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

As I write this, eight hundred and fifty Methodist delegates from around the world are meeting in St. Louis "to decide whether to change the church's historical position that sexual relationships should be solely between married men and women." Three plans are being discussed, and "the commission and the church's leadership broadly support the One Church Plan which would allow the ordination of LGBTQ pastors and recognition of same-sex marriage." An openly lesbian bishop who is in a same-sex marriage said Methodists need to learn "how to live in beloved community where every child of God is beloved, wanted, celebrated, needed in order for the body of Christ to be made whole."

Obviously every child of God is to be loved and wanted. Every behavior, however, is not to be celebrated. And the distinction between who I am, and what I do, must not be ignored.

In our Sunday night study we recently learned that "the idea of putting sexual attraction at the core of our identity is a recent invention," and that "from ancient times, the adjective *homosexual* was used to describe acts that anyone might perform, not an unchanging condition or an essential identity. It referred to an action, not a category of person." And that while "we do not choose our feelings, we do choose our behavior and identity"

Christopher Yuan, who had regularly visited gay bath-houses before becoming a Christian writes, "I had always thought that the opposite of homosexuality was heterosexuality. But actually the opposite of homosexuality is holiness. All Christians are called to holiness, no matter their sexual feelings."

Our author then noted, "No one chooses to have same-sex temptations, just as no one chooses to feel angry or jealous, or be tempted by drugs or pornography. Where we do have a choice is in deciding how to respond to our temptations. We can choose whether to purchase drugs, or search for pornography on the computer, or engage in same-sex behavior. Everyone is called to choose holiness, whether attracted to the same sex or the opposite sex, whether married or single."

Contrary to the thoughts of some, the body of Christ will never be made whole by embracing sinful behavior. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

February 27, 2019

NUMBER 8

### PAUL'S 100TH COMMUNION MEDITATION

I know there are a lot of people here who don't remember Gene Lynch, but he is the one who probably 18 years ago asked if I would like to step out of my comfort zone, and do a communion meditation. I must admit there are times when I wish I had rethought that answer. For instance, when it is Saturday night and I suddenly remember, "Uh-oh, I have communion meditation tomorrow." Or even when I think about it all week and I have nothing. But since his asking me, this is my official 100<sup>th</sup> communion meditation. Now I have stood before you more than 100 times, because just like a good preacher I know, sometimes you recycle a sermon or two, and I figure if it's good enough for him, it's good enough for me.

I have covered a variety of topics in the past 100 meditations. I remember in one of those meditations I wore Harry Potter glasses. In another one I compared ears of corn, one from a Hunley field, huge. And one from a neighbor field, much smaller. In one I sang, yes, you heard that correctly, the chorus of "Nothing but the blood." I've done meditations on Oxy Clean, scratching my initials into my father's car, ripping off the garage door with my dad's El Camino, March Madness, my pigs Rooty and Moose, wild caving with Rick and Matt, books that I have read, many about the farm, seven Christmas poems, and tons about my kids. I would love to re-read my first meditation, but that is the only one I have lost. I remember that it was about Chuck Swindoll's book *Living Above the Level of Mediocrity*, and how Mary Magdalene broke the vase of perfume and spread it on Jesus' feet.

The one thing that I pray has remained consistent in all of these meditations is the proclamation of the redemption story that we receive because of Christ's love. I have quoted Romans 5:8 and John 3:16 so many times, but they are cornerstones to what we believe and why we are here. Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." And John 3:16, of course, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

When I first started doing meditations, I can remember feeling as though I was going to shake the pulpit off of the stage. I was clearly out of my comfort zone. And while over the years I have gotten less nervous, I hope that I have never gotten complacent.

As we prepare to take these emblems, no matter how many times we have done it, let's not get complacent or routine in our weekly ritual, but remember anew that Jesus wanted us to break bread regularly so that we would be constantly reminded of our need to confess our sins and express our belief in Christ, realizing that our road to heaven cannot be obtained on our own but through the breaking of Christ's body (the bread) and the pouring of His blood (the juice). Jesus stepped out of the comfort of heaven and took the form of a man, so that we can enter the greatest comfort zone of all, right at the feet of our Lord and Savior.

## STATISTICS

Worship 129  
Offering \$5,925.80

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-3/31/19

Greeters .....	Beryl & Jamella Reese
Visitors' Stand .....	Chuck & Jan McLaughlin
Communion Meditation .....	Chris Luzio
	Doug Marlow
Ushers .....	Will Bartels
	Rick Polley
	Bob Williamson
	Duane Carrell
	Chuck McLaughlin
	Chad Formea
<b>WORSHIP NURSERY</b>	
Toddlers.....	Vicki Small
	Reagan Formea
Infants.....	Janet Polley
	Sara & Regan Bartels
	Sunday School
Toddlers.....	Rhonda Luzio
Infants.....	Jonathan & Jeni Sperry



--Ken Barry recovering from knee surgery.  
--Marge Koester in the Bridge.

## The Hidden Word

RUTH 1:16

"But Ruth said, 'Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.'"



## ADULT VOLLEYBALL

All adults are invited to meet at the LSCA gym this Sunday at 8:00, after the study from *Love Thy Body*, for a time of recreation and fellowship on the volleyball court.



## MARCH SERVERS

3/10: Doug Marlow, Chris Luzio  
3/17 & 3/24: Otto Huber, Chris Luzio  
3/31: Mark Huber, Chris Luzio

## MARCH PROJECTIONIST

Erica Blakley

## MARCH GREETERS

3/10 Bonnie Ruebush  
3/17 Will & Sara Bartels  
3/24 Duane Carrell  
3/31 Rhonda Luzio

## MARCH VISITORS' STAND

3/10 Rich & Karen Mann  
3/17 Gary & Lori Gredzieleski  
3/24 Chris & Rhonda Luzio  
3/31 Rick & Janet Polley

## MARCH NURSERY

### Worship - 3/10

Toddlers: Kristin Polley  
Abbie Divjak  
Infants: Julie & Lily Divjak  
Nicole Moore

### Sunday School

Infants: Karen Mann  
Shannon Higgins

### Worship - 3/17

Toddlers: Marilyn Wenneborg  
Carter Hunley  
Infants: Dixie Williamson  
Jeni & Kate Sperry

### Sunday School

Infants: Julie Divjak  
Rebecca Smith

### Worship - 3/24

Toddlers: Shannon Higgins  
Grace Hunley  
Infants: Kristin Polley  
Jamella Reese  
Jake Divjak

### Sunday School

Infants: Vicki Small  
Kristin Polley

### Worship - 3/31

Toddlers: Janice McLaughlin  
Cooper Formea  
Infants: Renee & Madison Bales  
Stacey Cantrell

### Sunday School

Infants: Dixie Williamson  
Erica Blakley



## Ladies Paint Night

Jeni Sperry will be hosting a Ladies Paint Night on Friday, March 22nd here at CCC. The finished product will be a painting of rain boots with flowers just in time for spring! The kids loved their paint night a few weeks ago and I am sure it will be no different for the ladies as you gather for fellowship and fun.

The night will begin promptly at 6:30pm. Please try to arrive a little early to set up your station and grab some snacks which will be provided. Space is limited so please reserve your easel as soon as possible by contacting Jeni. The cost for the evening is \$25 which includes the 12x16 canvas, paint, and other supplies needed.



This is going to be a great weekend! I am excited to attend Believe with Jessica, Christina, Braden, Audrey, Kaelyn and Lily as we worship and learn together. Please keep us in your prayers this week that above all else, God will be glorified.

We will be leaving from CCC at 5pm on Friday. You will need overnight supplies and money for two meals, one of which will be a quick stop at Steak and Shake before going to the conference. Pick up time is 4:30pm on Saturday at the church.



## High School Students

We are shaking it up this year! Historically, we have attended the Missouri Conference in late July. Due to vacations and other activities, this year we will be going to the CIY conference to be held at Anderson University located in Anderson, Indiana on June 16th-20th. Anderson University is about 45 minutes outside of Indianapolis so we will find something fun to do there during our free time on Wednesday afternoon.

Also, unique to this schedule, we will leave after church on the 16th and return late Thursday night on the 20th. The cost for the CIY MOVE conference is \$309 per person if the deposit is received by May 1st. Please be looking at your summer schedule and let me know soon if you can attend!



This weekend, we will have two students going to SuperStart in Bloomington with Erica Blakely. Please keep Emme, Amelia and Erica in your prayers as they travel together.

For those going, you will be leaving the church at 4:30pm on Friday and returning at 4:30pm on Saturday. Please bring enough money for a quick dinner stop on the way to Bloomington and lunch on Saturday. Also, please bring a little extra money for the activity on Saturday which will be SKYZONE!! Admission is \$13 for an hour of jumping. I look forward to hearing about the conference when you return!