

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chatham, IL  
Permit No. 9

Printing out my sermon so you can read it while I preach it is a two-edged sword that cuts both ways. I really try to follow the preacher of Ecclesiastes' pattern of seeking to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly. When I do it successfully everyone has a copy of the words they can reference for further reflection. When it doesn't go exactly as planned, everyone has a copy of the words, that while being delightful to some, haven't been written correctly. Such was the case last Sunday morning.

While passing by the "young adult" class I was gleefully accosted by an unnamed assailant. He asked if I really meant what I said in my sermon about those in our society who reject what is obviously contrary to reason and nature. What he said didn't make sense to me. It was the opposite of what I had said. At least it was the opposite of what I had intended to say.

Other members of the attack squad quickly directed to me the center of my sermon where they had apparently already located the words in question. I had said that our Sunday night study is giving us an understanding of how we've come to the place in our society where things that are obviously contrary to reason—and nature itself—are rejected by so many.

Reading it over I discovered the obvious error. The point I was trying to make was that our society has *accepted* as true things that are contrary to reason and nature. A case in point is how we're being told that a person's sexual identity has nothing to do with the way he or she has been created. That our physical characteristics are irrelevant, and that all that really matters is the way we feel.

I had brought up what we are studying on Sunday nights because in our text for Sunday morning Paul admonished us to be kind to all, and show gentleness when correcting others. If we didn't know each other so well I could have been offended, and would have thought they had missed that point of the sermon.

Truth of the matter is that I loved it!  
God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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### A VERY TIMELY COMMUNION MEDITATION

By Kirk Polley

In July of 1986, a central Illinois farmer was sitting at home watching the national news. It is there that he saw a story on a South Carolina farmer named Tom Trantham. The news story showed where Trantham was plowing under his corn crop because of the extreme drought in the southeast. Because of the drought, there was no hay to feed the cattle in the area and now Trantham was forced to plow under his only way of making income for his family. He was days away from losing his dairy farm.

The next day after watching the news broadcast, the Illinois farmer contacted the local news station asking if they could provide Tom Trantham's contact information. The Illinois farmer had hay he could donate to the South Carolina farmer. Fortunately, the local news was able to fulfill this need and of course they jumped at the opportunity for a news story. And what a news story it became!

The original broadcast aired on a Monday night, the local news was contacted on Tuesday and by Friday Conoco Oil was driving semis onto the central Illinois farmer's property to load up hay. And before viral was a thing, this story went viral. The generosity of one central Illinois man sparked interest from other Illinois farmers to the point the Illinois Department of Ag set up a hotline for donors to call. Governor Thompson utilized the II Army and Air National Guards, as well as local prisoners, to load C141 planes at Capital Airport that President Reagan sent to help. Once the word got out, hundreds of farmers and businesses from states all over the country sent assistance in whatever way they could to the southeast. This was all because one central Illinois man said, "I can help."

It is because of the help that he received from 700 miles away, Tom Trantham was able to call the bank and cancel the auction that was set for his property. His farm and cows were saved and Trantham now owns a successful dairy farm where he bottles his own healthy milk. And when the central Illinois farmer was asked what kind of reward he would like for his donations to Trantham, this is what my grandpa said: "The only pay that I would like back from them, that if they ever see anybody that is down and out, let them go and do the same thing."

(Continued inside)

**STATISTICS**

Worship 114  
Offering \$5,253.64

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY-10/21/18**

Greeters ..... Gary & Lori Gredzieleski  
Visitors' Stand ..... Judy Marlow  
Communion Meditation ..... Chris Luzio  
Jack Stucki  
Ushers ..... Scott Bales  
Duane Carrell  
Chad Formea  
Otto Huber  
Jake Divjak  
Bob Williamson

**WORSHIP NURSERY**

Toddlers..... Marilyn Wenneborg  
Anna Hunley  
Infants..... Erica Blakley  
Jamella Reese  
Courtney Bales  
Sunday School  
Toddlers..... Rhonda Luzio  
Infants..... Julie Divjak  
Kristin Polley



- Jim & Nancy Montgomery continuing to face difficult health issues together.
- Beryl Reese with infection around his knee replacement that will require surgery.
- Paul Hunley's grandmother in failing health at 96.
- Rebecca Smith's family with health issues.
- Mike Donaldson's co-worker with cancer.
- Rhonda (Trott) Estill with aggressive breast cancer.
- Mark Fishel's dad recovering from heart surgery.
- Rhonda Luzio and the kids as they prepare for the Christmas musical.
- Comfort and recovery for those who have suffered loss in the Florida Panhandle.

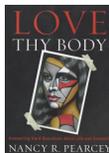
**TIMELY MEDITATION CONTINUED**

You see, my grandfather knew Jesus as his Lord and Savior. My grandpa decided he was going to let Jesus be the example of how he was going to live his life. He also studied, knew and memorized the word of God. He understood 1 John 3:17: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" My grandpa lived James 2: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." My grandpa preached Matthew 17:20: "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." And of course, my grandpa believed John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Because of his faith, my grandpa is now feasting at the table in the kingdom of God. And it is now that we get to commune with God around this table. As we do, let us pray for ways that we too can exemplify Jesus and help those around us – even complete strangers we see on the news.



The Ball-Chatham food pantry has requested that we help add to their shelves much needed chicken noodle soup, hot cereal, canned beans of all varieties, and tomato sauce.



We will begin with the "Bethlehem Bombshell" and hopefully finish chapter 1 in our Sunday night study of *Love Thy Body* this Sunday at 6:30.



**Jr. High & High School**

As the weather is getting cooler, it is time to begin thinking about our annual leaf raking project for those in our church family. If you are new to our youth group, we usually end up filling 40-50 bags before heading to Steak and Shake to replenish every calorie burned and then some. It is a fun afternoon for sure!

If you are in need of this service, please let me know and we will get you on the list. Tentatively, I am setting Saturday, November 17th for this service project. The village will pick up lawn bags through December 17th, so that date works nicely assuming our kids are available. Look for the final details over the next few weeks!



**Jr. High & High School**

Our new series of lessons on identity tied to the theme of The Greatest Show got off to a great start on Sunday. We learned that no matter what the world may say about us, the truth we can hold on to is that we are loved by God. That is our identity in Christ.

This week, we are going to explore even further who we are when Jesus is our Lord. Paul details some uplifting truths concerning this in Ephesians and Romans which we will be examining. See you next week!



**High School**

Don't forget to be researching and planning a 1920's costume for our get together on Saturday, October 27th at 7:00pm. We will have snacks available throughout the night, but nothing major for dinner so consider eating before you arrive. We will be shutting down around 10:30pm so we can get decent rest for church the next morning.

Also, as we discussed Sunday evening, please give us notification this Sunday or early next week if you will be coming and if you are inviting a friend. The activity we are planning is modified based on the exact number of people attending, so that would be greatly appreciate. Brush up on your knowledge of the 20's! This party will be "the bee's knees!"



We had a great afternoon at Pumpkin Creek Farms. If you want to feel your age, spend a couple hours with this high energy group! When I asked what our next activity should be, Caleb said he would build a rocket and we can explore another galaxy. I think we will keep it local and go to SkyZone sometime this Winter. Great idea though Caleb!