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### What is Twixmas?

Have you heard of Twixmas? It's a term gaining popularity to describe the period between December 26th and December 31st—a time when people take a breather after the hustle and bustle of Christmas and before the start of the new year. But what does it mean for us as Christians, and how does it fit into the sacred season of Christmas?

While Twixmas might feel like a modern invention, the concept of this downtime isn't new. In medieval times, the days following December 25th were a time for extended celebrations. Common workers rested, reflected, and enjoyed the company of their loved ones, giving thanks for the gift of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

By the 1800s, this time evolved into more social and leisurely activities. The aristocracy embraced it as a season for parties, outings, and even vacations. As a resident of the Keys, I can attest that this period has become the busiest tourist season of the year, with heavy traffic and bustling streets. Locals often retreat indoors to escape the chaos!

Some might say, "What's wrong with Twixmas? It's just a way to relax after the holiday frenzy." But here lies the concern: Twixmas inadvertently shifts focus away from the fullness of Christmas itself.

According to the church calendar, December 26th isn't the end of Christmas—it's just the beginning! The season of Christmastide, or the 12 Days of Christmas, spans from December 25th to January 5th. Historically, this sacred period was filled with meaningful traditions: attending church services, singing hymns and carols, visiting loved ones, and performing works of mercy like caring for the sick or giving generously to those in need. Twixmas, while appealing, risks overshadowing Christmastide, a season rich with spiritual significance. Instead of seeing Christmas as a single day, let us remember it as the ongoing celebration of Christ's birth—the true gift that continues to bless us.

This is not a holiday we should forget as a relic of the past; it is one we should embrace and resurrect. Let's reclaim Christmastide as a time to reflect on God's love, deepen our faith, and share the joy of Christ with others. May we cherish these 12 days, honoring the sacred season of Christmas as it was always meant to be.

### **Begin the New Year with friends...covered dish lunch next Sunday after worship!**

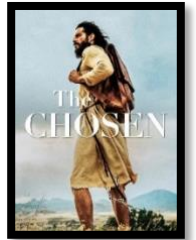


Since today is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, there will be a special collection for Residing Hope. Please indicate your wish to donate by writing "Residing Hope" on the memo line of your check or using a church envelope for cash donations. This ministry has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless children.

### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



*There is an UPDATED schedule of the movie dates and times on the information table.*

### Giving Through Our Website

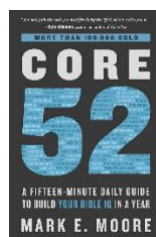
Go to <https://chairesmethodist.church> and just click the blue GIVE button and you will be taken to the church REALM site. The church secretary can help you set up your account.

### **CHOIR NEWS**

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 our new blended worship service. For more info, contact: Gerry Nielson (321-652-5361 [gerry Niel@gmail.com](mailto:gerry Niel@gmail.com))

### January Sermon Series

We will be starting up a new sermon series on January 12<sup>th</sup> titled, "Beginnings". Being that we are going into a new year and a new season, this 4-week sermon series will give our congregation everything we need to confidently propel our congregation into uncharted territory of 2025. What better place to start than the *actual beginning*? From **creation** to **covenant** we will cover some of the most foundational and important teachings in scripture.



The Beginnings sermon series originates from *Core52: A Fifteen-Minute Daily Guide to Build Your Bible IQ in a Year*. *Core52* is an essential resource for individuals and groups who want to build confidence in God's Word.

Think of *Core52* as a fast-pass to biblical literacy, calling for 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week, for 1 year. If you would like to purchase one of these books, please sign up on the back table of the multipurpose sanctuary.

***If you would like a phone call or visit from  
Pastor Kerry, please let him or Susan  
Capelouto, the secretary, know.***



**Members**

Margaret Boyette  
Bobbie Harrison  
Casey Friel

**Friends and Family**

Jamie Mullen, Ben Zapater (Terry Hatcher)  
Kelly Powers (friend of Mary Alice Linzy)  
Praise for Gordon's successful surgery recovery (husband of Donna Wheeler)  
Family of Andrea Schultz (Janet Cayson)  
Family of John Galbreath  
J.D. Amason-former pastor and beloved brother in Christ  
Dennis Rackley (brother of Diane Matthews)  
Don & Levrine Oxendine (Franklin & Frances Chaires)  
Charlie Cox (Martha Fletcher)  
Family of Mary Ann Daniels (Maggie Hall)  
Jane Powell (cousin of Frances Chaires)  
Pastor Bill Petersen

January Birthdays

Chaires, Frances 17  
Lombardi, Jean 23  
Grubb, Renee 24  
Grubb, Dylan 29  
Hall, Maggie 30

Jan. Anniversaries

Mike & Terry Hatcher 1  
Jon & Dot Berry 4  
Sammy & Marion Lollie 23  
Jean & Michael Lombardi 29

12-29-2024

*(Please let us know about a change in status  
of your prayer need.)*

Pastor	Rev. Kerry Foote
Secretary	Susan Capelouto
Music Director	Gerry Nielsen
Custodian	Janet Cayson
Audio/Visual	Marty Holland

**A New Year's Prayer**

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you  
when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous