



Chaires Methodist Church:  
 "A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ"

## I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:11 says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

### *What Is a Shepherd's Role?*

Jesus is the Shepherd, and we are the sheep. He says that He lays down His life for us. This is not because we deserved it but because of His great love for us. It can be very easy to try to be independent from God. We so often get into our own mindsets in thinking we are in control, and we do not need the Lord. However, this verse makes it clear that we not only need Jesus, but we also cannot survive without Him. We are called in Christ to be dependent as sheep are on their shepherd.

### *The Love of our Good Shepherd*


Jesus loves us individually. We might be our own persons among many *sheep*; however, we are specially known and loved by our Good Shepherd. Scripture tells us in Matthew 18:12 that if one sheep wanders from His flock, He goes after that one and leaves the ninety-nine to rescue that particular sheep. This is the love and care that our God has for us. He values each person in His family of faith.

We live in a society where numbers matter and people are often seen as just faces in a crowd or on a social media app. Luke 15:7 says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." When we ponder Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we need to remember that He truly cares about us individually.

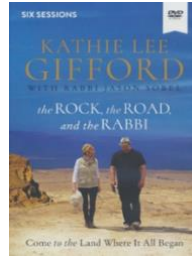
### *The Good Shepherd Leads Us Daily*

Our Good Shepherd leads us each day. He meets our needs and walks with us. He shows us the best path. Psalm 23:2-3 says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Jesus leads us down the best paths for His glory. This does not say the easy path or the popular path, but it is that path of blessing and the journey of walking closely with our Savior. It can be very challenging to walk the narrow path of faith and not stray from it. However, our Good Shepherd is always there to guide us. When a question comes up or we are seeking direction in life, we can pray with confidence and ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way that we should go. No, this may not always be the easiest route, but it will always be the best one when our Shepherd is leading.

 ***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.***

**Sign up for an exciting adventure from  
 April 25-May 30!**



Kathie Lee invites you to join her as she visits sites in Israel that have impacted her life. As she shares her story, Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi who was trained in the ancient rabbinical way, provides fascinating background details into the language, culture and heritage that make the story of the New Testament come

alive. Kathie Lee and Rabbi Sobel will take you and your group beyond the typical "Sunday school" teaching to examine the original texts of the Bible. The cost of the book is \$15. See Susan for a book.

**Before the meeting this Thursday, read pages 1-3.**



Residing Hope, formerly known as the FL Methodist Children's Home, will be our mission focus for April. We will collect a special offering throughout April. If you wish for your donation to be recorded on your church giving statement, make your check out to *Chaires Methodist Church* and write *Residing Hope* in the memo line.

### **Calling All Men!**



Mark your calendar for May 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 AM for time to gather with other men of the church for fellowship and a delicious breakfast. During this time, the group will be enjoying the book, *Wild at Heart*. Using discoveries from his own life and backing them with scripture, John Eldredge reminds men that although their childhood passions, dreams, and desires may have been buried under deadlines, pressures, and disappointments, it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, God made men to embrace a life of courage, adventure, and freedom. He created men to take risks and find true purpose and belonging. There's a breakfast sign up on the back table and a sign up for the book (\$10).

*Remembering Miss Hazel...*

The lovely flowers last Sunday were in memory of Hazel Wagner by her daughter, Pat Alley. Miss Hazel was the official hugger who greeted everyone on the porch each Sunday. She was always overjoyed to greet everyone with her smile and sweet words. As a new member many years ago, I looked forward to seeing her and receiving her dose of warmth and joy. When she could no longer care for her fur baby, Boo, he was welcomed by Franklin and Frances Chaires, where he has overseen the care of grandchildren and great grans. He was well-prepared for the job. He still greets everyone with a smile! Thank you, Pat, for reminding us of Miss Hazel and the love she had for her Chaires Church Family. Susan

**CHAIRES METHODIST CHURCH  
HOMECOMING SUNDAY**

Mark your calendars for **May 19, 2024**, as our yearly Chaires Methodist Church homecoming Sunday. This will be a bringing together of our past and our future. We are starting a Homecoming Sub-Committee as of April 21, 2024. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please see our *Lay Leader* **Terry Hatcher** before or after our Sunday service.

This Sub-Committee will be responsible for advertising, securing volunteers, and overseeing this special Sunday. The Homecoming service will be held in the historic sanctuary and will be followed by a potluck luncheon that will be held in the multipurpose sanctuary. Chaires Methodist Church will be providing the meat. We will BBQ the chicken on our brick BBQ pit prior to the service. We will need some volunteers to grill the chicken.

The Homecoming will also have a hymn sing time during the service. We are inviting our church members to provide feedback as to what hymns and songs they would like to have as a part of our hymn sing. There will be cards located on the sign-up table in which you can provide the songs you would like to hear along with a place to share "why" that songs means so much to you.

Since we will be having a potluck on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we **will not** be having our normal beginning of the month potluck on **May 5, 2024**.



**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)

As we worship in person, all church services will continue to be posted after 1 pm each Sunday through the church website at [chairesmethodist.church](https://chairesmethodist.church).

If you would like to receive the newsletter from the Florida Global Methodist Church, go to <https://floridagmc.org> and you can subscribe at the bottom of the page.



We are looking for volunteers who are willing to go out to veterinarian services to provide families who have to put their pets to sleep with prayer and support.

Please contact Pastor Kerry Foote if you are interested at [pastor.foote@outlook.com](mailto:pastor.foote@outlook.com) or cell phone: (305)407-7040.

**Adult Sunday School**

This class meets each Sunday at 9 AM.



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



Members

- Barbara Palmer
- Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie
- Mike and Carol Stallard
- Lance Harrison

Friends and Family

- Beulah Holmes (aunt of Dale Thompson)
- Mary Taylor
- Mark & Sandra Harrison (cousin & aunt of Diane Matthews)
- Sara Weitzel (friend of Terry Hatcher)
- Unspoken

Praise

Sammie Lollie is recuperating at home! Prayers and cards are much appreciated.

**Giving Through Our Website**

Go to <https://chairesmethodist.church> 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.

April Birthdays

- Barbara Palmer 17
- Franklin Chaires 23
- Mike Stallings 28

April Anniversaries

- Michael & Debbie Pahl 9
- Dale & Susan Thompson 11

Chaires Staff

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Pastor         | Rev. Kerry Foote                                |
| Secretary      | Susan Capelouto (secretarychairesumc@gmail.com) |
| Music Director | Gerry Nielsen                                   |
| Custodian      | Janet Cayson                                    |
| Audio/Visual   | Marty Holland                                   |