

Why a Manger? By Rev. Kerry Foote

"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."" — Lk 2:10-12



When we picture the birth of Jesus, we often imagine a peaceful nativity scene with gentle animals and a glowing star. But pause and ask: Why a manger? Why wasn't the Savior of the world born in a palace, wrapped in royal robes, and greeted with fanfare?

The answer is simple and powerful: **humility** and **accessibility**.

Jesus came not to impress, but to invite. He didn't arrive in an ivory tower, far from our pain and mess. He came right into the middle of it—into the grit and noise and imperfection of a stable. From His very first breath, Jesus was declaring that He had come for all people, not just the privileged or powerful.

He was wrapped in simple cloth, not silk. Laid in a feeding trough, not a cradle of gold. This Savior—our Savior—chose to enter the world in the most vulnerable, humble way possible. And in doing so, He made Himself accessible to everyone.

You didn't need a title or a reservation to approach Him. Shepherds—the outcasts of their time—were the first to visit. Later, He would invite children to sit with Him, speak gently with the hurting, and welcome the brokenhearted.

The message is clear: God isn't far away. He's with us. And He came for you.

No matter where you come from or what your life looks like, Jesus isn't waiting for perfection. He meets us in our mess. The same God who was born in a stable longs to be born in your heart—right where you are.

Reflect on the meaning of that manger. It's not about where Jesus was born—it's about why. The Child in the manger is the Savior of the world. And He came for you.

"Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all." 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

#### **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.

## <u>Core52: A Fifteen-Minute Daily Guide to</u> 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 27 The Gospel**) and the key memorization scripture is: Mark 1:1.



#### **Choir Summer Break**

The Church Choir will be taking a little break for the summer for the months of June – August. We will be replacing the choir with a praise team. If you are interested in helping lead the congregation during worship, please see Gerry Neilson to be put on a Sunday rotation. 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

# Find us on Facebook



We don't know if you have heard...but

we are now going live with our Sunday morning service on Facebook. If you cannot make the service in person, you can join our Facebook family. Give us a like and follow us on Facebook to get up to date information about upcoming events and you can access live sermons on Sunday or access our archive.

https://www.facebook.com/p/Chaires-Methodist-Church-61561720372576/

# **Pastor Visit**

If you would like a visit from our pastor, please do not hesitate to call either Susan Capelouto (Administrative Assistant) or Rev. Kerry Foote so that a visit can be arranged.

# July Special Mission and Outreach



For the month of July, we will have a special sermon series called: "Christmas in July". With this sermon series we, members of our congregation, will have the opportunity to participate in a global mission called: "Soles 4 Souls".

#### Soles 4 Souls

People living in poverty want a better life, but many lack opportunities. At S4S, they turn unwanted shoes and

clothing into opportunity, by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use – providing relief, creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty by helping people in low-income countries escape poverty through entrepreneurship.



So, for the month of July, we are

asking members of the congregation to bring their gently used shoes to church on Sunday to be donated on the chancel rail.

# <u>Radical Hospitality Team</u>

Yet another ministry that is on the horizon...we just keep growing and filling in needs...AMEN. A handful of church members have come forward with the desire

to form a hospitality team that would be responsible for preparation for special events and be available to be on a food train. The food train is simply people volunteering to cook a meal for a



day for those who are sick or coming home from the hospital. If you are interested in serving on this team...please reach out to either Kerry Foote or Susan Capelouto.

Pick up a newsletter from our friends at Humble House at the information table. A lot of blessings to share and ways you can be a part of their ministry. Contact: Susan Capelouto

A big "thank you" to Donna and Bob Corson for stepping up to change the church sign with current messages about special events and ministry that are coming up. There are a lot of "quiet angels" in the Chaires Church Family!



## **Looking for Testimonies**

Listed below are the Scriptures, Titles, and Themes for the month of July. If you have a personal testimony that you would like to share that you believe ties into the sermon, let **me** know.

Date: July 20, 2025		
Title: Christmas Playlist		
Theme: Joy to the World		
Main Idea: The mark of a		
Christian should be a joy that is		
not dependent upon external		
circumstances or situations.		
<b>Old Testament</b> : Psalm 98:1-6		

Title: Christmas Playlist Theme: O Come, O Come Emmanuel Main Idea: No matter where we find ourselves today, God is close to us and so is redemption. New Testament: Mat 1:18-25 New Testament: Rev 21:3-4

Date: July 27, 2025

New Testament: Romans 5:17-18

# GOOD NEWS TOUR

Beginning this October, Will Graham will share the Good News of Jesus Christ through a four-city tour in Florida. This evangelistic outreach depends on believers like you, and they want to join you and Chaires Methodist Church in proclaiming the Gospel message. Will you pray for the upcoming Sunshine State Good News Tour?

Mark your calendar for this event: October 26, 2025 (Tallahassee)...more information to come.



The Cabinet of the Florida Conference is inviting all GM churches to consider taking a special offering this weekend. You can also give electronically by going to our website, <u>www.floridagmc.org</u>, and clicking on "Donate Now." On the drop-down menu, select "disaster relief."

Checks made payable to the **Florida Conference** can be mailed to our Conference address: 11250 Old St. Augustine Road, Suite 15-114, Jacksonville, Florida 32257. Again, we will ensure all this money goes directly to the MidTexas Conference.



#### Members

Barbara Palmer / Milan Novak / Lucia Lightfoot / Marion Lollie / Debbie Pahl / Margaret Boyette / Jean Lombardi / Mary Alice Linzy / Pete Peters

#### **Friends and Family**

Texas flood victims / Karen Robinson (Terry Hatcher) / Mark Schroeder (Maggie Hall) / Eddie Doerr (Sheila Novak) / Ron Lance (Sheila Novak) / Beth (Sheila Novak) / Laura Sutliff (Sheila Novak) / Thomas Hatcher (Mike Hatcher) / Elizabeth Brazier (Terry Hatcher) / Randy Harrison (Diane Matthews) / Kris Harrison (Diane Matthews) / Jimmy Cobb

(Marty Holland) / Our service men and women (Diane Matthews) / Floerke Family (Terry Hatcher) / E.L. McGraw (Terry Hatcher) / Benjamin Applewhite (Cathy Lee) /Family

of Kenith Faircloth (Tony Minichiello) / Praise for Lisa Reeves (Mary Alice Linzy) / Families of Air Indie Flight (Unknown) / Wounded lawmakers in Minnesota (Unknown) / Lauren Keahey (Maggie Hall)

July Birthdays	July Anniversaries	
Marty Holland 7	Gordon & Donna Wheeler 19	
Trey Cayson 8	Milan & Sheila Novak 24	
Theresa Smith 13		
Victoria Messer 17		
Amanda Novak 17		
Dorothy Spence 24		
Don Dampier 26		

7-13-2025