games, eat some more food and most definitely we will sleep. Don't even try to talk me out of it! On Saturday we will take in a morning and an afternoon session before arriving back at my house at 4:30 for pick-up! Get ready for one of the best conferences of the year!

GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

Last night, Tina and I enjoyed watching Chloe Kim win a gold medal for the United States in snowboarding. Chloe is only 17 years old and has been snowboarding since she was 4 years old. Her years of practice, determination and training paid off for her in these Olympic Games.

To compete at this level, intense training is required. There was a study done in 2012 which produced the following data. They concluded that the average elite athlete (Olympian):

- Trains 6 hours a day, 6 days a week, 12 months a year. One particular athlete spent 10,000 hours preparing for the Olympics.
- Consumes more than 1.1 million calories per year, equivalent to eating three Christmas dinners a day.
- Has been working towards the Olympic goal for 11 years.

Elite canoeists lift over 1,200 tons a month, equivalent to six blue whales, during their intense gym workouts. Training and self discipline are important for anyone who is seeking after a prize. In relation to our eternal prize, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we the imperishable."

Our prize isn't some earthly medal or trophy, it is eternal, imperishable! While earthly medals and trophies are great, nothing even remotely compares to the prize that awaits a follower of Christ when our race is over. As an Olympic race can be over in a flash, the same is obviously true in life. In comparison to eternity, the race of life is over in a flash. So train hard every day this week, grow closer to and enjoy the Lord as we press onward to our eternal prize which awaits us in heaven!!!