



Chaires Methodist Church:  
“A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ”

**Abiding in Love in a Hurting World**

“This is my command: Love each other.” - John 15:17

The Bible is often referred to as a love letter or love story; an incomparable history of hearts laid bare, broken, and believing. Filled with songs of love, promises of love, and commands to love, God’s Word is clear. Love is the purpose and the mission.

I believe we embrace the Bible as a love story in no small part because the Bible shows us who we are—sins and all. It pulls us up from the dirt in Genesis through a cataclysm of warfare in Revelation. And yet, at the heart of it is the refrain that God so loves the world, anyway.

It’s interesting to note that although Jesus talks about loving God, your neighbor, enemies and more all throughout Scripture, he wraps his message of love in John 15 in that of **abiding in him**, even though the world may not love us.

He begins with the image of himself as the vine we draw sustenance from yet ends with the reality that the world will hate those who love him. As he paints a picture of humanity stretching forth, bearing fruit only by the power of the vine, he says in **John 15:12**, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

To be sure the importance of his command is felt, he says it again in **John 15:17**, with greater clarity: **This is my command**: Love each other.

Jesus is offering himself here, as he does for eternity, as our source when life requires us to choose love. He is assuring us that we draw our ability to love from Him—the only vine that makes our inept branches bear fruit. Without him, we wither as he describes in verse 6.

The one who loves us so much that he gives his very lifeblood to reconcile us to our Creator knows...that as his followers, we’re up against a world of hatred.

So, he commands us: love anyway.

How? Remain in him. Remember his words. And, as he says in John 15:10, “keep my commands.”

What does this look like for an imperfect human in a hurting world? It often takes surrendering your agenda. It definitely requires a willingness to claim utter dependence on a love supply that is far greater than any of us, and perfect in its plan.

Love involves seeking him in prayer when hatred prowls around, seeking to burn your branches. It means asking God

for the wisdom to choose love, instead of hate. **It means seeing even those who hate you as needing love, too.**

Does Jesus say to set those haters straight? Does he say to bear angry, rotten fruit? Not at all. He says in John 15:27 that in presence of hate, we testify. By judging? By performing? Well, In this passage, there’s only way. By loving.

So, rather than get our branches in a twist, and risk breaking off from the One strong enough to grow us, let’s not respond to the reality of hate with further persecution.

Let’s abide in Him, by asking what the vine would have us do to show His love instead.



***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.***



**Residing Hope**, formerly known as the FL Methodist Children’s Home, will be our mission focus for April. We will collect items for Madison Youth Ranch through May. There is a list on the long table. 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 or Madison Youth Ranch* in the memo line.

**New Member Meeting TODAY @11:30 AM**

If you would like to join Chaires Methodist Church, Pastor Kerry would like to meet with you. We will welcome you officially into the Church family as you take the vows of membership on May 19<sup>th</sup>, which is Pentecost and Homecoming Sunday.

What a wonderful celebration it will be!



**Chaires Methodist Church Spring Cleaning**

Get your work gloves and hat to join us on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**. We are going to do some much-needed spring cleaning as we get the church ready for our Homecoming Sunday on May 19, 2024. Bring lawn tools. Work will be done both outside on the church property and inside the historic sanctuary and multi-purpose sanctuary.

The work will be from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Lunch will be served from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm by Pastor Kerry Foote. We hope to see you there.



### 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.



#### Members

- Barbara Palmer
- Renee Grubb
- Mary Alice Linzy
- Michael Alley

#### Friends and Family

- Rev. Bill Petersen
- Alex Alley-granddaughter of Pat Alley
- Emma Alley -granddaughter of Pat Alley
- Helen Ward- sister of Bobbie Harrison
- Dennis Rackley-brother of Diane Matthews)
- Kaila Hardy - friend of Ashley Leggett
- Connie Katz - mother of Tiffany Foote
- Shafer family - friend of Tiffany Foote
- Dale Schroeder
- Virgil Hall's sister's B-I-L
- Conflict in the Middle East & around the world
- Men and women serving in the military.

#### Praise

- Emma's college graduation

#### May Birthdays

- Carol Stallard
- Alan Eddy
- Brian Mullen

#### May Anniversaries

- Franklin & Frances Chaires 3

#### Chaires Staff

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

## CHAIRES METHODIST CHURCH

### HOME COMING 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**.

#### 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.

#### 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.

