



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

What a Difference Two Days Make

“When he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days” (John 11:6).

Why did he wait two more days?
Why not come now, right now, while Lazarus is alive?
If he really loved Lazarus, why delay at all?

It’s easy to understand the disciples’ confusion. “Lord, this man is your friend. We’ve seen you heal people you didn’t even know. Lazarus loves you, and you love him. Why are you waiting?”

When at last Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has already died. He is met by Martha, sister of Lazarus, who speaks her mind to the Son of God: “**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died**” (John 11:21). Martha is partly right. Jesus could have healed Lazarus, but she was wrong on one point. Jesus could have healed him from the other side of the Jordan River. He’s the Son of God. He didn’t have to personally come to Bethany to work a great miracle. But that’s precisely what he does.

Strange as it may sound, Jesus stayed away from Bethany so that after Lazarus died, he could then raise him from the dead, bringing great glory to God, and confirming his own words when he said, “**I am the resurrection and the life**” (John 11:25). The Bible explicitly says that Jesus loved Lazarus, yet he let him die. He delayed returning so that Lazarus would die. That too was an act of love.

We will never understand this unless we see that Jesus always intended to raise Lazarus from the dead. The disciples didn’t see that, the sisters didn’t see that, but Jesus had it in mind from the beginning.

This teaches us something about the “delays” of life when God may seem slow to us. God is never “slow,” but he does move according to his own purposes. We will rarely understand in advance why things happen the way they do. As we will see tomorrow, there is more to this story. For the moment, let’s remember that God’s love comes in many varieties, and he loves us even when nothing he does makes sense to us.



FOLDING PALM CROSSES

Chaires Methodist Church is having a palm cross folding party on **March 23 from 9:00 to 11:00 in the multipurpose sanctuary**. We need volunteers to provide palm fronds prior to the event.

Pastor Kerry will be more than glad to pick them up. Then we need volunteers on March 23 to fold them. If you don’t know how, that is O.K. Tiffany knows how and can teach you in just a few minutes. Refreshments will be provided.

MAUDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Chaires Methodist Church will be having a special Maundy Thursday worship service on **March 28th @ 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 29th @ 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.

HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL

Chaires Methodist Church will be hosting a Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil on **March 30th 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.

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.

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

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 folks who will be attending and volunteers who will provide food. Sunday School and worship will follow at the church.

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.

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.

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.

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

Giving Through Our Website

Go to <https://chairesmethodist.church> 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.

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 (secretarychairesumc@gmail.com)
Music Director	Gerry Nielsen
Custodian	Janet Cayson
Audio/Visual	Marty Holland

Save-the-Date

March 17-Easter lily orders begin through the 24th.
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 23-Folding Palm Crosses 9-11 am
March 24-Church Council meets 11:30 am-1 pm
March 28-Maundy Thursday Reader's Theater 7 pm
March 29-Good Friday Service 7:00 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 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 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.



Members

Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie
Mike and Carol Stallard

Friends and Family

Fred Taylor (friend of Don & Gail Dampier)
Dennis Rackley (brother of Diane Matthews)
Donnie Dampier (son of Don & Gail Dampier)
Stevie Hubbard (son of Edie Hubbard)
Doris Mathiesen (aunt of Virgil Hall)
Kerry, Tiffany, & Christian Foote
Family of Eula Sawyer (Verlie LaBounty's sister & Paula Davies' aunt)
Bill Butler
Family of Dell Speigner (friend of Diane Matthews)
Pat and Bob McNealy
Jael (friend of Gretchen)