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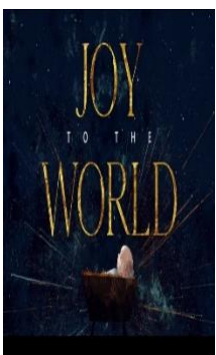
Show Your Joy to the World

"But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me." Psalm 13:5-6

As Christmas approaches, I want to speak to you not just as your pastor, but as someone who cares deeply about your heart and your experience this season. I know how easy it is for December to fill up with stress, busyness, and even comparison. Maybe you're feeling overwhelmed by all there is to do, or maybe you're wishing things could be different in your home or your heart. If that's you, please know—you're not alone.

But here's my loving challenge to you, and to myself: What if, this year, we chose something different? What if, instead of letting panic, frustration, regret, or envy take over, we asked God to fill us with joy—real, deep, lasting joy? Not the kind that depends on perfect plans or perfect decorations, but the kind that comes from knowing we are loved, saved, and held by God.

The psalmist says, "But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me." This is the joy I want for you. It's a joy that celebrates the miracle of Jesus coming into our world, a joy that lifts us up even when life feels heavy. It's a joy that can change not just how we feel, but how we treat each other—making us kinder, more patient, and more grateful.



So, my challenge is this: Let's chase after that joy together. Let's pause, even for a moment, to thank God for the gift of Jesus. Let's let that gratitude overflow into our words and actions, so that everyone around us can see the real reason we celebrate. You don't need a spotless house or a homemade fruitcake to show joy to the world—just a heart open to God's love.

May you feel the warmth of Christ's love in your heart and home this season. And may your joy be so real that it shines out to everyone you meet.

With love and blessings,
Pastor Kerry Foote

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.



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/>



Advent Sermon Series

This Advent, we are bringing the powerful story-telling of **The Chosen** to our church with a four-week advent sermon series titled: **The Chosen Holy Night**.

At the start of the New Testament, Israel is enduring a 400-year silence from God, experiencing hopelessness, shame, sadness, and isolation. Suddenly, the silence is broken by angels speaking and singing of the coming of a Rescuer in the birth of a child. This child will bring a great turning toward **hope, peace, joy, and love**.



Be sure to mark you calendars for our yearly candlelight service that will be held in the historic sanctuary on **December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.** This will be a reflective time to celebrate the reason for the season along with plenty of Christmas music to be sung together.

There will also be a Christmas Eve party held at the parsonage on the same day from **5:00 to 6:00 p.m.** The pastor and Tiffany will have a chocolate fountain and plenty of sweet goodies

to go around. Pastor Kerry will also be providing candied pork belly. Come for food, fellowship, and fun.

**Christmas
Eve @ the
Parsonage**

Chaires Hayride and Christmas Caroling

On December 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., we will be doing some old fashion, door to door, Christmas Caroling. We will be serenading the various homes around our church and in the Chaires community area. We will load up at the church on a trailer with hay bales for sitting and pulled by a John Deere tractor.

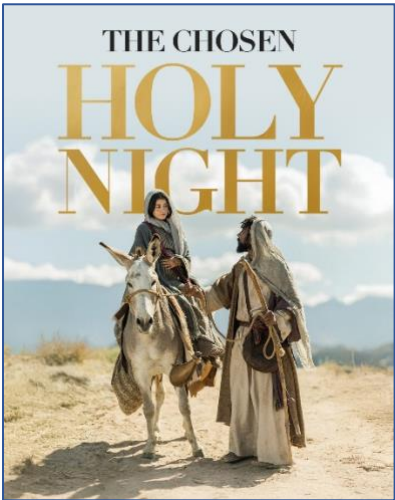


So, dress up in your warm clothes and plan on spreading some Christmas cheer to the Chaires community. To ensure that we have enough space on the trailer. If you plan on attending this event, please sign-up on the back table of the multi-purpose building.

Movies Under the Oaks: Holy Night

Our Advent sermon series is titled “The Chosen: Holy Night.” This advent sermon series will have various clips from The Chosen Christmas special titled “Holy Night.” What better way to end our advent series than watching that movie in it’s entirety outside on our 14 ft. inflatable screen under the oaks.

Join us on December 21st @ 6:00 p.m. we will have food, refreshments, and fire pits to keep warm. All you have to bring is a chair or blanket.



LAST SUNDAY to order Christmas Poinsettia Order slips to honor or memorialize your loved ones are on the information table. See Mary Alice Linzy before or after the service.

In addition to personal orders, we are collecting special donations for those who wish to help purchase extra poinsettias. These additional flowers will be used for two meaningful purposes: to accompany the cookie deliveries to first responders on December 25th, and to be distributed to shut-ins prior to Christmas Day. Your contribution will help brighten the holidays for both our community’s first responders and those who are unable to leave their homes.



Hospitality Team meets on January 7th from 4-6 PM at the church. Women’s Ministry will meet on Saturday, Jan.10th from 10 a.m. – noon at the church. The Church Council will meet in January.

Delivering Cookies to Our First Responders

Delivering cookies to our first responders has proven to be a meaningful mission project, first on Thanksgiving and now continuing for Christmas Day. This initiative serves as a thoughtful reminder that many individuals are still at work during the holidays, ensuring our safety and well-being.



Christmas Day Volunteer Opportunity

On Christmas Day, we invite volunteers to join together in showing appreciation to those first responders who will be working during the holiday. Volunteers will gather at the church at 10:00 a.m. before heading out into the community. The goal is to deliver homemade baked goods along with Christmas cards expressing gratitude for their service and dedication, especially on a day when many are enjoying time with loved ones.

How to Participate

Baking and Packaging: Anyone interested in contributing baked treats is encouraged to bring their goodies to the church on December 24th at 3:00 p.m. At this time, the baked goods will be packaged and prepared for delivery.

Early Delivery Option: Volunteers who plan to both bake and deliver may take their packages with them on December 24th, allowing them to make deliveries at their convenience on December 25th, without needing to return to the church on Christmas Day.

Delivery Only Option: Those who wish to help deliver but are unable to bake can meet at the church on December 25th at 10:00 a.m. Together, the group will divide the baked goods and set out to distribute them to area first responders.

This project is a wonderful opportunity to give back and make a difference for those who serve our community, especially during the holiday season.



Members

Kerry Foote / The Spence Family / Casy Friel / Franklin Chaires / Russel Clark /Amy Clark

Friends and Family

William and Shannon (Francis Chaires) / John Darly and family (Diane Matthews) / Dot and Susan Berry (Jon Berry) / Mandy Meuth and friends (Rick and Paula Davies) / Richard Snow (Dale Thompson) / Keith Walker (Dale Thompson) / Michael Foote Family (Kerry Foote) / Larry Lascowski (Lynne Fannin) / Nancy Fannin (Lynne Fannin)

December Birthdays

Donna Corson 2
Terry Hatcher 8
Edie Hubbard 12
Margaret Boyette 15
Peggy Surles 21

December Anniversary

Michael & Mary Alice Linzy 3

Russell & Amy Clark 6