

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

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Chatham, IL  
Permit No. 9

We are so blessed by those who bring our communion meditation each week. In fact, I'm almost too blessed. They are obviously all worthy of printing in the newsletter, but I can't print them all.

Three weeks ago Kirk pulled at our heart strings as he shared how his grandfather had responded to strangers in need. The following Sunday Chris shared with us a thought provoking question he had faced at his sister-in-law's wedding the day before. Last Sunday Jack made us think about our faith on a scale of 1 to 2.

After printing Kirk's I asked Chris and Jack to give me copies of theirs, and then I had to decide how to squeeze them in. I ended up condensing Jack's for the front, and am now sharing excerpts from Chris's for my article. As I said, we are so blessed.

"At about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, I found myself in an awkward, but not entirely uncommon situation—talking with a stranger outside of a restroom—having what could have been the most important conversation of this particular man's life. This man looked at me and asked, 'Well...is it worth it?'

Perhaps it was after seeing me participate in the tag-team event that is wrangling two children during the hours of running around, waiting around, standing around, and sitting around that is the joy of participating in someone else's special day. Perhaps it was this that led to an existential crisis about raising a family in today's world...and to seek wisdom from me, a total stranger.

Or perhaps it was after seeing me saddled with my wife's and my mother-in-law's bags, waiting outside of a restroom, that led this man to consider the people in his life that he loves and what sacrifices he could make in order to serve them and others...to seek wisdom from me, a total stranger.

Or perhaps, through some Spirit-given insight, this man, who may have not been a Christian, was seeking guidance from a man who was a Christian on whether or not a relationship with Christ was worth it...and this led him to seek wisdom from me, a total stranger."

Chris responded with "Yes...yes it is", and then assured us that that's how Christ would respond if asked the same question about us.

Copies of both meditations in their entirety are in the hall rack. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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### FAITH

by Jack Stucki

On a scale of 1 to 2 how is your Faith? Let's say 1 represents the sincere but untested faith of a lot of Christians and 2 represents those that have experienced tragedy with their faith intact.

I'm going to share some things from the book of Habakkuk as an example of someone who felt their prayers went unanswered and seeks to understand God's supposed lack of action in a time of struggle. Habakkuk sees the violence and injustice that abounds in Jerusalem, home of God's chosen people, and wonders why God has not answered his prayers for help. He wants God to step in and protect the oppressed. How many of us pray for the same thing when we see what direction our country and society are heading? God then answers Habakkuk and assures him that He has already put a plan in motion to correct the injustices. God has raised up the Chaldeans, also known as the Babylonians, to "correct" the behavior of His chosen people. Habakkuk can't believe what he is hearing. He complains to God that surely He won't use such a savage hoard as the Chaldeans as an answer to prayer even though the Jewish nation has fallen into paganism themselves. This is not the answer to his prayers that Habakkuk wanted.

How many times have we seen situations NOT being handled the way we thought God SHOULD handle them? I'm not saying God will send an invading army as an answer to our prayers, but we must be ready for an answer we aren't expecting or want. We can be sure that God will not let evil persist forever. This is a promise we cling to today.

Habakkuk now turns from complaining to God about unanswered prayers and answers to prayer he didn't like to composing a song or Psalm, if you will. The song speaks of God's provision for His people throughout history. In times of struggle we need to REMIND ourselves of how God has provided for us.

Habakkuk ends his song with these words of faith: "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation." Habakkuk reached 2 on the faith scale in the midst of great strife.

I imagine all us hope that since God hears our prayers that He will act in some way to improve our condition. Many have found out that that's not always the case and during those times we have to trust God to help us through tragedy instead of victory. If we have FAITH in Jesus Christ, and His promises, we will receive the ultimate victory. He will be with us through good times and tragedy with the assurance that God is in control and we will be with Him for eternity.

## STATISTICS

Worship 129  
Offering \$3,983.15

### SERVING THIS SUNDAY-11/4/18

Greeters	Beryl & Jamella Resse
Visitors' Stand	Bonnie Ruebush
Communion Meditation	Rick Polley Jack Stucki
Ushers	Jeff Edmiston Rich Mann Jim Trimberger Kent Ballard Kirk Polley Gary Gredzieleski
<b>WORSHIP NURSERY</b>	
Toddlers	Rhonda Luzio Jake Divjak
Infants	Karen Mann Rebecca Smith Grace Hunley
Sunday School	
Toddlers	Julie Divjak
Infants	Jonathan & Jeni Sperry



--Lee Zimmerman having very difficult recovery after extensive surgery.  
--Carole Stucki recovering at home after gall bladder surgery.  
--Beryl Reese recovering and having therapy at the Bridge after knee surgery.  
--Shannon Higgins' mom having hip surgery this week.  
--Paul Hunley's grandmother expected to pass into the arms of her heavenly Father very soon.  
--Brett Sanner in need of selling his home in Quincy.



Don't forget to set your clock back Saturday evening!



### Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner Sunday, November 18th, 5:00

#### NOVEMBER SERVERS

11/11: Rick Polley, Jack Stucki  
11/18 & 11/25: Chris Luzio, Jack Stucki

#### NOVEMBER PROJECTIONIST

Erica Blakley

#### NOVEMBER GREETERS

11/11 Rhonda Luzio  
11/18 Will & Sara Bartels  
11/25 Brad Stirmell

#### NOVEMBER VISITORS' STAND

11/11 Bob & Dixie Williamson  
11/18 Gary & Lori Gredzieleski  
11/25 Judy Marlow

#### NOVEMBER NURSERY

##### Worship - 11/11

Toddlers: Janet Polley  
Vicki Small  
Infants: Marilyn Wenneborg  
Renee & Madison Bales  
Sunday School  
Infants: Dixie Williamson  
Kileen Huber

##### Worship - 11/18

Toddlers: Nikki & Anna Hunley  
Infants: Dixie Williamson  
Stacey Cantrell  
Emily Hughes  
Sunday School  
Infants: Karen Mann  
Kristin Polley

##### Worship - 11/25

Toddlers: Kelly Donaldson  
Abbie Divjak  
Infants: Jeni Sperry  
Nicole Moore  
Kate Sperry  
Sunday School  
Infants: Rhonda Luzio  
Vicki Small



#### Jr High and High School

Get ready for some fun paintball action on Saturday, November 10th! The extended weather forecast for that day calls for a high of 55 degrees. That is perfect paintball weather! A couple of layers of clothing to lessen the sting and we should be good to go!

Due to some morning commitments, we will be leaving the church at 1:30 to start our two hour session at 3:00. Please bring a little extra money for our traditional stop at Dairy Queen on the way home to eat and reminisce about the fantastic Huber moves. We will be returning around 7:00 that evening.

If we have at least a group of 10, which shouldn't be a problem, the cost will be \$25 per person. Feel free to invite a friend and parents are also welcome to play. A sign up sheet is posted so be sure to sign up on Sunday!



#### FUSE

Do you ever feel like you are putting on a show? Like the person people think you are doesn't line up with who you really are? So far we have learned that who we are is loved and forgiven by God. This week, while talking about our identity in Christ, we will examine our purpose. And, we'll sing our hearts out to one of the most popular songs from this movie!



I don't like to watch too many of the rehearsals because I love to see the Christmas musical for the first time when it is presented on Sunday morning. But, when I peak my head into the rehearsal room, it looks like the play is progressing nicely and everyone is having fun. Good job kids!

Please mark down in your calendars that double practices will begin the evening of Sunday, November 11th. The kids will meet at 5:30 and continue practicing through youth group time to conclude at 7:30. As always, make sure your child has a snack so they are wired for Rhonda during the second hour of practice!

### Christian Family Skate Night



If you are looking to take a break from work or school, consider taking the family to the Powerlight Christian Skate Night this Monday, November 5th, at 6:00. Admission is free although there will be a charge for skate rental if needed. They will be doing all the traditional games and more with the evening wrapping up at 8:30. Please see me on Sunday to get your free pass!