



Chaires Methodist Church

"A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ"

## Amazing Grace

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." —Luke 7:47-48

John Newton, the author of the hymn "Amazing Grace," found faith in Jesus onboard a ship as it was floundering in a storm. This was not just any ship; the ship he was on was a slave ship. In the mid-1700s, Newton's professional trade was the trafficking of human life. Newton and his crew would sail from England to Africa where they would pick up men, women, and children who had been captured in tribal raids. They would trade arms and other goods for the finest of the prisoners. They would then chain them to prevent suicides and lay them below deck side by side. As many as 600 people were crammed together on the ship as it made its three-week voyage. Due to the inhumane conditions, at times, up to 20% of those captured would die.

After becoming a Christian, Newton left the sea for good and became a priest. He then wrote this hymn. You have probably sung it before but read these words carefully knowing now why he wrote them.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound / That saved a wretch like me, / I once was lost, / but now am found, / Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, / And grace my fears relieved. / How precious did that grace appear / The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, / I have already come. / 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, / And grace will lead me home.

God's mercy and grace drastically changed John Newton's life. He understood God's unconditional love better than most. When I read those words through the eyes of someone who truly realized he did not deserve grace, I am humbled. Too often I chalk up all the good things I have done and wait for what I think I deserve. However, according to the Scriptures, the truth of the matter is that I deserve judgment. And I don't really want that! I am thankful for God's generosity and that He sent His one and only Son to die for us so that we would not get what we deserve, but His generous love instead. **This is truly an amazing grace!**

God's humbled servant,

*Pastor Kerry*

## Global Methodist Annual Conference Update

It seems so long ago...but looking at my calendar, I just got back from the first Florida Global Methodist Annual Conference last Saturday (1/20/2024). Last Sunday from behind the pulpit, I promised an update and report to the congregation after I have had time to look over my notes.

Well, after looking over my notes, I might have bitten off more than I can chew. I don't think I can incorporate all that I experienced and all that happened in just one report.

So let me update my previous promise...I plan to provide **numerous updates** to the congregation through the next couple of weeks regarding what happened at the Annual Conference and the direction of the Global Methodist Church.

As for me personally, on December 15, 2023, I had to turn in my "ordination connection" to the United Methodist Church given that Chaires left the United Methodist Church on December 15, 2023 to become a Global Methodist Church. Currently the United Methodist Church will not honor pastoral service in the Global Methodist Church when it comes to ordination orders (although the United Methodist will honor ordination in the service to other denominations...*but that is a whole other story.*)

So, between December 15, 2023, through January 11, 2024, I was a pastor without a connectional ordination or an official appointment from a recognized denomination. I had given notice to the Global Methodist church of my desire to serve as pastor at Chaires Methodist and was waiting to see if they would accept my transfer or connection to the Global Methodist Church from the United Methodist Church.

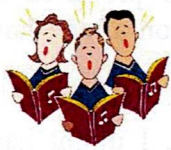
On January 11, 2024, I was informed, by phone, that the Board of the Florida Global Methodist Church had accepted my request and would honor my ordination and that I would be reinstated as a "member in full connection" with the Global Methodist Church. On January 20 at the Annual Conference, it was made official!

At the conference it was also shared the Global Methodist Church will be departing from the United Methodist tradition of moving pastors to various churches on a regular basis. The Global Methodist Church acknowledges the importance of long-term appointments. **I guess this means that we are stuck with each other for a while!**



### Valentine Banquet Feb. 16@6:30 PM

This year will feature an Italian feast prepared by our own chefs. The price will be \$14 per person, including beverage and dessert. There are preparations for fun entertainment after the meal. Sign up is on the information table.



### The Choir Needs YOU!

All skill levels are welcome as long as you love music and fellowship with great folks! Practice is on Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. For more info, contact: Gerry Nielson (321-652-5361; gerryniel@gmail.com)

### Movies Under the Oaks

Chaires will host "Movies Under the Oaks" every **Friday starting @ 6:30 p.m.** We will be watching the movie series "**The Chosen**" outdoors on our big 14 ft. inflatable screen.

- February 2<sup>nd</sup>: "The Wedding Gift" Season 1 Episode 5
- February 9<sup>th</sup>: "Indescribable Joy" Season 1 Episode 6
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: "Invitations" Season 1 Episode 7
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>: "I Am He" Season 1 Episode 8

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama. It is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him.

There will be popcorn, hotdogs, and pretzels for refreshments along with lemonade. So, bring your chairs, your blankets, your appetites, and most importantly, your friends for a family friendly event that is **free** to the public. I hope to see you there!

Pastor Kerry

### Liturgists for Worship

We would like members of the congregation to participate in the worship service by reading the Call to Worship and the scripture readings. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet is on the long back table.

As we worship in person, all church services will continue to be posted after 1 pm each Sunday through the church website at [chairesumc.com](http://chairesumc.com).

### Adult Sunday School

This class will be meeting each Sunday at 9 AM. You can participate via phone, the dial-in number is (516) 387-8169.

*If you would like to place flowers in the church during, please sign up on the bulletin board opposite the restrooms.*

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Some things you may want to put on your calendar for the future in 2024:

**February 13, 2024:** Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Pancake Dinner in the multipurpose sanctuary.

**February 14, 2024:** Ash Wednesday Service in the historic Sanctuary.

**February 19, 2024** (Every Thursday) Lenten Devotional Study.

**March 24, 2024:** Palm Sunday Service in multipurpose Sanctuary.

**March 28, 2024:** Maundy Thursday Service (Reader's Theater) in historic Sanctuary.

**March 29, 2024:** Good Friday Service in historic Sanctuary

### Giving Through Our Website

Go to <https://ChairesUMC.com> and just click the blue GIVE button and you will be taken to the church REALM site. The church secretary can help you set up your account.



***If you would like Pastor Kerry to call or visit, please let Susan, the secretary, or Pastor Kerry know. His contact information is in the bulletin.***

#### January Birthdays

Dylan Grubb 29

Maggie Hall 30

#### February

Diane Matthews 2

Wes Leggett 3

Marilyn Alvarez 7

David Matthews 8

#### January Anniversaries

Jean & Michael Lombardi 29

#### February

Mark & Marilyn Alvarez 6

Don & Gail Dampier 12

#### Chaires Staff

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Pastor         | Rev. Kerry Foote                                |
| Secretary      | Susan Capelouto (secretarychairesumc@gmail.com) |
| Music Director | Gerry Nielsen                                   |
| Custodian      | Janet Cayson                                    |
| Audio/Visual   | Marty Holland                                   |