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**You Can't Have John 3:16 Without John 3:17**

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” — John 3:17 (NIV)

Most of us can quote John 3:16 without thinking. We have heard it in sermons, memorized it as children, and perhaps even built our faith upon it. But I want to gently suggest something: we cannot truly hold onto John 3:16 without also embracing John 3:17.

For years, I understood that I was a sinner in need of saving. That is biblical truth. But if I'm honest, there were seasons when I related to Jesus more as a way to avoid judgment than as a Savior who desired closeness with me. My faith was real—but cautious. I believed in Him, yet sometimes kept Him at a safe distance.

Maybe some of you know that feeling.

When fear quietly becomes the lens through which we see God, it changes the way we follow Him. We begin measuring our performance. We focus on staying out of trouble. We try to do just enough. And without realizing it, we drift from relationship into self-protection.

But listen carefully to the words of Gospel of John 3:17: Jesus was **not** sent into this world to condemn it. He was sent to save it.

That includes you. That includes me.

Yes, sin is serious. Yes, repentance matters. But repentance is meant to flow from love, not intimidation. We turn toward Christ because His kindness draws us, not because His anger corners us. Condemnation was never His mission. Salvation was.

So here is the question I want us to consider: Are we following Jesus out of fear, or out of trust? Are we keeping Him at arm's length, or are we allowing His grace to draw us near?

When we hold John 3:16 and 3:17 together, everything shifts. Faith becomes less about escaping punishment and more about knowing the One who rescues. Less about proving ourselves and more about resting in His finished work.

Love sent the Son. Salvation was the purpose. And that truth calls us not just to believe—but to draw near.

**Prayer**

*Father, search our hearts. If fear has shaped our view of You, replace it with trust. Teach us to follow You not out of anxiety, but out of love. Help us draw near to the Savior who came not to condemn us, but to save us. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Pastor Visit**

If you would like a visit from our pastor, please do not hesitate to call either Susan Capelouto (Administrative Assistant) or Rev. Kerry Foote so that a visit can be arranged.



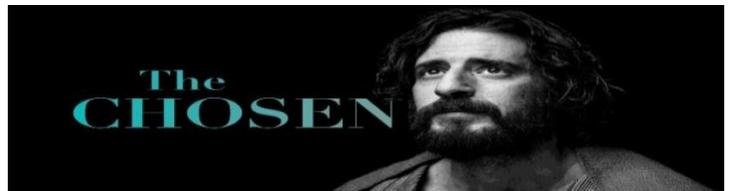
We don't know if you have heard...but we are now going live with our Sunday morning service on Facebook. If you cannot make the service in person, you can join our Facebook family. Give us a like and follow us on Facebook to get up to date information about upcoming events and you can access live sermons on Sunday or access our archive.

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Chaires-Methodist-Church-61561720372576/>



**Movies Under the Oaks**

Please prepare for an outdoor movie screening on our 14-foot screen set beneath the oak trees. Guests are invited to bring their own chairs, while we will provide food, refreshments, and fire pits to ensure comfort and warmth.



- March 6<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 to 8:15) Episode 4
- March 13<sup>th</sup>** (8:00 to 9:15) Episode 5
- March 20<sup>th</sup>** (8:15 to 9:30) Episode 6
- March 27<sup>th</sup>** (8:15 to 9:30) Episode 7
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>** (8:30 to 9:45) Episode 8



**Here are some things that you can fast for this lent season.**

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast for more ease and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



### Church Members

Choir / Amy Clark / Russel Clark / Mike and Carol Stallard / Diane Matthews / Ed and Claire Fannin / Marion Lollie / Renee Grubb / David Matthews / Franklin Chaires

### Friends and Family

Mile Brown (Mary & Mike Linzy) / Connie Katz (Tiffany Lynn-Katz Foote) / Bettie Thornton (Janet Cayson) / Nancy Fannin (Ed Fannin) / Cathy (Francis Chaires) / Brian Matthews (Diane Matthews) Dave Mayo (Jean Lombardi) / Veronica Kartz (Tiffany Foote) / Dess Katz (Tiffany Foote) / Loren Phillips (Mike Hatcher) / Cindy (Mary Alice Linzy)

### Seder Meal: Messiah in the Passover

**Date:** March 22, 2026

**Time:** 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Chaires Methodist

Multi-Purpose Building

**Cost:** Free



**MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER** begins with the traditional Passover Seder table—complete with all the articles of this important Jewish celebration. The speaker will explain the symbolic meanings of the various items of the Passover feast and highlight their relationship to the Last Supper that Messiah celebrated with the disciples, giving special emphasis on the redemptive significance of the crucifixion.

**MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER** gives the Christian community insight into Jewish traditions so that the Jewish roots of Christianity can be better understood. The experience also helps both Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage.

*Chosen People Ministries* is over 128 years old, an evangelical mission that was founded in 1894 by Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian rabbi who came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised by the Hebrew Scriptures. From humble beginnings in Brooklyn, New York, Chosen People Ministries has grown into a worldwide ministry to “the Jew first and to the Gentile.” More information is online at [chosenpeople.com](http://chosenpeople.com).

### Chaires Townhall Meeting



This will be a time to review what we did in 2025 and where we want to go in 2026 and beyond. This will also be a potluck so bring your appetite and visions and dreams for the future as we celebrate where we have been and where we are going.

**Joel 2:28 (NKJV):** "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions."

### Maundy Thursday Service

**Date:** April 2, 2026

**Time:** (8:30 to 9:45 pm)

**Place:** Outdoor under Oaks at Chaires Methodist



This year, we are embracing a new way to honor Maundy Thursday. Instead of our traditional indoor service, we invite everyone to join us outdoors under the oaks for a special screening of Season 5, Episode 8 ("The Last Supper") of *The Chosen*.

Gathering in this beautiful setting, we will reflect together on the meaning of the Last Supper and its significance in our faith journey. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and come prepared for a memorable evening of fellowship, inspiration, and community as we revisit this sacred moment in a fresh, engaging way.

### Good Friday Service

**Date:** April 3, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Place:** Historic Sanctuary



Join us for our Good Friday Service as we gather in the historic sanctuary on April 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm. This meaningful service will revisit the events of Jesus Christ's betrayal and crucifixion, offering a time of reflection and reverence during Holy Week.

*Following the service, we invite volunteers to help blacken the sanctuary in preparation for the Black Saturday prayer vigil. Your participation will help create a sacred atmosphere as we continue our journey toward Easter morning.*

### **Black / Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil- April 4th (9:00 am – 9:00 pm)**

We will be hosting 12 hours of prayer in the historic sanctuary and will be asking members of the congregation to sign up for 30-minute time slots. *This prayer vigil will be for personal reflection and the lifting up of our Easter service on April 20<sup>th</sup> for the movement of the spirit of God in a mighty way.*

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>: (7:00 am) Petrandis Home Easter Sunrise Service Stay tuned for more information**

March Birthdays  
Capelouto, Susan 3  
Alley, Christy 14  
Taylor, Jim 25  
Novak, milan 30

March Anniversaries  
Rick & Paula Davies 11  
Jerry & Janet Cayson 28