



Chaires Methodist Church  
"A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ"

## **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

Baptism is an important occurrence in the life of any Christian. Whether one is baptized as an adult, following a public confession of belief, or as an infant, under the faith-filled promises of parents, baptism marks a significant event in one's walk with the Lord. In fact, so important is baptism to the life of faith that even Jesus himself was baptized.

By looking at what occurred at Jesus' baptism we gain a deeper understanding of what occurs when we are baptized. The baptism of Jesus shows us three things about our own baptism, and by extension, our life of faith.

### **1. Baptism Declares Identity**

The baptism of Jesus seems relatively straightforward. In fact, the Gospel of Luke describes it in but two verses. Still, the event is meaningful and profound. As Jesus is immersed in the waters of the Jordan a thunderous voice speaks from the heavens: "You are my son, the beloved, with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22). Following this, the Spirit thrusts Jesus into the wilderness for a time of temptation.

In a similar way, our own baptism declares our fundamental identity. While we may not be heralded as divine, baptism declares that we are the beloved sons and daughters of God. The truth made known in baptism is that we are people on whom God's favor rests.

### **2. Baptism Declares Empowerment**

Along with the voice from the heavens, the other significant occurrence in Jesus' baptism is the descent of the Holy Spirit. Matthew records, "At that moment, Jesus saw the heavens open and the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him" (Matthew 3:16).

Sometimes, the Spirit descends after the baptism (Acts 8:17), sometimes it occurs before (Acts 10:44-47), but the point is, the Holy Spirit, and baptism, go hand in hand. This means that the Spirit of God fell upon you in your baptism; it means the Holy Spirit dwells within you. If you are baptized, your life is immersed in the Holy Spirit.

### **3. Baptism Declares Ministry**

Jesus' baptism does not stand disconnected from his life. In fact, Jesus' baptism starts his public ministry.

Jesus does not rest on the laurels of his baptism, believing that he had "fulfilled all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

The baptism of Jesus, therefore, declares that our baptism is but the beginning of our life of ministry and service. Too often do we see baptism as the end of our Christian journey; it is a ticking of the religious requirement. In actuality, it is the beginning!

God's humbled servant,

*Pastor Kerry*

## **Movies Under the Oaks**

Chaires will host "Movies Under the Oaks" every **Friday starting @ 6:30 p.m.** We will be watching the movie series "**The Chosen**" outdoors on our big 14 ft. inflatable screen.

*January 12<sup>th</sup>: "Shabbat" Season 1 Episode 2*

*January 19<sup>th</sup>: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Season 1 Episode 3*

*January 26<sup>th</sup>: "The Rock on Which It is Built" Season 1 Episode 4*

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>: "The Wedding Gift" Season 1 Episode 5*

*February 9<sup>th</sup>: "Indescribable Joy" Season 1 Episode 6*

*February 16<sup>th</sup>: "Invitations" Season 1 Episode 7*

*February 23<sup>rd</sup>: "I Am He" Season 1 Episode 8*

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series. Created, directed, and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. It is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him.

There will be popcorn, hotdogs and pretzels for refreshments along with lemonade. So, bring your chairs, your blankets, your appetites, and most importantly, your friends for a family friendly event that is Free to the public. I hope to see you there!

Rev. Kerry Foote

**The Church Council will meet after church next Sunday, Jan. 21, until noon.**

This class will be meeting each Sunday at 9 AM. You can participate via phone, the dial-in number is (516) 387-8169.

### Liturgists for Worship

We would like members of the congregation to participate in the worship service by reading the Call to Worship and the scripture readings. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet is on the long back table.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Some things you may want to put on your calendar for the future in 2024:

**February 13, 2024:** Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Pancake Dinner in the multipurpose sanctuary.

**February 14, 2024:** Ash Wednesday Service in the historic Sanctuary.

**February 19, 2024** (Every Thursday) Lenten Devotional Study.

**March 24, 2024:** Palm Sunday Service in multi-purpose Sanctuary.

**March 28, 2024:** Maundy Thursday Service (Reader's Theater) in historic Sanctuary.

**March 29, 2024:** Good Friday Service in historic Sanctuary

*For a long spell, Rick Davies operated the power point and recorded the worship service while Marty was home with Miss Neva. Marty has resumed the duties in the back and now Rick can enjoy sitting with Paula during worship. Thank you, Paula and Rick!*



### The Choir Needs YOU!

All skill levels are welcome as long as you love music and fellowship with great folks! Practice is on

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM in the "new" sanctuary. For more info, contact:

Gerry Nielson (321-652-5361; gerryniel@gmail.com)

*If you would like to place flowers in the church during, please sign up on the bulletin board opposite the restrooms.*

As we worship in person, all church services will continue to be posted after 1 pm each Sunday through the church website at *chairesumc.com*.

### Adult Sunday School

### Giving Through Our Website

Go to <https://ChairesUMC.com> and just click the blue GIVE button and you will be taken to the church REALM site. The church secretary can help you set up your account.

The Upper Room for January and February is available on the back shelf of the sanctuary.



***If you would like Pastor Kerry to call or visit, please let Susan, the secretary, or Pastor Kerry know. His contact information is in the bulletin.***



### Members

Pat Alley

Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie  
Bobbie Harrison

### Friends and Family

Louise Barineau

Johnny Holmes & Dennis Howell (friends of Matthew)

Mary Taylor, former member

DeMarrio Bryant, TPD officer who was killed in an accident

Family of David Cox (childhood friend of David Matthews)

Andy Dawson

<u>January Birthdays</u>	<u>January Anniversaries</u>
Chaires, Frances 17	Mike & Terry Hatcher 1
Lombardi, Jean 23	Jon & Dot Berry 4
Grubb, Renee 24	Sammy & Marion Lollie
Grubb, Dylan 29	23
Hall, Maggie 30	Jean & Michael Lombardi
	29

<u>Chaires Staff</u>	
Pastor	Rev. Kerry Foote
Secretary	Susan Capelouto (secretarychairesumc@gmail.com)
Music Director	Gerry Nielsen
Custodian	Janet Cayson
Audio/Visual	Marty Holland

