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After the Amen

Sunday worship may end with a benediction, but following Jesus does not.

By the time you read this, the hymns have been sung, the prayers have been prayed, the sermon has been preached, and you may already be home wondering what happened to the rest of your Sunday afternoon.

But the question Jesus asked this morning does not stay behind in the sanctuary:

“Who do you say that I am?”

That question follows us home. It follows us into Monday morning, into our conversations, our schedules, our frustrations, and our decisions. It shows up when patience is running thin, when someone disappoints us, when plans change, when worry starts knocking, or when doing the right thing costs a little more than we expected.

Following Jesus is rarely about one dramatic moment. More often, it is a hundred small choices made when nobody is watching.

Will I forgive or keep score?
Will I pray or panic?
Will I serve or wait for someone else?
Will I choose kindness when irritation would be easier?
Will I trust Jesus when His way is different from mine?

That is where faith gets its walking shoes on. And some days, if we are truthful, we will walk beautifully. Other days we may stumble, wander off course, or discover that we have somehow managed to put both spiritual feet in our mouths. Peter managed that more than once, so at least we are in good biblical company.

Thankfully, Jesus is not looking for perfect walkers. He is looking for willing followers.

That is good news because discipleship is not about never getting it wrong. It is about continuing to turn toward Christ. When we wander, He calls us back. When we fall, His grace meets us. When we are uncertain, He remains faithful. And when we think we know a shortcut better than He does, He has a wonderful way of reminding us who is actually leading the journey.

So perhaps the most important part of Sunday worship begins after we say **Amen**.

It begins when the words we sang become choices we make. It begins when the Scripture we heard shapes the way we treat someone. It begins when our confession that Jesus is Lord starts showing up in our attitudes, our relationships, our generosity, our forgiveness, and our willingness to serve.

As you move into this new week, remember this: **You do not have to know every step ahead. You only need to keep following the One who does.** So put on your spiritual walking shoes. Take the next faithful step. And wherever your feet take you this week, may your life quietly and clearly point toward Jesus.

Because worship may end with the benediction—but **following Jesus begins again when we walk out the door.**

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.



Find us on
Facebook



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/>



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



Church Members

Mary Alice Linzy / Margaret Boyette, Gretchen Pennington, Renee Grubb, and Debbie Boyette (Terry Hatcher) / Family of Verlie LaBounty, mother of Paula Davies / Donna Corson / Frances Chaires / Franklin Chaires / Melissa / Casey Friel / Clark family / Ken Hatcher / Gordon Wheeler / Diane and David Matthews

Friends and Family

Jackson Montford (Carolyn Floerke) / Grandson of the Eptings (Linda Minichiello) / Alveraza family (Kathy) / Bob Jensen (Cathy) / Paige Moore (Lynne Fannin) / Lance Lindstrom (Lynne Fannin) / Kaila Hardee (Ashley and Dale) / Julie Hewlett (Maggie Hall) / Teachers and Students of new school year (Unknown) / Gage Stallings (Diane Matthews) / Jake Wilson (Linda Minichiello)



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.

Join our weekly Small Group Bible Study on **The Questions Jesus Asked** and how His words speak to us today.
Choose the time that works best for you:
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. — *Sunday School Room, Multi-Purpose Building*; faith, fellowship, conversation, and light breakfast.
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. — *Church parsonage*; light dinner from Pastor Kerry, then discussion. Bring your Bible, questions, and a friend. All are welcome.



<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	

Alpha Begins September 10!

Alpha begins **Thursday, September 10, 2026**, offering a relaxed place to explore life, faith, and the Christian faith through food, fellowship, a short presentation, and honest conversation.

Two Thursday gatherings will be offered:

Morning Alpha — 9:00 a.m.

Church Sunday School Room; food and refreshments provided.

Evening Alpha — 6:30 p.m.

Pastor’s House; food and refreshments provided.



Whether you are longtime follower, still exploring, or simply curious, **there is a place for you at Alpha**. Sign up at the back table in the Multi-Purpose Sanctuary.

We also need **two host homes**; if you can help welcome others for conversation and fellowship, please speak with **Pastor Kerry Foote**.

Come hungry for food, fellowship, and meaningful conversation—bring your questions!

We look forward to starting together on **September 10!**

Surrounding Families with Hope

Our church is considering partnering with **Safe Families for Children**, a faith-inspired organization that helps keep children safe, support parents, and strengthen families during difficult times.

Safe Families is not foster care or adoption; parents voluntarily receive support while facing challenges such as illness, unemployment, housing needs, hospitalization, or instability.



Our congregation can help by hosting children, encouraging parents, providing meals or transportation, donating items, or praying. No one has to do everything, but everyone can do something.

Galatians 6:2 calls us to “bear one another’s burdens,” and Safe Families offers a practical way to share Christ’s love locally. Please pray about how God may be calling you to serve.

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

