

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
9897 So. Main St., P.O. Box 527
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Church Office 217-483-3987
www.chathamchristian.org

Rick Wenneborg, Minister
cell phone 217-836-4971
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister
cell phone 217-971-3075
hubermark2@gmail.com

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

What's the difference between sympathy and empathy, and which is better? I recently read an article that insisted that sympathy was better, but my research indicates that empathy is held in higher regard by most today.

Sympathy is a much older term, and comes from words that mean "together" and "suffer" or "feel". Empathy is more recent, coming from psychology, and is a combination of words for "in" and "feeling". Sympathy acknowledges someone's pain, and empathy identifies with it.

At first glance it would appear that empathy is better because it goes deeper, but going deeper has some drawbacks. It's possible to so identify with someone's pain that you get emotionally overwhelmed by it, and there's a tendency to refuse to even consider the cause of someone's pain for fear of being too judgmental.

I know it may sound strange, but pain is often a gift of God. Without pain we don't know anything is wrong, and if we don't know something is wrong we can't fix it. If there's no fixing what's causing the pain, the pain is obviously no longer a gift, and it does become a curse. But if there is a cure, the pain is truly a gift.

So what does that have to do with sympathy and empathy? Sympathy allows you to remain far enough removed from someone's pain to be able to look for a cause, and hopefully help them address it. Empathy refuses to judge, and in an attempt to totally embrace someone's pain you often end up embracing their sin, and that keeps them from seeking the cure.

The Apostle Paul tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. But in the same passage he tells us to not be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good. (Rom. 12:15-21)

Perhaps the best road for us to travel is the path of compassion. Compassion is an emotional response that causes us to take action to relieve someone's pain. Jesus was often moved by compassion, and it led Him to do whatever needed to be done.

May we care enough to do what needs to be done, even if it doesn't feel like we're being empathetic, or even sympathetic.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 51

March 1, 2023

NUMBER 3



Haitian Christian Ministries SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION!

The overwhelming feeling on our campus since the first week of January has been one of joy to back at school. As you know, the school year was originally supposed to begin in September of last year. Due to gang violence, roadblocks and fuel shortages in the capital and other cities, many schools have been delayed for four months. This includes our school on the Pillatre campus.

While schools were closed, it was very hard for parents to keep their children at home and feed them every day. The reopening of schools bring joy to both parents and kids. The joy of going back to school can be described: learning and playing together, seeing their friends, and receiving a meal. Parents and kids have said the best part of returning to school is seeing that our dreams have not been lost. One of our main areas of focus with HCM is to educate the next generation of Haitians. It has been difficult to not see all the kids coming each day to learn, socialize, and get a meal.

Please join us in praying for our principals, teachers, employees, and staff who are working so hard to lift up the next generation.

STATISTICS		
	2/5	
Worship		113
Offering		\$9,181.50
	2/12	
Worship		104
Offering		\$4,087.09
	2/19	
Worship		113
Offering		\$10,348.96
	2/26	
Worship		113
Offering		\$3,280.46



VOLLEYBALL!

Our Sunday night volleyball has gotten off to a great start. Teens and adults are playing together and having a great time. The LSCA gym will be our for volleyball through the month of March. Play begins after the evening activities at the church.

NEW FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORIES

New fellowship directories containing names, addresses, and phone numbers of those currently attending CCC are now available in the hall rack.



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead, or you'll be an hour late for church!



A NEW HOME FOR BIBLES

After finding an old Bible that was no longer being used, Caleb Luzio decided to find a new home for it. He discovered that Love Packages Missions restores used Bibles and sends them to those who need them. His invitation for us to join him in putting old Bibles to good use motivated us to replace our pew Bibles, and together with all that were brought to the church the Luzios were able to pack 127 Bibles in their van and deliver them to Love Packages in Butler, Illinois.



Those desiring to attend the UIS banquet are asked to make reservations by April 8th online at info@uiscsf.org.



All adults are invited to attend our study of Ecclesiastes on Sunday nights at 6:30.



High School Students CIY/MOVE

The dates for the summer MOVE conference are July 17th-22nd. The location of choice was Warrensburg, Missouri so that is where we are going! If this is going to work within your summer schedule and you want to attend, let me know as soon as possible so we can get registered. The cost for the week is \$364 per person if we are registered by May 1st.

This year, the conference is centered around Galatians 2:20 which reads: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

It is hard to give up control, we want to call all the shots, but surrendering is exactly what Jesus calls us to do. We will learn that true hope is found in submitting to the Lordship of Christ and surrendering to His will, not ours. It will be an awesome week and I hope everyone can attend!



High School

A few of you picked up your material to make our Chemo Comfies for patients receiving chemotherapy. If you would like to participate, there are plenty of blankets remaining to make. We are making them at home then we will find a date in the future to go out, have some fun and deliver our items with a note of encouragement to the patients.



Jr. High Girls

The date for the pageant has been set! Please reserve Friday, March 24th for your fun evening here at the church. As you are inviting friends, remember, this is not an external beauty pageant where a crown is awarded based on the world's definition of beauty. This is a time to have fun with friends, try on fancy gowns, do your hair in a new way and focus on the fact that you are beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.

Throughout the evening, you will be paired up with a High School girl who will be your personal assistant to boss around, get you water, etc. Not really, but they will be your constant companion to give you feedback on your gown, make up and talent to share. We will begin at 6:00pm and the pageant usually concludes around 10:30 or 11:00.



If you would like to help out with VBS this year, please let me know! There are multiple areas to fill with volunteers in order to best minister to the children who attend our program.

Our dates this year will be Monday, June 5th through Thursday, June 8th. VBS will run from 6:15pm to 8:30pm each evening. It looks like a fun theme and more information will be forthcoming as we get closer, but I wanted to start organizing volunteers sooner rather than later!