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More Than Existing

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." —John 10:10

Life can sometimes feel like a repeating cycle: wake up, go to work, handle responsibilities, solve problems, go to bed, and begin again. Our calendars may be full while our hearts quietly wonder, "Is this all there is?"

Ecclesiastes tells us that God has "set eternity" in the human heart. That longing for something more is not necessarily a sign that something is wrong with us. It may be God reminding us that we were created for more than merely surviving from one day to the next.

We often expect success, possessions, relationships, or comfort to provide the fulfillment we seek. These can all be wonderful gifts, but they cannot carry the full weight of our hope. We may spend years climbing the ladder of achievement only to discover that it has been leaning against the wrong wall.

Jesus offers something greater. He did not come merely to add another religious activity to our already crowded schedules. He came to give us abundant life—a life rooted in relationship with God and filled with grace, forgiveness, purpose, peace, and hope. Abundant life does not mean that every problem disappears. It means that our struggles do not have the final word and that we never face them alone.

As we begin our new sermon series, *Alpha: Questions That Lead to Life*, we begin with a deeply personal question: **What am I really living for?**

Carry that question with you throughout the coming week. When responsibilities become overwhelming or life begins to feel like "wash, rinse, repeat," pause and ask:

What am I expecting to make me happy right now, and can it truly carry that weight?

Then pray this simple prayer:

"Jesus, if there is more, show me."

Listen for where Christ may be inviting you to slow down, reconnect with God, forgive someone, encourage a neighbor, serve another person, or rediscover the purpose He has placed within you.

There is more than simply getting through another day. Jesus invites us to become fully alive in Him—and that abundant life can begin today.

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.



COMING SOON...STAY TUNED!



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 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/>





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

Please sign up on the flower calendar if you would like to place flowers in the church in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion.



Church Members

Rene Grubb / Lance Harrison
Mary Alice Linzy / Gail Dampier

Friends and Family

Dylan, Jordon, and Renee

(Renee Grubb) / Davin West (Unknown) / Mark Strickland (Pat Alley) / Holly Meuth (Paula Davies) / Granddaughter (Unknown) /Terry West (Pat Alley) / Carol Boyd (Unknown)
Thank you for your prayers and kind thoughts. My mother has greatly improved. Susan Capelouto



New Choir Director

Welcome Dr. Yin Lin, Our New Music Director!
We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Yin Lin** as Music Director of Chaires Methodist Church. She brings more than twenty years of experience as a pianist, accompanist, educator, and artistic director.

Dr. Lin holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from the University of Southern Mississippi and has served in teaching and performance roles in the United States and China.

We are grateful God has brought Dr. Lin to Chaires Methodist Church and look forward to the gifts and joyful spirit she will share. Please help us give her a warm Chaires welcome!

Now is a wonderful time to join the choir. All who enjoy singing are welcome. Rehearsal is held on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

<u>September Birthdays</u>	<u>September Anniversaries</u>
Davies, Rick 2	
Tiffany Foote 2	
Leggett, Ashley 13	
Peters, Edie 13	
Fletcher, Martha 14	
Stallings, Amber 26	
Hatcher, Mike 28	Gordon & Lucia Lightfoot 13

Welcome Back, Yuchen!

We are delighted to welcome our pianist, **Yuchen Lin**, back after spending the summer with family and friends in China. Yuchen is currently studying at Florida State University and holds degrees from Northern Illinois University and the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. His experience includes accompanying choirs, soloists, and opera productions, as well as serving in church music ministry.

We are grateful to **Lujie Wang** for sharing her talents while Yuchen was away. We look forward to welcoming her back soon for a public piano recital at our church.

God has blessed our music ministry with wonderful talent—now we need more choir members! Join us for rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Alpha Small Group Begins September 10!

Our new **Alpha 101 sermon series** begins Sunday, **September 6**, and will continue for 11 weeks. Each week, we will explore foundational questions about life and the Christian faith.



The conversation will continue through our **Alpha 101 Small Group Studies**, beginning Thursday, **September 10**. These relaxed gatherings will build upon the weekly sermon through food, fellowship, a short video, and honest conversation.

Two Thursday gatherings are available:

Morning Alpha — 9:00 a.m.

Church Sunday School Room

Evening Alpha — 6:30 p.m.

Pastor’s House

Food and refreshments will be provided. The group will use a video curriculum, so no student books are needed. Whether you are a longtime follower of Jesus, still exploring, or simply curious, there is a place for you at Alpha. Sign up at the back table in the Multi-Purpose Sanctuary.

Come hungry for food, fellowship, and meaningful conversation—and bring your questions!
We look forward to starting together on **September 10!**