

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

Church Office 217-483-3987  
[www.chathamchristian.org](http://www.chathamchristian.org)

**Rick Wenneborg, Minister**  
cell phone 217-836-4971  
[Rick@chathamchristian.org](mailto:Rick@chathamchristian.org)

**Mark Huber, Youth Minister**  
cell phone 217-971-3075  
[hubermark2@gmail.com](mailto:hubermark2@gmail.com)

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

Years ago Marilyn was boxing up some old books for an auction when three of them caught her eye. The first was a 1935 edition of *Anne of Green Gables*, one of her favorite stories, and a place we had to visit on a motorcycle ride to Prince Edward Island. The second was an 1884 edition of *The Story of the Bible* with 300 illustrations. The third was an early 1800s edition of *Practical View*, published in 1797 by William Wilberforce, the Member of Parliament who fought for legislation against the British slave trade for 20 years.

Due to their fragile condition the books were seldom handled, and simply found a place of honor on our mantle. Until I got curious about them again, a few weeks ago.

The title page of *The Story of the Bible* actually reads *The Story of the Bible From Genesis to Revelation. Told in Simple Language Adapted to all Ages, But especially to the Young*. The author noted that his book was not the Bible, nor meant to take the Bible's place, but was intended to stimulate the reading and study of the Bible itself by young people. Something that certainly ought to be encouraged today.

The full title of Wilberforce's book is *A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians in the Middle and Higher Classes in this Country, Contrasted with Real Christianity*. It quickly became a best-seller, was translated into several languages, and countless editions have been printed over the past two centuries. I must admit that it's a difficult book to read, and have already been warned by astute family members not to offer it as a Sunday night study next year. But please do read the introduction and an excerpt from chapter one that can be found inside. His book was a scathing rebuke to Christians of 200 years ago who failed to put into practice what they professed to believe and what they read in the Bible. His rebuke is no doubt still needed today.

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 52

May 1, 2024

NUMBER 5



As a currently playing movie that we highly recommend powerfully presents, mothers are often unsung heroes. And as is our tradition, we will honor all mothers, physical and spiritual, in our 9:15 worship service on May 12th. There will be no evening program on Mother's Day so families can spend time together at home...or going to the theater to watch **UNSUNG HERO**.



STATISTICS			
	4/7		
Worship		120	
Offering		\$9,348.00	
	4/14		
Worship		126	
Offering		\$6,008.44	
	4/21		
Worship		109	
Offering		\$6,481.20	
	4/28		
Worship		119	
Offering		\$2,469.00	



All ladies are invited to a Bridal Shower for Kate Sperry on Saturday, May 4th, at 2:00 in the church fellowship hall.



The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, at 7:00 a.m. at the Chatham Baptist Church. All are invited to come join in prayer for our nation, state, and community.

Ministry Update

Since opening over 25 years ago, Beerlahai Roi has sheltered 346 homeless pregnant mothers who have chosen LIFE for their babies.

## A PRACTICAL VIEW

By William Wilberforce

The main object which the writer has in view is, not to convince the sceptic, or to answer the arguments of persons who avowedly oppose the fundamental doctrines of our religion; but to point out the scanty and erroneous system of the bulk of those who belong to the class of orthodox Christians, and to contrast their defective scheme with a representation of what the author apprehends to be real Christianity. Often has it filled him with deep concern to observe in this description of persons scarcely any distinct knowledge of the real nature and principles of the religion which they profess. The subject is of infinite importance; let it not be driven out of our minds by the bustle or dissipations of life. This resent scene, with all its cares and all its gayeties, will soon be rolled away, and "we must stand before the judgment-seat of Christ." This awful consideration will prompt the writer to express himself with greater freedom than he should otherwise be disposed to use. This consideration, he trusts, also will justify his frankness, and will secure him a serious and patient perusal.

Let it only be further premised, that if what shall be stated should to any appear needlessly austere and rigid, the writer must lay in his claim not to be condemned without a frail inquiry whether or not his statements accord with the language of the sacred writing. To that test he refers with confidence; and it must be conceded by those who admit the authority of Scripture, that from the decision of the word of God there can be no appeal.

There are some few facts, and perhaps some leading doctrines and principles, of which they cannot be wholly ignorant; but of the consequences, and relations, and practical uses of these, they have few ideas, or none at all.

Does this seem too strong? View their plan of life and their ordinary conduct; and not to speak at present of their general inattention to things of a religious nature, let us ask, wherein can we discern the points of discrimination between them and professed unbelievers? In an age wherein it is confessed and lamented that infidelity abounds, do we observe in them any remarkable care to instruct their children in the principles of the faith they profess, and to furnish them with arguments for the defense of it?



### Sunday Evening Finale Sunday, May 19th

We can thank the Junior High Class for the theme this year, which will basically be a big water gun fight. Some of them remembered when we did a "Fortnite" themed kickoff event years ago and they really had a good time. So, we are bringing it back!

Here is the plan so far.... Everyone is welcome to come eat dinner at the church at 5:30. We will be getting either pasta or pizza from Luca Pizza in Springfield. Then we will all head into the auditorium so some Fortnite Trivia and stylish dance moves when appropriate. Be prepared with your favorite Fortnite groove and you might win a prize!

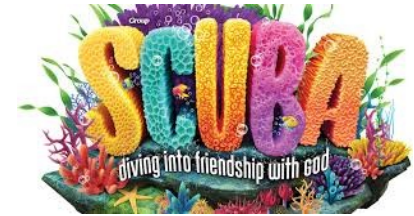
Afterwards, the battle will begin. All the kids (and probably Casey) will head outside for a Fortnite inspired epic water gun battle. Bring a dry shirt to this event because you will get wet, but you will have a lot of fun doing it!



### High School

So far we have 10 students signed up for the MOVE summer camp in July! That is fantastic! MOVE is a week filled with worship, Biblical teaching and fun activities. It has always been worthwhile and I am sure this year will be no different.

It is absolutely not too late to register. As a reminder, we will be leaving on Monday, July 15th and returning on Saturday, July 20th. If those dates work in your schedule and you would like more information, please don't hesitate to shoot me a text and I'll answer your questions right away.



### Kindergarten—5th Grade

VBS will be here soon! That means school will be out and summer activities will begin. I love this time of year!

As a reminder, our VBS will be for four nights starting on Monday, June 10th through Thursday, June 13th from 6:15-8:30 each evening. The primary registration will be done through the link on our webpage which is available now. Please be sure to guide your friends and others you invite to our site if possible. However, if anyone needs a paper copy of the registration form for any reason, I'll make sure there are a few available on the table in the auditorium every Sunday morning.

Thank you in advance to all who make this possible. If you would like to serve and have not talked to me yet, please feel free to do so anytime. You will be blessed and enjoy the week as much as the kids!



We all celebrated the baptism of Ren Brown this past Sunday morning! Please keep her in your prayers as she continues her close walk with the Lord.