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THE GRACE OF PAYING ATTENTION

We glance at our phones, scan our schedules, check the clock, notice the traffic, and keep moving from one responsibility to the next. Some days, we see everything except the person standing right in front of us. We can even spend ten minutes looking for our glasses while they are sitting on top of our heads. That is not blindness—it is simply a very special kind of concentration!

One of the greatest gifts we can offer another person is our attention.

To truly notice someone is to say, without words, “You matter. Your story matters. Your joys and burdens matter.” This is especially important in a world where many people feel invisible, forgotten, or overlooked.

Jesus never rushed past people as though they were interruptions. He noticed the lonely, listened to the hurting, welcomed the rejected, and made room for those others ignored. He saw more than appearances. He saw hearts.

That same kind of vision can shape the way we live this week.

Perhaps there is someone who needs more than a quick greeting. Maybe a friend needs a telephone call, a neighbor needs encouragement, or a family member needs us to listen without immediately trying to fix everything. Sometimes the most Christlike thing we can do is slow down, look someone in the eyes, and ask, “How are you really doing?”

We may not have the perfect words. We may not know how to solve the problem. Thankfully, God has not appointed us to fix everyone we meet. He has simply called us to love them.

This week, let us practice the grace of paying attention. Notice the person who is sitting alone. Remember the one who has been absent. Encourage someone whose strength may be running low. Look for blessings that are easy to overlook and opportunities to share kindness. **A small act of attention can become a doorway for God’s grace.**

May Jesus give us eyes that notice, hearts that care, ears that listen, and hands that are willing to help. And may the people around us see something of His love through the way we see and care for them.

Prayer:

Jesus, slow us down enough to notice the people You have placed around us. Help us see beyond appearances, listen with patience, and respond with compassion. Use our words and actions to remind

someone this week that they are seen, valued, and loved. Amen.

Sunday’s Passing of the Peace Question:

What is one blessing you noticed this week that you might normally have overlooked?

God Bless and Keep You, **Pastor Kerry**

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.



Have you heard the good news? Chaires Methodist Church is now going live on Facebook every Sunday morning! We would love to see you in worship in person, but if you are traveling, homebound, under the weather, or simply unable to make it to church that week, you can still join us online and be part of our worshiping family.

Tune in for the Sunday message, sing along from home, share the service with a friend, and stay connected to what God is doing in our church community.

Please give our Facebook page a like and follow so you can receive updates about upcoming events, special announcements, live worship services, and sermon archives you can watch or share anytime. Whether you join us in the pew or online, there is a place for you at Chaires Methodist Church.

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



Dad Jokes for the Week:

Why did the pastor bring binoculars to church?
He wanted to take a closer look at the congregation.

Why are eyeglasses such good listeners?
Because they are always sitting on your ears.

What did one eye say to the other eye?
“Between you and me, something smells!”



Volunteers are still needed to help lead worship. Singers are encouraged to meet in the choir room on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. to review the hymns.



Church Members

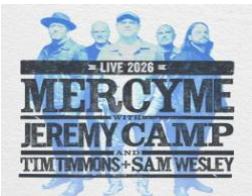
Donna Corson / Frances Chaires / Franklin Chaires / Melissa / Casey Friel / Clark family / Ken Hatcher / Gordon Wheeler / Mary Alice Linzy / Diane and David Matthews

Friends and Family

Kyle and Susan Jones (Unknown) / Stormy the cat (Unknown) / Caryolyn’s great granddaughter (Diane Matthews) / Carolyn Creamer family (Diane Matthews) / Marty’s sister (Marty Holland) / Grace Kilroy (Terry Hatcher) / Ken Hatcher (Mike Hatcher) / Oliver and Alysia Novak (Sheila Novak)



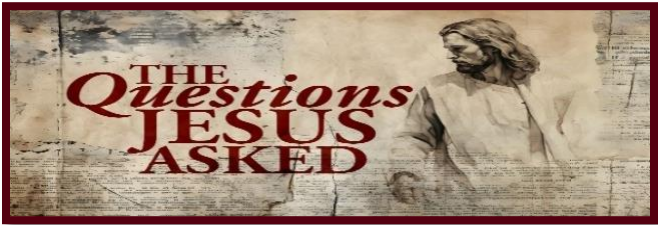
MercyMe Live 2026 Concert Sign-Up



Join us for an uplifting evening of music and worship at **MercyMe Live 2026** with Jeremy Camp, Tim Timmons, and Sam Wesley on October 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.

This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy inspiring Christian music, share fellowship, and experience the concert together as a church family. Chaires Methodist Church is gathering names so we can reserve tickets together. Sign up at the back table of the multi-purpose building.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person, and payment is due when tickets are delivered.



Our sermon series in July and August is **The Questions Jesus Asked**. Together, we will explore how Jesus’ questions open hearts, challenge assumptions, and still shape our faith today. Join us at **Chaires Methodist Church**—and invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to come with you.

Small Group Bible Study:

The Questions Jesus Asked

Come be part of something meaningful this summer! You are invited to join our weekly Small Group Bible Study as we dig deeper into **The Questions Jesus Asked** and discover how His words still speak to our lives today.

The first meeting was July 9th, but it’s not too late to join! Choose which time works best for you.
Thursday Morning at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School Room of the Multi-Purpose Building
Start the day with faith, fellowship, conversation, and a light breakfast.

Thursday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

At the church parsonage
Begin with a light dinner, compliments of Pastor Kerry Foote, then enjoy meaningful discussion in the living room.

Bring your Bible, bring your questions, and bring a friend. Whether you are new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, there is a place for you as we listen together for Jesus’ voice in the questions He asks.

Renee Grubb is offering to attach a Chaires Methodist Church patch to a shirt or cap of your choice free. Make sure the item has been washed to prevent fading first. Thank you, Renee, for offering this special gift.

The flower calendar through October has been posted in the hallway near the nursery.

July Birthdays	July Anniversaries
Holland, Marty 7	Gordon & Donna Wheeler 19
Cayson, Trey 8	Milan & Sheila Novak 24
Messer, Victoria 17	
Amanda Novak 17	
Dampier, Don 26	