

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

Church Office 483-3987  
www.chathamchristian.org

Rick Werneborg, Minister  
cell phone 836-4971  
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister  
cell phone 971-0940  
hubermark2@gmail.com

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

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Chatham, IL  
Permit No. 9

The unnamed assailant struck again, only this time he suggested that I read a book. But no, he wasn't handing me something to counteract an error I had made or a position that needed to be confronted. He simply said I'd probably like the book he was offering. I told him I'd add it to the stack on my sofa, but couldn't promise when I'd get to it. But, for some reason, perhaps because I value his opinions, the book found it's way to the top of the stack.

The book is *Unbelievable?* by Justin Brierley. It's subtitled "Why, after ten years of talking with atheists, I'm still a Christian." The author is the host of a radio program of the same name in the United Kingdom.

The format of the program is simple; he invites an unbeliever and a believer to interact on the air. Sometimes the opposing views come from Christians, but most often they are between an atheist and a Christian. The show began in 2005 and included a call-in opportunity for listeners, but eventually became a recorded podcast that now has almost 2.5 million downloads a year.

Justin tries to keep his positions out of the broadcast conversations, but decided to put his convictions in print. The book is therefore an apologetic for the faith. And no, apologetics is not making apologies for the faith. The word comes from the Greek word for making a defense. It's fulfilling the admonition found in I Peter 3:15 to always be ready to make a defense for our faith and to give an account for the hope that is in us.

In some ways this book reminds me of *Letters from a Skeptic* that we studied together several years ago. That book related the conversations between a believing son and a skeptical father. This one relates some very interesting interchanges that took place on the air.

I found the book to be enlightening, and a joy to read. I've included a couple of excerpts from the book inside today's newsletter. I also have two unmarked copies in the office that you can borrow. Or, I'm sure you can borrow Jonathan's highlighted copy. Oops! God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

October 24, 2018

NUMBER 36



*High School Students*  
*1920's Costume Party*  
*This Saturday: 7:00-10:30*  
*Details Inside*

## STATISTICS

Worship 115  
Offering \$4,972.83

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-10/28/18

Greeters .....Rick & Janet Polley  
Visitors' Stand ..... Beryl & Jamella Reese  
Communion Meditation .....Chris Luzio  
Jack Stucki  
Ushers .....Scott Bales  
Duane Carrell  
Chad Formea  
Otto Huber  
Jake Divjak  
Bob Williamson

### WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers.....Janice McLaughlin  
Reagan Formea  
Infants.....Dixie Williamson  
Kristin Polley  
Kate Sperry  
Sunday School  
Toddlers.....Rhonda Luzio  
Infants.....Rebecca Smith  
Vicki Small

Prayers  
Please

--Lee Zimmerman in hospital for extended stay following complications discovered in surgery.  
--Carole Stucki released from hospital until surgery to take place next week.  
--Beryl Reese recovering from knee surgery.  
--Brad Reese with prostrate cancer.  
--Brad Teel recovering from heart attack and stent.  
--Chuck McLaughlin's mom recovering after heart procedure.  
--Rod and Carolyn Brown's daughter with heart condition.  
--Mark & Tina as they make arrangements for Judy to move in with them.

## UNBELIEVABLE?

"Atheism and Christianity tell two very different stories. One is a story of ultimate purposelessness—the 'blind, pitiless indifference' of Richard Dawkins' universe. The other is a story of ultimate meaning and hope—hope that there is a reason for existence, hope that our lives mean something, the hope that death is not the end. A hope that is expressed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and which every Christian is called to embody in the real business of following him.

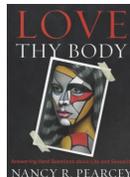
I have met many atheists in ten years of recording *Unbelievable?*. They are almost invariably intelligent and honest people. When I critique their worldview, I am not dismissing their own honest search for truth. But we do see things very differently.

I find it very hard to believe that the rational and ordered universe we live in came from nowhere and is heading nowhere. I find it impossible to conceive that our intrinsic beliefs about human value are an illusion. Nor can I convince myself that our search for purpose and meaning are ultimately in vain. To me, it makes far more sense to read God's fingerprints and purposes both in the universe he created and in our human experience and longings.

These are the reasons that I believe God is the best explanation of human existence, value and purpose."

"Having devoted my life to hosting hundreds of debates on the evidence, I've come to a rather shocking conclusion. Maybe God isn't interested in people simply believing in him. Instead, I think God is far more interested in people loving him and trusting him than merely believing in him."

Justin Brierley



This Sunday at 6:30 we will begin our reading of chapter 2, "The Joy of Death: You Must Be Prepared to Kill."



### 4th & 5th Grade Students

LSCA is hosting an event over the weekend of November 9-11 where you will have the opportunity to reconnect with campers you met this summer! The theme for the weekend will be Sailing the C's where you will experience what the Bible has to say about character, commitment, compassion and courage. Looks like a fun weekend to me!

The retreat begins at 6:30pm on Friday and will conclude Sunday evening. Parents are invited to participate in a dinner by the sea on Sunday at 6pm. After dinner, there will be a short time of worship and a recap of the retreat. The cost is \$105 which covers all the supplies, lodging and food for the weekend. More details and registration information can be found on the LSCA website.



If you would like to help out the camp in a very tangible way, LSCA has scheduled a fall work day for Saturday, November 3rd. These are very productive and helpful days to assist the staff in maintaining such a large piece of property. The day will begin at 8:30 with cinnamon rolls and coffee and will conclude with lunch for all who would like to eat before heading home for an afternoon nap!



### High School

Although I wanted to keep it a secret, the evening will just simply work better if I tell the kids what we will be doing Saturday night. So, in case you weren't here, one of your fellow characters for the evening will meet an untimely demise and it is your job to figure out who committed the crime. Yes, it is a Muuuurder Mystery to be solved by you this Saturday evening at the Huber house.

Was it Hal Sapone the legendary crime boss or Zetta Zarbo a silent film actress? Was it Chuck Limberger an American pilot or Kara Low a nightclub singer? You will be assigned one of these roles or something similar and play that character throughout the night as the mystery unfolds. We'll start the evening at 7pm and should be done by 10:30pm at the latest. Snacks and drinks will be provided. All you need to do is dress up in your 1920's attire and show up to have fun!



### Jr. High & High School

We are back to our normal FUSE schedule this Sunday evening where we will learn more about our identity in Jesus. It has been fun to tie these lessons into a movie we have all seen and enjoyed!

In our first lesson, we were reaffirmed that we are loved by God. That is our identity! Loved by the King! This week, we will apply another part of our identity to our life, that is that we are forgiven. See you on Sunday!