



Chaires Methodist Church
"A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ"

Give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 1:18

As Scripture reveals, God's will for His children is to give thanks in all circumstances. Speaking honestly, it all sounds like a lot, especially as we recall not-too-distant events. A pandemic, food shortages, supply shortages, high gas prices, broken families, political divisions, sexually indoctrinated children, corrupt governments, war, and so much more. There are plenty of reasons to think life will get better next year, and they very well might, but does this mean we wait until next year to be happy, or do we start today?

After all, God says to be grateful in all circumstances. This is the same sort of question we can apply to our new year's resolutions. We look out at the horizon, pick a date, and say this is when we still start doing such and such a thing—getting ripped, eating less, and building better habits.

Why do we wait? We claim not to be ready, prepared, or equipped to make changes just yet. But why do we really wait? A lack of motivation. We do want change. That much is true. But we want things to stay the same. That is also true. And the latter is what we want more. So why wait until the new year to be grateful?

Notice that God doesn't tell us to be grateful for all the bad circumstances that happen to us, but rather to be grateful in all circumstances. Not doing things God's way results in us inevitably looking out to each new year with hopeful anticipation, as though the grass is greener on the other side. That could be the case, but maybe not. Some years bring in more bad things than others, but every year brings a reason for joy; every year brings a reason for sorrow. We need an attitude of gratitude year-round, not just heading into the new year.

God's humbled servant,

Pastor Kerry



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.

Movies Under the Oaks

Last Friday, Jan. 5., Chaires hosted "Movies Under the Oaks." We will continue watching the movie series "**The Chosen**" outdoors on our big 14 ft. inflatable screen every **Friday starting @ 6:30 p.m.**

January 12th: "Shabbat" Season 1 Episode 2

January 19th: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Season 1 Episode 3

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.

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



Members

Pete Peters

Pat Alley

Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie

Bobbie Harrison

Friends and Family

Louise Barineau

Family of David Cox (childhood friend of David Matthews)

Andy Dawson

Tyler and his family (friends of Lynne Peters), Baby Hudson, the birth mother

Suzan Taylor (friend of Terry Hatcher)

Clare Amason



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 "new" sanctuary. For more info, contact:

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

Chaires Staff

Pastor

Rev. Kerry Foote

Secretary

Susan Capelouto (secretarychairesumc@gmail.com)

Music Director

Gerry Nielsen

Pianist

Anna Wu

Custodian

Janet Cayson

Audio/Visual

Rick Davies

01-07-2024

It is not
joy that
makes us
GRATEFUL;
it is gratitude
that makes us
joyful.

-DAVID STEINDL-RAST

Mary Ann
CARRIE
Colbert