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"In the summer of 1527, the plague swept through Europe once again. But this time, it fell upon a society deeply divided—"polarized," we would say—by the events of the Protestant Reformation. On top of all the old fears of death and social breakdown, perceptions of the disease were filtered through new layers of mistrust rooted in religious difference. Both sides gleefully seized on examples of cowardice and other missteps to paint their enemies in the worst possible light.

By August of that year, the first victims of the plague were dying in the city of Wittenberg, where Martin Luther and his colleagues were laboring. Just like many recent governments have done, the Elector John "the Steadfast" ordered a series of dramatic measures to combat the plague, including ordering the faculty of the University of Wittenberg to relocate to another city. Luther refused to leave.

By the time the plague died down in Wittenberg in the fall of that year, Luther was being criticized on both sides. Luther responded in an open letter titled, "**Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague.**"

(villageanglicanchurch.com)

The heart of Luther's response is as follows:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely, as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God. "

God Bless, Rick

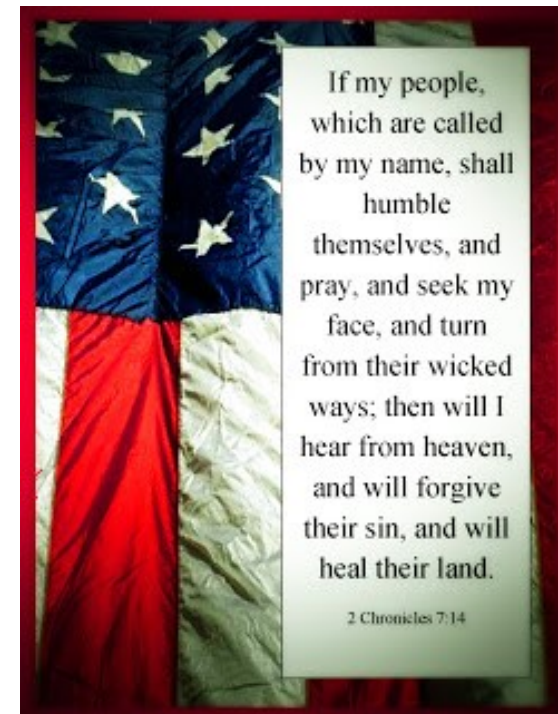


THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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Pray...and then Vote

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

STATISTICS

Worship	10/18	73
Offering		\$3,014.16
Worship	10/25	66
Offering		\$3,325.16



Dear Chatham Christian Church Family

No words can express the thanks in my heart for the church family's support during the final days of Jack's life on earth! All the trips to the hospital, cards sent, gifts to his memorial, plus all the prayers for both of us. He has exchanged his cross for a crown now!

We have counted our church family as a blessing over the years. Someone has been there to help when we were in need! Now as I finish my life here on earth, I'll need the church family's prayers and support to finish the race with my eyes on Jesus!

Isaiah 46:4

Bonnie L. Ruebush

Psalms 71:18



Chatham Christian Church,

Thank you for your faithful support! We continue to see God opening students' hearts to His Gospel and His mission. Things certainly look different but our Lord is unquestionably the same!

Thank you for modeling His faithfulness in your partnership with CSF. It's such a blessing and we are truly grateful.

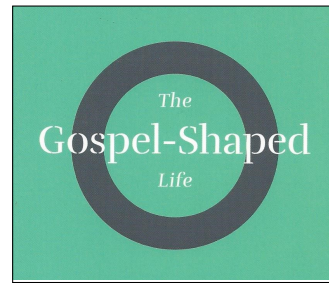
In Christ,

David Lasley, Director CSF



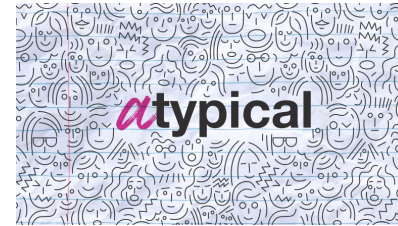
The Ball-Chatham Food Pantry's shelves have been pretty well emptied due to COVID and the fact that the annual Postal Workers Food Drive had to be cancelled. The most needed food items at the present are canned peas, corn, mixed vegetables, beans, and chili as well as canned pears and fruit cocktail. Mayo and other condiments are always needed.

Items can be brought to the church, and we will transport them to the pantry.



"From beginning to end the Christian life is a life of faith. 'We walk by faith, not by sight', Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. But what does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight? To walk by faith is to live our life on the basis of the faithful character of God and the absolute trustworthiness of his promises. This is what it means to live as a Christian, refusing to believe what your eyes tell you when what you see appears to oppose what God has promised, and challenges the essential goodness of his character."

We will be discussing the above quote and exploring what it means to "trust and obey" this Sunday at 6:30. All adults are invited to join us.



High School

Over the years, I have witnessed some amazing families raise their children here while worshipping with us at CCC. But let's face it, no family is perfect. No one really has a "normal" family, and that's okay. Sometimes, as witnessed often in the Bible, God uses not so "normal" families to make a huge difference in the world. Over the next 4 weeks, you will be looking at four imperfect, atypical families from Scripture. From these families we will see God often uses them to accomplish great things when they pray for each other, have tough conversations with each other and forgive each other.



Junior High Boys

We still had a few lessons to go through when we stopped meeting last Spring. With unanimous consent, we will revisit this book for the next few weeks on Sunday evening. These lessons are designed to encourage guys in their faith by discussing a variety of real life scenarios. I think we will start on Sunday with "Open Doors for Women and Girls....Always!" That is relevant for any age!

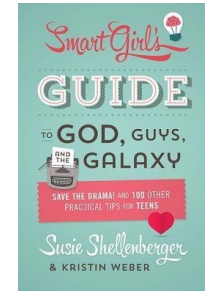


Fall Service Day

Beginning at 8:30am on Saturday, November 14th with cinnamon rolls and coffee, the camp is hosting a work day to finish some pre-winter projects. If you are free that morning, the camp would sure appreciate your help!



Thank you kids for working so hard on the Christmas musical! I hear you are really enjoying your time with Rhonda and the play she chose for this year. Please note that double practices will start on November 22nd leading up to the play which will be on Sunday, December 13th.



Junior High Girls

While I am meeting with the boys, you will be meeting with Tina to finish up a couple lessons in your book from last year. For those just coming into the class, these lessons contain practical wise advice so specifically geared toward the Junior High world you will think it was written just for you. Enjoy your time with Tina!