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From the Pastor’s Desk:
Hearing the Right Voice

There’s a humbling truth woven all throughout scripture—we are often compared to sheep. Not exactly flattering. Sheep wander. They follow the wrong things. They move with confidence but not always with direction. If we’re honest, that hits closer to home than we might like to admit. How often do we find ourselves heading down a path that seemed right in the moment, only to realize later it wasn’t leading us where we needed to go?

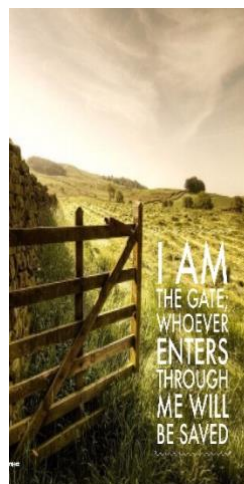


Yet the message of scripture is not one of criticism, but of care. “*The Lord is my shepherd...*” is not a statement about our weakness as much as it is a declaration of God’s faithfulness. We are not left alone to figure life out. We are led, known, and restored by a Shepherd who calls us by name.

In John 10, Jesus paints a powerful picture: the sheep recognize the Shepherd’s voice. Not because it is loud, but because it is familiar. That kind of recognition doesn’t happen overnight—it grows through relationship. It is shaped in prayer, in worship, in time spent in God’s Word, and in the quiet moments where we learn to listen. Over time, something beautiful happens—we not only begin to recognize His voice, but we also begin to notice what does *not* sound like Him.

And that matters, because we live in a world filled with competing voices. Voices that stir anxiety. Voices that promise quick fixes. Voices that tell us we are not enough or that push us toward fear and confusion. But scripture reminds us that God is not the author of confusion—His voice leads with clarity, peace, and direction. The Shepherd may challenge us, but He never tears us down. He leads us toward life.

Jesus goes even further and says, *I am the gate*. “*I am the gate.*” He is both the One who leads us and the One who protects us. In Him, we find a rhythm for life—coming in to be grounded in worship and community and going out to live with purpose and love. This is not about checking in once a week; it is about staying close enough, consistently enough, to recognize His voice in the middle of life’s noise.



And we don’t do this alone. Sheep move together. They learn together. They follow together. Every time we gather as a church, we are practicing something—we are

training our hearts to better hear and follow the voice of the Shepherd.

So, here is the challenge before us: What voices have been shaping your thoughts and decisions lately? Are they leading you toward the life Christ promises—or pulling you away from it?

The question is not whether God is speaking. The question is whether we are listening. This week, slow down just enough to notice. Listen for the voice that brings peace, clarity, and life. Stay close to the Shepherd. And when you hear His voice... follow.

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/>



Humble House Plant Project

The Humble House Plant Project is currently seeking donations of flowerpots in all sizes, colors, and conditions. If you have extra pots, regardless of their appearance or age, please consider contributing them to the project. We are also gladly accepting plant donations to help further our efforts.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, at least 100 plants have already been donated so far!



-Susan Capelouto



Church Members

Nancy Hardison / J.D Amason / Edie Peters / Lynn Fannin / Mike and Carol Stallard / Church Choir / Diane and David Matthews / Marty Holland / Rick and Paula Davies

Friends and Family

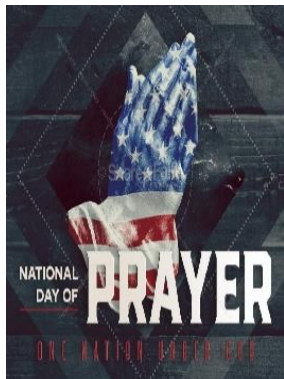
Waymon Orick (Sheena Forester) / Pray for rain / Abby Leon and family / Earl Davies (Francis Chaires) / Candace / National Day of Prayer / Raymond Turner (Maggie Hall) / Nancy Hardison (Diane Matthews) / Families of teen in Franklin accident (Diane Matthews) / County Monticello Methodist / Need rain / Jack and Chris Stephens (Lynne Peters) /



National Day of Prayer

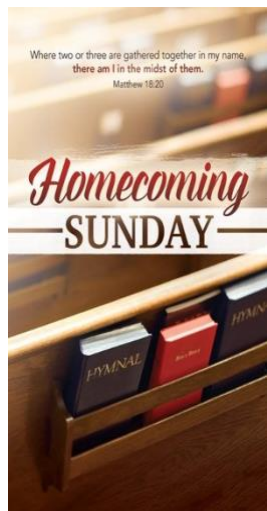
The 2026 National Day of Prayer in Tallahassee will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026. The event is scheduled to take place from 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM EDT at the Historic Florida State Capitol.

This gathering will include worship and prayer dedicated to the nation and the state of Florida. The theme for this year’s event is “Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations.” Participants are invited to join in a time of spiritual reflection, lifting up prayers for unity, guidance, and blessings for all generations.



Homecoming Sunday – May 17, 2026

Join us for a special **Homecoming Sunday** as we gather in our **historic sanctuary** for a meaningful time of worship and celebration. We are excited to welcome **J.D. Amason** as our guest preacher for this special day.



Following the service, everyone is invited to a **fried chicken luncheon** in the multi-purpose building. The church will provide the chicken, and we ask each family to bring a **side dish or dessert** to share.

Homecoming is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and celebrate what God is doing in our church. Be sure to invite your family and friends to come and be part of this special day with us.



Eastertide Small Group Bible Study: A Season to Grow

Join a small group Bible study this Eastertide, created in response to your request for more connection and spiritual growth.

Beginning **Thursday, April 16th through May 21st**, Pastor Kerry will lead a weekly, discussion-based Bible study that explores the same themes and scriptures from our Sunday messages. This is a chance to ask questions, share insights, and grow together in faith.

Two meeting times are available each week:

9:00 a.m. (Sunday School Room) – light breakfast provided

7:00 p.m. (Parsonage) – snacks and refreshments provided

We encourage you to make this a priority during Eastertide. Study guides are available at the sign-up table or by emailing Kerry Foote.

(pastor.foote@oputlook.com)

April 30th- Theme: Knowing That Voice

Like sheep, we learn to recognize the Shepherd’s voice together.

May 7th- Theme: You Know the Way

This lesson invites us to unite belief with holy living, exploring how faith shapes our daily choices and communal witness.

May 14th- Theme: The Story Abides

The Spirit abides in us, preserving and weaving our shared story as the body of Christ.

May 21st- Theme: So That They May Be One

Jesus prays for our unity and glorification in him.

Church Workday

Join us on Saturday, **May 9, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for a church-wide workday as we get ready for Homecoming Sunday. We’ll be doing some spring cleaning and light projects around the buildings and grounds to help our church look its best.

There will be tasks for everyone, so whether you can stay the whole time or just part of the morning, your help is appreciated.

Afterward, Pastor Kerry Foote will provide lunch with pulled pork sandwiches, corn on the cob, and baked beans. Come serve, fellowship, and help us prepare for this special day!



Stay tuned for our next sermon series that will run the month of June. I promise you will not regret attending.

April Birthdays

Stallings, Mike 28

May Birthdays

Stallard, Carol 2

Eddy, Alan 5

Mullen, Brian 6

Sheila Novak 29

May Anniversaries

Franklin & Frances Chaires 3

