



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

## Who Sinned?

“Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:2)

It’s a natural question, isn’t it?

When a disaster happens, we want to know why. Why Haiti and not Jamaica? Why Chile and not Brazil? Or why did this man get cancer and his brother didn’t? Or why did they both get cancer and one survived while the other didn’t? In this case the question is very focused. When the disciples saw a man born blind, they assumed that someone must have sinned.

So, was it his parents?  
Or was it the man himself?

The disciples are half-right and mostly wrong in their thinking. They are half-right that someone sinned, but that “someone” was Adam, not the man or his parents. Not that they never sinned at all, but Jesus means that the man’s blindness is not a judgment on any particular sin they committed. In the larger biblical perspective, it all goes back to Adam whose sin brought untold misery to the world and caused the whole creation to groan under a burden of judgment that started in Eden and continues to this day.

So, who sinned?

This question leads us to a **warning** and to a **reminder** and then to a great **encouragement**. The **warning** is, don’t presume to know what only God can know. Speculating about why someone gets cancer or why someone dies or why an earthquake hits here and not there puts us on dangerous ground. Those things are part of the “secret providence” of God.

The **reminder** is, because we live in a sin-cursed world, we will never be free of suffering and death until sin itself has been decisively removed by God. That day will come when Jesus returns, but until then we can expect to deal with suffering in one way or another as long as we live.

The **encouragement** is you never know when or how the Lord himself may break into your life with transforming power. I have several friends who at this moment need such a “breaking in” from the Lord. I feel no hesitation in praying for that to happen. Sovereign grace means God can do it any time he chooses, and because it is grace, we’re talking about, we don’t have to deserve it, and in fact we won’t deserve it, and that’s what grace is all about.

## 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> @ 6:30 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 to spend time in prayer and reflection to prepare for Easter.

## Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast Sign Up

We’ll be celebrating Easter with a service and breakfast at the Petrandis Farm from 7:30-9 am on Easter morning. There is a sign-up sheet for those who will be attending. We need to plan for the food and set up. Sunday School and worship will follow in the sanctuary.

## Chaires Methodist Logo Sub-Committee Meeting

Today 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.

Church Council will meet on Sunday, March 24 from 11:30 am -1:00 pm.

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).

### 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 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. 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).

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

#### 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

### Save-the-Date

March 17-Men's Breakfast on 4/3 sign up begins.  
March 18 @ GMC District Laity Gathering 7 pm- 8:30 pm at Killearn Methodist Church  
March 24-Church Council meets 11:30 am-1 pm  
March 28-Maundy Thursday Reader's Theater 7 pm  
March 29-Good Friday Service 6:30 pm  
March 30- Holy Saturday Vigil 6am-6 pm  
March 31-Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Petrandis Farm @7:30-9:00 a.m. followed by Sunday School and 10 am worship service.  
March 31-Sign up for Spring Bible Study begins.  
April 3- Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 am  
April 25-Bible Study (*The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi*) begins.

*From the Brittany at Humble House...*

*"We are so grateful for the donations that were brought to our house. When groups donate to our ministry, it makes us ladies feel so loved and special. Thank you for helping provide for us!!" Brittany*  
Brittany is the young woman who gave her testimony for the first time at Chaires. She was very nervous and frightened. She is now happy and self-confident because she has received so much love and support from believers who are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.



*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.

### Faith Responders Need YOU!

Micosukee Methodist is planning to help with a step build on March 17<sup>th</sup> after service with Florida Cares. There are 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 call me if you might be able and willing to help with this.

Thank you! Laura

*Rev. Laura M. Lambert*, Executive Director  
352-942-9225

