

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

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Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

The Preacher wrote in Ecclesiastes, "Be warned: the writing of books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body." That warning might seem irrelevant in a day of Twitter and sound bites, but some things demand a deeper look, and books fill that role. Only one book is essential, but if we would be salt and light in a dark world we should be willing to put on our thinking caps and risk being wearied a bit.

I'm guessing that's not the best way to encourage you to join me in a study of a book that Kevin Lasley said would be required reading if he were still teaching in the university. But don't worry, that's not what I'm about to do. Instead, I'm going to try to convince you to join me in a shorter more accessible version of that book.

When I read *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* I had to keep a pencil in hand. I don't think I've ever done as much underlining in a book. Calling it "perhaps the most significant analysis and evaluation of Western culture written by a Protestant during the last fifty years" is probably true. The problem I had was understanding the background of everything he was saying, and knowing how to share it. Now that problem's been solved.

Carl Trueman accepted the challenge to turn a 400 page scholarly book into a book of less than 200 pages that everyone could read and understand. His new book is entitled *Strange New World* and is subtitled "How thinkers and activists redefined identity and sparked the sexual revolution."

He introduced the first book by stating, "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.'"

How we got there and how we should respond is something we should all be concerned about. Let me know if I should order you a book.

God Bless, Rick

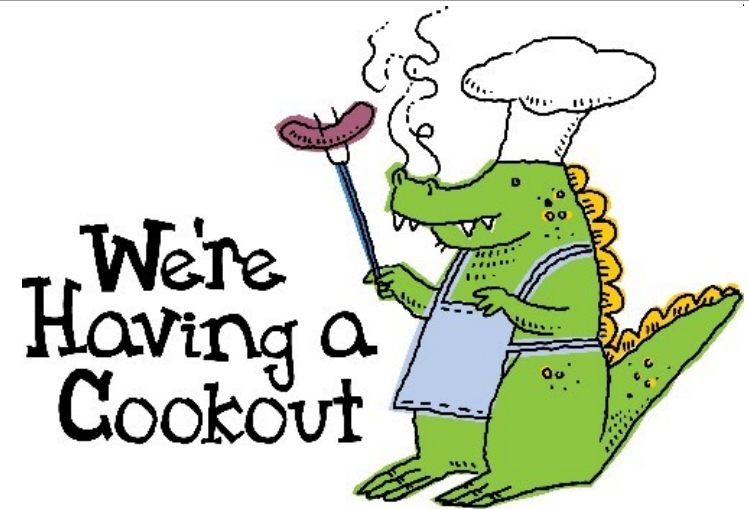


THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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All Seniors and Dinosaurs are invited to a cookout-potluck to be held August 23rd at 5:30. Brats and burgers will be provided and those coming are encouraged to bring a dish or dessert to share.

We're leaving it up to everyone to discern if they are a Senior or a Dinosaur.

STATISTICS		
	7/3	
Worship Offering		118
		\$17,816.97
	7/10	
Worship Offering		130
		\$3,493.58
	7/17	
Worship Offering		93
		\$3,175.00
	7/24	
Worship Offering		108
		\$4,192.00
	7/31	
Worship Offering		108
		\$4,488.00

MICRO PANTRY

A Micro Pantry, built by volunteers from Sugar Creek United Methodist Church, has been installed at the Chatham Library. Non-perishable food items and toiletries can be put directly in the pantry, and those in need are invited to take whatever they need.

PRAYER OFFERED AT RURAL ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING

Dear heavenly Father,

We come before You this evening with grateful hearts. Grateful for life, and for the world You created for us. A world where all our earthy needs can be met because of the resources You planted within and upon it. You've entrusted it to us and asked us to be good stewards of Your bountiful gifts. It's our prayer that we be found faithful.

And tonight we seek Your direction as we set the course of our association for another year. We pray for those who have willingly accepted the responsibility of doing their best to keep the lights on, but realize that things do happen in nature and in society that can cause us to live in darkness for a time. In those times we pray for patience and for the strength and grace needed to help our neighbor.

Above all else we pray for Your light to continually shine in our lives, and for our lives to reflect that light to others.

Amen

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FURNITURE GIVEAWAY

Last year Christian Student Fellowship held their first furniture drive and giveaway to welcome, support, and connect with international students who arrive with no furnishing for their apartments. Over 50 international students took advantage of the giveaway, and many made meaningful connections with students and staff from CSF.

This year's Furniture Giveaway has been scheduled for August 19th, and a Big Pick Up Day will be held on August 13th. Those with beds (not king size), couches (not sleepers), chairs, dressers, bookshelves, tables, utensils, wall art, rugs, or small appliances that they wish to donate can email davidlasleycsf@gmail.com to arrange for a pick up.

If you would like to assist with the pick up, the giveaway, or help feed students on August 19th, please let David know.

THE RETURN OF OFFERING BAGS!

When Covid protocols were in place, we stopped passing offering bags in our worship service and placed trays near the entrances. Due to your faithfulness offerings continued to meet the needs of our ministry, but some feel that actually giving in the service itself increases the sense of worship in giving. We have therefore decided to return to our practice of standing on the last praise song, and having ushers come forward and praying before receiving the offering.

Trays will no longer be on tables near the doors, and sermon manuscripts and outlines will return to the sermon table.



Anyone who would like to spend a little time in fellowship together around a scoop of ice cream are invited to meet at Scoop Du Jour on Friday evening, August 12th around 7:00.



It was a beautiful morning yesterday as we shared in the baptism of Amelia Sperry. As the picture shows, it was especially beautiful to see a loving father and daughter share this moment together as Jonathan baptized her into Christ. It will be exciting to see where God leads Amelia as she continues to serve and mature. We will keep you in our prayers Amelia!



FOR ADULTS!!

Thank you Kate Sperry and Madison Bales for organizing this race! After planning quite a few of these, I know how much time and effort it takes to ensure it is a smooth, fun activity for all involved. The adults are really looking forward to doing this together!

Usually, I give a few teasers, but since I really don't know what is going on, let me just reiterate the basics. It will be held on Saturday, August 13 beginning at 2pm here at the church. Right now we have 12 teams signed up which is AWESOME! I would come with a little money in your pocket and plenty of gas in your car because with these two, you never know where the clues might lead. I'm a little worried because I feel a payback coming for all the harsh tasks I made them do in the past!



I know we still have a lot of summer left, but as I am planning for the fall, I wanted to cue you in to the latest thoughts concerning our fall youth group kickoff. The first Sunday after Labor Day, September 11th, seems to be the logical choice to begin our Sunday evening programming for the fall. The current plan is to have the kickoff here at CCC with yard activities and a cookout.

Then, after we eat, we will all gather in the auditorium for some type of group event. That activity is to be determined, but historically those talent shows are a lot of fun! Should we bring back the men's swim team? Or, I've been researching some large group games which might be fun while playing off our competitive spirit.

Either way, I hope you plan to be there. It will begin a great season of fellowship and learning here on Sunday evenings.



We are up to 13 volunteers willing to travel to St. Louis to pack food for starving children around the world! Thank you to all who have signed up! Ideally, it would be great to have around 20 people from CCC participate that afternoon. Our shift is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th from 12:45-2:45. Please let me know if you are interested in going!