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When God Doesn't Meet Our Expectations

As we move closer to Sunday and into Holy Week, we begin with a familiar scene—Palm Sunday. Jesus enters Jerusalem, and the crowds are shouting, “Hosanna!” They are celebrating. They are hopeful. They believe the King has finally come. And they’re right...but not in the way they expected.

The people were looking for a king who would overthrow Rome, fix their problems, and restore their nation. Instead, Jesus came riding on a donkey—not a warhorse. Not in power, but in humility. Not to conquer armies, but to conquer sin and death.

God’s plan was bigger than their expectations and if we’re honest... it often is bigger than ours too.



Sometimes we come to Jesus hoping He will fix a situation, remove a struggle, or make life easier. But again and again, we discover that Jesus isn’t just interested in changing our circumstances—He is committed to transforming

our hearts. **That can be hard.**

Because like the crowd, we can celebrate Jesus when He seems to meet our expectations...but struggle when He doesn’t. Yet Palm Sunday invites us to trust something deeper: **God’s plan is better—even when we don’t understand it.**

This week, take a moment to reflect: Where might I be expecting Jesus to work in a certain way? Am I open to trusting Him, even if His way looks different?

As we prepare for Sunday, remember this: The same crowd that shouted “Hosanna” would later cry “Crucify Him.” The difference wasn’t Jesus—it was their expectations.

So the question we carry into this week is simple, but powerful: **Do I trust Jesus only when He meets my expectations... or do I trust Him as King no matter what?**

Come Sunday, we’ll walk deeper into this moment together and discover what it truly means to follow the King who came not with power—but with sacrificial love.

-Rev. Kerry Foote

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.



Music Director (Part-Time)

Chaires Methodist Church – Chaires, FL

Chaires Methodist Church, a small country congregation, is seeking a part-time **Music Director** to lead our adult choir and guide the musical life of our church.

Responsibilities:

- Direct weekly adult choir rehearsal
- Lead choir during Sunday worship
- Select and schedule music for weekly services and special seasons
- Collaborate with the pastor in worship planning
- Foster a welcoming and spiritually enriching rehearsal environment

Qualifications:

- Experience directing choirs or leading church music
- Ability to work with volunteer musicians
- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Commitment to Christian faith and meaningful worship

Position Details:

- Part-time: 6–8 hours per week
- Additional seasonal responsibilities (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter)
- Compensation commensurate with experience

The Music Director reports to the Pastor and works collaboratively with church leadership. To apply, please submit a resume and brief statement of interest to: pastor.foote@outlook.com.



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/>





Church Members

Lynn Fannin / Mike and Carol Stallard / Church Choir / Diane and David Matthews / Marty Holland / Rick and Paula Davies / Nancy Hardison / Amy Clark

Friends and Family

Friend of Kathy Strubble / Tim Bricker (Kerry Foote) / Scott Sullivan (Maggie Hall) / Pat Powers (Mary Alice Linzy) / Nasir (Unknown) / Situation in Middle East (Diane Matthews) / Brenda Gant (Mike and Terry Hatcher) / Beulah Homes (Mary Alice Linzy) / Meagan Walker (Diane Matthews) / Aaron Davis (Diane Matthews)

5th Sunday Offering



On March 29th, we invite you to join us for the 5th Sunday offering—a heartfelt opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children at Residing Hope, our Methodist Children’s Home. While giving is always a personal choice, we lovingly encourage you to consider how your generosity can help shape a brighter future for those in need. Please make your check out to: *Chaires Methodist Church with Madison Youth Ranch* on the memo line.

Together, let’s rise to the challenge of caring deeply and giving boldly.

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.

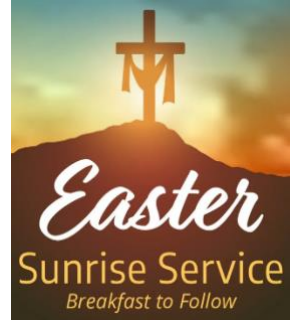
Following the service, we invite volunteers to help blacken the sanctuary in preparation for the Black Saturday prayer vigil. Your participation will help create a sacred atmosphere as we continue our journey toward Easter morning.

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.

Ge sure to schedule to stay after the Sunrise service to have Easter morning breakfast.

Resurrection Cross / Flowering the Cross



On Easter Sunday, we celebrate by decorating a wooden cross with fresh flowers, symbolizing new life in Christ.

Please bring flowers to help decorate the cross and arrive **15–30 minutes before the 10:00 a.m. worship service** if you wish to help arrange them. Join us in creating a living sign of resurrection hope.

Amy Clark Fundraiser

Amy Clark, a member of our church family at Chaires Methodist Church, was seriously injured after being knocked down by a pack of dogs at a dog park. She suffered significant leg injuries requiring surgery, along with a hospital and rehab stay. She now faces a long recovery before returning to work. Her family has created a GoFundMe to help with medical and living expenses: <https://gofund.me/8aa0e654a>



If you prefer not to use GoFundMe, Publix gift cards are another way to help with everyday needs. Thank you for keeping Amy in your prayers during this time.

March Birthdays

Novak, Milan 30
April Birthdays
Messer, Wanda 1
Lightfoot, Gordon 9
Wood, Jeannette 14
Pahl, Debbie 15
Chaires, Franklin 23
Stallings, Mike 28

March Anniversaries

Jerry & Janet Cayson 28
April Anniversaries
Pahl, Michael & Debbie 9
Dale & Susan Thompson 11

