

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

Church Office 217-483-3987
www.chathamchristian.org

Rick Wenneborg, Minister
cell phone 217-836-4971
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister
cell phone 217-971-3075
hubermark2@gmail.com

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

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I recently bought a copy of *The Machine Stops*, by E.M. Forster. It's a short story originally published in 1909. I learned of it, of course, in *Touchstone*.

It's the story of a woman who lives alone in a comfortable pod underground, as do everyone. The surface has been rendered uninhabitable, but technology meets every perceived need at the push of a button. All are connected to a world-wide apparatus, and people can see and speak with one another by looking into a glowing round plate. She has a virtual audience of thousands with whom she shares her thoughts.

She's very content, until she hears from a son who had been taken as an infant to a public nursery, and then placed in his own pod on the other side of the world. He wants her to come for a visit. She can't understand why, but makes the trip.

In a meeting with her son she learns of his brief escape to the toxic surface with a respirator, and his feeling that the only thing that is really living is the Machine. Such thinking is heresy to his mother who worships the Machine. She can't wait to get back to her pod.

Some years later, as the Machine is dying, they are briefly reunited. Then, when it stops, crawling over the bodies of the dead, he gasped, "Quicker, I am dying—but we touch, we talk, not through the Machine." He then kissed her, and said, "We have come back to our own. We die, but we have recaptured life."

The article in *Touchstone* closes by noting, "Forster wanted to offer a counterpoint to claims being made by the technological optimists of his day. His ability to imagine things like Zoom, Skype, and Instagram, and his insights into the potential dehumanizing effects of Machine Culture ought to inspire some serious contemplation. As we climb out of our Covid haze...let us realize the great gift of face-to-face communication."

I would also add that it might do us all good to take an occasional break from dependance on our machines.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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The Super Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 13th and we have rented out the Lakeview Lodge to watch the game together. It will be open at 5pm and we ask all attending to bring some finger food to share along with a 2 liter bottle of soda or water. Even if it is only the commercials you enjoy, come on out for an evening of fellowship and munchies!

STATISTICS		
	1/9	
Worship		91
Offering		\$12,566.44
	1/16	
Worship		81
Offering		\$4,259.00
	1/23	
Worship		NC
Offering		\$4,434.00
	1/30	
Worship		96
Offering		\$5,658.44



Doug and Betty Wilkins were baptized into Christ during our morning worship service on January 9th. We rejoice with them as they begin their life together in Him, and with His blessing.

Senior Pot-luck

All self-designated seniors are invited to a pot-luck to be held in the fellowship hall on 2/22/22. In other words, on Tuesday, February 22nd. What is brought is what will be shared and eaten, but drinks will be provided. The meal is scheduled for 5:30



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many ways you have blessed us these past weeks. Meals, visits and text messages checking in have all been a great encouragement.

Thank you! Kevin and Kathy Lasley

COMMUNION MEDITATION

By Jack Stucki

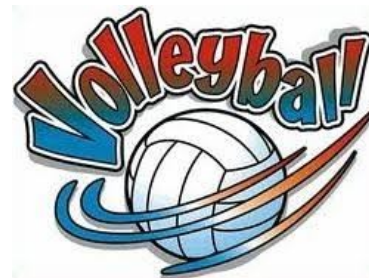
Every day brings us closer to ... Christmas. That's one of my favorite thoughts I like to share with everyone starting on December 26th through December 24th.

I spend the whole day of Christmas Eve with my Mom. My official duties include slicing the ham for dinner and handing out the presents from under the tree. Adorned in my Santa hat of course. My attending elf is my 63 year old baby brother. It's a great evening as it is one of the few days I get to see and interact with all my siblings and Mom who live in my hometown of Evansville, Indiana. And while I only have four siblings it seems there are twenty conversations going at once. It is always a wonderful, joyful time.

When I am not focusing on Christmas I remind myself that every day brings us closer to ... Sunday. I get to spend the morning with you, my siblings, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Our fellowship has its somber and reflective moments, but it is also a joyful time. You can hear laughter and conversations all over the auditorium. Sometimes even after the Praise Team starts.

Whenever I miss a Sunday here at Chatham church it really leaves a hole in my week. Not only do I miss the fellowship with you but I really miss the time I spend worshipping with you. During the praise time and the hymns we sing toward the end of the service I often find myself in conversation with our Lord Jesus Christ. The conversation volume isn't as loud as it is when I talk with you, but it is truly joyful and remarkable. It is remarkable in the sense that our Lord makes His presence felt during those conversations. What a truly wonderful and loving Savior we have. He is a person in the perfect Trinity along with our Heavenly Father and Holy Spirit. All of whom love us and care for us.

As we celebrate this Communion together my brothers and sisters, let's focus on what Jesus did to secure our great salvation. He gave up the Glory He had in heaven to show us the Father who purposed us to be saved. After His resurrection and ascension to heaven He sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in our sanctification as we strive to become more like our Savior. So please take this time to remember His broken body and spilt blood which He purposely endured for each and every one of us. This is the PERFECT time to have a conversation with your Lord and Savior.



After taking some time off, many of us are looking forward to getting back on the volleyball court Sunday evenings beginning the week following the Super Bowl. We make our way out to the gym immediately following our classes at church and basically play until you want to go home. A majority of the older folks like to go home a little early. Some of the younger ones might stay around to play a couple more games.

To that end, if you are in High School and would like to play, you are more than welcome. We all look forward to your energy and spending some time with you should you decide to participate. Casual, fun, recreational volleyball with tons of fellowship. Sign me up!



4th & 5th Grade

We are one week closer to this fun filled weekend! We have an awesome group registered with room to expand if more would like to come. Please remind your friends that the cost of the conference is \$50 per person. They will also need money for 2 meals, \$20 for our Saturday morning activity and any items they wish to purchase at the conference. Looking forward to a great trip!



Below is a quick snapshot of upcoming events for February and March. Please jot them down in your calendar. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

- 2/13: Super Bowl Party
- 2/20: Volleyball begins on Sunday evenings through March
- 2/25: SuperStart Conference for 4th & 5th grade students.
- 3/13: K-5 Bowling and LaserTag after Sunday School
- 3/27: Jr. High Inner City Mission Service Project
- 4/1: Jr. High Beauty Pageant (High School girls are needed to assist) (Video games at my house for the guys)
- ** Don't forget VBS is June 6-9!!



Jr. High School

Let's face it. Life isn't always easy for our children. In times of pain, doubt or grief, it is normal to have questions. Throughout all of human history, people have asked big questions like "When people are hurting, where is God?" By examining several examples from the Old Testament, we will see God is always with us ready to meet our needs in His perfect timing. We will start this series on Sunday. See you there!