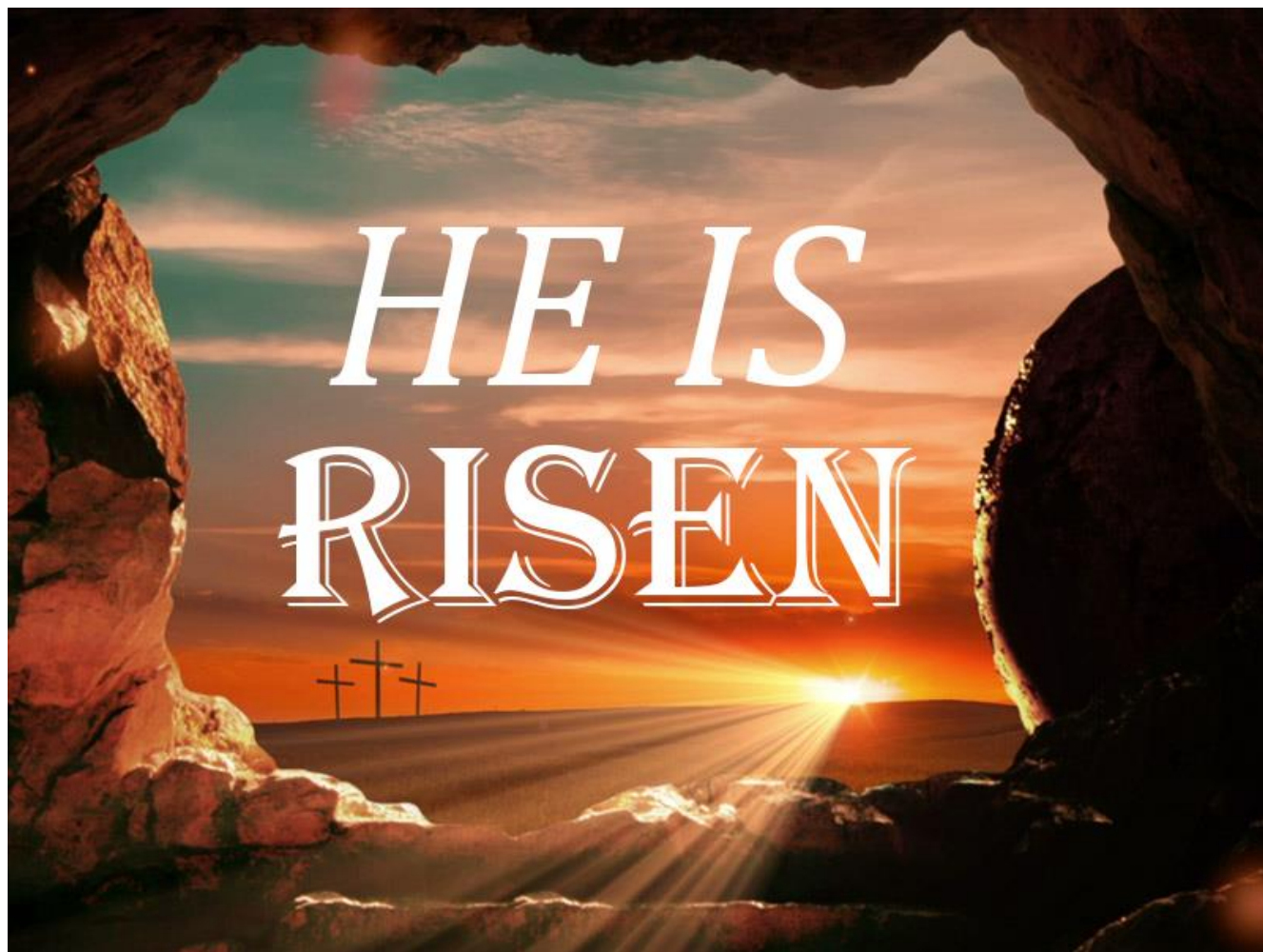




The Chimes

April 2020

Chester United Methodist Church * 12132 Percival Street * Chester, VA 23831 * 804.748.6006 * www.chesterumc.org



Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM at
www.facebook.com/chesterunitedmethodistchurch

Online giving can be done through Tithe.ly or on our website
www.chesterumc.org/online-giving

Clara's Contemplations

In the midst of COVID-19, CUMC will follow the guidelines given from our Bishop's office, our governmental offices and the CDC. In keeping with the 10 person rule, our Sunday worship services are broadcast live online at 10AM. We will be in ministry in the many ways we can. Below you will see the things we've instituted to remain in community during our social distancing:

- Online worship with an open comment section for participation
- Daily highlights to aid in communication and help with a non-anxious presence
- Staff are creating videos to share on our Facebook page. These will be posted daily.
- Create a call list of persons to check on. This list is shared on Google docs with clergy, staff and a few members who are helping us make the connections.
- Promoting the use of our Prayer Chain
- Encourage Sunday school and other discipleship groups to create groups on platforms such as Google Hangout and Facebook
- Hold meeting via computer or phone.
- Teach alternate ways of giving through individual's bank or [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)

I encourage you as our leadership to remain calm. Communicate closely with each other and the church. Continue to find ways to remain in ministry. Thank you for loving God. Peace be with you.

In God's Love,

Pastor Clara

Next Level Innovations

We are in Phase 1 of the NLI Process. A team of 6 people have begun to work closely with Pastor Clara during this process. Chester UMC has created a congregational breakthrough prayer* that everyone is encouraged to use in their personal prayer life. Many small groups have studied about prayers using the curriculum [Ultimate Reliance](#). Pastor Clara meets regularly with a Clergy Peer Learning Group that helps facilitate growth in personal development, congregational development, and innovation preparation. The laity of the church, in addition to the prayer focus, will learn about evangelism. This phase will culminate with a Ministry Focus Event in the Summer which will be open to the whole church as we come together to discuss where we see God at work in our midst.

Breakthrough Prayer

God of Miraculous power,
break into our lives and church family that as we are
rooted in you,
we may grow in Christ
and surrender ourselves to bear fruit in Your spirit,
flood us in light and love with boldness
that we may dare to imagine
all the ways we can be your witnesses.
Amen



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

"Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Do you need someone to pray with you, listen to you, and join God's prayer for you? Please feel free to reach out to **Audrey Smith** (804-380-8242(phone or text) or acosmith@gmail.com) OR **Lisa Stanfield** at (804-931-1710 (phone or text) or lstandfield@whaprint.com) for individual prayer.

I have stated in most of my reports to the Administrative Council that "church" is both a verb and a noun. The noun part comes in the building and all the people as we gather and such. The word "church" as a verb are our actions that we take to help other people. Now that we are in the midst of the Coronavirus and are asked to shelter in place, it is hard to find ways to be the church – as a verb! Reach out to your neighbors by phone, especially those who live alone, and let them know you care about them. Be willing listen to them and help in any way you can. Most importantly, PRAY. We have the Breakthrough Prayer to say each day (or several times a day). There are other prayers that can be said as long as they come from your heart as you converse with the Lord. Remember that the 23rd Psalm it says "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..." Our Lord has shared He will not leave us, He will walk with us all day long. Be safe in all you do and remember we will get through this with His help. This is the time to trust in the Lord for He is our Lord and our Savior.

Keith Mottley
Mission Team Leader

DEADLINE EXTENDED--UMCOR KITS for Conference—The United Methodist Committee on Relief operates two relief depots, one in Salt Lake City and the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. For the past several years CUMC and the UMW have collected materials for and assembled health kits to be sent to Sager Brown. They collect kits to have on hand when disaster strikes. Due to hurricanes and flooding in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina in 2018 and 2019 there is an urgent need to restock their inventory of health kits. Therefore, our goal for this year's June 18-20 Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference in Roanoke is 100 health kits. The entire congregation is invited to support this effort by donating items to be packed into kits. Pick up your "assignment ticket" from the display in the Atrium and return the assigned items to the collection box in the mission closet next to Pastor Clara's office NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 12. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The United Methodist Women (UMW) is to "be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."
All UMW meetings and events for April have been canceled. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

LETTER FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Paying Forward Tithes and Offerings as a Testament to the Light

COVID-19 has changed daily life for all of us. Anxiety and fear about the future are very normal in a situation like this. Yet, daily I'm amazed by the light that shines through in others with acts of humor, service, selflessness, generosity, simplicity, and above all, through love and grace.

Sadly, this pandemic is not only a public health crisis, it is also an economic crisis. Every person, business, nonprofit, synagogue, mosque, and church is wondering, how can we continue to pay our employees, mortgage/rent and bills through this storm. And the most vulnerable people in our community and world are most at risk of physical and economic suffering. So many people have already lost their jobs and so many small businesses have closed and it is likely that many more will. It is understandable during these times that the ability to meet financial commitments for many will be very difficult.

Yet, many of us are employees in jobs that will continue amid the pandemic or we are on fixed pensions and social security where our income is certain. At a time like this for those of us who are certain of their income, I challenge us to pay forward our tithes and offerings a month, two months, or even 3-6 months if possible. I challenge us to pre-pay our barber or hairdresser for the next 3 visits you'll go to when they open again and to buy gift cards from your local businesses struggling to continue as a promise you'll be back when life gets back to normal. I challenge us to utilize these tithes and offerings to be there for our fellow church members during this time and to especially prioritize our assistance to the most vulnerable: the homeless, our seniors, immigrant communities, children, hard working neighbors with limited income in hourly wage jobs, small businesses struggling to pay their bills. I know we are up to the task and I know whatever our financial situation in the days ahead, that Chester UMC will give all of our time, talents and resources given by God. I know we will flood this world in light and love with boldness as we dare to imagine all the new ways we can be God's witnesses during this time of great need.

For the gospel of John Chapter 1 says "What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light."

Written by: Erik Johnston, Administrative Council Chair

GIVE Online THROUGH Tithe.ly! You can set up your one-time or reoccurring online giving at <https://www.chesterumc.org/online-giving> or visit the church website and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

CHURCH FAMILY

In loving memory

Isabel Clopton Steiner

July 23, 1922 - February 29, 2020

We Celebrate the Holy Baptism of *Elissa Eden Brummette*, the four-month-old daughter of Charlotte Beth and William Andrew Brummette. The paternal grandparents are Robert (deceased) and Eveyln Brummette, and the maternal grandparents are Salvatore Buda and Madeline Gazzo. Elissa's proud siblings are Christopher (8), Isabella (5), and Ava (4).

We Celebrate the Birth of *Ellis Campbell Chatham* on March 11, 2020. She is the daughter of Cory and Kat Chatham. Camden (age 3) is very excited to be a big brother!



Knights of North Castle: VBS 2020 Child and Volunteer Registration is LIVE! Monday, June 22-Friday, June 26th, 2020 9AM-12PM

Join us for a frozen adventure to North Castle. At Knights of North Castle VBS, your child will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives. Children ages 4 (by June 1, 2020) through completed 5th grade are invited to attend. We are in need of many youth and adult volunteers to make VBS a success. Consider how you can answer the call to serve during one of our biggest community outreach events of the year! To register a child or to volunteer see our website at: <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/chesterumc>



28 Day Bible Reading Plan

During this time- Let's take some time to get closer to God by reading our bibles! It takes 28 days to make something become a habit. By receiving this bible, your Chester UMC family hopes you begin the take the next step in your relationship with Jesus and get into the habit of talking to God every day. The only way to keep a relationship with Jesus is to be in communication with Him! In order to GROW in your relationship with Christ, you need to Go to God in prayer, Read your Bible, Obey God's Word, and Worship God some way every day. For the next 28 days, you will take on the challenge of reading these daily scriptures and making time for God.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John 3: 16 | 15. 1 Corinthians 10: 13 |
| 2. Ephesians 2: 8-9 | 16. Joshua 1:9 |
| 3. Micah 6:8 | 17. 1 Corinthians 10:13 |
| 4. Psalm 139:13-14 | 18. Hebrews 11: 1 |
| 5. Matthew 6: 33 | 19. 2 Timothy 1: 7 |
| 6. Philippians 4: 13 | 20. Philippians 4: 6 |
| 7. Romans 12: 1-2 | 21. Jeremiah 29:11 |
| 8. Isaiah 43:1 | 22. John 10: 10 |
| 9. Matthew 22: 37-39 | 23. 1 Samuel 16:7 |
| 10. Galatians 5: 22-23 | 24. James 5: 16 |
| 11. John 14: 6 | 25. Proverbs 13:1 |
| 12. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 | 26. Psalm 119:11 |
| 13. Psalm 51: 10-12 | 27. Colossians 2: 7-8 |
| 14. Matthew 6: 19-21 | 28. Hebrews 6: 19 |

Our Easter cantata, "One Holy Lamb," will be delayed until we return to worshipping together. Check the church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch>) for inspirational music videos as well as Joshua's personal page for occasional live concerts. (<https://www.facebook.com/pianocrazed/>).

Spiritual Growth with Dr. Jim

- What difference does Spiritual Formation make during COVID-19 panic?
- What difference does it make for a believer in Jesus Christ as compared to a non-believer in Jesus Christ?
- What difference does it make to be an active and participating disciple of Jesus Christ as compared to an inactive and on occasion participant as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- What difference does it make for someone who prays a lot to God through Jesus Christ's name as compared to those who just pray on occasion to God in Jesus Christ's name?
- What difference does it make when COVID-19 rains on the "just and unjust"?
- What are ways that believers support and care for each other and others outside their fellowship during panics as compared to the way non-believers relate to others?
- Since we are always living near death's door, what difference does our spiritual formation relationship to Jesus Christ have to do with our next stage of life...whether we are eternally to experience Heaven or Hell?
- What happens to us if COVID-19 ushers us through death's door?

Did you know?

95 Theses nailed to the church door on October 31, 1517 by Martin Luther.

Actually, this all started on March 15, 1517 when Pope Leo X announced a special sale of indulgences because they needed money to rebuild St. Peter's basilica. The Pope's sale of indulgences "purchased the forgiveness of all past sins."

In Germany, a Dominican Priest, named Johann Tetzel led the way in promoting the sale of indulgences and erroneously declared that indulgences would cover future sins meaning one price of indulgence agreed upon by a priest could cover all future sins assuring one of a place in heaven. Meaning, based upon an agreed upon price being paid, all future sins were forgiven.

This covering of future sins angered a monk named Martin Luther who struggled with this erroneous but real bartering across the river from his assigned church. After struggling with this real situation and not getting it changed after a few months...that is when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses.

We don't know the actual timeline from the Pope to the distortion to Germany, but the time frame is from March 15, 1517 until the door posting on October 31, 1517...Reformation Day for the Protestant Movement.

Prayers.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Be sure to wish the following people a “Happy Birthday” on their “Special Day.”

April 1

Hunter Beazley, Jr.
Elaine Biedler
Matthew Coyner
Evan Goyne
Ben Lashley
Carol Ray

April 2

Malcolm Stone

April 3

Mike Clark
Earl Tatum
Amy Tirrell
Jake Zimmerman

April 4

Tyler Dougherty
Courtney Farrell
Patrick Rhea
Reed Willingham

April 5

Andrew Biedler
Anna Chitwood
Ned Comeaux
Amy Gray
Carla Hoffmann
Debbie Lewis
Zachary Lewis
Michael Peterson

April 6

Adam Aslan
Kathy Baker
Lara Howe
Daniel Spadaccia

April 7

Audrey Farrell
Robertta McCotter
Reid Miller

April 8

Shayna Barnes
Gavin Carraway
Janet Farmer
Olivia Johnson
Jaime Wisegarver
Lauren Wood

April 9

Kathleen Herrmann
Brandon Lewis
Savanna Schaffer
Evan Slaasted
Lisa Zoller

April 10

Karen Cole
Scott Hofmann
Chris Hulbert
Elizabeth Porter
Kathryn Smith
William Waterson

April 11

Megan Carson
Jodie Coutts
Merlin Mitchell
R.D. Nixon
Ryan Patton
Donald Tipton

April 12

Lisa Irving
Carter Keffer

April 13

Jackson Angle
Vince D'Agostino
Stephen Kirtley
Ben Patton
Anna Thomas
Ray Trevillian

April 14

Ashley Beckner
Chuck Clement
Ian Drewry
Jim Harris
Raymond Johnson Jr.
Kris Spadaccia

April 15

Justin Blankenbecler
Clarence Curtis III
Maggie Davis
Don Farr
Jeremy Goodman
Rakell Houston
Donna Nunery
Bayo Ogungbade
Julia Rooks
Jude Squires

April 16

Teresa Blaylock
William Coghill
Matthew McHugh
Kelly Woodard

April 17

Aaron Anderson
Ruth Copa
Bud Lewis, Jr.
Greg Pennington
Ethan Rooks
Louise Sheets

April 18

Anne McQueen
Cassidy Roy
Anna Thysell

April 19

Kate Comer
June Hopkins
Louan Stanfield
Walt Stone III

April 20

Mark Bradley
Mitchell Kessinger
Carol Koon
Ann Roper

April 21

Adam Daugherty
Kathy Goyne
Jeff Harmon
Aiden Kessinger
John McCormack
Lynn McHugh
Donna Michaelis
Scott Moody

April 22

Gwen Byer
Madison Costner
Jonathan Hayes
Alex Woods

April 23

Bella Brummette
Catherine Castleberry
Bob Davis
Bruce Johnson
Bryan Manuel
Tam Moody

April 24

Sue Coleman
Liz Denby
Ileen Helm
Dennis Lipscomb
John D. Phillips
Dave Wood

April 25

Ava Gray
L.A. Ruffin III
Jennifer Smith

April 26

John Edward Ezell
Natalie Farrell
Queen Giles
Hailey Houston
Roseanne Kirtley
Phyllis Knaack
Julia Sharpe
Ashley Watson

April 27

Ava Brummette
Benjamin Comer
Meghan Stewart-Morgan
Parker Stone

April 28

Scott Akom
Gypsy Cook
Miranda Grave
David Mann

April 29

Charleene Holmes
Don Sexton
Sarah Walls
Terri Watson
Steven Yuconis

April 30

Beth Comer
Brad Lenz
Ruth Lucy
Stacey Partin
Erin Roberts
Liz Sarver
Austin Voros



A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church

Chester United Methodist Church
12132 Percival Street
Chester, VA 23831

PLEASE NOTE: The email for CHIMES submissions communication@chesterumc.org The deadline for submission to the **May 2020 Chimes** is **Wednesday, April 25.**

CHESTER UMC ON THE WEB AND IN THE WORLD

Missed a Sunday?—Don't miss the message! Find recent sermons at www.chesterumc.org, click on the MEDIA tab.

Find us on **Facebook** at Chester United Methodist Church for weekly sermon shorts, daily devotionals, event announcements, and more! <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterUMC/>

Receive our Chester UMC **Prayer Chain** by request. Submit your name and email address to prayerchain@chesterumc.org.

The Chester UMC newsletter, *The Chimes*, is available on the **Web** at: www.chesterumc.org. Go to "Media", select "Bulletins/Newsletter", then scroll down.

Visit the **CUMC library** from your home at <https://16538.rmwebopac.com> (password: CUMC). Search for titles, peruse our inventory, and much more. POC: Ron Dombrowski (rmachachi@aol.com)

GIVE ONLINE THROUGH TITHE.LY!

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