THE CHIMES

Official Newsletter of Chester United Methodist Church—www.chesterumc.org



FAREWELL TO PASTOR CLARA GESTWICK

Please join us in wishing Pastor Clara and Doug Gestwick a fond farewell on Sunday, June 20, following the 11:00 Traditional Service. We will assemble a car parade starting at 12:15 PM in the CUMC parking lot behind the Atrium and overflow into the School Street gravel lot (beside the Baptist Church lot). At 12:30 PM, we ask that you follow the parking lot attendants in circling the Sanctuary and roll down your windows to wish Clara and Doug a safe and heartfelt farewell. A table for cards or gifts will be available in the Atrium between the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services as well as outside the Atrium for the car parade. Should you wish to send your greetings to Pastor Clara's home, please use the following address:

Rev. Clara Gestwick 6630 Glebe Point RD Chesterfield, VA 23838

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

On Sunday, June 13, we will recognize all of our 2021 graduates! Whether you are graduating from high school, college, trade school, secondary education—any sort of graduation—we want to celebrate with you! Please let the Church Office (cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org) know so we can include you in our celebration. Be sure to attend in-person worship on Sunday, June 13, as we pray a blessing over you and honor your achievements!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS—Send us a short video! Introduce yourself, tell us where you are graduating from, and what your next steps are upon graduation. You can even share briefly about how God is working in your life! Please submit your videos (via text, email, or through Facebook Messenger) to Joshua Wortham (music@chesterumc.org) by June 6. Also, please send us 3-4 pictures of yourself at various ages for a PowerPoint that we will share with the congregation.

CHURCH FAMILY—*We need your help!* We want you to write notes of encouragement to our high school graduates. Let them know you are praying for them, share your favorite scripture, or another word of hope that has sustained you on

life's journey. Please write 10 copies of the note and place them in the labeled box in the Sharing Bin (near the Welcome Center/Atrium entrance). Submit them by May 31 so we can include them in the Bibles we are gifting our high school graduates.





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Contemporary Worship Davis Fellowship Hall 8:30 AM

Virtual Worship Facebook & YouTube 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship Sanctuary 11:00 AM

Worship By Phone 804-768-9594 Anytime

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

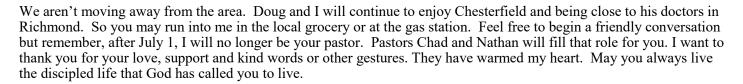
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CLARA'S CONTEMPLATIONS

As I prepare to write this article, a drove of emotions engulf me. I'm sad and scared, yet excitement and joy fill my heart. I'm sad because there are some wounds from the pandemic that still need healing. I'm scared because, for the first time in my adult life, I don't know where I will be going to church come July 1. I'm excited because, for the first time in my life, I will get to visit many churches and choose the one where I want to land! I'm joy-filled because I will get to attend to family and discover what a weekend is without the stressors of having to be prepared for Sunday's sermon or lessons.

My time as one of your pastors is coming to a close. It's only been three short years but we've journeyed through a deep space together. Ministry has changed as it always does but in this past year and a half, it feels like a drastic change. But rest assured, God remains the same. God has been with us through these uncertain times.

I had hoped I could be with you for a decade, but plans change as we listen to the Spirit moving within and among. Many of you have asked what my next steps are. I have discerned that I need to step away from the local church as an appointed pastor (I'll still worship in a local church) and go on Family Leave. This Leave will give me the time and energy to attend to the needs of Doug and our adult children as they transition out of the home and into their adult lives. I fully expect the Spirit-nudgings to return me to appointed ministry in the future but I will await the holy guidance.



Still in One Peace,

Clara

MUSIC NOTES

Years ago, I heard the story of a church divided over worship wars. The church debated whether or not to include "contemporary" music (like we use at Fresh Start Worship at 8:30 AM on Sundays) in their worship services. The riff grew so intense that the church finally decided to devote an entire year to worshipping with no music whatsoever. They explored the scriptural and theological basis and purpose of worship. They discovered and rediscovered a variety of ways to express their worship. Ironically, a "contemporary" worship song was born out of this experience.

"When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come longing just to bring something that's of worth, that will bless Your heart. I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required. You search much deeper within through the way things appear. You're looking into my heart. I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You. It's all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You. It's all about You, Jesus." (by Matt Redman)

Our church family is blessed with so many gifted musicians who offer their gifts to worship God, the Giver of Song! And each of us is capable of making a joyful noise (Psalm 100)! As the sound of singing returns to in-person worship,

my heart is lifted as we unite our voices in praise. While music may not be essential to a worship service, for me at least, it's how I pray. Music is where I most often hear the heart and voice of God. It is the medium I use to express my adoration and gratitude for the Great Conductor who has orchestrated the gift of grace.

My prayer is that ALL the music we make within these walls, in our virtual services, and through our outreach (such as choir tour and community worship events) will bring honor and glory to God! Even in the midst of the pandemic, our praises did not fall silent, and God never abandoned us! May our hearts always ring with praise. May our lips shape words that celebrate the God of creation. May our instruments stir resonations of the Spirit. May our breath be used to praise the One who gives us life and breath!



"Sing"-cerely, Joshua Wortham

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Stewardship: An Expression of Discipleship

by Bryon and Josefa Wall

We're now in the season of Pentecost—the birth of the Church. What do we do to celebrate birthdays? We send cards (Prayers), join in celebrations (Presence), give presents (Gifts), offer to help prepare the celebration (Service), and we share the good news with others (Witness).

Stewardship is not just about money. It's about us sharing our God given gifts (talents) as an expression of our faith. Sometimes, sharing from our abundance is challenging. To make it a little easier, when you thank God for the many gifts you have received, ask yourself what gifts God is asking you to share as you live out your faith. If you wish to talk with someone about sharing your gifts, please email Pastor Clara (claragestwick@chesterumc.org) or Pastor Chad

(<u>chadbeck@chesterumc.org</u>). The need in our community and world continues to be great. Let us be good stewards and disciples as we cultivate our gifts out of our love for God and each other.

Peace be with you.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Congregational Finance update through April 30, 2021

General operating fund checking account balance is \$105,580.14.

Projected giving for our 2021 budget, based on first 17 weeks contributions, is \$800,795.84.

On February 23, Finance approved the use of up to \$37,000 from reserve funds to repair the Church Parsonage to an updated, livable

condition for our new Pastor. We have had approximately \$2,500 in donations and used approximately \$6,000 from the transferred money for the repairs so far. I want to extend a big thank you to all of the church members who have volunteered their time and talent so far on this project. It is not too late to get involved and commit your time and extra funds that you have to help out!

Click here to sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d44a5a72ba75-parsonage

The church was approved for a second draw from the PPP program for just over \$68,000 to help with payroll and utilities. To date we have about \$38,000 of these funds left in our checking account to spend towards these items.





GETTING TO KNOW OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS



One interest that the D'Agostinos share is that of traveling and learning about other cultures. Some of their visits include China, Africa, Costa Rica, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Canada. Some of these trips were with students during Vince's 15 years as Principal of Hanover High School. Linda met him at the high school during her 30 year career teaching Home Economics (or Family and Consumer Science as it is called now). Linda taught while also running a preschool there! Vince and Linda have lived in Chester for 21 years and together have five adult children and eight grandchildren. Before coming to CUMC, both were involved in Young Lives, a mission to help pregnant teens, and both were Deacons. Mission work has been in the forefront of their church life, and both worked tirelessly in Outreach at their former church, adding new members to their congregation. In 2015, they joined CUMC. Linda has served on the Bereavement Committee, the Visitation Committee, the Christmas Box Project, and the Backpack Ministry. Vince has been a part of the Methodist Men's Group and is the Chairman of the Board of our preschool at CUMC. He is fluent in Spanish and teaches it to preschoolers as well as teaching adults in the ESL class at Greenleigh.

Clearly, Vince and Linda give of themselves to help others. How fortunate are we that they both serve as Stephen Ministers?! In 2018, Vince also spent an intense week studying to become a Stephen Leader. Besides all of their good works, they are just very dear people, and it is a privilege to have them as a part of the CUMC community. Philippians 4:13 says "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me". The Stephen Ministers are said to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and Vince and Linda clearly reflect this in their life at CUMC.

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."

• The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, June 7, at 6:00 PM at the Petrey's for a picnic and to hold a "Pounding" for a young mother in need. We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey, 275-9258, for details.



Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, to learn more about UMW, our two participating fellowships, and how you can become involved.

APPRECIATE OUR VETERANS ON JULY 4

As we celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4, we also need to celebrate our veterans and remember their service and sacrifice to our country. I am hoping that, once again, I can count on you to write a few notecards or make cards for the Vets at McGuire Hospital for the 4th of July.

Here are suggestions you might write inside the cards:

- Happy 4th of July!
- Thank you for protecting our freedoms!
- God bless you.
- I am praying for you.
- As I celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4th, I also celebrate you and remember your service and sacrifice to our country.
- Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our country.
- I am thinking of you.

Only sign your first name. Please put your cards in the box inside the Sharing Bin by Sunday, June 27. Thank you so much. POC Barbara MacIntyre (804) 748-0775

REST STOP YOUTH MINISTRY

Rest Stop Wrap-Up for the 2020-21 School Year

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the support you've given our Rest Stop program. This year we have graduating seniors in our group and we are so proud of their growth and accomplishments. Our Rest Stop program has provided support and extra care to these students who have needed it the most.

Before ending the program for the school year, we asked kids for honest feedback about what they liked most about the program. One of them shared that he was so grateful to have a place to go every week that was so welcoming and safe. Another shared that he liked the accountability and encouragement to keep up with grades so he could finally graduate.

We've been honored to have had the opportunity to build relationships with these youth and look forward to continuing those relationships after graduation. All the students we have been serving are graduating.

So, What's next for Rest Stop? We are looking forward to working with new high schoolers and continuing this program. Thanks again for all your support of this program!

Pictured here is our Rest Stop Class of 2021 along with some of our youth volunteers.



REST STOP



WELCOME THE DECKER FAMILY

Our new pastor, Rev. Nathan Decker, and his family will be joining us in July! Let's get ready to offer the Decker family a warm Chester welcome! We look forward to getting to know Nathan, his wife Stephanie, and their sons, Elijah and Ethan. Pastor Nathan currently serves High Street UMC in Courtland, VA.

Nathan's first Sunday at Chester UMC will be July 4.

Save the Date: Plans are in the works for a welcoming event on Sunday, July 11.

Watch the July/August Chimes and our daily emails for Nathan's biography and more information about our welcome event.

If you'd like to send a welcome note, beginning July 1, 2021, you may send it to the parsonage: 12121 Percival Street, Chester, VA 23831.







SUMMER FAMILY CHALLENGE

Kicks off June 6 through August 22

Pick up your challenge guide starting June 6! The Summer Family Challenge is a "choose your own adventure" type of activity. It's all about having fun, making memories, and growing in faith. Your family decides what challenges they will complete and in what order. There will be prizes for three families with the highest scores. In order to qualify for winning a prize, you must turn in 5 pictures of you doing 5 different challenges that are listed in the guide.

For more information, pick up your guide at church from Alina, or pick up from the Sharing Bin in the parking lot drive through lane!

POC: Alina Roy family@chesterumc.org

Children's PK-5th Grade
In-Person Symmer
Synday School

9:45-10:30 AM Room 210 (Upstairs)







TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Pray for

Pray for

Pray for someone who attends your church.

your

Pray for Jerusalem. (See Psalm 122:6 & the peace of

SATURDAY NA. FRIDAY Pray for



been nice

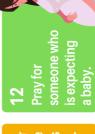
who hasn't

parents.

to you.











grandparents.

Non

Pray for

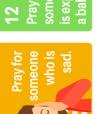
Pray for

Vour friends

at school











orphans.

Pray for

Pray for

people who

EB

foster care

Pray for

protect our country.



25

Pray for





you laugh.





HELLO













responders.

14 Pray for

Pray for

5

missionaries





/onr







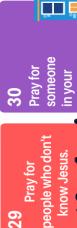












Pray for

Pray for

27

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SMALL GROUPS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

We offer a wide variety of study groups for every age and every phase of your spiritual journey. Here is a list of our current offerings. Prayerfully discern which class you want to join as your grow in your walk with Christ. Or, perhaps you're feeling led to start a new class! Contact the Church Office or one of the leaders listed below for more information.

SUNDAY

ROAD (Reaching Out Across Darkness) Crew Walking Group

7:30 AM, Walking begins at the Annex 8:15 AM, Bible/Book Study via Google Meet (virtual)

POC: Natalie Galarza (familygalarza05@gmail.com)

Children's Sunday School (PK-Grade 5)

9:30 AM, Room 210

POC: Alina Roy (family@chesterumc.org)

Fresh Start Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 205

POC: Susan Petrey (susanmpetrey@gmail.com)

Journey Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 116 and Google Meet (hybrid class) POC: Lisa Anderson (Lpanderson5@gmail.com)

Seekers Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 226

POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Senior Singles Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Parlor

POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)

Joy Unspeakable Small Group

6:30 PM, Room 226

POC: Clara Gestwick (claragestwick@chesterumc.org)

TUESDAY

Hospitality & Intercultural Relationships Small Group

7:00 PM, Room 226 and Google Meet (hybrid class) POC: Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

WEDNESDAY

Joy Unspeakable Small Group

12:00 PM, Google Meet (virtual)

POC: Clara Gestwick (claragestwick@chesterumc.org)

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year! Visit www.chesterumcps.org for more information. Be sure to share this with your family, friends, and neighbors who have young children.



We are now offering Kindergarten with limited spaces available! Register today!

Contact director Jennifer Barnes (preschool@chesterumc.org, 804-748-2275) for more information.

THE SEEKERS MEET AGAIN

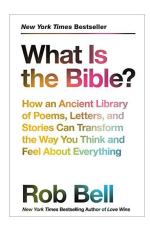
Join the Seekers Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in room 226 above the choir room. Let me know you're coming! POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

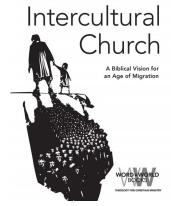
FRESH START SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Join the Fresh Start Sunday School Class in Study, Fellowship and Service:.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in Room 205 (the old Wesley Seminar Class across from the church library). We will continue the study of **What is the Bible by Rob Bell.** Books are \$10. **Please RSVP to Susan** if you plan to attend.

The Fresh Start Class welcomes visitors and new members. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.





Intercultural HOSPITALITY AND INTERCULTURAL Church RELATIONSHIPS SMALL GROUP

Leader/Facilitator: Associate Pastor Chad Beck, <u>chadbeck@chesterumc.org</u>, 434-907-7202 (text/call)

Hybrid Format: Options for in-person (room 226) and/or virtual (via Google Meet)

Time/Date: Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, for about 10 weeks, starting April 20.

Books: Holy Bible and *Intercultural Church: A Biblical Vision for an Age of Migration* by Safwat Marzouk (\$19 paperback or \$15 e-book, financial assistance available).

PARISH NURSE CINDY WEBB

Did you know that CUMC has a Parish Nurse? Her name is Cindy Webb, she is vaccinated, and is a registered nurse with almost 40 years experience in all types of nursing. She is available Sundays from 9:15 -10:45 AM in Room 111, across from the Church Office. Cindy is also available by appointment during the week. Call Cindy (804.748.5314) or the Church Office to arrange a time to meet. Voice messages will be returned ASAP.

Would you like to have your blood pressure checked? She can take it. If you have questions about your medication she can help! Besides being prepared for First Aid, she also is CPR certified. If you are diabetic she can check your blood sugar if you are symptomatic. Glucose tablets are available. Screening blood sugars will not be done.



All information given and visits with Parish Nurse are kept confidential.

Nurse Cindy is looking forward to seeing you!

THANK YOU NOTES

My Dear Church Friends,

You are my comfort in the storms. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and your cards of encouragement during my recent health setback. I feel your love and it lifts my spirits. I am doing much better and enjoying the birds and the spring flowers.

~Cathy Chase

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful birthday cards and enjoyable phone calls for my special day. I wish for all of you God's many blessings. Love and prayers.

~Louise Sheets

Dear, precious Tuesday Morning Prayer Group,

I cannot tell you how this old Mama's heart smiled when I received your beautiful flowers. They were full of my favorites, and I even took the Liatris to my garden to spread the seeds. We are still trying to process the loss of our Grady [April 2021], but I'm sure he was greeted with all the heavenly Tuesday morning girls and my Tommy Boyd! I love you all so very much and hope you know how dear each and every one of you is to my heart! ~Love, Monta [Moody] and Ken Anthony

NOTE: Grady Anthony joined the saints at the young age of 30. His young wife's name is Rachel.



DAILY NEWS

Do you receive our daily news via email? Subscribe today!

Click here: http://eepurl.com/blV9Tv

BLOOD DRIVE—Book Your Appointment Today!

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:00 AM—4:00 PM Davis Fellowship Hall

The need is great! Book your appointment today at www.redcrossblood.org.



FREE HAND SANITIZER

We received a large supply of free hand sanitizer from the Virginia Department of Health! Drop by the Sharing Bin, grab a few bottles for yourself, and take some to share with friends and neighbors. We will continue to restock the supply until all bottles have been distributed.



CUMC STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Clara P. Gestwick: claragestwick@chesterumc.org
	Rev. Dr. Chad T. Beck: chadbeck@chesterumc.org
	Joshua Wortham: music@chesterumc.org
	Alina Roy: family@chesterumc.org
	Jen Barnes: preschool@chesterumc.org
	Terry Wisegarver: cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org
	Julie Jones: finance@chesterumc.org

June Birthdays

June 1

Michelle Jackson Angie Smith Hillary Smith Wayne Stuart

June 2

Tim Baker Linda Becker Mandi Davis Tripp Doyle III Keenan Hall Jamie Hammersley

June 3

Celeste Buccola Taylor Deitz Beth Johnson Sarah Jones

June 4

Taylor Chandler Edwin Gilliam Greg Keffer Mike Lowry Sherry McDermott AJ Roy

June 5

Karen Comer Jim Watters

June 6

Daphne Curtis
Jennie Gray
Berkeley Hill
Chris Matthews
Tom McHugh
Mary Musselwhite
Jacob Tignor

June 7

Marleen Fleeman Jennifer Jernigan Adela Lamas

June 8

Susan Larkin Paul Micou Myra Simmons

<u>June 9</u>

Mike Anderson Reed Boyd Betty Jones Katherine Lipscomb Randy Melton Ethan Rutledge Chelsea Slaasted William Topping

June 10

John Farrell Ed Garrett, Jr. Pipper Gregory Benjamin Johnson Jeff McHugh Martha Motley John J. Phillips

June 11

Billy Hopson
Katelynn Houston
Alison Hurdle
Nicole Perry
Dawn Snow
Mareen Thomas
David Wilson

June 12

Tom Jenkins Christy Pritchard Robert Russell, Jr. Vann Stanfield

June 13

Denny Bernacki Ben Ferry Melissa Heyer

June 14

Eric Bittenbender Mat Bittenbender Georgi Fisher Barbara Johnston Mary Topping Robbie Wood III

June 15

Andrew Bittenbender Kyleigh Ferguson Corinne Lewis David Maher Daniel Muller

<u>June 16</u>

Vicki Bowers
Billy Perkinson
Susan Stacks

June 17

Lindsey Brubaker M.C. Jones Elna Mey Beverly Trevillian

June 18

Beverly Buccola Barry Hawkins Thomas Lewis Steven Pendlebury Ruthie Sarver Pam Young

June 19

Audrey Comer
Kelsey Deckert
Kimberly Dombrowski
James Longest
Jack McCall
Melanie Scruton
Taylor Shannon

June 20

Ruth Devore Karen Flores Scott Herndon Eliza McVicker Adrienne Shaner Adam Tyus

June 21

Avery Anderson Denis Gilpin Alex Mason III Larry Sheppard Wayne Smith II Rebekah Thomas Phil Wallace, Sr.

June 22

Nat Bittenbender Pam Earley Joanna Oliver Bradley Seitz Jana Stewart Amy Worman

June 23

Ruth Boyd Shari Gordon Mary Halvorsen Ella Hilton Guy Marshall Wil Payne III Dana Potter

June 24

Richard Anderson Cass Awalt Blake Crosby Stacey Ferrer Kelly Harmon Joe Rollins

June 25

Laurie Garnett Carson Miles Priya Vasa Kathi Williams

June 26

Christian Fox
Janice Hobson
Sylvan Martin
Rachel McCoy
Nancy Murdock
Abby Segrest
Paul Shelton
Charlotte Sheppard

June 27

Leslie Epperly Matt Micou Brendan Munchel Mark Swofford

June 28

Sara Deakin
Rachael Gress
Paul Johnson
Caroline Levin
Don Phelps
Marlene Sarver
Jordan Tignor
Jane Turner
Jayna Zwennes
John Zwennes, Jr.

June 29

Allan Buccola
Dave Fournelle
Michael McVicker
Jeff Perry
Joshua Wortham

June 30

Noah Haskins Tim Heffernan Katey Hougland Matthew Hurt Seth Overstreet Tamra Spurlock Emily Squires Carole Young



Chester United Methodist Church 12132 Percival Street Chester, VA 23831

CHIMES articles may be submitted to <u>communication@chesterumc.org</u>.

The deadline for submission to the July/August Chimes is Wednesday, June 16.

CHESTER UMC ONLINE RESOURCES

Website: www.chesterumc.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch/

Facebook Closed Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterUMC/

Daily Email News: Visit http://eepurl.com/blV9Tv to subscribe.

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC

Prayer Chain Email: Submit your name and email address to cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org with

"Prayer Chain" in the subject line to subscribe.

CUMC Library Catalog: https://16538.rmwebopac.com (password: CUMC).

Search for titles, peruse our inventory, and much more. POC: Ron Dombrowski (rmachachi@aol.com)

Call the Church Office, 748-6006, for more information.