



Chaires Methodist Church
"A Lighthouse Guiding People to Christ"

WHAT IS LENT?

Easter comes early this year (March 31), so Lent, which always begins 47 days before Easter Sunday, begins on February 14. Why do the dates vary so widely from year to year? Because Easter Sunday can fall any time from March 22 to April 25. Here's the reason: Jesus died on Passover, which was observed on the first full moon following the spring equinox. Easter Sunday is thus the first Sunday after that full moon. And Lent counts backwards from Easter to include 40 days plus Sundays.

Why 40 days? Because Jesus fasted 40 days in the desert and laid 40 hours in the tomb; the Hebrews wandered for 40 years in the wilderness; the world was flooded for 40 days in the time of Noah. Each was a period of preparation for what was to follow. So it was that early Christians began setting aside time before Easter to prepare for their celebration of the resurrection.

These are meant to be days of solemnity and reflection, so many fast from something during Lent. Some give up coffee or chocolate; others restrict their travel or use of technology. Sundays are typically excluded from fasting, since they are celebrations of the risen Christ. The period begins with Ash Wednesday, during which many churches mark believers with ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday foliage.

Why is Lent relevant for those whose tradition does not typically include it?

One: we need to live in community with the larger body of Christ, and the vast majority of Christians practice some form of Lenten observance. **Two:** we cannot fully appreciate Jesus' resurrection unless we have experienced some of his suffering. Fasting is an appropriate means of spiritual identification with Jesus' atoning sacrifice. **Three:** our souls need a period each year for intentional spiritual introspection and contemplation. John Stott, the great Anglican pastor and scholar, set aside an hour a day, a day a week, and a week a year to be alone with his Father. Just as students need a spring break, so do souls.

This year's Lenten sermon series is titled: "Letting Go." The season of Lent is a time for us to assess ourselves and make adjustments. It's a time for us to recalibrate to God's way of living and loving. The purpose of repentance and reflection is not to lay ourselves under condemnation, but to offer ourselves up for salvation. This is very important: "God did not send his Son to condemn the world but to save the world through him" (John 3:17). Jesus did not come to condemn us but to save us. He wants to set us free. In Christ, we can let go of the sin and shame that seek to enslave us.

MAUDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Chaires Methodist Church will be having a special Maundy Thursday worship service on **March 28th @ 7:00 pm in the historic sanctuary**. There will be a special reader's theater that will require volunteers to make it happen. We need 12 volunteers that will read the parts of various apostle's that were in that upper room with Jesus prior to Good Friday. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Kerry Foote to receive a part in the reader's theater.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Chaires Methodist Church will be having "A Service of Tenebrae" for **Good Friday on March 29th @ 7:00 pm in the historic sanctuary**. A Service of Tenebrae, or "Shadows," is based on a twelfth-century late night service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. It may be used as the evening service on Good Friday, particularly as the beginning of a prayer vigil lasting through Saturday.

HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL

Chaires Methodist Church will be hosting a Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil on **March 30th from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm in the historic sanctuary**. Holy Saturday offers us an invitation to quiet prayer and stillness as we join Mary and Martha as they sit before the tomb and keep watch.

This is the last day of Lent and the church will be open for individuals and families to come by anytime between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm to spend time in prayer and reflection to prepare for Easter morning.

Movies Under the Oaks

Chaires will host "Movies Under the Oaks" every **Friday starting @ 7:00 p.m.** We will be watching the movie series "**The Chosen**" outdoors on our big 14 ft. inflatable screen.

February 23rd: I Am He Season 1 Episodes 7 & 8
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!

Pastor Kerry

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

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.

Adult Sunday School

This class will be meeting each Sunday at 9 AM

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

Lenten Devotion Series

Pastor Kerry will be hosting a Lenten Devotional Bible Study starting February 22nd and will be held every Thursday through March 21st. Those attending can attend either the 8:00 a.m. session or the 6:00 p.m. session. The morning session will be held in the Sunday School room of the multi-purpose sanctuary. The evening session will be held at the parsonage and the study will be preceded by a potluck.

This Lenten series will coincide with our Lenten sermon series titles: "Letting Go!" There will be **no cost** because the handout will be provided for the study. If you are interested, please sign up at the back of the church following Sunday service or call the church at (850) 219-9361 and leave a message. You can also send an e-mail to Pastor Kerry at: pastor.foote@outlook.com.



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.

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.

Humble House Mission Spotlight

The Humble House Ministries' mission is to help women in addiction by providing a safe, residential environment, discipling them through Bible-centered teaching, and equipping them to live God honoring lives. It is the sister organization to Teen Challenge. We can support these brave women and their decision to accept help in recovery by providing them with supplies through the month of February. There is a supply list on the information table. There are also cards so you can write messages of love and support and leave them in the basket. See Susan Capelouto for more info.

February

Diane Matthews 2
Wes Leggett 3
Marilyn Alvarez 7
David Matthews 8

February

Mark & Marilyn Alvarez 6
Don & Gail Dampier 12



Members

Mary Alice & Michael Linzy
Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie

Friends and Family

Donnie Dampier (son of Gail & Don Dampier)
Family of Debbie Kahana & her husband, Roy (friends of Sheila & Milan Novak)
Thomas Stumbaugh (stepfather of Amy Clark)
Dennis Rackley (brother of Diane Matthews)
Family of Gary Adams & his wife, Cheryl (friends of Chaires Church)
Jeff Ard (friend of Dot Spence)
Kay Comer & Mike Donovan (friends of Pastor Kerry & Tiffany)
Family of Claire Amason (wife of Rev. J.D. Amason)
Jill Berquist (friend of Sheila Novak)
Johnny Holmes
Sharee & Joan Dean

Praise:

Don & Gail Dampier's 64th anniversary

For those who would like to send a card:

Cheryl Adams
6512 Hidden Lakes Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311

J D Amason
230 Brown Cove Rd
Clyde, NC

02/18/2024

Chaires Staff

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