



The Worship of Giving

Acts 4:32 (NIV): All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

"What's yours is mine, and what's mine is mine." I believe this is the unspoken motto of our kids when they were little. Toddlers have no qualms about grabbing a toy, snack, or any random item of interest from other people or pets. It's rare to see a child share her cherished possessions generously.

It can be hard for you and me to share too. Today's media bombards us with marketing campaigns that tell us we are the center of the universe. "You, you, you, you, you!" Time and time again we hear that this life is all about us. The more we have, the happier we'll be. The bigger that bank account, the more blessed life is. I sincerely hope that none of us actually buy these lies. They're dangerous deceptions.

We all have a sharing problem to some degree, don't we? Sometimes we don't want to share our time or our space. Sometimes we don't want to share our loved ones or our gifts. Sometimes we don't want to share our resources. Sometimes we just want to be left to ourselves and don't want to share anything!

God calls each of us to share. The early New Testament church shows us that generous living honors God and blesses others. In Acts 4:32-37; we see an amazing snapshot of generous giving in the early church. The believers were one in heart and mind. They were supernaturally unified to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and you could not find a needy person among them. What a model!

Giving wasn't political. It wasn't mandatory. It wasn't done begrudgingly.

"...They shared everything they had" (Acts 4:32).

"The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul" (Acts 11:29-30).

"But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ... For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable

according to what one has, not according to what he does not have" (I Corinthians 8:7,12).

The resources of the believers were God's, and they knew it. They placed what they had before the leaders in selfless acts of worship ... for the glory of God and the provision of others. This principle is very important, but it's also very counter-cultural.

The Bible clearly reveals that true life, a blessed life, an abundant life, a purposed life, is, in fact, all about God. What we have, have given birth to, or hold onto is really not our own. It's just on loan to us for a breath of a moment by our more-than-generous Creator. Each day brings us new opportunities to be good stewards.

Let's face it; it's just not always easy or natural to be generous. Perhaps we have been taken advantage of or we've been hurt by another's deception. There are risks to giving.

The generous giving of the early church blessed the lives of their people. When we share what we have, God is honored, and needs are met. The risks are worth taking.

I'm not suggesting a Robin Hood philosophy of "take from the rich and give to the poor." And I don't believe in the politics of communism or socialism. This principle of generous giving is Biblical. It's an act of worship to God. It matters to God, and it should matter to us.

We need to reject the toddler mentality of "what's mine is mine." God loves a cheerful giver. We are blessed to give. Tell God today: "Lord, what's mine is Yours. Use it for Your glory!"

God's humbled servant,

Pastor Kerry

The Church Council will meet after church TODAY!



The Choir Needs YOU!

All skill levels are welcome as long as you love music and fellowship with great folks! Practice is on Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. For more info, contact:

Gerry Nielson (321-652-5361; gerryniel@gmail.com)



*Save the Date: Valentine Banquet on
 Feb. 16 @ 6:30 PM. More info later.*

Movies Under the Oaks

Chaires will host "Movies Under the Oaks" every **Friday starting @ 6:30 p.m.** We will be watching the movie series "**The Chosen**" outdoors on our big 14 ft. inflatable screen.

January 26th: "The Rock on Which It is Built" Season 1 Episode 4

February 2nd: "The Wedding Gift" Season 1 Episode 5

February 9th: "Indescribable Joy" Season 1 Episode 6

February 16th: "Invitations" Season 1 Episode 7

February 23rd: "I Am He" Season 1 Episode 8

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series. Created, directed, and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. It is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him.

There will be popcorn, hotdogs and pretzels for refreshments along with lemonade. So, bring your chairs, your blankets, your appetites, and most importantly, your friends for a family friendly event that is Free to the public. I hope to see you there!

Rev. Kerry Foote

Liturgists for Worship

We would like members of the congregation to participate in the worship service by reading the Call to Worship and the scripture readings. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet is on the long back table.

As we worship in person, all church services will continue to be posted after 1 pm each Sunday through the church website at chairesumc.com.

Adult Sunday School

This class will be meeting each Sunday at 9 AM. You can participate via phone, the dial-in number is (516) 387-8169.

If you would like to place flowers in the church during, please sign up on the bulletin board opposite the restrooms.

The Upper Room for January and February is available on the back shelf of the sanctuary.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Some things you may want to put on your calendar for the future in 2024:

February 13, 2024: Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Pancake Dinner in the multipurpose sanctuary.

February 14, 2024: Ash Wednesday Service in the historic Sanctuary.

February 19, 2024 (Every Thursday) Lenten Devotional Study.

March 24, 2024: Palm Sunday Service in multi-purpose Sanctuary.

March 28, 2024: Maundy Thursday Service (Reader's Theater) in historic Sanctuary.

March 29, 2024: Good Friday Service in historic Sanctuary

Giving Through Our Website

Go to <https://ChairesUMC.com> and just click the blue GIVE button and you will be taken to the church REALM site. The church secretary can help you set up your account.



If you would like Pastor Kerry to call or visit, please let Susan, the secretary, or Pastor Kerry know. His contact information is in the bulletin.



Members

Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie
Bobbie Harrison

Friends and Family

Stevie Hubbard (son of Edie Hubbard)

Terry Tabb (friend of Russ and Amy Clark)

Kay (friend of Pastor Kerry)

Adoption process for Russ and Amy Clark

Johnny Holmes & Dennis Howell (friends of Matthew)

Mary Taylor, former member

DeMarrio Bryant, TPD officer who was killed in an accident.

A praise for Pastor Kerry and Tiffany coming to Chaires Methodist Church!

January Birthdays

Chaires, Frances 17

Lombardi, Jean 23

Grubb, Renee 24

Grubb, Dylan 29

Hall, Maggie 30

January Anniversaries

Mike & Terry Hatcher 1

Jon & Dot Berry 4

Sammy & Marion Lollie 23

Jean & Michael Lombardi 29