

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

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Twice, in the past couple of weeks, I stumbled upon a quote from C.S Lewis that I had never read before.

“Of all the tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.”

The first time I read it, it introduced an article on the “nanny state” and mask mandates. The second time it prefaced a chapter in a book that details the relationship between government health agencies and the pharmaceutical industry. I was once again amazed at the relevance of something written years ago to the state of affairs we find ourselves in today.

Whether one would consider the mandates we’ve been under for two years oppressive or not, we have all no doubt found ourselves wondering what the most Christian response might be to all we’ve been told to do.

Paul made it clear in Romans 13:1 that we are to be in subjection to the governing authorities, and Peter told us in 1 Peter 2:13-17 to submit ourselves to every human institution, even specifying governors. But he also said we are to act as free men, and to not use our freedom as a covering for evil. So what do we do?

We don’t know what’s in the heart of those who issue mandates, but Isaiah did note that in his day there were rulers who were companions of thieves and loved bribes, (Isaiah1:23) and declared woe to those who enact evil statutes (Isaiah 10:1).

Maybe the best thing we can do is pray for those who are in authority as Paul instructed Timothy to do, and strive to lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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INTERGENERATIONAL RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL !!

Yes, we are in the midst of another season of intergenerational recreational volleyball on Sunday nights at 8:00 at the LSCA gym. Players from their teens to their 70s are playing together, and if you are a high school teen you are welcome to come discover what a septuagenarian can and can’t do on a volleyball court.

We’ve already played twice, and are scheduled to continue playing every Sunday night in March. All are invited to come play, or just watch and laugh.

STATISTICS		
Worship	2/6	89
Offering		\$6,178.25
Worship	2/13	94
Offering		\$7,841.72
Worship	2/20	91
Offering		\$4,420.76
Worship	2/27	87
Offering		\$4,339.00



While praying, please remember to pray for Lee Zimmerman, Sterling Eby, Bonnie Ruebush, Dan Martin, Rick Sanner, Bob McKnight, Jamella Reese, and Bob Teal. All are dealing with serious physical problems that should be brought before the throne of God.

**I BELIEVE IN
SANTA CLAUS
AND
I BELIEVE IN
GOD**

Kevin Lasley will be bringing to a close our current Sunday evening study over the next two weeks while Rick and Marilyn are in Arizona. When they return, Rick will begin a new study of a brief book written by the first person he baptized while a youth minister in Springfield fifty-five years ago, Lynn Currie. Lynn's book is entitled *I Believe in Santa Claus and I Believe in God*. In it Lynn explores why he believes in God, and offers the reasons others should believe as well.

All adults are invited to join us for this Sunday evening study that will begin on March 20 at 6:30.



**A SECOND CAMPUS
MINISTRY**

The value of campus ministries cannot be overstated, and it's been our privilege to support the Christian Student Fellowship at UIS and LLCC for many years. We have now been given a unique opportunity to support a second campus ministry, one at ISU.

Zach Marcopulos, who Grace Hunley met at Encounter at ISU, has been asked to serve in a full-time leadership role as an intern with Encounter for at least one year. He recently graduated with a degree in Special Education, but has decided to postpone entering into a teaching career to minister, at least for a time, in a campus ministry that changed his life. It's his desire to foster Christian fellowship on a secular campus, and to introduce those who don't know Him to Jesus.

In order to serve in this capacity Zach had to raise his own financial support, and the elders decided that we can support him to the same level that we have been supporting the ministry of CSF.

We will begin supporting Zach when his internship begins this spring.



encounter
campus ministry



K-5 Bowling and LaserTag

The tradition of going out for a couple games of bowling after Sunday School in the early Spring started many years ago. Now, with the addition of LaserTag, the trip is even better!

The date we have set for this activity is Sunday, March 13th. The cost for a game of bowling followed by LaserTag is \$10.00. We usually all chip in for some award winning bowling alley pizza so bring a few extra dollars for that delicious lunch. We will leave right after Sunday School and return somewhere around 3:00pm. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends to church and then on our trip! Hope you all can make it!



Please help us fill the pantry at LSCA with Rice Krispies for the kids to enjoy this summer. Our goal is 30 boxes which is very manageable. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Also, Kerma is looking for a couple volunteers to work in the kitchen on Tuesday, June 21st from 10:30-12:30. If you can help out, please let me know!



High School and Junior High Girls

The Beauty Pageant will return this year and is scheduled for Friday, March 25th. (Please note that is a change from the last newsletter) This event always proves to be a great combination of fun and fellowship. The focus will be on how we are all wonderfully, perfectly made in God's image because He doesn't make mistakes!

Of course this will take place among evening gowns, make up, hair spray and the talent show! While the pageant is for the Junior High girls, we could use every High School girl available to help the younger ones get ready. The activities will start at 6:00pm here at CCC and should conclude by 10:00pm.

Guys: There are a couple Sweet Sixteen games on that evening. Maybe we'll head to BWV for some wings and basketball? We'll discuss as we get closer to the 25th.



INNER CITY MISSION
giving what's needed

Junior High School

In the pre-COVID days, one of our favorite service activities was to spend some time with the residents of Inner City Mission. It's time to do it again! The date we have set is Sunday, March 27th. We will be meeting here at the church in the afternoon to prepare a meal. Later that evening, we will serve the residents and their families the prepared food at their location. We should conclude and head back to CCC around the normal youth group ending time. Thanks for your willingness to serve!