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When the Detour Becomes the Destination

Most of us like having a plan. We make schedules, write lists, and sometimes even make lists reminding us to check our schedules. Then life interrupts. The phone rings, a neighbor needs help, someone needs to talk, or a friend receives difficult news. Suddenly, the direct route we planned becomes a detour.

The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us that some interruptions are not distractions from God's work. They may be God's work. The priest saw the wounded man, and the Levite saw him too. The Samaritan also saw him, but he stopped. Compassion moved him from noticing to helping and from good intentions to loving action.

That is where Sunday's sermon becomes Monday's challenge. It is easy to admire the Good Samaritan while sitting in church. It is much harder to act like him when we are busy, tired, running late, or hoping someone else will help. "Someone else" must be one of the busiest people in the world. Someone else is expected to make the call, visit the lonely, welcome the stranger, volunteer, and check on the person who has been forgotten. Sometimes we pray, "Lord, please send someone," and God answers, "I did. You are already there."

We cannot meet every need, and God does not expect us to solve every problem. We can, however, pay attention to the people He places in front of us. Compassion may look like a phone call, a meal, a handwritten card, a ride to an appointment, a listening ear, or a few minutes of undivided attention. These actions may seem small, but small acts of mercy can create great change. A coin may be small, but enough coins make change. In the same way, one simple act of kindness can change the day of someone who feels lonely, discouraged, or overlooked. Jesus changes the question from "Who is my neighbor?" to "What kind of neighbor am I becoming?" That question is not meant to burden us with guilt. It is an invitation to grow into people whose love becomes visible. Jesus is shaping us into people who notice, stop, care, and act.

This week, be willing to take one holy detour. Pause long enough to notice what is happening around you. Listen long enough to understand what someone may be carrying. Care enough to do what you can. Of course, some detours really are just road construction, so we still need discernment. But sometimes the interruption we are tempted to avoid becomes the very place where another person experiences the love of Jesus through us.

May we become a church that does more than know the story of the Good Samaritan. May we live it—one compassionate act, one willing heart, and one holy interruption at a time.

Jesus still says, "Go and do likewise."

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 worshipping 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 "Someone Else" miss the meeting?

Because everyone thought he was already handling it.

Why did the Good Samaritan never complain about traffic?

Because he knew the real ministry was in the stop-and-go.

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.



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

Craig Musgrove (Terry Hatcher) / Janice Ivie (Tarry Hatcher) / Julie Hewett (Maggie Hall) / Susan Berry (Margaret Boyette) / Carol Boyd (Pat Ally) / Sara Weitzel (Terry Hatcher) / Sean Young (Terry Hatcher) / 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)



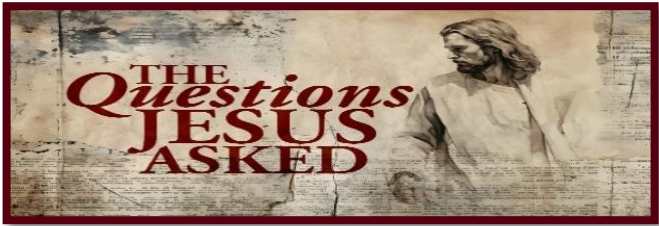
MercyMe Live 2026 Concert Sign-Up



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.

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	