



Chaires Methodist Church:  
“A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ”

### Born Again?

You have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. - 1 Peter 1:23

Jimmy Carter was relatively unknown outside his native state of Georgia when he announced that he wanted to run for President of the United States. Many people were surprised, not only because they didn't know who he was, but because he also told reporters that he had been “born again.” Often, when people don't understand something, they ridicule it, and this is precisely what happened in Carter's case. Talk about being “born again” spread like wildfire, though, and in a very short time everybody was using the term. An athlete returning from injury became a “born again” athlete, a businessman recovering from bankruptcy was “born again” when he started up a new business. And so on. The more people talked about being born again, the less they meant by it, and as a result a superlative spiritual truth has been devalued in the popular understanding.

When Peter wrote “You have been born again” (1 Pet. 1:23), he was referring to something that God does in a man's life that determines his eternal destiny and changes his daily life. It is a “new life” both as it transcends death and qualifies the person for heaven, and as it transforms his life on earth on the way to heaven. In the same way that a “baby cries for milk” (2:2), so the born-again man, having “had a taste of the Lord's kindness” (2:3), craves spiritual nourishment so that he “can grow into the fullness of [his] salvation” (2:2). One of the pieces of evidence that a man is getting the right kind of nourishment is that his behavior changes. This is not a matter of putting on a religious cloak or a spiritual performance, but rather a deep work of the Spirit that changes attitudes and actions. A born-again man does not simply “pretend to be good,” because he is “done with hypocrisy and jealousy and backstabbing” and all kinds of “malicious behavior and deceit” (2:1).

Jimmy Carter's presidency was beset with problems, and he was not reelected to a second term, but he is widely regarded as the best ex-president America has ever had because of his godly approach to people, his gracious concern for those in need, and his humble walk-in high places. Men may ridicule a claim to be born again—but they respect a man who lives it.

### MAUDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Chaires Methodist Church will be having a special Maundy Thursday worship service on **March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm in the historic sanctuary**. There will be a special reader's theater that will require volunteers to make it happen. We need 12 volunteers that will read the parts of various apostle's that were in that upper room with Jesus prior to Good Friday. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Kerry Foote to receive a part in the reader's theater.

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Chaires Methodist Church will be having “A Service of Tenebrae” for **Good Friday on March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm in the historic sanctuary**. A Service of Tenebrae, or “Shadows,” is based on a twelfth-century late night service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. It may be used as the evening service on Good Friday, particularly as the beginning of a prayer vigil lasting through Saturday.

### HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL

Chaires Methodist Church will be hosting a Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil on **March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm in the historic sanctuary**. Holy Saturday offers us an invitation to quiet prayer and stillness as we join Mary and Martha as they sit before the tomb and keep watch.

This is the last day of Lent and the church will be open for individuals and families to come by anytime between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm to spend time in prayer and reflection to prepare for Easter morning.

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

### Chaires Methodist Logo Sub-Committee Meeting

On **March 10, 2024**, we will be having a Logo Sub-Committee meeting **after the worship service** in the **Sunday School room**. We will be pairing down the choices to present to the church. If you would like to be a part of this committee, just show up on Sunday and we would love to have your input.

### 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.

### Adult Sunday School

This class will be meeting each Sunday at 9 AM



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

### Lenten Devotion Series

Pastor Kerry will be hosting a Lenten Devotional Bible Study. It began February 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be held every Thursday through March 21<sup>st</sup>. Those attending can attend either the 8:00 a.m. session or the 6:00 p.m. session. The morning session will be held in the Sunday School room of the multi-purpose sanctuary. The evening session will be held at the parsonage and the study will be preceded by a potluck.

This Lenten series will coincide with our Lenten sermon series titles: "Letting Go!" There will be **no cost** because the handout will be provided for the study. If you are interested, please sign up at the back of the church following Sunday service or call the church at (850) 219-9361 and leave a message. You can also send an e-mail to Pastor Kerry at: [pastor.foote@outlook.com](mailto:pastor.foote@outlook.com).



***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.***

### 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.

*Thank you, Thomas Stumbaugh, for the beautiful bench near the All Saints Cross. A quiet spot for quiet thoughts.*

#### March Birthdays

Susan Capelouto 3  
Christy Alley 14  
Jim Taylor 25

#### March Anniversaries

Rick & Paula Davies 11  
Jerry & Janet Cayson 28

#### Chaires Staff

Pastor	Rev. Kerry Foote
Secretary	Susan Capelouto ( <a href="mailto:secretarychairesumc@gmail.com">secretarychairesumc@gmail.com</a> )
Music Director	Gerry Nielsen
Custodian	Janet Cayson
Audio/Visual	Marty Holland

### Humble House Mission Spotlight

*Today is the last day we will be collecting items and monetary donations for Humble House. The response of the Chaires Church family has been overwhelming. The items will be delivered today at 1 PM and I can tell you that Heather Golden, the director, and the women will be over the moon! I can't wait to share pictures with you next Sunday. Blessed beyond, Susan Capelouto*

***A huge "thank you" to Ed, Johnny, Renee and her helpers, Michael, "Elvis," Gerry and everyone who made the Valentine Banquet happen. The guys from Teen Challenge told their buddies that they loved helping out.***

The Upper Room for March and April is available on the back shelf in the sanctuary.

### Faith Responders Need YOU!

Good Morning!

I hope ya'll are doing well. Miccosukee Methodist is planning to help with a step build on March 17<sup>th</sup> after service with Florida Cares. Just wanted to let ya'll know in case you have anyone who might want to participate.

Also, we (Faith Responders) have some folks over in Suwannee County and Taylor County that have some trees from Hurricane Idalia that need to be cut up and moved to the street. They are not urgent jobs, but the homeowner is elderly. It might take a 3-5 people and is 1.5 to 2 hours drive one way. Please let me know if you feel you have some folks who might be able and willing to help with this.

Thank you! Laura

*Rev. Laura M. Lambert*

Executive Director

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352-942-9225

#### Members

Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie



#### Friends and Family

Pat and Bob McNealy

Donnie Dampier (son of Gail & Don Dampier)

Family of Debbie Kahana & her husband, Roy

Kay Comer & Mike Donovan (friends of Pastor Kerry & Tiffany)

Family of Claire Amason (wife of Rev. J.D. Amason)

Jill Berquist (friend of Sheila Novak)

Johnny Holmes

Sharee & Joan Dean

Thomas Stumbaugh (stepfather of Amy Clark)

Dennis Rackley (brother of Diane Matthews)

Family of Gary Adams & his wife, Cheryl (friends of Chaires Church)

Jeff Ard (friend of Dot Spence)

**02/25/2024**