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More Than a Good Teacher

“But who do you say that I am?” —Matthew 16:15

Many of us have heard about Jesus for most of our lives. We know the Christmas story, remember His miracles, and celebrate His resurrection. Yet it is possible to become so familiar with Jesus that we stop being amazed by who He truly is.

People have many opinions about Jesus. Some describe Him as a good teacher, a prophet, or an inspiring example. Those descriptions recognize something important about Him, but they do not tell the whole story. Peter confessed, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

Jesus does not simply ask what our parents, grandparents, pastor, or church believe about Him. He makes the question personal: **“Who do you say that I am?”**

Knowing facts about Jesus is not the same as knowing Jesus. We can attend worship, sing hymns, serve on committees, and know the Bible stories while still needing to grow in our relationship with Him. Faith cannot remain something we merely inherited from someone else; it must become personal.

If Jesus is only a good teacher, we may admire His words and choose the lessons we like. But if Jesus truly is the Son of God, He deserves our trust, worship, obedience, and lives. Jesus did not merely say, “Admire Me.” He said, **“Follow Me.”**

Following Jesus means allowing Him to reshape how we live. He may lead us to forgive someone, love a difficult neighbor, give generously, serve without recognition, release bitterness, or place God’s will ahead of our own plans.

This week, take another look at Jesus. Read a chapter from one of the Gospels and notice what Jesus says, what He does, and how He treats people. Bring Him your questions honestly; Jesus is not frightened by sincere questions. They can become doorways through which God leads us into deeper faith.

As you go through the week, consider these questions:

- Who is Jesus to me?
- Am I simply familiar with Jesus, or am I growing in relationship with Him?
- Does my life reflect what my mouth says I believe?
- If Jesus truly is Lord, what part of my life needs to change?

The abundant life we seek is not found simply in greater success, happiness, possessions, or religious activity. It begins in a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

May our answer to Jesus’ question be expressed not only through our words, but also through the way we live, love, forgive, serve, and follow Him.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us see You with fresh eyes. Move us beyond merely knowing facts about You and draw us into a deeper relationship with You. Meet us in our questions, strengthen our faith, and help our lives reflect the truth of who You are. Amen.

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!**



The Cupboard is Bare at ECHO!

Please consider donating shelf food this month. ECHO helps with emergency food and housing, but they also offer a 4-month program, *Breaking Ground*, for working adults to move into self-sufficiency. Thank you, Marion Lollie, for your service with ECHO.



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.

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

Tunky Hunter (Margaret Boyette) / Donna Hunter (Margaret Boyette) / Carolyn Boyd (Unknown) / Terry West (Unknown) / Mark Strickland (Pat Alley) / Jean’s eye surgery (Jean)

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

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 being held on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

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

Our new **Alpha 101 sermon series** began 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**, on Thursdays. 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!