



Pastor Kerry Foote
 Cell: (305) 407-7040
 E-mail: pastor.foote@outlook.com
 9243 Parkhill Road Tallahassee, FL 32317
 Church Phone: (850) 219-9361
 Web site: chairesmethodist.church
 Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 AM-2PM

What is Epiphany?

Just when you thought the holidays were over, surprise — they're not! Christmas officially kicks off on December 25 and lasts until January 6, when Christians worldwide celebrate Epiphany. This day, also called "Three Kings Day," marks the visit of the Magi (or wise men) to the baby Jesus. The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word for "manifestation," referring to Jesus being revealed as the Son of God.



The story, found in the book of Matthew, tells of three kings following a star in the East to find the baby in the manger, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Bonus points if you can name the kings: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar.

And for extra credit — myrrh is a scented oil! Epiphany has been celebrated as a church feast since the second century, making it one of Christianity's oldest traditions.

How Is Epiphany Celebrated?

Celebrations vary depending on where you are and your denomination.

Protestants in the U.S. usually mark Epiphany on the Sunday closest to January 6 with a church service, signaling the start of the "season of Epiphany." This season, focusing on Jesus' miracles, continues until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (this year, March 1).

Catholics celebrate Epiphany on January 6. The day includes Pope Francis' homily during Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. On the following Sunday, Catholic priests often focus on Jesus' baptism in their homilies.

Eastern Orthodox Christians emphasize Jesus' baptism as well, with unique traditions like priests tossing crosses into icy waters for devotees to retrieve. Orthodox churches using a different liturgical calendar celebrate Epiphany on January 19, saving their plunge for then.

Are There Other Traditions for Epiphany?

Absolutely! Not everyone celebrates by diving into freezing water!

In **Spain**, children leave their shoes outside on Epiphany Eve, hoping for candy and presents (if they've been good). Naughty kids? They get lumps of coal.

In **Italy**, a beloved figure known as *La Befana*, a "good witch," leaves gifts for children. Legend says the Magi invited her to join their search for Jesus, but she was too

busy. Regretting her decision, she now flies through the air delivering gifts while searching for the Christ child. Even Venetian gondoliers join the fun, dressing as *La Befana* and cruising the Grand Canal.



In **Latin America** and Spain, families bake a *roscon de reyes* or king's ring cake. A figurine of a baby is hidden in the dough, symbolizing Jesus being revealed to the Magi. Whoever finds the baby in their slice gets to host the next celebration!

In **New Orleans**, the tradition of king cake has taken on a Mardi Gras twist. These festive, frosted, and often fruit-filled cakes include a hidden plastic baby, eaten throughout the Epiphany season right up to Ash Wednesday.

Epiphany may be one of the lesser-known holidays in the U.S., but its rich traditions around the world remind us of the joy and wonder of the season. Wherever and however you celebrate, it's a time to reflect on the revelation of Christ to the world — and perhaps enjoy a slice of king cake while you're at it!

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for the thoughtful Christmas gifts, cards, and the special offering directed to Tiffany, me, and the church staff. Your generosity and kindness are deeply appreciated. It is truly uplifting to feel valued, and this church continuously blesses not only the staff but also our family in countless ways.

On a more personal note, I want to thank you for who you are to Tiffany and me. For us, this church has been an extraordinary answer to prayer—one far greater than we could have imagined. While we were praying for a church to serve (a paycheck is not a bad thing to have), God blessed us with so much more. He gave us not only a ministry but a family to love and be loved by. Your love, support, and faithfulness are a constant reminder of God's abundant grace in our lives.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being such a beautiful reflection of God's love.

--The "Feet" Family

Women's Group of Chaires Methodist Church

Join us on **Saturday, January 25, 2025 (10:00 AM-noon)**, for a soul-nourishing gathering with the Women's Group! We'll begin with a **wonderful devotion** led by **Maggie Hall**, offering us the opportunity to reflect, connect, and grow together in faith.



Afterward, stay for fun as **Mary Alice Linzy** demonstrates the art of chocolate making! Whether you're a chocolate enthusiast or simply love learning new things, this hands-on activity promises to be sweet and memorable. Mary Alice brings creativity and enthusiasm to the table, making it a delightful experience for everyone.

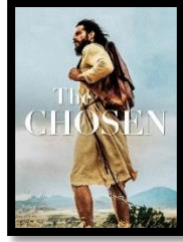
Come ready to fill your heart with inspiration and your hands with chocolatey goodness. Bring a friend, your Bible, and maybe an apron—because this morning is sure to be as meaningful as it is fun! **Y'all come!**

[Church Council will meet next Sunday following worship.](#)

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.



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 gerryniel@gmail.com)

January Sermon Series

We will be starting up a new sermon series on January 12th 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.

Thank you for your very generous and kind gift. I love being the secretary for you, my beloved Chaires Church Family. I am a part of every ministry of the church, and I am continually amazed at the outpouring of love and joy from all of you as you are truly the Hands and Heart of Jesus Christ.

Your sister in Christ, Susan

01-05-2025



Members

Margaret Boyette
Bobbie Harrison
Casey Friel

Friends and Family

Family of Pastor Bill Petersen
Jamie Mullen, Ben Zapater (Terry Hatcher)
Kelly Powers (friend of Mary Alice Linzy)
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)

(Please update us about your prayer need.)

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

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

Pastor
Secretary
Music Director
Custodian
Audio/Visual

Rev. Kerry Foote
Susan Capelouto
Gerry Nielsen
Janet Cayson
Marty Holland

