



ROOTED IN THE PAST • GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

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## The Surprise Meaning Behind "The 12 Days of Christmas" Lyrics

Dear Church Family,  
As we gather to celebrate this Advent and Christmas season, I wanted to share with you an inspiring look at a familiar carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." While we often sing this song as a fun holiday tradition, many are surprised to learn the deeper Christian meanings behind its lyrics.

For many, the words of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may seem unusual or even whimsical. However, beneath the surface, this carol carries a significant history. It is believed that during a time when teaching the Catholic faith was forbidden in England, this song served as a coded teaching tool. Each gift in the song represented an important aspect of Christian faith, allowing believers to pass on their beliefs in secret.

### **What Are The 12 Days of Christmas?**

Contrary to popular belief, the twelve days of Christmas do not begin before Christmas Day. Instead, the first day is December 25th, and the celebration concludes on January 5th, the eve of Epiphany. Traditionally, these twelve days were set aside as a holy time for reflection, worship, and the giving of meaningful gifts. Even today, these days offer us a chance to focus on the spiritual gifts Christ brings to our lives.

For Christians throughout history, these days were filled with worship and acts of love. Families exchanged simple symbolic gifts and attended services, using this period for spiritual renewal and gratitude. The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" reminds us of this tradition and the rich faith it conveys.

### **Meaning of Each Day of the 12 Days of Christmas Lyrics**

The following list reveals the Christian meanings behind each of the twelve gifts mentioned in the carol:

- **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** – Symbolizes Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us.
- **Two Turtle Doves** – Stand for the Old and New Testaments, representing God's Word given to us.
- **Three French Hens** – Represent faith, hope, and love, the foundational virtues from 1 Corinthians 13.
- **Four Calling Birds** – Symbolize the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- **Five Gold Rings** – Represent the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah.
- **Six Geese a-Laying** – Remind us of the six days of creation.
- **Seven Swans a-Swimming** – Represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- **Eight Maids a-Milking** – Symbolize the Beatitudes, blessings Jesus gave during the Sermon on the Mount.
- **Nine Ladies Dancing** – Stand for the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- **Ten Lords a-Leaping** – Represent the Ten Commandments.
- **Eleven Pipers Piping** – Symbolize the faithful eleven apostles after Judas's betrayal.
- **Twelve Drummers Drumming** – Represent the twelve tenets of the Apostles' Creed, the core beliefs of Christian faith.

*As we sing and celebrate together, let us rejoice and give thanks for the birth of Christ and the enduring message of hope, love, and faith found in this cherished carol.*

### **Keeping the Tradition Alive**

Even though fewer families today observe the twelve days of Christmas, the heart of this tradition lives on in our worship and fellowship. Each year, as we share in music, scripture, and acts of kindness, we continue the story of God's love. May this season be filled with joy, meaning, and reflection for you and your loved ones. Remember, in the carol "true love" refers to God Himself, and the one who receives the gifts is anyone who welcomes Christ as Savior. Each gift is a reminder of the blessings and teachings that shape our faith. So, the next time you hear or sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas," may you remember its deeper meaning and celebrate the lasting gifts God gives to us all.

And just for fun, did you know that if you tried to buy all the gifts from the carol this year, it would cost nearly **\$49,263**? (Thank you, PNC Bank, for keeping track!) Here's the 2024 price breakdown for each gift:

- **A Partridge in a Pear Tree:** \$370.18 (\$20.18 for the partridge and \$350 for the pear tree)
- **Two Turtle Doves:** \$750
- **Three French Hens:** \$346.50
- **Four Calling Birds:** \$599.96
- **Five Gold Rings:** \$1,245
- **Six Geese-a-Laying:** \$900
- **Seven Swans-a-Swimming:** \$13,125
- **Eight Maids-a-Milking:** \$58 (based on federal minimum wage)
- **Nine Ladies Dancing:** \$8,557.37
- **Ten Lords-a-Leaping:** \$15,579.65
- **Eleven Pipers Piping:** \$3,714.96
- **Twelve Drummers Drumming:** \$4,016.85

May the true gifts of Christmas – faith, hope, love, and the joy of Christ's birth – fill your hearts and homes this season. Wishing you all a blessed and meaningful Christmas.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kerry

## 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/>



## Members

Marion and Sammie Lollie /Bob Corson / Kerry Foote / The Spence Family

## Friends and Family

Mandy Meuth (Rick and Paula Davies) /Richard Meuth (Rick and Paula Davies) / Candace (Unknown) / Glenda Anderson (Renee Grubb) / Shirley Ann (Mary Alice) / Bob Jarvis (Mary Alice) / Michael Linzy (Mary Alice) / Pat Powers (Mary Alice) / Henry Lowery (Tony Minichiello) / Glenda Anderson (Renee Grubb) /

## Hospitality Team Meeting 2026

**Date:** January 7, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** Chaires Multi-purpose building

This will be the first Hospitality Team meeting and a time of brainstorming and setting up practices and policies to ensure that the Hospitality Team will see success for 2026.



The Hospitality Team ensures a **warm, inclusive welcome** for everyone at church, serving as the "first impressions" team. Key duties include greeting guests, providing directions, coordinating hospitality at events, following up with visitors, keeping common areas welcoming, supporting members in times of need, and managing supplies. Their work turns newcomers into engaged members and strengthens our church community.

## Women's Ministry

**Date:** January 10, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

**Place:** Multi-Purpose Building

**Activity:** Stay tuned for more information regarding the meeting.



## Church Council Town Hall Meeting

Our next Church Council meeting will be on **January 25, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This will be a



town hall type meeting in which we will be reporting and celebrating all that has been accomplished in 2026 along with planning and praying for all that will happen in 2026. The whole church is invited: Member and Non-Members alike.

*Lunch will be provided.*

## Chaires Valentine Day Dinner

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Valentine Days dinner extravaganza on February 7, 2026. This will be catered by Seineyard and as always, there will be wonderful games and door prizes for all

## Chaires 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cookoff

Get ready to spice things up! Chaires Methodist Church invites you to our Second Annual Chili Cookoff on **January 5, 2026**, taking the place of our regular monthly potluck. Everyone is welcome to participate—whether you want to compete, bring a side dish, or just come to taste and vote.

There are three exciting categories to enter: best tasting chili, most unique (non-beef) meat, and the hottest chili. The whole congregation will serve as judges, so bring your appetite and your discerning palate!



We're also looking for volunteers to bring side dishes that pair well with chili. The cookoff will take place in the Multi-Purpose Building and will begin right after our Sunday morning worship, which will also be held in the historic sanctuary. Don't miss this fun opportunity for fellowship, food, and a little friendly competition. See you there!

### January Birthdays

Chaires, Frances 17

Lombardi, Jean 23

Grubb, Renee 24

Grubb, Dylan 29

Hall, Maggie 30

### January Anniversary

Mike & Terry Hatcher 1

Jon & Dot Berry 4

Sammy & Marion Lollie 23

Jean & Michael Lombardi 29