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Show Your Joy to the World

When you think of the phrase, “Christmas is coming!”...what sort of emotion does it evoke?

It might be any one of these:

Panic: *I only have three more Saturdays of shopping before Christmas. I'm never going to get it all done!*

Frustration: *Ugh. There are so many activities this month. We are going to be running all over the place with very little time to just be together as a family at home, enjoying each other's company.*

Regret: *Why did I say we'd host the family get-together? Now I have to straighten and scrub this place from top to bottom AND make the dessert I signed up to provide, as if I didn't already have enough to do this month.*

Envy: *I noticed on Facebook the gorgeous holiday decorations my co-worker has in her home. They look like they are straight from an HGTV Christmas special. Our place looks like we bought ours from the clearance bin at the local secondhand store.*

So many sentiments can invade our hearts and minds. But these emotions don't stay there.

Often, they weasel their way into our behavior. We appear distracted when talking with a friend. Our frustration morphs into hurry as we frantically try to get it all done. Our regret makes us a grumpy and ungracious hostess. Our envy leads to ungratefulness and can prevent us from experiencing the joy that should come from the whole reason for the celebration of Christmas in the first place.

Are these the attitudes we want on display during the month of December? Or should we choose the attitude reflected in the old familiar hymn, *Joy to the World*?

Joy: The emotion that ought to be deeply experienced during the Christmas season—and, in turn, displayed in our behavior—should be joy. A key verse that testifies to this is Psalm 13:5-6, “*But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.*”

This verse declares that our reaction to the salvation God freely offers — which began when Jesus came into the world as a baby that very first Christmas — should be that *rejoicing*.

In this Old Testament verse, the word translated for *rejoice* actually means “to exult, to go about or to be excited to levity.” What a stark contrast to the emotions we usually display during the yuletide season!

But what if we tried to take our roller coaster of emotions to God, asking Him to replace them with joy instead? If we choose to consciously thank God for the indescribable gift of salvation through Jesus, perhaps we could learn to recapture the joy of Christmas. And not just to feel it in our hearts, but to go about during the season, excited to the point of levity, exulting God in the process.

Today, let's chase down some Christmas cheer. But not just keep it to ourselves. Parking our minds on the truth of salvation through Jesus helps us show joy to the world during the Christmas season. A spotless house and homemade fruitcake are optional.

Choir Christmas Cantata/Holiday Mixer

Date: December 15, 2024

Let's rejoice together as our church choir brings Christmas cheer through music and fellowship.



Holiday Mixer: 5:00 p.m.

(Multipurpose Building)

Join us for Christmas goodies, a chocolate fountain, games, and an ugly sweater contest!

Christmas Cantata: 6:00 p.m.

(Historic Sanctuary)

Experience uplifting music and scripture that will prepare your heart



for the coming of our Savior.

Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Now is the time to join if you would like to be a part of the music during Advent and Christmastide. For more info, contact: Gerry Nielson (321-652-5361 gerryniel@gmail.com)

Advent Bible Study

Enhance your Advent journey by joining our Advent Bible Study, which aligns with the sermon series, "The Best Christmas Ever." These gatherings offer a time to dive deeper into God's Word and experience the profound truths of the season.

Morning Class: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. (Multi-Purpose Building) Lite breakfast provided.

Evening Class: Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. (Pastor's Parsonage) Potluck meal; bring a side dish to share. A main dish will be provided. *Zoom option available for those unable to attend in person.*

Study Dates & Themes:

December 19, 2024 (Joy):

Reflect on the joy rooted in our relationship with Jesus.

December 26, 2024 (Love):

Celebrate God's unconditional love, revealed through His Son, and learn to love others as He loves us.



Sign up on the information table or call the church office to receive materials and Zoom invitations.

<u>December Birthdays</u>	<u>Dec. Anniversaries</u>
Hatcher, Terry 8	Michael & Mary Alice Linzy 3
Hubbard, Edie 12	Russell & Amy Clarke 6
Boyette, Margaret 15	
Surles, Peggy 21	

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.

Movies Under the Oaks

Every Friday starting @ 6:30 p.m.

Bring your field blankets and folding chairs. There is a complete schedule through April 11th on the information table. This event will be free to the community and food and refreshments will be provided: Hotdogs, soft pretzels, popcorn, lemonade, tea and hot chocolate on chilly nights. Movies will be projected on our 14 ft outdoor screen unless weather conditions do not allow for this and in that case, movies will be shown in multi-purpose sanctuary.



Finding Christ in Christmas Specials

Rudolph! Frosty! The Grinch! The most beloved Christmas characters of all time illustrate timeless truths in this interactive One-Man Show by Jason Korsiak!



Korsiak plays Scotch, an overworked elf trying to get on top of the Christmas rush, but each present he packs only reminds him of one of his favorite holiday movies -- and what they can teach us about such lessons as expectations, the gift of grace, being a good neighbor, and how your "red

nose" makes you a valuable part of the Body of Christ! Inspired by his book, *The Christmas Gospels*, "Finding Christ in Christmas Specials" is a festive treat for the whole family, featuring singing, games, and ample opportunity for audience participation!

Santa Clause is Coming to Chaires Methodist!

December 21st is going to be a busy day at Chaires Methodist Church. Not only will we be hosting a FREE community festive treat for the whole family with "Finding Christ in Christmas" but Santa Clause will be coming to our historic sanctuary to provide children and families with free photo opportunities with Santa along with some Christmas gifts to be handed out to all children who attend. Santa will be providing photos in the historic sanctuary from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**



Blue Christmas Service:

A Time for Healing and Hope

Date: Sunday, December 22, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Historic Sanctuary



For many of us, the holiday season can be a bittersweet time, filled with both cherished memories and heartfelt challenges. If you find yourself carrying grief, loss, or struggle this year, we invite you to our **Blue Christmas Service**—a sacred time to find peace, comfort, and hope.

This special evening is designed to be a gentle, reflective space where we can bring our hurts to God and experience the light of His presence. Through quiet

worship, meaningful scripture, and heartfelt prayer, we'll remember that even in the darkest moments, Christ's love shines brightly for us all.

Parsonage Open House

Pastor Kerry and his wife Tiffany would like to invite you over to the church parsonage for a Christmas Eve Open house.

Date: December 24, 2024

Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Stop by before the Candlelight Service and experience the joy of the season with your church family. on December 24th @ 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy Christmas treats, gifts, fellowship, decorations and lights. There is no sign up necessary...just show up.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us on **December 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Historic Sanctuary. This year's theme, "The Gifts of Christmas," reminds us of the divine gifts of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace through Jesus Christ. Come for an unforgettable evening with a special children's sermon, the lighting of the Advent wreath, and an inspiring message about the treasures of God's love.



Members

Bobbie Harrison / Casey Friel

Friends and Family

Family of John Galbreath / Family of Richard Solomon (Ed Fannin) / Dennis Rackley (brother of Diane Matthews) / Don & Levrine Oxendine (Franklin & Frances Chaires) / Charlie Cox (Martha Fletcher) / Family of Mary Ann Daniels (Maggie Hall) / Jael (Terry Hatcher) / Chad Craig
Two Palm Beach police officers who lost their lives in a crash. Another was seriously injured. / Family of Marilyn Remsberg / Larry & Karen Clark / Eli and his son / Family of Marilyn Remsberg / Jane Powell (cousin of Frances Chaires) / Betty Posey / Witmer Family / Nick Swickley
Cindy Waldron (Marion Lollie's sister-in-law) / Gretchen Pennington / Pastor Bill Petersen / Chris Taylor (daughter in law of Jeanette Wood) / Family of Kim Wilson / Vickie Matthews (co-worker of Sue Graham) / Mrs. Bobbie Adams (friend of Diane Matthews) / Michelle Rackley (sister-in-law of Diane & David Matthews) / *Dirk Flachsmeier (friend of Ed Fannin) had successful brain tumor removal!*

Delivering Cookies and Goodies to First Responders and Hospital Workers

We did it for Thanksgiving and we are going to do it for Christmas Day. I am talking about delivering Christmas goodies as a way of saying thank you for those that are working on Christmas Day. We need two sets of volunteers to make this happen.

December 22 @ 11:15 a.m. We need people to bring some Christmas cookies and sweet goodies to the church and package them up following the worship service.



December 25 @ 9:00 a.m. We need people to help deliver those packaged goodies to surrounding fire departments, police departments, and hospitals. We are hoping to be able to distribute to over 25 locations and for those that would like to help do this,

there is a sign-up sheet located on the sign-up table of the multipurpose building.