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Coming Home to the Story That Matters

This Sunday, May 17th, we will gather for Homecoming Sunday at Chaires Methodist Church. Homecoming is always a special time to remember where we have been, give thanks for those who helped shape us, and look forward with hope to where God is leading us next.

It is also fitting that our scripture for Sunday comes from John 17, where Jesus prays for his disciples. Before the cross, before the empty tomb, before the church would be sent out into the world, Jesus prayed that his people would be one. He prayed that those who belong to him would live in such a way that the world could see his life displayed in them.



That is a powerful thought for Homecoming. The church is not just a building, a memory, or a place we visit from time to time. The church is a people called together by Christ. We are different people with different stories, different gifts, different opinions, and different seasons of life — but in Christ, we belong to one another. Unity does not mean we all look alike, think alike, or have the same role. Unity means we recognize that Christ has joined us together for a purpose greater than ourselves.

Homecoming reminds us that we are part of a story larger than one Sunday, one generation, or one season. Some planted seeds long before us. Some watered those seeds. Some built, prayed, taught, sang, cooked, cleaned, served, and sacrificed so that faith could be passed along. Now it is our turn to carry the story forward.

And that is where Homecoming becomes more than a celebration; it becomes a calling. It lovingly challenges us to ask: What kind of church are we helping build for those who will come after us? Are we only remembering the faithfulness of yesterday, or are we practicing that same faithfulness today? Are we honoring the sacrifices of those before us by becoming a church that welcomes, forgives, serves, and makes room for others?

Jesus said, “All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.” What a humbling responsibility. The life of Christ is put on display through the way we love, forgive, serve, welcome, and care for one another. When we live as one family in Christ, we tell the world a story that matters.

This means our unity is not just something we talk about on Sunday morning. It must shape how we speak to one another, how we handle disagreements, how we care for the lonely, how we encourage the weary, and how we

welcome the stranger. If Christ is glorified in us, then our life together should make it easier for others to see him.

So come home this Sunday — not just to remember the past, but to celebrate what God is still doing among us. Come ready to worship, give thanks, welcome friends and family, and recommit yourself to the unity and mission Christ prayed over us.

And as we gather for Homecoming, let us each bring more than a covered dish or a familiar memory. Let us bring open hearts, humble spirits, and willing hands. Let us ask God to make us the kind of people through whom Christ is clearly seen.

May our life together glorify Christ and may Chaires Methodist Church remain rooted in the past and growing for the future.

-Rev. Kerry Foote

Pastor Visit

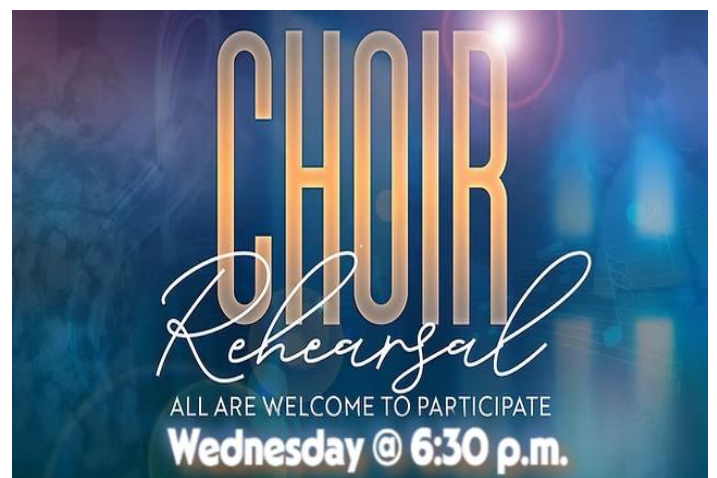
If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, facing illness, feeling lonely, or simply in need of prayer and encouragement, please do not hesitate to reach out. Pastor Kerry would be glad to visit, pray with you, and offer support. To arrange a pastor visit, please contact Susan Capelouto (Administrative Assistant) or Rev. Kerry Foote.

 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, over 100 plants have already been donated so far!

-Susan Capelouto



Church Members

Ken Hatcher / Russ Clark / Gordon Wheeler / Kerry Foote / Mary Alice Linzy / Casey Friel / Russell Clark / Diane and David Matthews / Nancy Hardison / J.D Amason / Edie Peters / Lynn Fannin / Mike and Carol Stallard / Church Choir / Marty Holland / Rick and Paula Davies

Friends and Family

Doratheia Guyyette (Kerry Foote) / Holly (Laura Gorman) / Susan Petrillo (Lynne Peters) / Paige Moore (Lynne Peters) / Chris Martinez (Michael Linzy) / Rebecca (Donna Wheeler) / Aunt Renee (Nasir) / Jaquita Murphy (Nasir) / Doris Mathiesen (Maggie Hall) / Thomas Staumbaugh family (Amy Clark) / James Thompson family (Dale Thompson) / Melvin Thompson (Dale Thompson) / Buelah Holmes (Dale Thompson) / Ethan (Jean Ingram) / Sterling Floerke (Terry Hatcher) / Harry Brown (Terry Hatcher)

Prayer Chain Update

Mike Hatcher is now serving as our **Prayer Chain Coordinator**.

To share a prayer request or praise, or to be added to the prayer chain, please contact Mike directly.

Mike Hatcher

Email: mhatcher43@hotmail.com

Phone: (850) 728-4960

We also want to thank **Jon Berry** for his many years of faithful service as our Prayer Chain Coordinator. Due to health concerns, Jon has stepped away from this role, and we are deeply grateful for his care and faithfulness in this important ministry.

The prayer chain is a powerful way our church family cares for one another. Thank you for continuing to pray, encourage, and lift one another before the Lord.



Caring for Nancy Hardison

Nancy Hardison has recently been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, and we have the opportunity to support her and her family during this time.

Nancy has shared that **Publix gift cards** would be most helpful, allowing them to purchase the groceries they need. Gift cards may be given to Pastor Kerry or Mary Alice for delivery.



She also asks that **visits be arranged by phone in advance**, as there are days she may not feel up to visitors. You may reach Nancy at **(850) 491-7726**.

Thank you for continuing to be a church that shows Christ's love through care and compassion. Let us keep Nancy and her family in our prayers.



Eastertide Small Group Bible Study: A Season to Grow

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

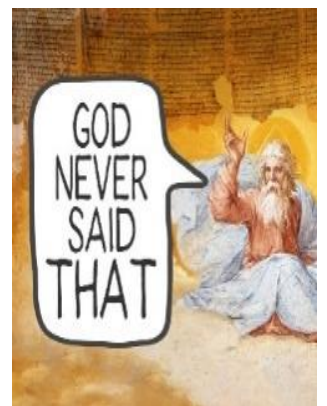
7:00 p.m. (Parsonage) – snacks and refreshments provided

We encourage you to make this a priority during Eastertide. Study guides are available at the sign-up table or by emailing Kerry Foote.

(pastor.foote@outlook.com)

June 2026 Sermon Series

In this 4-week series, “*God Never Said That*,” we’ll uncover some of the most common cultural myths about God, compare them with the truth of Scripture, and discover the hope and freedom found in what God really does say. Each week helps our congregation trade half-truths for whole truth and build their lives on the solid foundation of God’s Word.



Edition 5/17/26

May Birthdays

Stallard, Carol 2
Eddy, Alan 5
Mullen, Brian 6
Sheila Novak 29

May Anniversaries

Franklin & Frances Chaires 3