

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

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The title seemed a little weird: *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*, but the first sentence really drew me in. "The origins of this book lie in my curiosity about how and why a particular statement has come to be regarded as coherent and meaningful: 'I am a woman trapped in a man's body.'" By the time I had read the first two chapters I knew I had to order a copy for myself, and one for Matt.

Kevin Lasley had loaned me a copy of *Is Atheism Dead?* by Eric Metaxas, which is an excellent book that makes it clear that in light of scientific and archaeological discoveries only someone who is intellectually dishonest can still be an atheist, and I thought he had also loaned me this one. But while telling Matt how excited I was about the books I was giving him for Christmas, he told me he had loaned the second one to me...at Thanksgiving no less! So, in light of my less than pristine memory, I better tell you about this second book before I move on to a third.

The author is Carl Trueman, a highly regarded professor and church historian. He notes, "At the heart of this book lies a basic conviction: the so-called sexual revolution of the last sixty years, culminating in its latest triumph—the normalization of transgenderism—cannot be properly understood until it is set within the context of a much broader transformation in how society understands the nature of human selfhood."

Then, after sharing how 20th century philosophers have noted the reimagining of the self (who we are and why we are here) and our culture, based on an atheistic foundation laid in the 18th and 19th centuries by Rousseau, Marx, Darwin, and Freud, and brought into the mainstream by influential poets, he offers advice on how the church should respond to the challenges we face today. In short, we must maintain a commitment to biblical sexual morality, and be a part of a community that believes and practices it.

If you want to know more, I'll loan you a marked-up copy. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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NUMBER 1

### PAUL'S CHRISTMAS POEM

Our Christmas traditions begin by setting up our outdoor lights.  
Anna on the sidewalk and Carter on the heights.  
I stretch out the cords and Levi wraps the bushes.  
Hopefully it is not cold out, so we don't freeze off our tushes.

Ornaments on the tree that we no longer go out to chop.  
We've gone artificial and Dad always sticks old nasty Rudolph on top.  
Off to Krekels for burgers and shakes.  
We are all in our jammies, for goodness sakes.

Making a visit to the Bales to see the master's work.  
Driving past more houses is another perk.  
Baking desserts and cookies galore.  
Then the kids build gingerbread houses while I start to snore.

Christmas Eve starts with supper at my mom and dad's.  
My Aunt Judy brings the best fudge you've ever had.  
Then to the candlelight service to watch everyone perform.  
Kids are getting restless anticipating Christmas morn.

Off to the in-laws for hors d'oeuvres that we love to eat.  
Marilyn slaves over the stove while we all kick up our feet.  
Back to our house for a good night's sleep.  
The kids want to get up at 6, which makes Nikki and I weep.

At the top of the stairs the kids' joy abounds.  
And then I yell out, "Release the hounds!"  
As we sit with our presents all passed out and ready to go,  
We pause for a minute before we start the show.

We open the Bible for a story needs to be told.  
About Mary and Joseph, and a boy who would break the mold.  
Luke said he was born in a stable because the inn was full.  
From this moment on nothing in his life would be dull.

The shepherds in the field hear angels as they sing.  
Then Magi bring gifts to give to the king.  
That's all of the story we read on this day.  
The kids open their presents and begin to play.

(Poem continued inside)

STATISTICS		
	12/19	
Worship		110
Offering		\$9,205.32
	12/26	
Worship		90
Offering		\$2,346.00
	1/2	
Worship		63
Offering		\$3,752.32

### ELDERS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTION AFFIRMED

Casey Blakley, Paul Hunley, Chris Luzio, and Jonathan Sperry, as well as the financial projection for 2022, were all affirmed 100% by the congregation. We are encouraged by the trust and confidence shown to our leadership, and pray that God will continue to bless and guide us in the new year.

### NEWSLETTER REQUEST

Just a reminder that we are considering going first-class with our newsletter, and only want to send it to those who desire it. If you do not regularly attend our services, but do want to receive the printed edition, please text Rick at 217-836-4971, or email him at Rick@chathamchristian.org.

Those who desire a copy by email can go to chathamchristian.org and click under "newsletter" where directed to do so.

### SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Mark Fishel, our missionary in Cambodia, is requesting prayer for himself and his parents. While here on a visit to arrange care for them, they all had a bout with covid, and his dad spent six days in the hospital. He is now trying to arrange homecare for them before hopefully returning to Cambodia on January 19th.



The Christmas mail box is overflowing! Please check to see if there are any cards still in the box for you.



Dear friends and family,

A lot has happened in the past year not only in our lives but in the lives of many of you as well. As we reflect on the past year we see and feel the hardships and trials but we also see and feel the Lord's continued faithfulness in our lives. His love, peace, patience, and kindness abounds in our lives. We're praying the same for you as well.

Through all the trials 2021 has brought, there has been so much good. In March of this year the Lord blessed our family with a precious baby boy named Louis. In April, Keith and a fellow apprentice traveled to Mexico where they gained valuable missionary flying experience in the field. Keith completed and graduated from the MMS/MAG missionary pilot/mechanic program this past summer. This is just a glimpse of the many great acts of God.

We know many people that have been affected by this pandemic including job loss, reduced income, hospitalization, and losing family members. (Keith's dad passed away from covid complications this past October.) We pray these have not happened to you but want to offer our prayers and support if you are experiencing any of these hardships.

We know Christ is still King and we put our faith and trust in HIM. We want to offer our prayers and please don't hesitate to reach out to us as you transition through this. We must remember we still serve a God who is in control.

Matthew 7:24-27 ...build your house on the rock when the wind and waves come it will not be destroyed.

Keith & Jenny Wockman

# UNLOCKED

## SuperStart 2022 4th & 5th Grade

As of right now, it looks like the SuperStart conference for 4th and 5th graders is going to happen! It is returning to Eastview Church in Bloomington on February 25 & 26. So, we will leave shortly after school, spend the night in Bloomington, then return by 5:00pm on Saturday. The cost if we register by January 26th is \$50 per person.

The SuperStart team always puts together a theme that is engaging for this age group. In the past, the gospel has been presented using robots and video games. This year, the gospel will be taught around the context of a group competitive escape room challenge. The theme is UNLOCKED. As we unlock the keys to our escape in the game, we will also learn how Jesus is the only key to unlock us from the bondage of sin into a life centered around Him. We will have some free time on Saturday for an activity of our choosing. We can discuss our options this month. Feel free to invite a friend to travel with you and let's get registered as soon as possible. A sign up sheet will be on the board this Sunday.



### Jr/Sr High

Saturday evening is going to be a blast! After careful consideration last night, everyone decided Pizza Ranch is still the place to go for dinner before Broomball. Granted it is a little expensive, but it is just too convenient and delicious to pass up. Let's plan to meet there at 5:30pm to eat.

Then it is on to the Nelson Center. We have the ice rented from 7:00-8:00pm. In case you are not familiar with Broomball, it is played on ice using sticks and a ball similar to the picture above. We don't use skates and sure there are some nasty falls, but it is all worth it when you make a beautiful play and stop Paul Hunley from scoring. Bring a hat, some gloves and at least \$5.00 to contribute for our ice time that evening.

There are some college kids home for break, you are all welcome! Invite as many of your friends as you want! The rink is big and this is a great way to introduce some friends to our youth group. If you need a ride to either of our stops for the evening, just let me know. See you all on Saturday!

## CHRISTMAS POEM CONTINUED

Fortunately, we have grown up in this church.

And our kids know that Christmas is about more than the merch. If they have listened to all of the material written by Grandma Schar, Their futures will be bright, like the Bethlehem Star.

They know of the miracles and the parables that Jesus spoke.

And at the end of three days our Savior awoke.

Of all our traditions that we hold and love,

There on this table sit two from above.

The bread and juice represent his body and pain.

He paid the price so eternity we could gain.

What a great God for the Son that He gave,

So that we can proclaim that we have been saved.