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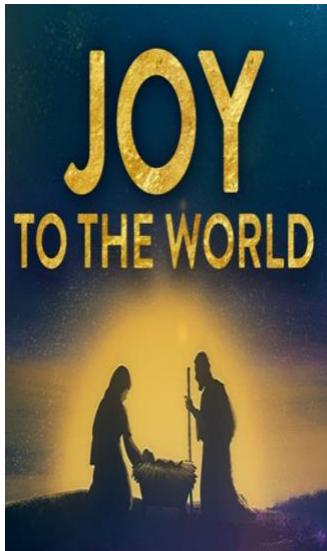
Joy That Endures

by Pastor Kerry Foote

“But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.”

— Psalm 5:11

Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year — and rightfully so. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior, the One who came into the world to rescue us from sin and bring us new life. The lights, music, and gatherings all point to something deeper: a joy that is rooted not in our present circumstances, but in God’s eternal promise.



But let’s be honest — joy isn’t always easy to feel. For some, this season brings grief, stress, or reminders of what’s been lost. Even in everyday life, joy can feel far off when the car breaks down, when finances are tight, or when life simply wears us down. I understand this deeply — as someone who tends to see the glass half empty (and probably full of backwash), the idea of joy has not come naturally to me.

Yet Scripture doesn’t speak of joy as a fleeting emotion. It speaks of a joy that remains — a joy that comes from knowing who we are and whose we are. Jesus Himself said in John 16:20-22 that we would face sorrow, but that our grief would turn into joy. He compared it to a mother giving birth: the pain is real, but it gives way to overwhelming joy when the child arrives. In the same way, we walk through trials knowing that joy is coming — and that no one can take it from us.

A wise pastor once told me, “Being joyful doesn’t mean pretending to be happy all the time.” That truth has stuck with me. We don’t have to smile through suffering or minimize pain. But we can hold onto a deeper truth: that we’ve been rescued. That our sins are forgiven. That God is with us, even when life is hard.

This Christmas (in July), I encourage you to reflect on the source of our joy. Not on how things are going, but on the One who came to be with us — Immanuel. Because of Jesus, our joy doesn’t depend on how we feel today or what tomorrow brings. It springs from the salvation that was born into a manger — and now lives in our hearts.

Whatever your situation this season, may you remember that joy. May it be your strength, your song, and your anchor — not just at Christmas, but always.
Merry Christmas.

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.

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 28 (Faith)** and the key memorization scripture is: **Mark 1:15.**



Missions and Outreach for August

In August we become the watermelon church once again. During the hot days of August and prior to the start of school, the Lincoln High football team and band will be practicing for the 2025 high school football season.

We will be showing up after their practice to provide some fresh cut cold watermelon. If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet located at the back of the sanctuary.

The days we will be serving are:

August 1st @ 11:00 a.m. (Band Practice Field)

August 5th @ 10:30 a.m. (Football Field)

August 7th @ 10:30 a.m. (Football Field)

September 20th @ 11:00 a.m. (Gene Cox Stadium)



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.

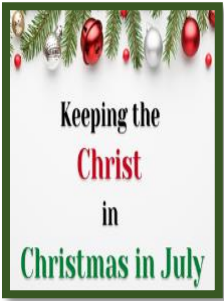
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Chaires-Methodist-Church-61561720372576/>

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 each Sunday to be donated and placed on the chancel rail.

Radical Hospitality Team

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 folks volunteering to share their talents to cook a meal for a day for those who are sick or coming home from the hospital. The meal can be a group effort! 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 27, 2025 Title: Christmas Playlist Theme: O Come, O Come Emmanuel	Date: August 3, 2025 Title: James: Faith and Works Theme: Testing and Persevering Main Idea: The testing of our faith through trials, adversity,
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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	suffering, etc... produces in us a steadfast spirit and perseverance. New Testament: 2 Tim 3:10-13 New Testament: James 1:2-12
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SUNSHINE STATE
GOOD NEWS TOUR
WITH WILL GRAHAM

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, www.floridagmc.org, 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

Family of Dustin Savage (Maggie Hall) / 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 Fairecloth (Tony Minichiello) / Praise for Lisa Reeves (Mary Alice Linzy) / Families of Air India Flight (Unknown) / Wounded lawmakers in Minnesota (Unknown) / Lauren Keahey (Maggie Hall)

<u>July Birthdays</u>	<u>July Anniversaries</u>
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	