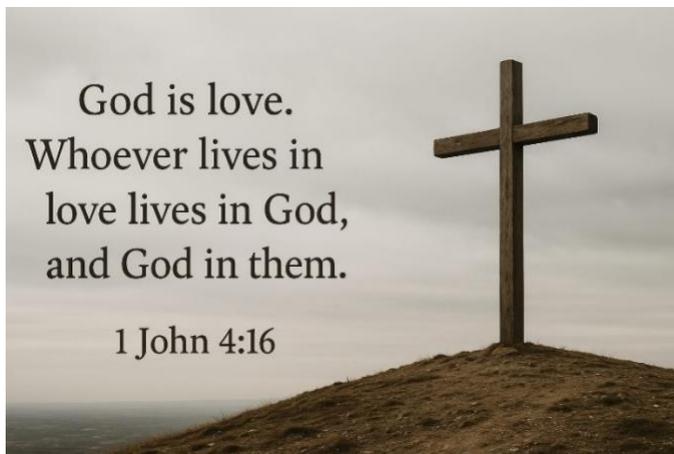




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Knowing God Through Love

1 John 4:7-8 "7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." - nkjv



1 John 4:8 highlights love as central to God's character: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." This suggests that love defines all of God's actions. Amid negative news, believers can trust in God's unwavering love. As A.W. Tozer said, nothing God does is apart from His love.

1. We can trust in God's Love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 gives several descriptions of love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

At the core of these qualities is the unwavering and unending aspect of love. God has proven this nature about Himself to humanity throughout the ages. He has maintained a covenantal relationship with humanity since creation. Even in our sinfulness, God continued to maintain patience with us and show us mercy.

When Adam and Eve sinned, before they had to leave the garden, God lovingly provided clothing to cover their nakedness. Even through the Israelites rebellions, God maintained His covenant relationships with them. After Jonah fled from the Lord, God delivered him from death through the big fish. By looking at the faithfulness of God's love throughout history, we can trust that He will continue to act accordingly in our lives.

2. Our salvation is an expression of God's love.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life," John 3:16.

God did not send Christ as a reward to the obedient, but rather as a ransom for the defiant. We see Jesus display his love throughout His life and ministry. He healed the sick without requirement of gratitude. He displayed humility even though He was King of Kings. Even while

on the cross, Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of the ones who placed Him there (John 3:16, 1 John 3:16, 4:10, Romans 5:8). Salvation is open to all who believe in Christ. God's love does not discriminate.

3. Our ability to love is enabled through God's love.

Jesus set for us the example to love and gives us the command to follow in His example (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16-20). When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He took the role of a servant and placed the needs of others above His own dignity.

He instructed His followers to do the same. He tells to love our neighbors as well as our enemies. Yet, this task is not burdensome, for love is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). When we rest and abide in God, love outpours onto others as a result (1 John 4:7). It is through our love that the world will know that we belong to Christ.

4. We can rest in God's love.

Because God's nature is love, His love is unconditional. As He knew before creation that we would be disobedient, He chose a path to save us from our sins (Ephesians 1:4-5). This gives us hope as His children. We do not have to view God as our "Punisher-in-Chief," but rather as our Heavenly Father who has a plan and purpose for our lives. Jesus personified this message and called people into rest (Matthew 11:28-30). When we recognize that Christ is our Advocate, we can rest in assurance of God's love.

5. We Can Have Confidence in God's Love.

Psalms 136 beautifully describes the love of God as unending. The psalmist recalls (26 times!) how in His sovereignty, the Lord upholds His creation and people in love. As we look back upon His loving faithfulness from the beginning of time, we can grow in our assurance that God will continue to vindicate His children and promote His kingdom until His plan and purpose comes to full fruition.



Prayer

Father God, Help us recognize Your love, trust in it, and share it with others. Forgive us for forgetting its true cost. Remind us of our purpose as Your chosen children so we may live confidently for You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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.



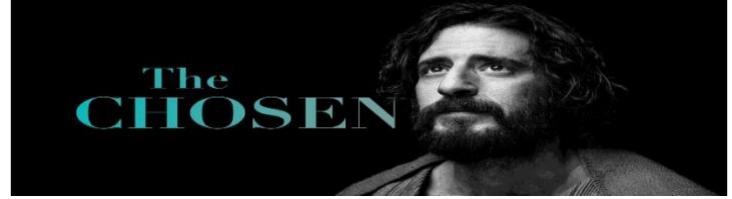
We don't know if you have heard...but we are now going live with our Sunday morning service on Facebook. If you cannot make the service in person, you can join our Facebook family. Give us a like and follow us on Facebook to get up to date information about upcoming events and you can access live sermons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

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



Movies Under the Oaks

Please prepare for an outdoor movie screening on our 14-foot screen set beneath the oak trees. Guests are invited to bring their own chairs, while we will provide food, refreshments, and fire pits to ensure comfort and warmth.



February 20th (7:00 to 9:30) Episodes 1 & 2 (Episode 1) Entry

Jesus rides into the holy city as king, but finds that the rulers have turned His Father's house from a place of prayer to a corrupt market.

(Episode 2) House of Cards

Why kill Jesus when Rome can do it for you? As the Jewish High Priest schemes to bring Him down, Jesus strikes first: turning the tables.

February 27th (7:00 to 8:15) Episode 3

March 6th (7:00 to 8:15) Episode 4

March 13th (8:00 to 9:15) Episode 5

March 20th (8:15 to 9:30) Episode 6

March 27th (8:15 to 9:30) Episode 7

April 2nd (8:30 to 9:45) Episode 8



Members

Jack Dull / Diane Matthews / Rick Davies / Fannin Family / Marion Lollie / Pat Alley / Gorden Phillips / Kerry and Tiffany Foote / Ken Hatcher / Russell Cark

Friends and Family

Dave Mayo (Jean Lombardi) / Veronica Kartz (Tiffany Foote) / Dess Katz (Tiffany Foote) / Loren Phillips (Mike Hatcher) / Cindy (Mary Alice Linzy) / Shirley Harvey (Unknown) / Elsi Carter (Unknown) / Mrs Verlie (Rick and Paula Davies) / Nancy Fannin (Ed Fannin) / Glen Chaires (Francis Chaires) / Casandra Harbin (Francis Chaires) / Brooke Culverson (Francis Chaires) / Fay Shepard Family



April 2nd (8:30 to 9:45 pm) Outdoor under Oaks
Maudy Thursday The Chosen Viewing: This year we are substituting our normal Maudy Thursday in door service to watching Season 5 episode 8 (The Last Supper) of The Chosen outdoors under the oaks.

April 3rd (7:00 to 8:00 pm) Historic Sanctuary
Good Friday Service

April 4th (9:00 am to 9:00 pm) Historic Sanctuary
Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

April 5th: (7:00 am) Petrandis Home
Easter Sunrise Service

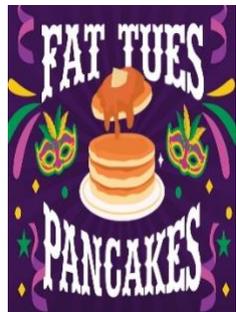
Mardi Gras / Fat Tuesday Celebration

Date: February 17, 2026

Time: 6:00–7:30 pm

Place: Multi-Purpose Building

Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, marks the final day before the Christian season of Lent begins. Traditionally observed on the day before Ash Wednesday, it is characterized by indulgence in rich foods—meats, dairy, and sugar—to prepare households for the upcoming period of fasting and abstinence.



To commemorate this occasion, we will host a pancake dinner featuring unlimited pancakes and a toppings bar with a variety of options. Guests are invited to enjoy an assortment of mixer games, where participants will have the opportunity to earn Mardi Gras beads in the spirit of celebration.

Ash Wednesday Service

Date: February 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Place: Historic Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a solemn 40-day Christian period of fasting, prayer, and repentance leading to Easter, symbolizing mortality and renewal through receiving ashes, often in a cross, on the forehead with the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return," as a reminder to turn to God.

This service kicks off our Lenten season and our sermon series titled: **Renewed in Mercy**. At this service we will have the imposition of ashes.



Chaires Women's Ministry meets on Feb. 21st from 10 A.M. until noon. The theme is "Friendship." Bring something that represents friendship to you. Feel free to bring some treat to share. Mary Alice will share her flower arranging skills.



<u>February Birthdays</u>	<u>February Anniversaries</u>
Matthews, Diane 2	Don & Gail Dampier 12
Leggett, Wes 3	
Matthews, David 8	