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The Apostle Paul told us that our citizenship is in heaven, and we readily acknowledge such. But what about patriotism? Wilfred McClay offers some insight into the place of patriotism in *Land of Hope*.

"There is a strong tendency in modern American society to treat patriotism as a dangerous sentiment, a passion to be guarded against. But this is a serious misconception. To begin with, we should acknowledge that there is something natural about patriotism, as an expression of love for what is one's own, gratitude for what one has been given, and reverence for the sources of one's being. These responses are instinctive; they're grounded in our natures and the basic facts of our birth. Yet their power is no less for that, and they are denied only at great cost.

"There is (however) a vital tension in the makeup of American patriotism, a tension between its universalizing ideals and its particularizing sentiments, with their emphasis upon memory, history, tradition, culture, and the land. The genius of American patriotism permits both to coexist, and even to be harmonized to a considerable extent, therefore making them both available to be drawn upon in the rich, but mixed, phenomenon of American patriotism. It would be a mistake to insist on one while excluding the other. They both are always in conversation with one another, and they need to be. And that conversation, to be a real and honest one, must include the good, the bad, and the ugly, the way we have failed and fallen short, not merely what is pleasing to our national self-esteem. But by the same token, the great story, the thread that we share, should not be lost in a blizzard of details or a hailstorm of rebukes. This is, and remains, a land of hope, a land to which much of the rest of the world longs to come."

As we fulfill our duty and privilege as Americans to vote into office those we deem able to best lead us, let's not be afraid to acknowledge our flaws, nor the desire for America to be what God has enabled her to be for over 200 years. God Bless, Rick

PS. Last Sunday Caleb Luzio requested that we sing *The Star Spangled Banner*. Since I was leading, I was keeping my eyes in the hymnal, so much so that when I looked up after the song was finished, only then did I notice that everyone was standing with their hand over their heart. Obviously patriotism is not a problem at CCC.



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 48

October 14, 2020

NUMBER 22



FALL FAMILY OUTING!!

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE THIS SUNDAY AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADMISSION: \$5.00 PER PERSON

DONUTS AND OTHER ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LUNCH!

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

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www.chathamchristian.org

Rick Wenneborg, Minister
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Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister
cell phone 971-3075
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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School
9:15 AM
10:45 AM

STATISTICS

Worship	10/4	84
Offering		\$6,514.16
Worship	10/11	72
Offering		\$3,634.16

Let Us Pray For...

—Lee Zimmerman at Sunrise Nursing Home, 333 S. Wrightsman St, Virden, IL 62690.



Thanks to everyone for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls. To Dixie for bringing me things I needed, Traci for the snack bag, Ann for the flowers, and for lunch with my lunch buddies.

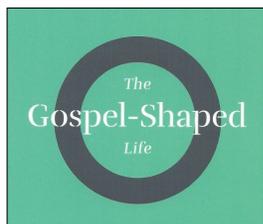
Will be seeing everyone soon.

Judy

Chatham Christian Church,

We just wanted to thank you for your ongoing partnership in sharing the Gospel with hurting families and at-risk youth. Christ is truly working in these challenging times and we are honored to partner with you in holding out the hope and love of Jesus! Thought you might enjoy some photos of your generosity in action!

Chris and the Ranch Crew
(Pictures on bulletin board.)



All adults are invited to join us for discussions about *The Gospel-Shaped Life* on Sunday nights at 6:30.

THE UNSEEN WORLD

A communion meditation by Chris Luzio

One of the things I enjoy most as a chemistry teacher is that I get to engage with students in conversations about a world that is entirely invisible to them. The unseen world of atoms, ions, and molecules is submicroscopic, and it may seem insignificant, but in every way imaginable it has a real impact on the physical world that we experience every day.

In my classes, we discuss what goes on in that invisible world to explain everything from the Aurora Borealis to the insolubility of oil in water to the conductivity of metals. The submicroscopic world helps us understand and explain why iron rusts, why the sky is blue, why soda goes flat, and why the WiFi, which was working fine for a week, always seems to go out just when you need it most. (Actually, that last one is still as of yet unexplained by all of science.)

Now it may seem like a near impossible task to get young people, or anyone for that matter, to understand this unseen world. After all, "how do we know it is there, if we can't even see it?" But in the study of this submicroscopic world, we have at our disposal a secret weapon: models. These models could be anything from a chemical symbol or formula, like using a C to represent an atom of carbon or an H₂O for a water molecule, to a diagram of the arrangement of ions in table salt, or a three-dimensional "tinker toy"-style construction of a sugar molecule. The most common model that I use to discuss chemistry in my classroom ends up with me just waving my hands about as I flail around trying to illustrate the differences between various states of matter or the mechanisms for a particular chemical reaction. The models are useful because they help us to understand this unseen world.

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we consume these elements as a means of participating in, a means of visualizing and understanding something that is not visible to us. We do not see the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us; we do not see the blood of Jesus cleansing us from within; we do not see the resurrection that awaits us.

(Continued next column)

The Unseen World Continued

I will not discount the mystery in this, but I am thankful for the models given to us to help us understand it: the model of the testimony of eyewitnesses, recorded and passed down through generations, and the model of these two simple yet profound items: the cup and the bread. In the cup, we have a model of the blood of the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. In the bread, we have a model of the body of Jesus that was sacrificed because our sin has a price. Like I said, I am thankful for this.

I am thankful because, ultimately, my hope is found not in that which I can see, but in that which I cannot. As we share in the Lord's Supper this morning, may we remember our Savior's death which gives us life. May we remember that our eternal hope rests in the love of a God we have not seen, in a Savior we did not ourselves see, and in a resurrection we have not yet seen. And may our thankfulness for that be plain to see.



Jr. & Sr. High School

On Sunday evenings, both youth groups wrapped up their current series of lessons. The Junior High group discussed how Jesus is God, Savior, Truth and our Friend. At the High School level, they've been discussing the theme of having questions, the fact that God doesn't shame them for questioning and going deeper into aspects of our faith and that God has put people around them to help with this process.

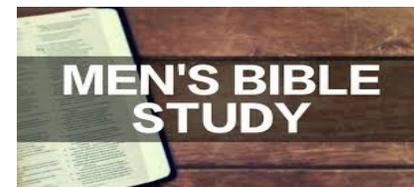
Now, for two short weeks, both groups will have a couple lessons on their value in God's eyes. We will continue to meet separately, but the lessons focusing on Jesus' final days on earth, His death, burial and resurrection will be the same for both groups. By examining these final days, we will all see how valuable we are to our loving Heavenly Father.



Jr. & Sr. High School

Don't forget to be thinking of a costume for our party on Friday, October 23rd! We will be meeting here at CCC from 6pm-9pm that evening to eat lots of food and play lots of games.

First, we will enjoy some hot, fresh pizza to provide fuel for the games to come. Games will include some traditional Fall classics but also we'll include a few you probably have never played. A pumpkin carving contest will follow with some awesome prizes going to the winners. There are some pumpkins available here at the church, but if none look like the winning pumpkin to you, feel free to bring your own. Also, invite as many friends as you want to come enjoy the evening with us!



All men are invited to begin a study in the Book of Acts in a couple of weeks here at the church. Last year, we met on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Unless some conflicts arise, we will plan to do the same beginning on Thursday, October 29th at 7:00pm.

If you are interested in attending this year, please let me know Sunday or send me a text as soon as possible so I can order our study books next week. Through our discussions together, I am looking forward to deepening our understanding of themes found within Acts including the Holy Spirit, baptism and the activities of the early church.