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Change Is a Choice: Just Do It

It's not enough to simply desire change. It's not even enough to say, "We dream of changing." Dreams are meaningless unless we wake up and act on them. The problems in our lives will not change until we choose to change.

How will we be different in six months? Will we be emotionally stronger? Will we be mentally sharper? Will we be physically healthier? Will we be more spiritually mature?

These changes will not happen automatically. We will not grow healthier by accident in any area of our lives. Often, we think we are waiting on God to change us, but the truth is—God is waiting on us.

There is no growth without change. There is no change without loss. And there is no loss without pain. Letting go of old habits, patterns, and ways of thinking is not always easy, but it is necessary.

Some of us may feel stuck because we haven't yet learned to let go. That is a choice. Ephesians 4:22 says, "Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception" (NLT).



**IF GOD SAYS DO IT
 JUST DO IT.**

We may try to justify our struggles by pointing to our circumstances or our genetics, but no matter where they come from, we must deal with them. Genetics may explain our inclinations, but it does not excuse sin.

Here's the good news: As believers, we have a new power within us that is greater than our old tendencies. That power is the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 2:12-13 reminds us, "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (NIV).

This does not mean we should be afraid of God. Instead, we should fear missing out on His best for our lives. We should be concerned that we might go through life without ever fully knowing His purpose for us.

The secret to real change is not willpower alone. It is allowing God to work in us—giving us both the will and the power through the Holy Spirit to do what He has called us to do.

Let us choose change. Let us step into the future God has prepared for us.

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

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



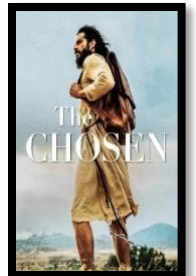
Think of *Core52* as a fast-pass to biblical literacy, calling for 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week, for 1 year. Just a reminder: If you are keeping up with doing the Core 52 reading with the congregation, this week we are on **chapter 7 (Kingdom of God) and the key memorization scripture is: 1 Samuel 16:7.**

Movies Under the Oaks

Every Friday starting @ 7:00 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.

Our next showing will be on **February 28, 2025** and it will be a double feature with **Season 4 episodes 1 & 2.** Between the episodes we will be treated to some of Dot Spence famous Brunswick Stew.



There is a schedule of the movie dates and times on the information table.

Humble House Ministries

Our February Mission emphasis will be Humble House Ministries. This is a faith-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing sober living homes for women in recovery. Their ministry offers a residential recovery program and transitional housing for women and children focusing on emotional, physical, and spiritual healing through Bible-based teaching and Christian mentorship. We will be collecting items during February. You can also donate plants for the Thrift Shop.



Please get a card from the information table and write a note of encouragement to these courageous Sisters in Christ. Leave your note in the basket.

They will be joining us for worship and our covered dish lunch on Mar. 2nd. Contact: Susan Capelouto

Church Pot Luck

Don't forget that we will be having our monthly potluck luncheon coming up on March 2, 2025 @ 11:30 a.m. in the church multi-purpose building.



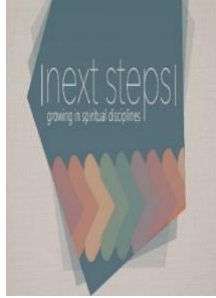
Pastor Kerry Foote will be preparing smoked BBQ baby back ribs. Come prepared to get a little messy and maybe bring a moist towelette.



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)

Next Steps: Adult Bible Study

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. This study will conclude on March 6th.

There are handouts at the sign-up table for you to take home.

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** at 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.



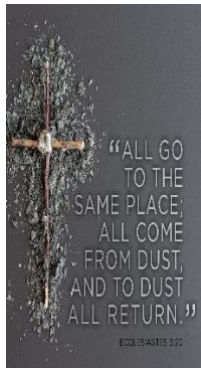
Ash Wednesday Service

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.

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.

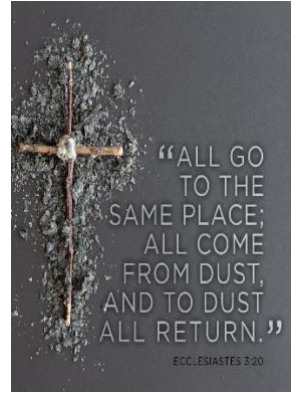
Special Needs Ministry: Stay Tuned

FYI...Chaires Methodist is currently in discussions with Independence Landing which is an assisted living facility for people with special needs. We are looking to explore ministry opportunities.

Lenten Bible Study

March 13-April 10

Pastor Kerry 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 who cannot attend in person.



If you are interested, please sign up at the information table and take a student handout with you.



Members

David Matthews / Franklin Chaires / Martha Fletcher / Bobbie Harrison / Casey Friel

Friends and Family

Chad Craig (Janet Cayson) /Goram Family (Franklin & Frances Chaires)/ Noah Messer (Diane Matthews)/ Family of Aunt Fran McCurdy (Tiffany Foote) / Shafer Family (Tiffany Foote) /Praise for friends and prayers for safe travels (Tiffany Foote) / Marti King (Margaret Boyette's sister/ Johnny Bass (nephew of Bobbie Harrison) /E.L. McGraw (Terry Hatcher) / Pastor Alex Mack / Yvonne Brown (cousin of Marion Lollie) / Yvonne Brown / Marion Lollie/ /Larry Laskowski (Ed Fannin) / Torbin Dykes (Cousin of Frances Chaires) / Cindy Waldron (Marion Lollie) / Sammy Lollie (husband of Marion Lollie) / Dennis Rackley (brother of Diane Matthews)

Praise! Renee Grubb reports that Steve Anderson is in remission. Jack Dull is a great-grandfather!

Holy Week Schedule

It is not too far off to be putting on your calendar events for this year's Holy Week. Below are dates, times, and brief descriptions of things coming up. More information will be given as we get closer to the dates.

April 13th (10:00 am) Palm/Passion Sunday Service

April 17th (7:00 pm) Maundy Thursday Service- This will be held in the historic sanctuary and communion will be served. This also has a reader's theater that will need volunteers.

April 18th (7:00 pm) Good Friday Service- This will be held in the historic sanctuary and will be a retelling of the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

April 19th (9:00 am – 9:00 pm) Black Saturday prayer vigil. We will be hosting 12 hours of prayer in the historic sanctuary and will be asking members of the congregation to sign up for 1-hour slots.

Easter Sunrise Service

Looking ahead please mark your calendars for our special Easter Sunrise service that will be held on **April 20, 2025 @ 6:45 am** on the property of Johnny & Penny Pentrandis. Stay tuned for more information.

March Birthdays

Capelouto, Susan 3
Alley, Christy 14
Taylor, Jim 25
Milan Novak 30

March Anniversaries

Rick & Paula Davies 11
Gerry & Janet Cayson 28

