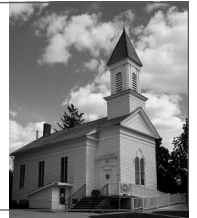




# Chatham Community Church



April / May 2017

## *A Word from the Pastor*

Praying, praying, praying...

When you get this article, our "Seven" class will be focusing on the discipline of prayer. Hopefully the entire church has been praying for those on our prayer list in the bulletin and on our Lenten Prayer Calendar! We have offered prayers to our homebound, our church leaders, our college and military people and community and world concerns. Have you been praying?

Howard and I have been spending time in prayer and meditation each morning. We read a devotional piece and then spend some time in silence trying to discern God's voice in the midst of all the other voices competing in our heads. Praying is hard work! Praying requires persistence! Prayer changes things, and I think one of those things prayer changes is ME!

Once we open that channel of communication with God, we are forever changed. I can be driving along and someone comes to mind, and I pray for him or her. I can be walking through the neighborhood and a situation arises in my consciousness, and I pray for that situation. Prayer is constant communication and communion with God, and prayer helps us to set the small stuff aside and concentrate on the big picture. When we pray without ceasing, we are acknowledging the God who is still very much involved in creation and in our everyday lives.

Not sure how to pray? Several years ago I ran across something that said prayer is 5% talking and 95% listening. Open the door, and wait for God to enter. Opening words like, "Holy God, you are ever present and I so need to know that. I'm listening," are simply spoken but amazingly effective.

But...our minds wander. I invite you to pick one simple word that will help you return to your place of waiting and listening. I use the word *open*. When I sit in silence waiting for God's word for me, and my thoughts wander to all the things I should be doing, I just think *open* and feel my heart return to God. For me, this is very powerful. I hope you will try it sometime...soon.

In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. I hope that in the time between now and then, you will make deliberate attempts to still yourself, so that you may sense the very real presence of God.

Be blessed,  
*Pastor Patty*

## *Upcoming Easter Events*

April 13 - 7pm *Maundy Thursday Worship*  
April 14 - 7pm *Good Friday Cross Walk*  
April 16 - 6:45am *Easter Sunrise service at the cemetery*  
*Continental breakfast to follow at South Church*  
*Easter Worship 10 am*



## Education Committee News

Christian Education is busy, busy, busy and it is so exciting!!!



Our classrooms are busting out at the seams. What a blessing to have the children active in our church and eager to participate in everything we offer. All this is presenting us with a problem...a great problem to have. We are going to need another classroom this coming fall.

We are in need of splitting the younger children's class into two separate ones. We are planning to have our current room to be for children up to kindergarten.

We will have another class for children in kindergarten through second grade. The other class will be for children third grade and up. This is so that we can better meet the needs of each age group.

We are grateful to the BOA that is working with us to help get the third classroom ready for classes in the fall. We want to provide the children with a spot of their own and one that they will be able to comfortably explore their relationship with God and each other. These children are the future and they need to feel our love for them.

We are confident that the BOA will be able to solve this with a solution that will work for the next couple of years. What we need to do as a church is to pray and look at what God's plans are for Chatham Church's Education Committee and what we will need in years to come. It is never too early to start planning.

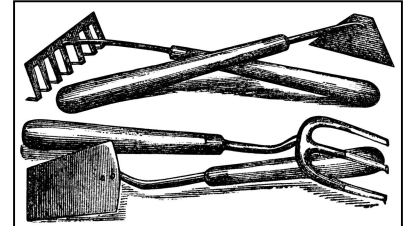
God Bless  
Jacci Orosz  
Christian Education Chair

### Children's dates to remember!

Friday, May 12, 6-7pm Pizza and prep for Mother's Day presentation  
Sunday, May 14, Mother's Day presentation during Worship service  
Sunday May 21, Summer break from Sunday School Class begins  
June 7th, Camp Wanake Day Camp for all children! K through 9th  
June, July and August, look for information on our evening gatherings!

## Spring Clean Up Day!

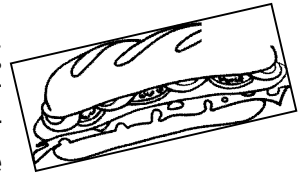
Many hands make spring cleaning easier! Mark your calendars... Saturday May 20th will be our annual spring cleaning day at the South Church. We will be meeting at 8am and should be winding up the jobs by noon. Everyone welcome to enjoy each other's company while we give our church a fresh look!



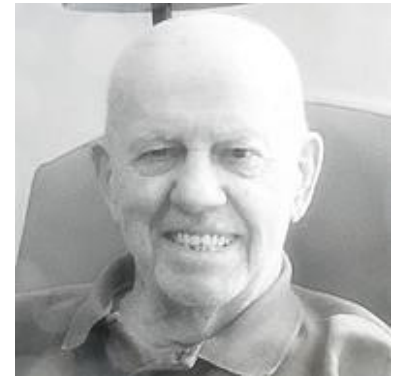
## Hoagie Fundraiser!

The youth group will be raising funds for summer camp! We will be taking orders for Hoagies on April 23rd and the 30th. On Saturday, May 6th, from 3pm to 4pm we will be making the hoagies and on May 7th, you can pick up your order after church!

Thank you for supporting our youth!



Do you have a favorite hymn, or two, or even three or more? Maybe you have one that brings back a special memory of when you were a child, or perhaps an Easter sunrise service, or maybe last year's Christmas Eve service? Maybe one was played at your wedding! Write down the titles of some of your favorite hymns on one of the 'note' papers which have been placed in your pew and jot down a few lines as to what makes this hymn special to you. Please feel free to write your name on the 'note'. We may be sharing some of your special hymn memories in the church newsletter. You may even hear your favorite hymn in the near future. You can place your completed hymn note on the table in the vestibule. Thanks! Karen G.



Keith Westfall

June 6, 1949 – February 10, 2017

Keith was a man of few words, with a beatific smile. He and Cheryl married in 2001 and enjoyed a wonderful life together. He liked traveling with Cheryl to Renaissance Festivals and Hammer Dulcimer performances. They traveled together to the Bahamas and Put-N-Bay as Keith had a fondness for boats.

Keith and Cheryl attended Chatham Community Church for many years. In the last few years Keith became very active in the annual Apple Butter Festival, standing in the donut shack flipping donuts for hours and days on end. When asked if he wanted a break, he would just smile, shake his head, and most of the time decline. He loved working with the men and youth, and doing it for such a great cause.

Keith liked to work outside and spent time watching the squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, and muskrats. He was a gentle soul who would quickly respond to Cheryl's shrieks when she found a mouse, or a snake, or a spider. He was a great mate, and for Cheryl, the most wonderful man in the world.

Herbert Bournival

May 20, 1927 - March 13, 2017

Herb was a well-loved teacher at North Royalton High School. His wonderful grin and way of relating to students endeared him to so many people. He was a no-nonsense person who loved a good joke. At the Senior Suppers at the church, Herb would crack up when LaVon read some of her age-related jokes.

Herb was an excellent woodworker and he and Neva and Norma would sell his creations at craft shows around the area.

Herb and Neva had a long marriage – 58 years. Though he suffered from poor health and could not see, he still enjoyed his outings to the church when he was able to attend.

Albert Schroeder

March 27, 1921–  
March 18th, 2017



Al graduated from Spencer High School and worked as a mechanic for a short time before entering the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1944. Albert was stationed in the Philippines as a P-38 Fighter Pilot. He was in numerous battles and campaigns in the Southern Philippines, Luzon, Borneo, New Guinea, and the Western Pacific.

Following his military service, he returned home and married Jean Arnold. He continued working as a mechanic at the former Town Hall, and City Auto Service in Medina.

He was the former Chief of the Chatham Fire Department, and member of Chatham Community Church.



## Prayers from our little ones...



At the end of our time together each Sunday the younger children close out time together with our prayer circle. We all hold hands and take turns saying a prayer out loud. The children have the opportunity to say Amen if they choose to and we move on to the next child. This 'opting out' rarely happens.

This time together often touches my heart in a deep way. These little children are eager and willing to say prayer in front of the whole group. Think how often we as adults pray out loud in a group...or...how often we remain silent when the request comes and hope that someone else will do it.

I would like to share with you some of the prayers they have recently shared....

Dear God...

Thank you for this day and I hope I can play outside when I get home...

Please take care of my mom...

Thank you for my friends...I hope I get lots of birthday presents...

Thank you for food and snacks...

Please don't let anyone else die...

Help me be good...

AMEN



Have you ever thought about what it was like the day Christ died? What about the days leading up to it? Join us for Palm Sunday service and also Maundy Thursday service. We will bring to you the story, with insider thoughts and testimonies.

### **Chatham Christian Volunteers**

We had approached the women's group to see if they would be interested in combining. It was rejected. Discussions revolved around Make it Take it projects. We also discussed the spring cleanup and hope to have everyone come and help on that day!

### **Senior Activities**

Potlucks are scheduled for the following dates:

April 24th, 6pm, South Church

May 22nd, 6pm, South Church

All are welcome! Bring a dish to share!

### **Book club**

The book club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm. The location will be announced in church. The following books were chosen for the next two months. Please join us even if you haven't finished the book!

(APRIL) Wish You Well by [David Baldacci](#)

(MAY) The Ride of our Lives: Roadside Lessons of an American Family by Mike Leonard

### **Chatham Happenings**

April 15, 11 am Easter Egg Hunt!

VFW Grounds Preschool to 6th grade

April 15, 7 pm Movie at the Community Center, refreshments are served.

May 20, Historical Society Museum and Town Hall will be open 1 to 4 pm

May 22, Historical Society meeting 7 pm at museum library

May 29, Memorial Day Celebration!

10 am Meet at the Chatham VFW for a program inside. Parade following. Please join us for a community picnic following the parade. All are welcome! Please bring a dish to share!

### **Chatham Christian Women**

*Chatham Women's Group has been very busy so far in 2017!*

In February we had our organizational meeting where we planned for the soup and sandwich supper that preceded the Ash Wednesday Service and for the refreshment that followed the joint Lenten Service.

In March we held a bake sale at the sugar bush at the VFW Hall. We earned over \$430 to help support our programs.

We have also served four funeral luncheons since January. It is a privilege to be of some help to people at a such a sad time in their lives.

Our next meeting will be on May 8 at 7 P.M. at the South Church. We will plan for the annual Rummage Sale. Then we will have our tea party. Each person should bring a favorite teapot, tea, and a snack to share.

We will also plan to visit the County Home on July 10. We will entertain the residents with our annual Bingo for Quarters Party and serve root beer floats for refreshments.

Carol Menon