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Those of us who are reading through the Bible this year using *The Message* paraphrase have been spending the last couple weeks in Ezekiel, and it hasn't been pleasant. The messages that God gave Ezekiel to proclaim, and to even demonstrate, were primarily messages of judgment. And God was very explicit!

In an attempt to make the judgments of God even more explicit, the author of *The Message* sometimes makes it sound even worse than it does in the NASB. On the flip side, however, the promises of God, and the way He feels, are stated in ways that paint an even clearer picture of the heart of God. I especially like the way God is pictured in Ezekiel 20 expressing how He decides to act the way He does.

After expressing His anger over the repeated sin and unfaithfulness of His people, and His resolve to pour out His wrath on them, the NASB accurately says, "But I acted for the sake of My name."

Peterson puts it this way: "They rebelled against me, wouldn't listen to a word I said. None got rid of the vile things they were addicted to. I seriously considered inflicting my anger on them in force right there in Egypt. Then I thought better of it. I acted out of who I was, not by how I felt." And then, after documenting a couple more times when God's people sinned against Him, Peterson has God twice again saying, "I acted out of who I was, not by how I felt."

That phrase really struck me, and I think that paraphrase really nails it. God acts out of who He is, not by how He feels. And since we are made in His image, I'm certain He would have us do the same. He even makes it possible for us to do so.

"For here's what I'm going to do: ...I'll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean. I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed. I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands. ...You'll be my people! I'll be your God!" (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

Let's make sure we act out of who we are, not by how we feel. God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

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Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner Sunday, November 24th

We will begin our celebration in the auditorium at 5:00, and then head to the tables for a Thanksgiving feast. Everyone is encouraged to bring a ready-to-serve side, salad or dessert to share by 4:45.

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

STATISTICS

Worship 112
Offering \$4,685.50

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-11/17/19

Greeters Will & Sara Bartels
Visitors' Stand Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Communion Meditation Chris Luzio
Jonathan Sperry
Ushers Scott Bales
Rick Polley
Brad Stirmell
Duane Carrell
Chad Formea
Gary Gredzieleski

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Janet Polley
Reagan Formea
Infants Shannon Higgins
Jamella Reese
Courtney Bales
Sunday School
Toddlers Rhonda Luzio
Infants Julie Divjak
Vicki Small

The Hidden Word

JOHN 1:14

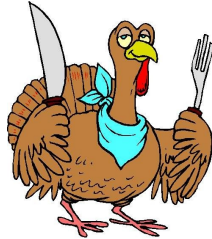
"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."



--Jack Ruebush having blood pressure issues and nose bleeds.

--Caroline Mann's boyfriend's sister fighting breast cancer and complications from chemo.

--Paulo, the friend of Mark Fishel, our missionary in Cambodia, who has been unjustly held in prison for six months. He is a teacher in a private school that refuses to pay protection money to the police. Mark asks that we pray for Paulo, and for the madness in Cambodia to end.



We are looking for a few good turkeys that are ready to eat! If you find one hanging out in your oven on the afternoon of the 24th, please bring it to our Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner. If you think there's a good chance you'll find one there, please sign up on the bulletin board this Sunday.

BLOOD DRIVE

Chatham Christian Church

Saturday, November 16

10:00am - 1:00pm



THE HAND OF GOD

"The account of Joseph and the lustful advances of Potiphar's wife sounds as though it was taken from...last night's prime-time television program. It has an immediate and striking relevance, in that it deals with issues that confront all of us. But there is an equally striking difference between this story and the sorry sagas of modern-day celebrities and leaders—namely, the way it ends."

Join us Sunday at 6:30 as we look at Joseph's powerful response to temptation.



There is always a lot to do in order to get the camp ready for winter. If you have some spare time this Saturday, November 16th, feel free to come out to LSCA and make the old saying come true: many hands make light work. There are tasks on the to do list for all ages. If you are able to rake a little, please bring a rake and a pair of gloves. Everyone will be meeting in the main dining hall at 8:30 for coffee and cinnamon rolls before dividing up the items to be addressed.



Jr. High and High School

If you are starting to get a lot of leaves in your yard, please come see me on Sunday morning! The first good Saturday to rake leaves over the next few weeks is Saturday, December 7th, so if you can wait that long, our group of kids would be more than happy to rake and bag up your yard for you. The Village of Chatham will be starting their second round of leaf collection on Monday, December 16th, so our work day on December 7th will be perfect.

We will be meeting here at the church at 10:00am that morning. I know this is a busy time for everyone, but please try to make this a priority in your schedule so we can serve those in our congregation who

YOUTH GROUPS

It has been a great Fall of 2019. Since the Family Fun Fair Kickoff on September 8th, youth activities have included the Feed My Starving Children trip to St. Louis, a costume party here at the church, our trip to Pumpkin Creek Farms, the recent Murder Mystery at Abby Manor, a worship night at GHS and our paintball trip last Saturday. With the holidays approaching, we are at a moment in time when the activities slow down a bit due to the busyness of the holiday season.

Even though there is a break in the action regarding the "big" stuff, the "little" stuff is just as, if not more, important than the big events. These are routine times we gather to hang out and learn from God's word. For example, on Sunday morning the High School students are going through the book titled "7 Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible." The chapter up for discussion on Sunday was in regards to Science and how much it actually backs the Genesis account of creation as opposed to disproving it.

There were awesome discussion points put forth by everyone in attendance on how the creation around us reveals God. One author writing in support of the Big Bang Theory notes how humans hit the jackpot in a "Cosmic Las Vegas." Attributing the universe to chance, a mathematical tool used in Las Vegas, this author supports eternal matter that exists and somehow formed the universe, but not an eternal God. It came about by chance.

Chance never created anything. There is no power behind chance. In an effort to deny God, it appears people have redefined chance to fit an evolutionary model. You could run chance probabilities all day long and it will never, ever create something out of nothing. There has to be a force or energy behind such a feat, and that of course is God our creator.