

What Is Ascension Day?

Ascension Day doesn't seem to top the charts in church celebrations. In fact, most denominations won't celebrate it. Yet, it still marks an important part of church history. Forty days after resurrection

Sunday, Jesus left his disciples with a charge in Matthew 28: to go into all nations—preaching the good news of Christ. And right after that, Jesus ascended into heaven. He floated up into the sky. It marks the end of Jesus' ministry on earth and the beginning of ours.

Ascension Day tends to fall 40 days after Easter because the Bible states Jesus met with people for 40 days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3). For 2024, it will happen on May 9th and we will be celebrating Ascension Sunday on May 12th.

We find the ascension story told in the first chapter of Acts, following the Gospels. Acts 1:9 tells us "He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight," and verse 11 adds, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

"The ascension is a vital part of the redemption story," Steve Mathewson writes for The Gospel Coalition. "If we simply collapse the ascension into the resurrection, we miss stunning benefits tied directly to Jesus being taken into heaven."

It's not enough to celebrate the Risen Lord on one spring Sunday and then forget about what comes next. The ascension is crucial, and it's life-changing and eternity-changing for us as believers.

Mathewson shares five ways the ascension of Jesus benefits us:

1. **It establishes Jesus as the reigning king over all powers in all ages.**
2. **It gives us access to God's throne for mercy and grace.**
3. **It provides an Advocate on earth whose presence is limitless.**
4. **It gives us the spoils of Christ's victory-- gifted leaders and spiritual gifts.**
5. **It keeps us longing for his return.**

On this Ascension Sunday, may we reflect on how the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of our Savior Jesus Christ changed the whole course of our lives and changed our world forever.

May we celebrate that our Lord is reigning from heaven as the one true King, and may we rejoice that we have the Holy Spirit as our ever-present advocate. May we eagerly await His return and fervently share the Gospel until He does.



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.

Mark your calendars for our tour of the Residing Hope Madison Youth Ranch on (Thursday) June 27, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m. We will be carpooling from the church and more information will be given out later as we approach the June 27th date.



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**.

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 or cell phone: (305)407-7040.



Members

Marty Holland
Barbara Palmer
Renee Grubb

Mary Alice Linzy

Michael Alley

Friends and Family

Gordon Wheeler

Mike Hatcher's son

Jim Lybract

Family of Lucille Jones

Benjamin Applewhite-nephew of Cathy Lee

Rev. Bill Petersen

Alex Alley-granddaughter of Pat Alley

Emma Alley -granddaughter of Pat Alley

Dennis Rackley-brother of Diane Matthews

May Birthdays

Carol Stallard 2
Alan Eddy 5
Brian Mullen 6

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

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 19th, 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.

