

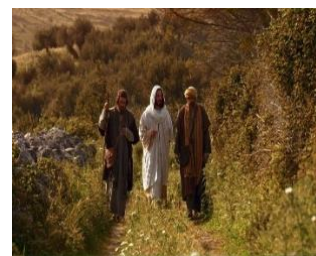


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When Faith Astonishes Us

“Moreover, some women of our group astounded us...”
 (Luke 24:22)

There are moments in life that don’t neatly fit into our understanding. Moments that disrupt our expectations, challenge our assumptions, and leave us searching for words. Scripture gives us a powerful word for those moments: *astonishment*. On the road to Emmaus, two disciples found themselves living inside one of those moments. They had seen too much, felt too much, and



lost too much. What they thought was the end of the story had come crashing down, and then—unexpectedly—they heard something that didn’t fit: He is alive. They didn’t celebrate, at least not right away. They

were astounded.

Astonishment lives in that space between doubt and belief. It’s what happens when God begins to move before we fully understand what He’s doing. It unsettles us because it reminds us that faith is not something we control; it’s something we’re invited into. Those disciples left Jerusalem overwhelmed, trying to process everything they had experienced. Yet what they didn’t realize was that Jesus was already walking with them—not when they had it figured out, not when their faith was strong, but right there in their confusion, their questions, and their uncertainty.

This is where the story begins to meet us. We often want clarity before we trust, certainty before we move forward, and answers before we believe. But the resurrection doesn’t work that way. It doesn’t tie everything up; instead, it opens everything up. It invites us not just to understand, but to experience—not just to explain, but to encounter.

The disciples didn’t recognize Jesus on the road, and it wasn’t until the breaking of the bread—something familiar and ordinary—that their eyes were opened. In that moment, confusion gave way to clarity, despair gave way to hope, and what seemed like the end became a new beginning.



They still didn’t have all the answers, but they had enough to move. They had enough to return, enough to tell the story, enough to say something that sounds almost contradictory and yet deeply true: “We don’t know... but we know.” That may be one of the most honest expressions of faith we can offer.

So, the question gently placed before us this week is this: where might God be at work in your life in ways you do not yet understand? Where have you been waiting for certainty when God is already offering His presence? And what if the invitation is not to have everything figured out, but simply to recognize that Christ is already walking beside you?

Astonishment may feel uncomfortable, even unsettling. But it may also be the very place where faith begins again.

-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.

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/>



Humble House Plant Project

The Humble House Plant Project is currently seeking donations of flowerpots in all sizes, colors, and conditions. If you have extra pots, regardless of their appearance or age, please consider contributing them to the project. We are also gladly accepting plant donations to help further our efforts.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, at least 100 plants have already been donated so far!



-Susan Capelouto



Church Members

J.D Amason / Edie Peters / Lynn Fannin / Mike and Carol Stallard / Church Choir / Diane and David Matthews / Marty Holland / Rick and Paula Davies / Nancy Hardison / Amy Clark

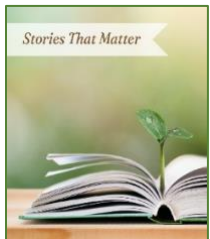
Friends and Family

National Day of Prayer / Raymond Turner (Maggie Hall) / Nancy Hardison (Diane Matthews) / Families of teen in Franklin accident (Diane Matthews) / County Monticello Methodist / Need rain / Jack and Chris Stephens (Lynne Peters) / Connie and Dez Katz (Tiffany Foote) / Cody Culverson / Gabriella / Larry / Wes Mange (Tony Minichiello)



Stories That Matter: New Sermon Series

Easter is not just a single day—it is a whole season of renewal, promise, and hope that began on April 5, 2026, and continues until Pentecost Sunday. This special time, known as Eastertide, invites us to lean into the stories that truly matter and reflect on the Resurrection’s impact



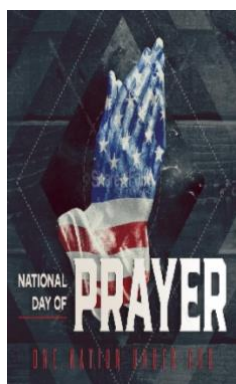
in our lives. Each week in our new sermon series, we’ll gather to explore the journeys of those who wrestled with the meaning of Easter, along with Jesus’ words of preparation that guide us to live the reality of eternity here and now.

We lovingly challenge each member of our church family to make this season a priority—come, be present, and invite a friend or neighbor to join us. Sharing these “stories that matter” can encourage and inspire not only ourselves but those around us. Let’s fill our pews with love, laughter, and a renewed sense of community as we journey together through Eastertide. We can’t wait to see you and those you bring!

National Day of Prayer

The 2026 National Day of Prayer in Tallahassee will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026. The event is scheduled to take place from 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM EDT at the Historic Florida State Capitol.

This gathering will include worship and prayer dedicated to the nation and the state of Florida. The theme for this year’s event is “Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations.” Participants are invited to join in a time of spiritual reflection, lifting up prayers for unity, guidance, and blessings for all generations.



Eastertide Small Group Bible Study:

A Season to Grow

This Eastertide, we invite you to go deeper by joining a small group Bible study that will coincide with our sermon series. This opportunity comes directly from you. One of the requests shared during our recent town hall meeting was a desire for more small group connection and spiritual growth. We heard you—and this is one way we are responding.

Beginning **Thursday, April 16th through May 21st**, Pastor Kerry will lead a weekly, discussion-based Bible study that explores the same themes and scriptures from our Sunday messages. This is a chance to ask questions, share insights, and grow together in faith.

Two meeting times are available each week:

9:00 a.m. (Sunday School Room) – light breakfast provided

7:00 p.m. (Parsonage) – snacks and refreshments provided

We lovingly challenge you to make this a priority during Eastertide. Faith grows when we intentionally show up, open God’s Word, and walk alongside one another. Study guides are available on the back sign-up table in the Multi-Purpose Building or e-mail Kerry Foote to request a digital copy. (pastor.foote@oputlook.com)

April 23rd – Theme: Astound Us

Resurrection unsettles our certainty and invites us into astonishment.

April 30th- Theme: Knowing That Voice

Like sheep, we learn to recognize the Shepherd’s voice together.

May 7th- Theme: You Know the Way

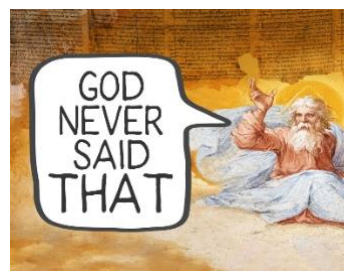
This lesson invites us to unite belief with holy living, exploring how faith shapes our daily choices and communal witness.

May 14th- Theme: The Story Abides

The Spirit abides in us, preserving and weaving our shared story as the body of Christ.

May 21st- Theme: So That They May Be One

Jesus prays for our unity and glorification in him.



Stay tuned for our next sermon series that will run the month of June. I promise you will not regret attending.

April Birthdays

- Messer, Wanda 1
- Lightfoot, Gordon 9
- Wood, Jeannette 14
- Pahl, Debbie 15
- Chaires, Franklin 23
- Stallings, Mike 28

April Anniversaries

- Pahl, Michael & Debbie 9
- Dale & Susan Thompson 11