

**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**



In the shadow of the cross!

I know it's three strikes and you're out, but you're still in the game with four fouls. So let's just say we've had three fouls.

Our first foul was announcing we were going to dedicate our new gym at the Thanksgiving Dinner. That didn't happen due to unexpected delays and significant changes. The second was when we announced it would be on February 15th, the third was when we re-scheduled it for March 15th, and now we're planning to step up to the plate again, on April 12th. Yes, we've set another date, and we're even going to publicly announce it to the community.

After discovering a failure to put a needed vapor barrier under the concrete, grinding the surface, applying a moisture barrier on top of it, adding a thin layer of cement, and then installing the flooring and painting the lines, it's done. Our volleyball season is already behind us, but the door to the future enjoyment of our gym is just around the corner.

We're planning to invite the community to an open house to be held from 2-4 on Sunday afternoon, April 12th. We want everyone to have a chance to see what Jack and Bonnie made possible for church activities and sports-related evangelistic outreach. After our guests have left, we'll have an all-church pizza party, officially dedicate the gym, and together start enjoying an amazing gift.

The devil no doubt thought he had won when the Son of God was crucified, but three days later the empty tomb made it very evident that he had lost. Our prayer is that lots of young people, families, and individuals will find a church that loves and serves a living risen Savior when they come to play in our gym.

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 55

April 1, 2026

NUMBER 4



### EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:15

No other services or programs on Easter Sunday

STATISTICS		
	3/1	
Worship		106
Offering		\$5,918.24
	3/8	
Worship		99
Offering		\$4,311.00
	3/15	
Worship		105
Offering		\$14,451.48
	3/22	
Worship		92
Offering		\$8,494.24
	3/29	
Worship		105
Offering		\$6,700.01

## 832 STEPS TO THE CROSS

A communion meditation by Paul Hunley

123,722...the number of steps we took in 6 days at Disney World & Universal Studios theme parks. When we first started talking about a vacation, Levi said he wanted to go to Disney because he thought he got short-changed being the youngest in all of our earlier trips. No problem. We worked around Carter's Spring Break at ISU and started making plans. And when I say "we", I mean Nikki. We thought we would stay on grounds and have a grand old time. But then our daughters caught wind of where we were going and suddenly the price of our trip doubled. So to save money, we used our Marriott points and stayed just off grounds near Disney Springs, which just so happened to be about 1250 steps from the Ghirardelli Ice Cream Shop that makes premiere milkshakes. A few late night stops there may have helped boost our step count.

With all of those steps taken every day, I was reminded that my doctor has told me in the near future I will need two knee replacements. They were singing after about 1000 steps. In all seriousness though, as I was thinking about walking and pain, I thought about the Via Dolorosa (the path that Jesus walked to His crucifixion). A mere 832 steps. But no doubt excruciatingly painful steps. Mark 15:15-22 reads, "Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to Him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck Him on the head with a staff and spit on Him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him. A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull")."

It is probable that in those 832 steps Jesus fell, tasted His own blood running down His face from the crown of thorns, and suffered unthinkable pain from His wounds on His back and face. Then a few verses later in Mark we read why Jesus did what He did. "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how He died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" Jesus came to save. The Roman centurion recognized that he had witnessed the Son of God die. The veil being torn in the temple demonstrated how He bridged the gap between us, sinners, and God, the author and creator of life. So as we take these emblems, let's focus not on our own steps, but on the steps that Jesus walked for our sake.

## BRIDGING GENERATIONS HONOR FLIGHT

WWII ★ KOREA ★ VIETNAM

Wendell Hollinshead has been selected to take the Honor Flight out of Arizona in May. He and Linda were very involved in our church for years, and Linda would love for him to find cards and letters from CCC during mail call while on the flight. Notes to Wendell can be given to Marilyn or left in the church office before the end of April, and she will send them on to Linda.

Thank you, and thank you to all of our service members past and present.



### Pre-5th Grade

There will be a whole bunch of eggs hidden on our property for the kids to find this Saturday! They might be inside, they might be outside, they'll be everywhere! And if the kids look real hard, they might spot a golden egg with a special little gift inside. Consider bringing your kids to the church for this fun event beginning at 10:00am on April 4th.

After the Easter Egg Hunt, we can all gather in the fellowship hall for some treats as the kids look through their eggs. Please feel free to invite friends and extended family who might enjoy this activity with their children. If it rains this week and is too wet to go outside, there are plenty of places to hide eggs throughout our building. It is a great way to introduce them to our church right before Resurrection Sunday.



We are very close! Within a couple of days, we should be able to use the gym and play some pickleball. Unless something changes, we will plan on meeting here at 6:00pm on Thursday, April 16th. Those who want to learn can do so on some courts, while those who want to immediately start playing can do so on the other court. We have some paddles here for those who might need one. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to give me a call!



### VBS

Vacation Bible School will be upon us soon! Within a couple of weeks, it would be ideal to have all the volunteer roles assigned as we prepare for the kids! Speaking of kids, be in prayer for who you would like to invite to our VBS program this year.

The material we have chosen this year is called Mission Cup. Playing off the World Cup Soccer Tournament starting in June, it is designed to connect a kid's passion for sports to their walk with Jesus. In addition to fun, interactive songs and Bible lessons, kids will keep active moving through sports stations which include basketball, flag football and soccer.

If you would like to help out this year, please let me know! We will need some huddle coaches for small groups of kids all week long. Also, we will need some specific coaches for the breakout sports mentioned above. If you have any experience with basketball, flag football, or soccer, we could definitely use you! The dates set for our VBS this year are June 8th-11th. Each evening, we will start at 6:15 and end at 8:30. This looks like a fun, engaging format and I am looking forward to seeing how God uses it for His glory.



We are done! Thank you for donating over 140 pounds of sugar for LSCA drinks and treats this year. If other needs arise, I will be sure to let you know!