

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

Many of us begin the year by starting an annual read through the Bible. There are many plans that can guide you through the Bible in a year, but the one I use is the Daily Reading Bible NASB. It's only available in digital format and can be purchased from Kindle through Amazon for \$5. The thing I especially like about this guide is that it has you reading an OT and NT passage each day, and if you look for it, you can find a connection between them.

I've recently discovered something else that can help you succeed on your journey though the Bible; illustrated overviews of the books of the Bible. They are produced by BibleProject, a nonprofit, crowdfunded organization that makes free resources like videos, podcasts, articles and classes that help people experience the Bible. It was formed ten years ago by a couple of former Bible college roommates. One of them had become a teaching pastor and college professor with a PhD in Semitic languages, and the other founded digital and marketing companies. They decided to combine their talents and love for the Bible to create the BibleProject.

While everything I've looked at that they've produced is excellent and biblical, I especially like their overviews. They outline the structure of each book and summarize what they contain. The easiest way to find them is to go to YouTube and simply type in Bible Project Overviews. They will look like the illustration I've printed below. If you want to see what they all look like, you can ask Caleb Luzio. He's made a book out of all of them! God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 54

January 1, 2025

NUMBER 1

LET'S NEVER QUIT PRAYING!

A Communion Meditation
by Jack Stucki

How late is too late? My Mom passed through the veil that separates us from our eternal destination on November 11th of this year. I was given the task of being the officiant at her funeral. I had been praying for over a year that the Holy Spirit would give me comfort and strength as I was almost sure that my Mom's final destination would not be heaven. Whenever I had visited my Mom I tried to get her to listen to the gospel message but she would always cut me off and say, "I'm not going to talk about that."

My Mom was in severe pain her last seven months from what her doctors referred to as the worst case of shingles that they had ever encountered. During that seven months, two of my sisters gave 24 hour care to our Mom. My 70 year old baby sister tried to continually talk to her about Jesus. She told me that during her last month of life our Mom started to listen instead of putting a stop to all such discussions. I was told that shortly before her death, Mom told my sister that she just wanted Him to call her home. My sister asked her "who do you mean when you say him?" and Mom responded "God".

My heart leapt with joy! Did Mom finally accept Jesus as her Lord and savior? I won't know till I get to heaven. Only God knows the heart of an individual. Something I have had to continually remind myself of. So, as we come to this time of communion let's celebrate our joy of knowing where we will spend eternity because someone took the time to share the Good News with us.

Whether it was at church or a media program or an individual, the source doesn't matter, only that the seed is planted. Pray for God to water and cause that seed of faith to grow to the point of redemption. Only through the sacrifice of our Lord, which is represented by these symbols of His broken body and spilt blood, can any of us have the assurance of our eternal destination.

Many of you heard my plea for prayer that Mom would open herself up to the Lord, and for that I truly, truly thank you. Let's never quit praying for others to respond to the Good News when they hear it, and remind ourselves that only God knows what is in an individuals' heart.

P.S. Jack's 74 year old sister was baptized three weeks after his mother's funeral.

STATISTICS			
	12/1		
Worship		120	
Offering		\$10,203.77	
	12/8		
Worship		140	
Offering		\$5,345.45	
	12/15		
Worship		116	
Offering		\$3,784.00	
	12/22		
Worship		114	
Offering		\$5,923.45	
	12/29		
Worship		108	
Offering		\$12,027.97	

ELDERS & PROJECTION FOR 2025 AFFIRMED

We are pleased to announce that Casey Blakley, Paul Hunley, Chris Luzio, and Jonathan Sperry were all affirmed to continue serving as elders of Chatham Christian Church in 2025.

The financial projection, anticipating the need for \$369,210 in 2025, and requiring an average weekly offering of \$7,100 was also affirmed.

We are grateful for the way God is blessing and using us, for the harmony that exists in our congregation, and for the confidence that has been shown in our leadership.

Paul's Christmas Poem

Paul Hunley's Christmas communion poem has been printed, and is available in the hall rack.



There are still Christmas greetings to be found in our mailbox. Be sure to check in the appropriate alphabetical slot to see if a greeting is awaiting you.



HELP YOURSELF TO OUR LIBRARY

Our library is full of books and videos that are just sitting there, and we want them to get on the move. We no longer keep a record of who borrows anything, so feel free to take anything you might want, and use it, keep it, or share it.

Dusty books and videos in a church library don't do anyone any good!



senior Lasagna Dinner

All seniors are invited to a Lasagna Dinner to be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 5:30. Lasagna will be provided, but sides and desserts will be welcomed.



We greatly appreciate the successful food drive held by the Chatham Christian Church. Our entire ministry to help those in need relies on great partners like you.

Ball Chatham Food Pantry
Board and Volunteers.



K-5 Students

It looks like it will be a fun group going to Sky Zone this Friday! If you haven't talked with me about going, there is still plenty of room in the church van for any child or adult who wants to come along. Just send me a quick text to let me know you are coming.

To review the details, we will be meeting here at the church on Friday at 1:00pm. The cost for 90 minutes of jumping is \$21.99 per person. Don't forget to bring Sky Zone socks if you have them, if not, you will need to purchase socks at Sky Zone. We should be returning to the church by 4:00 that afternoon. See you all soon!



High School Students

The High School Midwinter retreat has been growing in popularity over the past few years. It provides a time for students to reconnect with summertime camp friends, make new friends, worship together and strengthen their relationship with Christ. Also, the Great Klondike Race of 2025 is scheduled to occur. I haven't witnessed one yet, but it sounds like fun!

Check in is on January 17th at 5:30pm with check out being noon on January 19th. The cost is \$135 which covers everything for the entire weekend. If interested, you can register online at lscacamp.org.



There will be an informational meeting for anyone considering the potential mission trip this summer on Sunday, January 12th after the worship service. Our goal is to build a house for a needy family in Acuna, Mexico. As I have shared before, the absolute joy the Avilla family expressed in 2018 when we completed their house was unforgettable. It is a joy to serve others in the name of Christ.

We have narrowed down our travel time to the week of June 23rd. As you are considering this trip, remember the church will provide all the building materials for the project and the vans for transportation. Each participant would need to cover their airfare from St. Louis to San Antonio, a meal plan for the week (\$132), lodging (\$64), and travel insurance (\$15).

Please be in prayer for the trip in general and your personal involvement if God is tugging you in that direction. As always, may He be glorified in all we do as part of the body of Christ corporately and individually.



Junior High Students

WinterBlast is your midwinter retreat this year! It will be held over the weekend of January 31st-February 2nd. There will be plenty of fun mixed in with some awesome teaching throughout the whole weekend.

The cost is \$135 which if registered by January 15th, includes a free t-shirt. Just like the high school retreat, this is a great weekend to connect with camp friends and worship together. Registration is open at lscacamp.org.