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Led by the Shepherd

By Pastor Kerry Foote

When I read Psalm 23, I am always drawn to David's simple but powerful words: "*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*"

Over the years, I have come to appreciate how personal those words really are. David doesn't say *a* shepherd or *the* shepherd. He says **my shepherd**. It is a reminder that God's care for us is not distant or general—it is personal.

Sheep depend completely on their shepherd to lead them to green pastures, still waters, and safe paths. They do not always know where they are going, but they trust the one who leads them. In many ways, I find that my own faith journey looks a lot like that. I do not always see the whole path ahead. I do not always understand why certain turns come when they do. Yet again and again, God proves faithful in leading the way.

Psalm 23 reminds me that God does not promise an easy road. There are valleys along the way. There are seasons that feel uncertain. But we are never walking through those places alone. The Shepherd leads, protects, restores, and provides—often in ways we only recognize when we look back.

I've found that God's guidance is usually subtle—arriving during prayer, through a friend's advice, or life events that shape our faith. Though quiet, the Shepherd's voice is consistent, and with time we come to recognize and trust it more.

**This week keep this question before you:
"How has God been leading you lately?"**

It is a small question, but it opens the door for us to recognize something important: God is always at work in our lives, even when we do not immediately notice it.

A Challenge for the Week

As a congregation learning to trust the Shepherd together, consider these steps this week:

- 1. Pause and Reflect:** Spend five minutes daily reflecting on where God may be guiding you.
- 2. Notice the Shepherd's Voice:** Be attentive to God's presence in Scripture, prayer, conversation, and life events.
- 3. Take One Faithful Step:** Act on any sense of God leading you—choose patience, forgiveness, generosity, or courage.
- 4. Share the Journey:** Discuss with someone how you notice God working in your life.

Psalm 23 reminds us that the Shepherd walks both **ahead of us and beside us**. Because of that, we can follow with confidence, trusting that **goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives**.

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.

 Find us on
Facebook



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/>



Outdoor Movie Night: Under the Oaks

Join us for a delightful outdoor movie screening on our impressive 16-foot screen, set beneath the beautiful oak trees. This special evening offers a unique opportunity to enjoy a film together in a scenic, natural setting.

Please remember to bring your own chairs for comfortable seating. To enhance your experience, we will provide refreshments and set up fire pits, ensuring everyone stays cozy and warm throughout the event. We look forward to sharing this enjoyable night with you!



March 20th (8:15 to 9:30) Episode 6
March 27th (8:15 to 9:30) Episode 7
April 2nd (8:30 to 9:45) Episode 8

Women of the Word

Date: March 21, 2026

Time: 10:00 to 12:00

Place: Multi-purpose Building

Get ready for an uplifting devotion followed by a lively craft session, where the women will band together to stuff eggs for a top-secret "Egging" mission—an exclusive adventure shared only among the WoW group and the pastor!





Church Members

Nancy Hardison / Amy Clark / Eddie Peters / Lynne Peters / Marion Lollie / Diane Matthews / Franklin Chaires

Friends and Family

Brenda Gant (Mike and Terry Hatcher) / Beulah Homes (Mary Alice Linzy) / Meagan Walker (Diane Matthews) / Aaron Davis (Diane Matthews) / Family of Shirley Harvey (Diane Matthews) / Guilherme Coelhor and family (Francis Chaires) / Gerry Nielson (Francis Chaires) / Captain Henry Lowerg (Anthony Minichiello) / Brown family (Linda Minichiello) / Church Choir (Lynne Peters) /



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

Sign-up Required on back table



Messiah in the Passover: The Seder Experience

The "Messiah in the Passover" event begins with the observance of the traditional Passover Seder meal, including all the customary elements that are central to this significant Jewish festival. Throughout the meal, the speaker will guide participants by explaining the symbolic meanings behind each element of the Passover feast.

Special attention will be given to how these symbols connect to the Last Supper shared by the Messiah and His disciples, emphasizing the deeper redemptive meaning of the crucifixion. This approach highlights the rich heritage and spiritual significance that unite the Passover celebration with the Christian understanding of sacrifice and redemption.

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.

Maundy Thursday Service

Date: April 2, 2026

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

Place: Outdoor

Under the Oaks at Chaires Methodist



This Maundy Thursday, join us outside under the oaks for a screening of *The Chosen*, Season 5, Episode 8 ("The Last Supper").

We'll reflect on the Last Supper's meaning and enjoy an evening of fellowship in a beautiful setting. Bring a blanket or chair for this unique community gathering.

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)

Historic Sanctuary

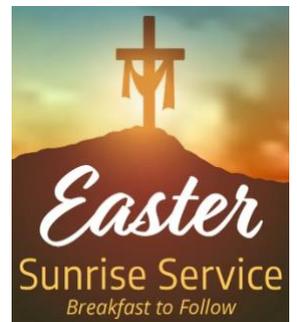
We will be hosting 12 hours of prayer in the historic sanctuary and will be asking members of the congregation to sign up for 30-minute time slots. *This prayer vigil will be for personal reflection and the lifting up of our Easter service on April 5th for the movement of the spirit of God in a mighty way.*

Easter Sunrise Service

Date: April 5, 2026

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Place: Petrandis Home



All congregation members are invited to our Easter Sunrise Service at the Petrandis Home on Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 7:00 a.m.

Join us for worship and breakfast after the service. If you'd like to bring a dish, please sign up in the multi-purpose building. We hope to see you there as we celebrate Easter together.

March Birthdays

Capelouto, Susan 3
Alley, Christy 14
Taylor, Jim 25
Novak, Milan 30

March Anniversaries

Rick & Paula Davies 11
Jerry & Janet Cayson 28

