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## The Community of God

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:24-25*

*“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” – Romans 12:4-5*

In the scriptures above we also see that God encourages our need for community in recognizing that each person has been giving unique gifts that in isolation would be not nearly as useful as in community. Even in our physical bodies, each body part works much more powerfully and effectively when in conjunction with the other body parts.

That is why I see a very worrying trend as I look around the world. I see the use of technology making people more and more isolated, more and more angry, more and more impatient. Many people spend much more time on their connected device than they do in interactions with other humans on a daily basis.

They view others in some cases as a hindrance and an annoyance, who may have differing views than themselves and therefore must be inconsequential to them.

Lately, we see the news saturated with horrific tragedies when individuals decide to step out of the lane of civilized behavior in order to inflict as much carnage on their fellow human beings as possible. The pain and wreckage they selfishly leave behind is immeasurable.

Why is this happening? I believe one of the biggest reasons is we have lost our sense of community. Technology is isolating us and making us agnostic to normal human feelings and emotions. The media portrays an us vs them mentality, driven by negativity and division mostly fueled by politics, that appears to make it easier for people to snap when things don't go the way they want or expect in their life.

The preciousness of human life and the need for community is increasingly becoming diminished by our overuse of emotionless technology. Only turning back to God and His recipe for loving, successful community living appears able to stop this downward spiral.

What this world needs are more peacemakers, not more gadgets and apps. **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9**

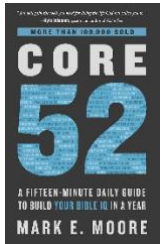
**Prayer:** Father God, thank you for sharing in your word how much we need each other to survive and thrive in life. We need each other every day. May you help us turn back to community and away from isolation. I pray in Jesus powerful name. Amen!

## Core52: A Fifteen-Minute Daily Guide to Build Your Bible IQ in a Year.

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, they are available in the back of the multi-purpose building starting January 19, 2025.



### **Madison Youth Ranch 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The long-awaited 10th Anniversary Celebration has been rescheduled for **February 1, 2025**. We look forward to seeing you at the Madison Youth Ranch to celebrate with us! There will be tours of the Ranch, catered lunch, and a special program. If you would like to attend, please sign-up with the following hyperlink: <https://residinghope.org/madison-youth-ranch-anniversary-celebration/>

If you are unable to sign up via the internet, please contact our Residing Hope Children's Home representative: Mary Alice Linzy @ (850) 570-1916.

#### **Schedule of Events**

Gates Open 10:00 am  
Program & Catered lunch 11:00 am  
Ranch Tours until 2:00 pm

### **Women's Group of Chaires Methodist Church**

Join us this **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!**

## 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 a 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.

### Pet Ministry

We are starting a new pet ministry here at Chaires. Currently we are looking for people to fulfill two ministry objectives in two specific areas.

- 1.) **Community Pet Pantry:** Located at Lake Jackson United Methodist Church, the third Saturday morning once a month to disburse food for pets.
- 2.) **Pet Bereavement:** We are also looking for volunteers to provide spiritual support for individuals that are facing the very difficult decision of having to euthanize a pet.

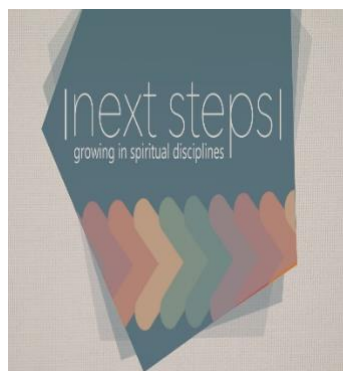


Call or email Sheila to learn more about how you can serve in our new **Pet Ministry**.

Contact: Sheila Novak 850-591-4171  
[sheiladoerr@bellsouth.net](mailto:sheiladoerr@bellsouth.net)

### February Sermon Series

We will be kicking off a new sermon series on February 9<sup>th</sup> titled: **Next Steps: Growing in Spiritual Disciplines**. This is a 4 week series that is designed to light a fire in our congregation to grow in our spiritual maturity.



It's really easy to get off-track spiritually, even with the best intentions. God wants to do great things in your life, but He doesn't just give us a pep talk and say good luck. He wants us to be prepared to face the temptations and trials that we're likely to run into.

We will be having a Devotional Bible study on Thursdays that will coincide with this sermon series. Thursdays @ 9:00 a.m. (Sunday School room) and 6:30 p.m. (Parsonage). The 6:30 study will also be provided via Zoom for those that cannot attend in person.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the table in the back of the multi-purpose sanctuary starting **January 19, 2025**. There will also be handouts provided at sign up table for you to take home.

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

## Mardi-Gras Ministry Opportunities

Chaires MC will be hosting two special ministry events on our church campus on the day of Mardi Gras (**March 4, 2025**). First will be a **Shrove Pancake Breakfast** in which we will be reaching out to the teachers and staff of Chaires Elementary. We will be providing a free breakfast @ **7:00 am** in our multipurpose building for teachers and staff to start their day off.

Then that evening, invite your family and friends to celebrate (Fat Tuesday) with the construction and destruction (eating) of a **6 ft. long banana split**. This will also be free @ **7:00 pm** in our multipurpose building.



**The Humble House Thrift Store is open for business! It is located at 1519 Capital Circle #14 & 15. It's in the same area as Honey Baked Ham Co. See Susan for info.**

### Ash Wednesday Service

**Date:** March 5, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Historic Sanctuary

**Title:** Ashes to Ashes / Dust to Dust

What is Ash Wednesday? Ash Wednesday – officially known as the Day of Ashes – is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. Often marked by extended times of fasting and prayer... It is a time to reflect, repent, and pray as we look ahead to the finished work of the cross as celebrated on resurrection Sunday.

### Lenten Bible / Devotional Study

Our pastor will be providing a Lenten Bible/Devotional Study that will coincide with our Lenten sermon series on Thursdays @ 9:00 a.m. (Sunday School room) and 6:30 p.m. (Parsonage). The 6:30 study will also be provided via Zoom for those that cannot attend in person.



If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the table in the back of the multi-purpose sanctuary starting February 9, 2025. There will also be handouts that you can take home for study.



### Members

Martha Fletcher / Mike Hatcher /  
Bobbie Harrison / Casey Friel

### Friends and Family

Torbin Dykes (Cousin of Frances Chaires) / Marti King (Sister of Margaret Boyette) / Roberta Minichiello / Family of Pastor Bill Petersen / Family and Friends of Jay Clark (Matthew Bouchard) / Cindy Waldron (Marion Lollie) / Sammy Lollie (husband of Marion Lollie) / Kelly Powers (friend of Mary Alice Linzy) / Family of Andrea Schultz (Janet Cayson) / Dennis Rackley (Diane Matthews) / Branklyn Ferrell (Diane Matthews) / Bryce Matthews (grandnephew of David/Diane Matthews) / Charlie Cox (Martha Fletcher) / Family of Mary Ann Daniels (Maggie Hall)  
*(Please update us about your prayer need.)*

*Sammy Lollie had successful surgery and is recuperating at home.*

#### 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