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## An Unhurried, Peaceful Holiday

Dear Church Family,

As the holiday season approaches, we're surrounded by joyful music and festive decorations, all reminding us of the excitement of Christmas. Yet, beneath the surface, many of us find ourselves longing for something more than just a "white Christmas"—we're wishing for a little more "white space" on our calendars and in our hearts.

Between pageants, parties, shopping trips, baking days, and wrapping nights, our schedules fill up quickly. The hustle and bustle can easily crowd out the true spiritual significance of this season, leaving us feeling hurried and overwhelmed instead of peaceful and joyful.



Reflecting on the very first Christmas, I wonder if Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men ever imagined that the celebration of Christ's birth would become so busy. While there was certainly some hurry that night—the shepherds rushed to see the newborn Jesus—their journey ended in quiet awe and peace as they stood in His presence.

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This year, I invite you to do the same. In the midst of our holiday hustle, let's pause and make space to meet with our Lord. Let's be settled and silent, allowing ourselves to be refreshed by the One whom this season is truly about. The tasks and to-do lists will wait while we seek the peace that only Jesus can give.

May we discover an unhurried holiday—a time that strengthens us spiritually and fills us with lasting joy. Here's to more "white space" this Christmas, creating room in our days for peace and for meeting with Jesus.

*Dear Lord, remind us daily that it's You we should rush to during the holiday hustle. Not things. Not activities. We want to seek and find only You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed Advent,

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/>

*Christmas Poinsettia order slips to honor or memorialize your loved ones are on the table in the narthex.*



### **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 your 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**



In a season where we're told that we are to be joyful, upbeat and cheery - not everyone feels like rejoicing. Whether you are grieving the death of a loved one, going through a divorce or unemployment, experiencing a growing sense of weariness, or other forms of loss and grief, you are not alone. All are invited to join us for a service of healing and hope. Just come as you are, feel what you feel, and hear words that proclaim God's light breaking into the darkness — words of hope.

We would love for you and a group from your church to come and experience Blue Christmas. We have shared this worship experience with our church and surrounding community for many years. Many folks have shared how meaningful and special this worship time has been. Here are the details you are welcome to share with people in your church.

**Blue Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 7**  
**7:00PM**  
**Killearn Methodist Church**  
**Sanctuary & Livestream**

Here is a link online: <https://subspla.sh/ntj9yp9>

**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.

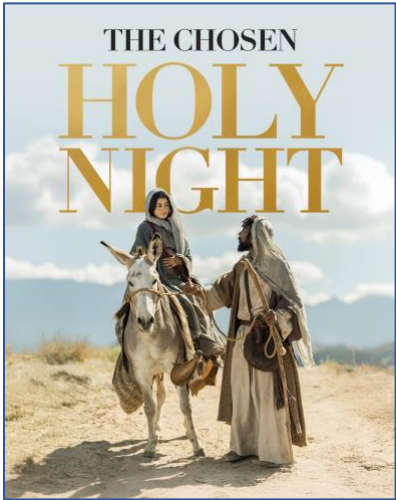


So, dress up in your warm clothes and plan on spreading some Christmas cheer to the Chaires community. To ensure that we have enough space on the trailer.  
*If you plan on attending this event, please sign-up on the back table of the multi-purpose building.*

**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 21<sup>st</sup> @ 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.



**Members**

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

**Friends and Family**

Michael Foote (Kerry Foote) / Larry Lascowski (Lynne Fannin) / Nancy Fannin (Lynne Fannin) / Emmett Eisenmann (Lynne Fannin) / Chuck Kent (Marion Lollie) / Denise Pruitt (Donna) / Martha Mitchell (Mary Alice Linzy) / Haley Harrison (Unknown) / Steve Cannon (Marion Lollie)

**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.

| <u>December Birthdays</u> | <u>December Anniversary</u>  |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Donna Corson 2            |                              |
| Terry Hatcher 8           | Michael & Mary Alice Linzy 3 |
| Edie Hubbard 12           |                              |
| Margaret Boyette 15       | Russell & Amy Clark 6        |
| Peggy Surles 21           |                              |

