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The Hidden Word from James 1:5, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him", is a promise that we relied upon when trying to discern how to respond to the coronavirus situation.

When it was announced that indoor gatherings were to be limited to 250, and there were no reported cases of COVID-19 in Sangamon County, the elders decided that we could plan on meeting together as usual on Sunday. But when it was announced on Saturday evening that there were now two confirmed cases in the Springfield area, the elders agreed that we should cancel all services and activities for the next day, as we would do in the event of a major snow storm. The prospect of canceling services for several weeks, however, meant that we should meet together and discuss alternatives. And, since none of us had any plans for 9:15, we decided to meet then.

Casey opened our meeting by sharing something he had shared with his family earlier in the morning; Psalm 34. We then prayed briefly, and began looking at ways to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our church family. Shepherding responsibilities were divided to make certain the needs of our most vulnerable members are met, and then we focused on how to encourage worship outside of our building.

After exploring several alternatives, we decided the best approach would be to make available a time of praise, a message from God's Word, and a communion meditation that could be used to facilitate worship in homes. We will record such during the week, and make it available through our website, chathamchristian.org. We will also burn DVDs for those who don't have access to an iPhone, iPad, or computer.

No services or activities will be offered at the church building for the next two weeks. The elders will reevaluate the situation on the 29th, and hopefully we'll be able to meet together by Easter, if not before.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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PSALM 34:1-9

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;
The humble shall hear it and rejoice.
O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor man cried and the Lord heard him,
And saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those
who fear Him,
And He rescues them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
O fear the Lord, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him, there is no want.

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

Worship at Home

(For the next two Sundays)

Due to the coronavirus we must forgo the admonition in Hebrews 10:25, and forsake the gathering of ourselves together for at least two weeks.

To assist you in having a time of worship in your home, we have recorded a praise time, a meditation, and a sermon that you can access at chathamchristian.org. The video can be played on an iPhone, an iPad, or a computer. DVDs are also being prepared, and those who desire one are asked to call Rick, and he will see to it that one is delivered to your home.

The website also includes a manuscript of the of the sermon for those who are accustomed to reading along. To be able to do so you will need to print it before watching the video, or simply open two devices.



Elders in Prayer

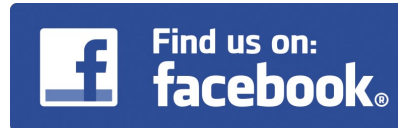
We concluded our Sunday morning elders' meeting with a reading of Psalm 34 and prayer. You are invited to share in the reading and prayers by going to chathamchristian.org and touching the [CLICK HERE](#) on the front page, and then clicking to view the service for 3-15-2020.

The Lord's Supper

Don't hesitate to partake of the Lord's Supper on your own. And if you don't have grape juice or unleavened bread at home, feel free to substitute anything that reminds you of the flesh and blood of our Lord. The important element in the Lord's Supper is remembering what He did for you on the cross.

Offerings?

We have sufficient in savings to cover our mission commitments and expenses for the immediate future, but would invite any who desire to mail in their tithes to do so. Or you could simply do as Paul instructed the Corinthians, and "on the first day of every week let each of you put aside and save, as he may prosper", and bring your offerings when we are able to meet together again.



We have a church Facebook page, and you are encouraged to join it. Simply search Facebook for Chatham Christian Church, and select the "private" group. Then ask to join, and administrators will approve. It will enable us to easily keep in touch during these uncertain times.

The Hidden Word

II PETER 1:20-21

"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."



We could find lots of "no soccer" images on the internet, but none for volleyball. Not sure what that says about sports prejudice in our country, but in spite of the lack of an appropriate image, we must announce that we have cancelled the remainder of our Sunday night volleyball games at the LSCA gym.

Lord willing, and the virus don't rise, we'll meet again on the volleyball court next year.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers during my dad's sudden illness through his passing. Thank you, wonderful prayer warriors, for continuing to keep my mother and I in your prayers as we go through this painful adjustment. Thank you for the cards, calls/texts/emails and being at the visitation and funeral. Thank you also for the beautiful red rose and carnation floral arrangement. It was really pretty!

Thank you for everything.

Nancy Martin & Jean Tolliver
(family of Ralph L. Tolliver)



The Christian Student Fellowship Annual Fundraising Banquet to be held on Saturday, March 28th has been postponed until late May/early June. When more information is available, we will pass it along for those wanting to support this important ministry.



COVID-19 is affecting us all in one way or another. It sure is hard to plan when a unforeseen situation like this occurs and we all have to be flexible. As we are praying for each other during this time, please remember to pray for the missionaries we support here in the United States and abroad.

Each one will face challenges to be sure, however I am aware of current challenges at Casas por Cristo and would like to encourage specific prayer for them. As of yesterday, 33 groups have canceled their short term mission trip. What percentage this represents of their total Spring/Summer volume, I do not know. But that is a large number of cancellations and presents a series of challenges for an organization like Casas.

As deposits come in for the projects, Casas will buy a large portion of the building materials up front and place them in storage until the week of the build. This guarantees the necessary supplies needed for a successful build. However, with the cancellations, they find themselves having an overabundance of material and expenses that although once were covered, now are not.

Please keep Andrew and Casas in your prayers. I don't know how COVID-19 will effect our trip in June, but we continue to monitor the situation and be smart about our decision.



The work day for Saturday, March 29th has been cancelled. However, the service day scheduled for April 19th is still on at this time.