

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

Tongues, demons, and dinosaurs; what do they have in common? They were all topics for discussion around our table on Easter. And it's probably not as weird as it might seem. Questions about all three tend to come up as those new to the faith begin digging in a little deeper.

Zach Marcopulos, Grace's boyfriend, became a Christian shortly after coming to ISU, and is now serving as an intern with Encounter, the campus ministry. His relationship with Grace brought him to our table, and he often shares questions that have come up working with students and in his personal study. I'm honored that he comes to me with questions, and delight in trying to answer them.

To answer the question about tongues I took him to Pentecost and the gift given to the apostles that enabled them to preach in native languages to those who had gathered. We then discussed the confusion that arose in Corinth about gifts of the Spirit, and the variety of gifts available today, and their purpose.

I affirmed the existence of demons in the Bible, and how Jesus and the apostles did indeed cast them out. We talked about the nature of spiritual warfare today, and I expressed my doubts about current attempts at exorcism due to no biblical instruction on how to do it.

Dinosaurs took us back to creation and various ways the word "day" was used. Great sea monsters were created on the fifth "day" and creatures that sound like dinosaurs are mentioned in Job. Their former existence on earth can't be denied. The question is simply when.

The next day he texted with a question about predestination. I told him that foreknowledge plays a role in who God predestines to become like His Son, but the offer of salvation is open to all.

We obviously went beyond what I have written here, but I share this to encourage you to ask me anything. In fact, I'll even join you around your table, if you ask. God Bless, Rick



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AT

LAKE SANGCHRIS

STATE PARK

MAY 21ST



STATISTICS		
Worship Offering	4/2	122 \$9,348.00
Worship Offering	4/9	145 \$4,332.67
Worship Offering	4/16	92 \$7,057.66
Worship Offering	4/23	109 \$9,253.58
Worship Offering	4/30	118 \$4,321.58



COURTNEY BALES TO CAMO'23

Last summer Courtney Bales spent nine weeks with students from the campus ministry at SEMO participating in CAMO Project training and outreach in Orlando. The CAMO Project is a summer missions and training project for college students that helps them grow in their personal relationship with Christ, and teaches them how to share their faith with others.

Courtney benefited greatly from the training she received, and was able to start a Bible study on the arts campus at SEMO last year. Now she has been asked to become a discipleship leader at CAMO'23, leading other girls in the faith for nine weeks this summer. She will be working at SeaWorld to cover personal expenses, but needed to raise over \$2,000 to participate in the program. We are very proud of Courtney, and the elders were delighted to be able to provide \$1,500 to support her ministry this summer.



May 14th is Mother's Day and, as is our custom, all mothers, both physical and spiritual, will be honored with a corsage.

There will be Sunday School on Mother's Day, but no Sunday evening activities at the church. We encourage everyone who still has the opportunity to do so to worship with their mom on Sunday morning, and to then spend the day with her doing whatever she would like to do.



Wedding Bells in Jamaica

During our last phone call Theo surprised us with the announcement that Kristal will be getting married on July 29th!

When the Millers were serving as camp missionaries at LSCA 24 years ago, Theo assisted and Kristal was flower girl at Nikki's wedding, and she requested that Rick come officiate at hers.

Due to uncertainties about the location, and the need to arrange for housing and transportation that would add unneeded stress to the day, it's doubtful that he will be going. We do, however, trust that the day will be a beautiful celebration of love and commitment. Congratulations Kristal.



Sunday Evening Finale!!

I hope everyone is planning on venturing out to Lake Sangchris on Sunday, May 21st for a cookout together. We have pavilion 1A reserved for the entire day, that is the very first pavilion you will see when you arrive at Lake Sangchris from Chatham. There is a small playground, room to set up yard games and of course plenty of shoreline to fish. The target time for bikers to arrive will be 4pm, but you can head out anytime that afternoon to enjoy the lake.

We will be bringing out the grill to serve hamburgers and hot dogs around dinnertime. Also, there will be chips and cookies provided to compliment the burgers. However, I would ask that you bring chairs and drinks for your family. That would help out tremendously!

Regarding the bike ride beforehand, is 16 miles too much? If the wind is in our face, that seems awful long, but I think we can handle it. And if not, Tina will be close behind somewhere in our truck to pick up anyone who needs it. Start training now so we can walk the next day!



Junior High

What a great group we had this year! They were adamant about finishing with a fun group activity and Sky Zone received the most votes. We are meeting here at the church on Friday, May 19th at 6:00pm. The "glow" jumping session starts at 7:00pm and the cost is \$22.99 for two hours. We should be back at the church by 9:30pm.



Thank you to all the volunteers for this year's VBS. If your schedule doesn't allow you to participate in a specific role, feel free to come by the church anytime that week to experience some of this year's program.

Remember, VBS will run nightly at the church from June 5th through June 8th. We will begin each evening at 6:15pm and wrap up around 8:30pm. I pray we will all be intentional and invite others to VBS this year. In case they ask, in addition to all the activities, below is a brief breakdown of the daily themes.

Monday: When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light! The Bible story centers upon the birth of Jesus. The light of the world was born, the shepherds and wise men worshiped Him, and we are called to shine our light in worship too.

Tuesday: When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light! The Bible lesson for the day is on Jesus' interactions with Zacchaeus. He didn't get along with his countrymen because he was a tax collector. Jesus provided a ray of hope for him and we can for others as well.

Wednesday: When good things happen, shine Jesus' light! We can shout for joy just like they did when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Kids will be encouraged to look for everyday blessings and also give shouts of joy to Jesus.

Thursday: When people are sad, shine Jesus' light! The cross is highlighted on our final day as we see that even while enduring pain and suffering, Jesus forgave his captors, welcomed a thief, and gave Mary into John's care. Today, we too can shine our light and give comfort to broken hearts around us.