

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

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Last month I told you that Matt and I were going to attend the Touchstone conference, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. The subtitle of the conference was "Diabolical Fantasies & the Mystery of the Real", and it was indeed a fantastic conference that exposed the mystery behind the all too real challenges we face in the world today.

The schedule included nine thought provoking papers and presentations that examined occult, technology, philosophy, family, literature, law, politics, ethics, and culture. The first session made it clear that the rise in occultic practices that was witnessed in the 70s and 80s has not disappeared. It has simply gone mainline and is no longer noticed.

Next we were warned how technology has made possible a new totalitarianism that seeks to remove everything that doesn't fit the progressive world-view. We then learned how the proper use of hierarchical structures lift people up, while a push for egalitarianism leads to oppression by those in power. This was confirmed by the demise of families, and foreseen in literature that was written 100 years ago.

An interview with Jack Phillips, who was at least partially vindicated by the Supreme Court for refusing to make a cake for a same-sex marriage, was a testimony to the danger facing those who refuse to celebrate sinful behavior. And the heresy of identity politics was revealed as an attempt to rid ourselves of a debt of guilt, something only Christ can do.

Carl Trueman, the author of the excellent book we are studying on Sunday nights, demonstrated from history how evil is made to look good. And Rod Dreher, who has sounded an alarm for the need to prepare for future persecution, challenged us to find encouragement by constantly looking for God's activity in the world today.

It is true that wickedness is all around us, and we've got to be ready to deal with it. But it is also true that God is still on His throne, and if our security is found in the cross of Christ we will be secure for all eternity. And, by His grace, we still have much to be thankful for. Even now.

God Bless, Rick



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Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Sunday evening, November 20th

Program at 5:00 Dinner at 5:30

Before our potluck Molly Hootch Hymes will share stories of growing up in an Eskimo village, gathering food from land and sea. It was a harsh life, but she enjoyed it and was grateful for God's many blessings.

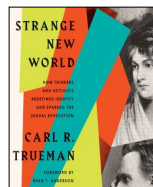


STATISTICS		
	10/9	
Worship		91
Offering		\$5,951.96
	10/16	
Worship		111
Offering		\$7,176.17
	19/23	
Worship		115
Offering		\$3,281.96
	10/30	
Worship		114
Offering		\$5,978.85

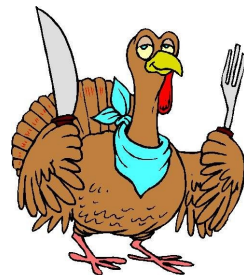
PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY?

The desire for a pictorial church directory has been often expressed, and we've recently been made aware of a program that might enable us to develop a directory that can be accessed online as well as in print.

If you'd be willing to consider taking this on as a ministry opportunity for our church family please let Rick know.



We are once again adjusting our Sunday evening study of *Strange New World*. We are now encouraging those who come to read the book at home, and come ready to discuss the study guide questions and Scripture references together. We will still be discussing the 3rd chapter this Sunday at 6:30.



Our Thanksgiving Potluck will be held on Sunday evening, November 20th, at 5:00. We'll begin with a hymn of thanks in the auditorium, and then Molly Hymes, who, along with her husband Alvin and son Daniel have recently become a part of our church family, will share stories of growing up with gratitude in an Eskimo village.

Those coming will be encouraged to indicate what they are planning to bring on a sign-up on the bulletin board to assure that we have plenty of turkey and all the fixings. Items for the dinner should be brought to the serving area ready to serve before the program begins. Help with clean-up will be appreciated, and everyone should plan on taking home their leftovers and uncleaned serving containers.



We recently received word that IDSE, a relief organization we support, was able to help more than 170,000 people in 43 countries during the first 6 months of 2022. They provided over a million and a half meals, distributed 6,063 bibles, and witnessed the baptism of 89 people after rebuilding efforts following a typhoon in the Philippines. They also sent gift catalogs for those who may wish to send special gifts to individuals or communities for Christmas, and they are available in Rick's office.



No rain, mid 60's if the weatherman is correct. That is his current prediction for this Saturday, November 5th, around 4:00pm. Perfect weather for a cook out!

I hope you all plan to come out to the Donaldson home for this all church event. If you are using your GPS, their address is 4029 Siliskie Road, Pawnee, IL. For those more comfortable with written directions, you will want to travel past Ball Elementary to the 4 way stop. Continue through the intersection and the first road on your left will be Vigal Road. Take that road and the Donaldson house is down about a mile on the right where Vigal and Siliskie meet. Park in the back if possible.

As a reminder, all the fixings for hot dogs, smores and drinks will be provided. All you have to do is bring a side dish to share along with a chair to pull up next to the fire. We will have some bags to throw and washers to toss, but if you have any other yard games, feel free to bring them. Looking forward to a fun, relaxing night with everyone!



It is hard to believe, but there are really only a handful of practices left before the Christmas play on the morning of Sunday, December 11th. So, starting next week, double practices will begin on Sunday nights. The start time remains the same, 5:15, but instead of going to youth groups at 6:30, you will stay with Rhonda for another hour of practice. As I walk by on Sunday evenings, everything is sounding great!



High School Students

What do you know about the 1920's? You might want to brush up on your knowledge of that era because that will be the theme for our dinner party on Saturday, November 12th. Next week, you will get a character to play for that night. Put a little costume together and come on out to the church at 6:00pm on the 12th to start our night together. This party will be the "bee's knees" for sure!

As the night unfolds, a crime will be committed. Your job will be to investigate and solve the mystery. Was it Hal Sapone the legendary crime boss or Zetta Zarbo a silent film actress? Was it Chuck Limberger an American pilot or Kara Low a nightclub singer? At the end of the night everyone will have an opportunity to guess the perpetrator before he/she is revealed.

Everything should wrap up here at the church somewhere in-between 9:00-9:30. We have plenty of characters so feel free to invite your friends. As always, please let me know if you have any questions!



Junior High/High School

Many of you have expressed interest in a trip back to Wildcatt Paintball Park this year. Let's tentatively reserve Saturday, December 3rd as the date to go run around the courses together. We usually leave in the morning and are back by mid afternoon. We can talk about the details in classes as we get closer to December.