

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



I really do not like moles. I know they eat grubs and aerate the lawn, but I still don't like them. In fact, I try to kill them. I've tried smoking them, poisoning them, and trapping them. The first one I got, I actually got with a spade after seeing the ground move. I had just watched *The Ghost and the Darkness*, a movie about man-eating lions. The hunter who killed them celebrated by making a necklace out of a lion's claw. I did likewise with my trophy. Like I said, I really do not like moles. But the dirt piles and raised dirt trails you see around the church grounds are not from giant moles. They are signs of repairs, and progress.

Our water line broke a couple of months ago, and after looking for leaks, I decided the increased water bill was just from our Wacky Wednesday Waterday. But the next month's bill proved me wrong. A plumber was called, and since we had repaired our water line a couple of times in the past, an entire new line was called for. It's all in, and everything is now good, except for the mole tracks.

The other tracks, leading to the gym being built, are from electric and gas lines. Those are tracks I really do like. The builder had to wait for the water line to go in first, but now that the gas and electric lines are in place, the concrete floor can be poured. And then the north wall can be covered with siding, and interior work can begin.

There is still a lot of work that has to be done before the gym is ready for use, but we've actually set a target date. If everything goes well, we may actually be able to have our Thanksgiving Dinner in our new facility. That will really be something exciting to be thankful for.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 54

October 1, 2025

NUMBER 10



K-5TH GRADE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
DETAILS INSIDE!

STATISTICS			
	9/7		
Worship		103	
Offering		\$13,004.24	
	9/14		
Worship		106	
Offering		\$3,578.00	
	9/21		
Worship		101	
Offering		\$4,398.48	
	9/28		
Worship		100	
Offering		\$4,769.74	

OUR ENEMIES

A Communion Meditation
by Chris Luzio

In Leviticus chapter 19, we find this command: "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." Jesus expands this during the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in the fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." Luke also records Jesus's words in chapter 6, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

The apostle Paul, writing to the persecuted Christians in Rome, wrote: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary,

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom 12:14-21)

Peter puts it more succinctly: "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing." (1 Peter 3:9)

Many would agree that we live in tumultuous times... divisive times. Debate and discussion gives way to vitriol and violence. It's "us" against "them" in everything and everywhere: red vs. blue, poor vs. rich, conservative vs. progressive, black vs. white, hate vs. love. In times of turmoil and tempers, Christians are called to ratchet down the tension...to extend a hand of blessing...to seek to understand those with whom we disagree...to pray for those who persecute us...to repay "evil" with "good."

Why? Because that's exactly what was done for us...it's exactly why we are even here this morning, gathered around this table. In that letter to the persecuted Roman Christians, Paul states in chapter 5, "while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." And he also wrote in Colossians 1, "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight."

Jesus loved his enemies...and he loved them (he loved us) all the way to the cross. Christ's example of sacrifice—of blessing those who persecuted him and loving his enemies—gives us life even though we were dead in our sins...it gives us hope even though we were hopelessly separated from God...and it calls us to emulate him and follow the way of the cross. As we partake in these reminders of Christ's body and blood, may we give thanks that through his body and blood we are no longer enemies of God, and may we pray for and resolve to love those who we see as our enemies... just like Jesus did. And, perhaps, by God's grace, our enemies won't be our enemies any more.



Kindergarten –5th Grade Sunday, October 5th

I always look forward to our annual trip to Pumpkin Creek Farms! This year, we will leave right after Sunday School and return around 3:30 that afternoon. The cost for admission is \$10.00 and please bring enough money to cover lunch either there or at McDonalds along the way.

One thing new this year is a giant slide. I haven't seen it yet, but it sure sounds fun! Also, do you think our group will be able to pull a tractor? They will have both small ones and big ones there to see if we can do it. And of course, I'll be happy to buy some mini donuts for everyone and maybe even bring some back for Levi because they are one of his personal favorites. See you on Sunday!



On October 18th, Jonathan and Amelia Sperry, the Luzio family, Mark and Tina Huber, Otto, Theo and Jonah Huber, Nathan Estell, and Tony Carrell will be heading to Gateway Christian Church in St. Louis to help pack food for children around the world who lack proper nourishment. We are grateful for those who will be going to serve others and there is still time for you to join with the group to represent our church. Please sign up Sunday if you would like to go on the trip!

Costume Contest Dress to Impress

Junior High School

Be thinking of a cool costume to wear on Saturday, October 25th! Our fall get together this year will be at Hunley Farms. We should be able to get a fire going unless the drought continues, so plan on roasting some hot dogs for dinner and smores for desert. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume, the winner of the pumpkin carving contest and other games/activities. There is plenty of space out there in the country so invite as many friends as you want! Let's plan to meet here at the church at 5:30 and I'll have you back to CCC by 9:30 that evening.



High School

Everyone is looking forward to another fun mystery dinner! The setting this year will be a Masquerade Ball. I have seen some masks around at different stores for Halloween, so you might want to pick one up now for our dinner. The date set for this activity is Saturday, November 7th. More details will follow as we get closer!