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What Kind of Church Are We Becoming?

Every congregation develops a reputation.

Some churches are known for beautiful music. Others are known for strong preaching, meaningful traditions, generous missions, or warm fellowship. But perhaps the greatest thing anyone could say about a church is this:

“That is a place where people experience the grace of God.”

A grace-filled church is not a church without standards, truth, or accountability. It is a church that remembers none of us stands before God because we have earned our place. We are here because Christ welcomed us.

That truth should shape the way we welcome others.

People often enter a church carrying burdens we cannot see. Some are grieving. Some are ashamed of their past. Some are uncertain about what they believe. Some have been away from church for years. Others may be entering a sanctuary for the first time.

They may wonder:
“Will I be accepted?”
“Will people judge me?”
“Do I belong here?”
“Is there room for someone like me?”

Our words, expressions, and actions can help answer those questions before the first hymn is ever sung.

Grace notices the person standing alone. Grace learns the visitor’s name. Grace makes room on the pew. Grace listens without rushing to correct. Grace offers patience to someone who is still growing. Grace believes that no person is beyond the reach of God’s transforming love.

However, extending grace can be difficult when we begin comparing ourselves with others. We may quietly think, “I have served longer,” “I have sacrificed more,” or “I would never have made that choice.”

Comparison builds walls. Grace opens doors.

The Church is not meant to be a gathering of people who have proven themselves worthy. It is a family of people who have been rescued, forgiven, restored, and invited to follow Jesus together.

That does not mean our past choices do not matter. It means our failures do not have the final word. Through Jesus Christ, forgiveness is possible, lives can change, relationships can be restored, and new beginnings can happen.

This is the kind of church God is calling us to become: a church where longtime members are appreciated, new

people are welcomed, hurting people are cared for, returning people are restored, and everyone is reminded that God is still at work.

This week, consider one simple question:

How can I help another person experience God’s grace?

It may happen through an invitation, a phone call, a word of encouragement, an apology, an act of forgiveness, or a seat offered beside you.

We may never know how deeply one gracious action can affect someone’s life. But when we make room for others, we reflect the heart of the One who made room for us.

May Chaires Methodist Church always be known as a place where truth is spoken in love, mercy is freely offered, and there is always room for one more.

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/>



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.



Church Members

Family of Verlie LaBounty, mother of Paula Davies / Mary Alice Linzy / Donna Corson / Frances Chaires / Franklin Chaires / Melissa / Casey Friel / Clark family / Ken Hatcher / Gordon Wheeler / Diane and David Matthews

Friends and Family

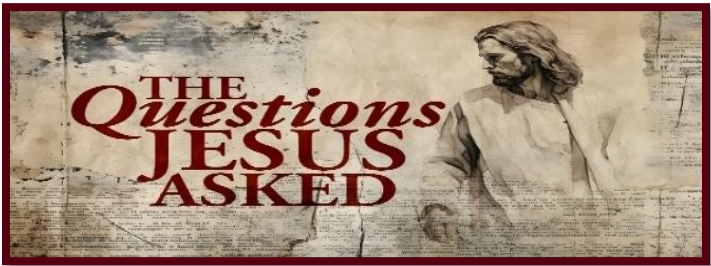
Gage Stallings (Diane Matthews) / Jake Wilson (Linda Minichiello) / Bob Carnly (Tony Minichiello) / Gordon Lightfoot (Tony Minichiello) / Craig Musgrove (Terry Hatcher) / Janice Ivie (Terry Hatcher) / Julie Hewett (Maggie Hall) / Susan Berry (Margaret Boyette) / Carol Boyd (Pat Ally) / Sara Weitzel (Terry Hatcher) / Sean Young (Terry Hatcher)

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.*



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.

Surrounding Families with Hope

Our church is considering partnering with **Safe Families for Children**, a faith-inspired organization that supports families facing difficult circumstances. Their goal is to keep children safe, strengthen parents, and help families stay together.



Safe Families is not foster care or adoption. Parents voluntarily receive support while they work through challenges such as illness, unemployment, housing hospitalization, or instability.

There are many ways our congregation can help. Volunteers may temporarily host children, mentor and encourage parents, provide meals or transportation, donate needed items, or become prayer partners. No one person has to do everything, but everyone can do something.

Galatians 6:2 reminds us to “bear one another’s burdens.” Safe Families offers us a practical way to share Christ’s love with families in our community. Please pray about how God may be calling you to serve.

To learn more, speak with Pastor Kerry or visit **safe-families.org**.

<u>August Birthdays</u>	<u>August Anniversaries</u>
Peters, Lynne 13	Stallard, Mike & Carol 18
Gail Dampier 15	Kerry & Tiffany Foote 22
Pat Alley 15	
Virgil Hall 16	
Amanda Novak 17	
Kerry Foote 22	
Cathy Lee 26	