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Permit No. 9

When everyone was told to shelter at home due to the developing pandemic, and churches were told to close their doors, we obeyed. We cancelled our services for March 15th, as we had done previously due to weather emergencies. By the next Sunday, however, we were online, and we maintained a purely online presence for twelve weeks.

We wanted to maintain normalcy as much as possible, so the praise team came to the building and recorded praise songs, hymns were recorded from home, communion meditations were videoed, and I continued preaching through Mark's gospel, in coat and tie, to empty pews.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and technological wizardry of Chris Luzio. I can't thank him enough for all he did to make it possible for us to stay reasonably connected.

Then, at a specially called elders' meeting on June 4th, the decision was made to open our doors on June 14th, and begin offering in-house worship. We put in place procedures we thought would decrease the likelihood of exposure to the virus, and 74 showed up for worship. Chris was also able to provide a live-feed so those who felt they should remain at home could worship remotely with their brothers and sisters. We have averaged 70 in-house for twelve weeks, and nearly that online.

We are now excited to announce that we are transitioning back into a full program of worship, study, and fellowship. The youth group kick-off is scheduled for September 13th, and youth groups and adult study will begin, Lord willing, on the 20th. Children's worship, Sunday School classes, and a nursery will hopefully be available on October 4th.

A big shout-out must also go to Casey Blakely who is now fine tuning our new sound system. The system has been designed to assure that quality sound will be delivered throughout the auditorium, with no dead spots. If you are able to safely gather with your brothers and sisters, come hear it for yourself this Sunday at 9:15. I'll be looking for you.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 48

September 2, 2020

NUMBER 19

Build It



or



Bike It

Youth Group Kick-Off Sunday, September 13th (Details inside)

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

STATISTICS

Worship	8/16	74
Offering		\$2,848.61
Worship	8/23	62
Offering		\$4,076.16
Worship	8/30	70
Offering		\$7,929.16

THIS WILL BE OUR PRACTICE ON SUNDAY MORNING DURING SEPTEMBER

ONLY THE WORSHIP SERVICE
WILL BE OFFERED

CHILDREN ARE TO REMAIN WITH PARENTS
AT ALL TIMES

THERE WILL BE NO NURSERY

ALL ARE WELCOME
BUT NO ONE AT HIGH RISK
SHOULD COME

THE USE OF MASKS IS
ENCOURAGED

ALL DOORS WILL BE LEFT OPEN
FOR AIR CIRCULATION AND
ENTERING AND EXITING

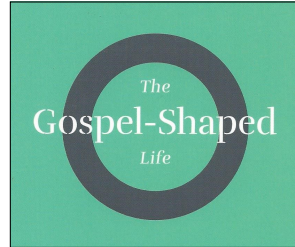
VISITING SHOULD BE LIMITED
TO THE PARKING LOT

THE SERVICE WILL BE
LIVE-STREAMED AT 9:15

THE RECORDED SERVICE WILL BE
AVAILABLE AFTER THE LIVE SERVICE

PARKING LOT RESURFACING

The elders decided to proceed with a major parking lot resurfacing and repair project. To resurface the entire lot would have been \$110,000, so the decision was made to resurface a significant portion of it, and recoat the rest. The \$66,000 cost will pretty much deplete our bank account, but if we all continue to be good stewards of God's blessings, we are confident He will provide for the needs of our ministry.



The Sunday evening study for adults this year will center around *The Gospel-Shaped Life* by Ian Hamilton, a Scottish preacher and professor. The book is primarily designed as a "go with me" book that can be used as a daily devotional, but its exploration of the multi-faceted character of the gospel will lead to meaningful discussions of how the gospel should shape every aspect and detail of our lives.

The study will begin on September 20th at 6:30.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night Bible study for adults will resume on September 16th at 6:30. We will be picking up our study of Hebrews that was interrupted by Covid, beginning in the middle of chapter 10.



Let Us Pray For...

—Jim Sexton who had three stents inserted after a heart attack last week.
—Bob McKnight having bladder surgery.
—Joyce Evans' sister Judy Philips in very poor health in nursing home and now with COVID-19.
—Carmen Karhliker's brother-in-law on a ventilator with COVID-19.
—Jack Ruebush in rehab at Lewis.
—Lee Zimmerman in rehab at Lewis.
—Nancy Montgomery in very poor health at home.
—Friends of the Manns who lost a loved one last week.



CONSTRUCTION IN HAITI

Construction of new staff and student bathrooms at Pillatre Christian Center in Haiti has begun. The new septic system and modern student bathrooms with flush toilets and sinks for hand washing will replace the 30-year-old outhouses the students are currently using. The total cost for the project is \$60,000, and the \$10,000 gift we were able to send in April enabled the project to begin.

We support Haitian Christian Ministries on a regular basis, and several families in our church send monthly support for individual children who attend the school.



Meeting together in a small group like Sunday School is beneficial for our growth in knowledge and behavior that honors our Lord. We are happy to announce that Sunday School classes will begin October 4th for all ages. Until COVID-19 is under control, we will adhere to the suggested safety guidelines, but don't let that small inconvenience stop you from sharing with our brothers and sisters during this time. We are stronger as we learn from one another in one united body serving the Lord.



I'm looking forward to our Youth Group Kick-Off on September 13th! Since announcement time last Sunday, we have made a few additions regarding the options available that evening beginning at 6:00pm.

For the younger ones through 5th grade, the primary activity will still be designing your drive-in movie car out of cardboard boxes for our show which starts at 7:30pm. Please be gathering some cardboard (the bigger the better) and think of potential design ideas for your car. We will provide a variety of material you can use during the construction of your car so you can try to win the "Best in Show" award. Each family will have a work area on the parking lot and if you finish early, there will be sidewalk chalk available to beautify your area and further impress the judges. Movie themed snacks will be provided throughout the evening, but you might want to grab a light dinner before arriving.

For the Junior High and High School students, you might want to choose "Bike It" instead of "Build It." If so, you will need to bring your bike with you and be prepared for a 7 mile roundtrip journey which should put you back to the church in time for the movie. We will be sure to save some popcorn and cotton candy for you! Along your journey, there will be four pieces of information to gather based on the clues or questions received before the bike ride begins. Teams or individuals that successfully bring back the correct information will receive a prize you will cherish for the rest of your lives.

We hope to start the movie at 7:30pm, and I am limiting our choices to short classic movies so we can get home at a reasonable hour for school the next day. The best thing about the Kick-Off is that youth groups will start meeting regularly the following week! Let's get ready for a great year!