



Chaires Methodist Church:
 "A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ"

What Does Jesus Mean by Vine and Branches?

Listen now to Jesus as he begins one of His most amazing statements: **"I am the vine; you are the branches..."** (John 15:5). Such a simple statement, yet you can spend a lifetime plumbing the depths of it. Let's explore its meaning.

Jesus first mentions that He is the vine a few verses earlier: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener" (John 15:1). There are a number of Old Testament references that speak of Israel being a vine, planted and tended by God. Yet instead of bearing good fruit, it was degenerate. It was a false vine.

Against this background, Jesus speaks of Himself as the true vine, the One who will bear good fruit to His Father's approval and glory.


Now we understand a bit more about our verse at hand. Jesus is the vine, the true source of life for us believers. We are branches connected to Him, drawing that life from Him as branches draw the necessary nutrients to survive and flourish.

At first glance, we may assume that branches bear fruit, but in another sense, it's really the vine that makes it all happen. The point is: there is such interconnectedness that while we are doing the work, Jesus is doing the work in us as well.

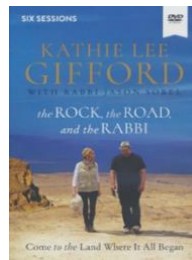
But there is even more here in this short statement. When Jesus says that He is the vine, it is the last of a series of statements He makes in the gospel of John using the same form: **"I am** the Bread of life, **I am** the Good Shepherd, **I am** the Resurrection and the Life."

The repeated use of **"I am"** suggests the name God gave to Moses by which to call Him: **"I am who I am"** (Ex. 3:14). Jesus is implying that He is the vine from which all life comes, that He is indeed God as the Son.

Every life in the created order came through Jesus (John 1:3), and the new life of the Kingdom now flows out of Him as well.

 ***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.***

It's Not Too Late to Join the Bible Study We're Heading to Nazareth this Week!



Kathie Lee invites you to join her as she visits sites in Israel that have impacted her life. As she shares her story, Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi who was trained in the ancient rabbinical way, provides fascinating background details into the language, culture and heritage that make the story of the New Testament come alive. Kathie Lee and Rabbi Sobel will take you and your group beyond the typical "Sunday school" teaching to examine the original texts of the Bible. The cost of the book is \$15. See Susan for a book.

Before the meeting this Thursday, read pages 13-20.



Residing Hope, formerly known as the FL Methodist Children's Home, will be our mission focus for April. We will collect a special offering throughout April. If you wish for your donation to be recorded on your church giving statement, make your check out to *Chaires Methodist Church* and write *Residing Hope or Madison Youth Ranch* in the memo line.

Calling All Men!



Mark your calendar for May 1st at 8 AM for time to gather with other men of the church for fellowship and a delicious breakfast. During this time, the group will be enjoying the book, *Wild at Heart*. Using discoveries from his own life and backing them with scripture, John Eldredge reminds men that although their childhood passions, dreams, and desires may have been buried under deadlines, pressures, and disappointments, it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, God made men to embrace a life of courage, adventure, and freedom. He created men to take risks and find true purpose and belonging. There's a breakfast sign up on the back table and a sign up for the book (\$10).

New Member Meeting on May 5th @11:30 AM

If you would like to join Chaires Methodist Church, Pastor Kerry would like to meet with you. We will welcome you officially into the Church family as you take the vows of membership on May 19th, which is Pentecost and Homecoming Sunday.

What a wonderful celebration it will be!



Chaires Methodist Church Spring Cleaning

Get your work gloves and hat to join us on **Saturday, May 11th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

We are going to do some much-needed spring cleaning as we get the church ready for our Homecoming Sunday on May 19, 2024. Bring lawn tools. Work will be done both outside on the church property and inside the historic sanctuary and multi-purpose sanctuary.

The work will be from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Lunch will be served from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm by Pastor Kerry Foote. We hope to see you there.



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)

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.

If you would like to receive the newsletter from the Florida Global Methodist Church, go to <https://floridagmc.org> and you can subscribe at the bottom of the page.



We are looking for volunteers who are willing to go out to veterinarian services to provide families who have to put their pets to sleep with prayer and support.

Please contact Pastor Kerry Foote if you are interested at pastor.foote@outlook.com or cell phone: (305)407-7040.



Members

Barbara Palmer
Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie
Mike and Carol Stallard

Friends and Family

Helen Ward- sister of Bobbie Harrison
Kaila Hardy - friend of Ashley Leggett
Connie Katz - mother of Tiffany Foote
Shafer family - friend of Tiffany Foote
Dale Schroeder
Virgil Hall's sisters B-I-L
Conflict in the Middle East & around the world
Men and women serving in the military.

Praise

Sammie Lollie is recuperating at home! Prayers and cards are much appreciated.

CHAIRES METHODIST CHURCH HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for **May 19, 2024**, as our yearly Chaires Methodist Church homecoming Sunday. This will be a bringing together of our past and our future. We are starting a Homecoming Sub-Committee as of April 21, 2024. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please see our *Lay Leader Terry Hatcher* before or after our Sunday service.

This Sub-Committee will be responsible for advertising, securing volunteers, and overseeing this special Sunday. The Homecoming service will be held in the historic sanctuary and will be followed by a potluck luncheon that will be held in the multipurpose sanctuary. Chaires Methodist Church will be providing the meat. We will BBQ the chicken on our brick BBQ pit prior to the service. We will need some volunteers to grill the chicken.

The Homecoming will also have a hymn sing time during the service. We are inviting our church members to provide feedback as to what hymns and songs they would like to have as a part of our hymn sing. There will be cards located on the sign-up table in which you can provide the songs you would like to hear along with a place to share "why" that songs means so much to you.

Since we will be having a potluck on May 19th, we **will not** be having our normal beginning of the month potluck on **May 5, 2024.**

Adult Sunday School

This class meets 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.

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.

April Birthdays

Barbara Palmer 17
Franklin Chaires 23
Mike Stallings 28

April Anniversaries

Michael & Debbie Pahl 9
Dale & Susan Thompson 11

May Anniversaries

Franklin & Frances Chaires 3

May Birthdays

Carol Stallard 2
Alan Eddy 5
Brian Mullen 6

Chaires Staff

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