

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

THE CHIMES

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

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT *Chester United Methodist*

December 11 @ 8:30 AM
December 11 @ 11:00 AM
December 12 @ 7:00 PM
December 13 @ 7:00 PM



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday, December 18
Blue Christmas - 3 PM

Saturday, December 24
Family Christmas Eve - 5 PM
Candlelight Communion - 10 PM

Sunday, December 25
One Worship Service - 11 AM

Sunday, January 1
One Worship Service - 11 AM



A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Contemporary Worship
Davis Fellowship Hall
8:30 AM

Southern Gospel Worship
Sanctuary
9:55 AM

Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
11:00 AM

Online Worship
Facebook & YouTube
9:55 & 11 AM
(8:30 will be added soon!)

Worship By Phone
804-768-9594
Anytime

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JESUS AND THE OVERTHINKING PASTOR

by Pastor Nathan Decker



*“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”
-Warren Buffett*

Ok, I confess... I think too much. At least I think I do. When I’m doing a woodworking project, I like to draft up plans even if it is a simple box! When I’m looking at a ministry project or a mission, I try to think of all the excuses we’re going to hear for why we can’t do this. Even my prayers to God are often filled with anxious fretting over what word will best communicate to God, the author of all languages, what I’m trying to say.

One of the lessons I’m learning this Christmas is that actions speak louder than words. Mary and Joseph are both illustrations of this faithfulness. Before the Angel shows up, Joseph is overthinking it. Instead of looking at the positives, he sees the negatives. His engagement to Mary is ruined, everything has gone wrong, and he is looking for a contingency plan.

But then he gets a visit from an Angel in a dream. When God shows him a direction, Joseph doesn’t look back. He’s not worried about what people might say. He isn’t concerned about how much it will cost his reputation, family honor, or business. He acts, trusting in God’s as yet unrevealed plan. Mary has a similar conversation with an Angel. Once he answers her question about what’s possible and what’s impossible with God (nothing!), she sets her heart into the direction God has given.

We need a faith that acts more than thinks. When someone prays and receives a message from God about a direction for ministry, we tend to overthink. We worry about everything that could go wrong. We ponder about who might feel left out. We think about all the reasons it might not work. We ask, how much is this going to cost? We seem to want a perfect plan in a perfect world, and this leads to inaction, stagnation, and death.

Joseph and Mary didn’t need a bullet-proof plan before they started down the road to Bethlehem. They didn’t have relatives or reservations at a hotel, but still they went. They didn’t have insurance or a cell phone in case the donkey broke down, and still they went. There was no ‘just in case.’ They had not taken the time to have every potential problem worked out before they left Nazareth. They packed up and traveled to Bethlehem, and even then God pushed them further onto a two year journey to Egypt after the baby was born! How did they explain that to grandma and grandpa? (Oops, there I go again, overthinking...)

God is calling us to faith. Faith is not a plan. Faith is a new vision. Faith is waking up and moving beyond thought and into movement. Faith is pulling the trigger and moving in the direction God has led us even though we don’t necessarily see the end game. This Christmas, don’t be afraid, have faith, and listen to God’s call. Discern what impossible thing our Lord is asking us to do. And DO IT! Follow! Totally surrender. After all, it’s what Jesus would do.

*“After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord’s angel had told him to do.”
-Matthew 1:24*

CHRISTMAS SHARING TREE

CUMC has collaborated with Chesterfield Mental Health Support Services for more than 10 years to provide Christmas cheer to roughly 100 adults who are developmentally challenged. There will be a link where you may select an individual to adopt for Christmas. A limited number of gift tags are available on the tree in the Atrium. You will place your wrapped gifts under the tree by Monday, December 19. Be sure to label the gift(s) with the ID # on the tag(s) you choose.

MUSIC NOTES

Christmas is in full swing in the music department! Word of mouth is the best advertisement, so please start inviting your friends and neighbors to our Christmas musical! It will be presented on Sunday, December 11, at 8:30 and 11:00 AM, Monday, December 12, at 7:00 PM, and Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 PM. Plus, you can catch us at the Metro Richmond Zoo on Wednesday, December 21, at 6:30 PM, followed by a live nativity! We covet your prayers for this musical offering of praise that God may be glorified and that lives would be touched by the message in the music.

“Sing”-cerely,
Joshua Wortham, Minister of Music

CHAD'S CHALLENGES

*"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them."
Matthew 18:1-2.*



I am so proud of our Children's Sunday school teachers! They love children. They value children. They teach children about God's love and Bible stories. Our teachers are making young disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our dedicated teachers attended a teacher's workshop led by Vince D'Agostino and me on October 2. We all learned effective and fun methods of teaching children with short attention spans. When the kids have "ants in their pants," get chatty, or just lose focus, what can we do to keep their attention? What do we do so that they stay engaged in learning the Bible stories and following Jesus? We learned about how to integrate games, fun activities, crafts, and silly things into the lessons. We learned to create an atmosphere for changing children's lives through faith in Jesus.

I am also proud of our children. Though they seem to be the least, truly they are the greatest in the family of God.

Chad's Challenge: Think about the children that you know. Pray for them by name. As you go about your daily life, ask God to help you pay attention to the children around you. Ask God to help you grow in your love for children. Ask God how you can be a part of making young disciples of Jesus Christ.

Oh, and invite children in your family, neighborhood, and community to our **Children's Christmas Party** in the fellowship hall on Sunday, December 11, 9:45 – 10:45 AM. That's Cantata Sunday, so it will be a great day to invite entire families to our church!



CHRISTMAS PARTY

For Children and Families! Games/crafts, cookies, and a Christmas gospel lesson. Sunday, December 11, 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM, Davis Fellowship Hall. POC: Pastor Chad

STOCKING STUFFER

Chester UMC Rose Window Notecards: The Rose Window was dedicated in 1957, it was installed in the Atrium following the 2007 renovation, and now you can share our Rose Window with friends and relatives! CUMC Rose Window Notecards will be sold weekdays in the Church Office. The cost is \$10 per package of 10 cards plus envelopes. Proceeds will benefit the Chester United Methodist Women's pledge to mission. Call Susan Petrey for details, 938-5396.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MUSINGS...

As the weeks have gone by, our Stephen Ministers-in-training have continued to study and learn, meeting every Wednesday morning and some Saturdays. They have pondered such subjects as Grief, Depression, and Suicide, heavy reading indeed. By doing the required role playing, often challenging, but fun too, they have learned how to handle even the toughest subjects with compassion and wisdom. Even during our most difficult classes, this group has found a way of finding humor to lighten the load. They have laughed, cried, and opened their hearts to becoming the most effective Stephen Ministers possible. On Sunday, January 15, four of them will be commissioned as full Stephen Ministers at CUMC and two at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Our Stephen Leaders could not be more proud of the effort and time that this group has put into studying and practicing to be our newest class of Stephen Ministers. Look for their profiles in our next Chimes article. We thank Steve Osborne, Vince D'Agostino, Beth Powner, and Beth Stewart for their time teaching this class.

As the days seem longer and darker, we find the need to "rest more in that quiet place," maybe to actually nap during the day! "This seasonal urge to rest...is an invitation to a spiritual practice, a better way of understanding ourselves and our place in the world. Sleep is portrayed in the Christian tradition as Grace and even an act of worship. In the Gospels, before Jesus miraculously calms a storm, he first has to be woken up because he has dozed off on the boat...napping in this passage is a physical sign of faith". So if Jesus can nap, so can we! Take time out during this busy season to care for yourself. As Anne LaMott wrote, "This season, if you are feeling weary, do not underestimate the spiritual power of a long winter's nap". If you, or someone you know needs a Stephen Minister, please call our Referral Coordinator, Vince D'Agostino at 804-461-8529.

Material on napping taken from The New York Times



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came to our Enchanted Harvest Moon Entertainment night. Because of your generous love offering, the preschool was able to raise \$728.00! This money will be used for scholarships for families who need extra help with tuition.

We have been having so much fun in school. So far this year, we have been to the pumpkin patch, fed some goats, had our first music program for our parents, and had an amazing Thanksgiving luncheon with wonderful fellowship—all while learning and growing in so many ways. We have learned all about Creation, Noah, Moses, the 10 commandments, the Lord's Prayer, Mary and Joseph, and the birth of Jesus and that God loves us. We have also learned about helping others as we collected food items for the church's Backpack Ministry, to give the children a little bit of extra food over the Christmas Break.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at your Preschool!

In January, we will learn about The Good Samaritan, Daniel and the Lion's den, David and Goliath, how the walls fell down, and Zacchaeus. It is such a blessing to be able to not only teach the children their 123's and ABC's, but also teach about God's love for them and the love Jesus brought to everyone he encountered.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR VETERANS

If you would like to make/write Christmas cards for veterans at McGuire Hospital and Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center, we will be collecting them in the Sharing Bin and Mission Closet Dec. 4-18. Please do not seal the envelopes and only sign your first name or "A Friend at Chester United Methodist Church". Please address the envelopes with "Especially for You", "To a Special Veteran", "Just for YOU!", Merry Christmas, etc.

Donations of new men's boxer style underwear, sizes S-XXXL, would also be appreciated.

THANK YOU for the huge number of items donated in November. We took 198 cards, 8 pairs of flip flops, 97 bars of bath soap, 8 pairs of boxer shorts, 17 calendars, and much more! You are a blessing to our veterans!

The next card collection will be for Valentines in February. POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

The UMW will be selling Homemade Christmas Cookies by the tin in the fellowship hall following both worship services on Sunday, December 11. Proceeds will go to support our gifts to local, national, and international missions, including, but not limited to our CUMC Food Pantry, United Methodist Family Services, Branches, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. How it works: You come to the fellowship hall, select your tin, go down the row, and select your choice of cookies to fill the tin. These are not prefilled tins unless you call and specifically request prefilled. All orders due no later than December 4. Sign up in the pew pad with your name, phone number, whether you'd like a \$5, \$10 or \$20 tin, and whether you have any food restrictions (gluten, peanuts, etc.) Questions? Call Katey McCarney, 402-0084.

COOKIES NEEDED!!!

The UMW will be selling Homemade Christmas Cookies by the tin in the fellowship hall following both worship services on Sunday, December 11. UMWomen and members of the congregation, please commit to donate homemade cookies. Call or email Katey McCarney (402-0084, ks.petrey@gmail.com) and leave your name, a phone number, how many dozen, and what kind of cookie you will prepare. Cookies should be delivered to the church kitchen Saturday, December 10, 9-12.

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, November 28, 7:00 PM, Room 205. We will wrap gifts for Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will gather on Monday, December 5, 6:00 PM at the Petreys. We will have dinner together and participate in our annual Christmas Cookie Swap. We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, December 8, 10:30 AM in the Upper Room (226), a time of Christian fellowship is planned. Call Martha Miles, 748-5476, for more information.
- The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, January 9, 7:00 PM, Room 205. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- **Salad Luncheon:** All Women of the Church are invited to a luncheon meeting of the UMW Sunday, January 15, immediately following 11 o'clock worship. Our speaker will be Abigail Vo, a member of the board of directors of Manak Community Health Organization (MaCHO) in Sierra Leone. The Jean Craig Fellowship will host. Bring a cash donation for MaCHO and a salad or dessert to share.

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

COOKIE TINS NEEDED!

As you pack up your Christmas decorations, please wash and donate your cookie tins. The UMW Cookie sale earned \$927 from the sale of Homemade Christmas Cookies in 2021. Thanks to everyone who purchased cookies and especially to those who baked and donated cookies. Proceeds will go to support our gifts to mission local, national and international, including, but not limited to, our CUMC food pantry, United Methodist Family Services, Branches and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please place clean cookie tins in the designated bin in the Mission Closet. Call Katey McCarney, 402-0082, for more information.

SAVE THE DATE: Super Bowl Soup Luncheon

Mark your calendars! Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, noon, Super Bowl Soup Luncheon—Join us for good food and fellowship. Proceeds will go to the United Methodist Women's pledge to mission. The whole congregation is invited to join us for a soup luncheon immediately following 11 o'clock worship. The menu includes several heartwarming soups, corn muffins, desserts and beverages. The cost at the door is \$6 per person. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Children's Sunday School: 9:30 – 9:55 playground, 10:00 – 10:45 Bible/gospel lesson & activities. Grades K-2 meet in Room 204, and grades 3-5 in Room 206. POC: Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

Sunday Soles—Faith on the Move Walking Group
3:30 PM, Annex lawn; POC: Sarah Bowers (massagebysarahb@gmail.com)

Fresh Start Sunday School Class
9:45 AM, Room 205; POC: Susan Petrey, 804-938-5396
Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Journey Sunday School Class
9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>)
POCs: Carolyn Landis (landisfamily05@gmail.com);
Eric Houglan (ehouglan88@gmail.com)

Seekers Sunday School Class
9:40 AM, Room 226; POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)
We welcome visitors and new members.

Senior Singles Sunday School Class
9:45 AM, Parlor; POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)

Adult Small Group Bible Study
9:45 AM, Room 221; Facilitated by Jeff Marlin (jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com)

Middle and High School Youth Sunday School
9:45 AM, Annex Loft
POC: Rev. Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

Friendship Ministry Class
10:40 AM, Room 116, for adults who are cognitively challenged
POC: Mari Hayes (JLMinNaples@msn.com)

Bridge Builders
2nd Sunday of the month, 12:15–1:30 PM, in Room 226
Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr 16 (due to Easter), and May 14.

Middle & High School Youth Meetings: Scheduled Sundays, 4:00 PM, at the Annex Loft. ALL 6th through 12th graders are invited to join in study, missions, and fun! Next meeting is 4 PM, Sunday, October 9. POC: Jennifer Brame (youthleaders@chesterumc.org)

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS

Faith Keepers Women's Prayer Group: Mondays, 9:00 AM at Grants Coffee Co. (11884 Chester Village DR). POC: Julie Ferry (julieferry@gmail.com)

Thursday Morning Men's Group: Thursdays, 7:30 AM at Grants Coffee Co. (11884 Chester Village DR). POC: Vann Stanfield (vannstan34@gmail.com)

Contemplative Prayer Group: Thursdays, 11:00 AM in the Church Parlor. We read scripture and then practice using silence to focus, pray, and connect with God. Please join us. POC: Lisa Stanfield (lisajostanfield@gmail.com)

Prayer Shawl Group: Thursdays, 1:30 PM, in the Church Parlor. All are invited to join us! We will happily teach you how to knit or crochet if you don't already know.
POCs: Beverly Trevillian (beverly.trevillian@comcast.net) & June Gilliam (804-748-6668)

Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group meets Mondays, Dec. 5, and Dec. 19, 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR). POC: Bruce Johnson (bruce_bethjohnson@yahoo.com)

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS (Cont.)

Women's Christian Book Club: 1st Thursday each month, 6:30 PM at the Annex Loft. You will have a month to read each book before we gather to discuss it. POC: Jennifer Brame (jrbrooksieee@gmail.com)

"Strum and Smile" Small Group will gather in the Music Suite on Saturdays at 10 AM. This is a group of guys and gals who play stringed instruments with no intention of performing. All levels of play are welcome! We will learn from one another, share in a reading of a Psalm, and grow together in Christ as we strum, pick, smile, grin, and let loose in a variety of musical madness. POC: Pastor Nathan

Advent Study for Women: The Christmas stories are so familiar that we often miss the significance and new messages for us who seek the Christ child in 2022. Even though the weeks leading to Christmas are crazy busy, you have time for this 3-session study. You can come to the church for three 60-minute IN-PERSON sessions on Mondays at 9:30 AM or three 30-minute ONLINE sessions on Sundays at 6:30 PM. We will all look at the Christmas stories in Matthew, Luke, and John. The Bible is our only study book. No homework. Just make time for three 30-minute online sessions (Sundays) or three 60-minute in-person sessions (Mondays). Marg Kutz will facilitate this study. Please sign up on the registration sheet in the pew pad.

- **Study Dates: Sundays, 6:30 - 7:00 PM, Dec. 4, 11, 18** (The link for these online sessions will be sent to you when you sign up.)
- **Mondays, 9:30 - 10:30 AM, Dec. 5, 12, 19** in Room 226 (The Upper Room)

Women's Lunch Group meets monthly at 1:00 PM at a local restaurant. Our next gathering is Thursday, December 15, (restaurant TBD). POC: Joan Osborne (josbor61@gmail.com)

FRESH START SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS—Study, Fellowship, Service

- **Beginning November 27 (First Sunday of Advent)—Prepare the Way for the Lord** a four-week study by Adam Hamilton.
- **No Sunday school December 25—11:00 a.m. worship only**
- **No Sunday school January 1—11:00 a.m. worship only**
- **Resuming January 8—If God is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World** by Philip Mulholland.

The Fresh Start Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 in room 205 (across the hall from the church library). Visitors and new members are always welcome. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Seekers Sunday School Class will begin a 5-week Adam Hamilton Advent study on November 20. In, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*, lessons examine Mary, Joseph, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and events at the manger. We welcome you to join us as we study the people and events surrounding Christ's birth. Room 226 (above the Music Suite) at 9:40; POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

JOURNEY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

On December 4, we will begin the Advent study, "Christmas Gifts that Don't Break" by James W. Moore.

REST STOP

Did you know that CUMC has a community ministry assisting high school youth who are struggling to receive a quality education due to food insecurity, unstable housing, poverty, and other extraordinary issues? REST STOP's mission is to build community while fostering new relationships with these high school students; providing support, care and love. REST STOP has supported many kids over the past several years, and a number of students who were "regulars" have graduated. The time they spent at REST STOP was a factor in their success. Now it's time to support a new group of students.

Do you have a special gift to share with these youth or just an abundance of love to give? Starting its 6th year, REST STOP welcome a new group of students and we welcome your time, talents, and resources for this vital ministry. We meet on Wednesday afternoons, 3-5:30 PM, this fall and will move to Tuesday afternoons, same time, beginning in January (to better accommodate our students and volunteers). A small team is already assembled to support this ministry, but we could sure use your help!

You will leave REST STOP with a joyful heart, receiving more than you gave! Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Contact REST STOP Team Leader Susan Petrey, 804/938-5396, for more information or to volunteer on the REST STOP Team.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear CUMC,

I can't express enough my sincere appreciation for the kindness shown by so many as I celebrate my 95th birthday. The lovely cards, phone calls, personal messages, and wishes on the computer just overwhelmed me. I am so fortunate to be part of this church family! Thank you! Thank you!

~Betty Martinko

Dear CUMC,

We would like to thank everyone for their acts of love and caring in regards of the death of our father, Cecil Burley. The calls, cards, flowers, and prayers were greatly appreciated.

~Linda D'Agostino and Darlene Emerson

Dear CUMC,

In March 2022, I fell in my yard and broke my right leg and part of the hip it was attached to. After a hospital stay, I was released to my home. Fortunately, my daughter and family, members of CUMC, secured all the supplies needed from the Medical Lending Closet so I could remain in my home and heal. My husband was able to take time off from his work and care for me. I was truly blessed. Thank you so much for the Lending Closet. It was a wonderful blessing.

~Gloria Bradmon

NEW MEMBERS

Mike Pawley by profession of faith on October 30, 2022.

Sandra Cherny by transfer from Wesley UMC in Hopewell, VA, on November 23, 2022.

Dawn York by transfer from Kingsland Baptist Church in Richmond, VA, on November 23, 2022.

Madeline Gazzo (mother of Charlotte Brummette) by transfer from Hopewell UMC in Chesterfield, VA, on November 20, 2022.

Faryal Haq by profession of faith on November 20, 2022.

DEATHS

Danny James Harrington (March 7, 1947—October 20, 2022)

Edith "Edie" Fails (December 4, 1932—October 29, 2022)

Isabel Hopkins Jones (January 5, 1929—November 11, 2022)

John Oscar Cook (December 27, 1922—November 21, 2022)

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Vernelle Curtis

Sandra L. Mosley
Ellen Helton and Family
Hunter Beazley, Jr. and Martha Miles
Barbara Goodwyn
John and Doris Hancock
George and Deane Nolde

Ronald King

Emory and Linda Large

Rob Timmons

Marshall and Susan Henry

Edie Fails

Stella M. Staley
Craig and Beth Lane, Linda, Laura, Shevvy, and Joan
Brenda and Chester Arden Morris
George and Darlene Emerson
Martha Miles
Karen Flores
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pospahala
Hugh and Melanie Northcutt
Dwayne and Melanie White
Donald and Barbara Patton
Betty and Leigh Earnshaw, Jr.
Jack and Linda Harris

BLOOD DRIVE—Book Your Appointment Today!

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

also July 5, and August 9

11:00 AM—4:00 PM in Davis Fellowship Hall

www.redcrossblood.org



STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Year-End Giving

by Bryon and Josefa Wall

As 2022 approaches its closure, we'd like for you to spend a little time reflecting on CUMC, its ministries, its missions, its connections to communities, and its spirit-led discipleship. We're sure you'll agree that CUMC's presence and involvement have a life-changing impact and that sharing your time, talent, treasure, and witness make it possible.

Part of our approach to Stewardship in 2022 was to present Planned Giving concepts and encourage CUMC's members and friends to include CUMC in your Planned Giving. The holidays are here and many of us have a list of organizations we are planning to give to generously. Is CUMC on your list? Giving CUMC a year-end gift is a great way to affirm your connection to the church and to demonstrate your commitment to helping us build disciples for Christ. So, reflect for a moment and remember CUMC in your year-end giving. If you wish to have a private conversation with someone about sharing your gifts, please email Pastor Nathan (nathandecker@chesterumc.org) or Pastor Chad (chadbeck@chesterumc.org).



HISTORY BOOK-ORDER TODAY

150th Anniversary of Chester United Methodist Church--an Exciting Time in Our Church

The History Committee is pleased to announce that we will celebrate our 150th Anniversary beginning in January 2023! We've written a book that includes the history of Chester United Methodist Church (including Pastors, Sanctuaries, Missions, Choirs, and Fellowship from 1873 – 2023) and it is being printed to be available for purchase. The book is 314 pages with hundreds of scanned documents and photographs representing our 150 years. If you would like a copy, the cost is \$30 with your check made payable to CUMC (Memo: History) Please reserve your copy in advance by contacting Mary Musselwhite (softshL1@gmail.com, 804-330-0014). Perhaps you would like a copy for your children who grew up in our church. If you want to order a book and have it shipped, please add \$10 and be sure to include the shipping address. We anticipate that the books will be available by November 30!

BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE

CUMC will again bless, out of our abundance, those children facing food insecurity from Curtis and CC Wells Elementary Schools. Historically, we have provided about 50 bags of food each weekend (each bag is designed to feed two children). We include mostly shelf-stable, nonperishable items. These bags provide more than just food – they provide care, love, and support. You can support this ministry by your donations of items needed, especially canned chicken, canned tuna, Spam, plastic jars of jelly, boxes/pouches of potatoes (mashed, scalloped, au gratin, etc.) peanut butter, canned pasta (like ravioli), soup, boxed mac & cheese, applesauce cups, tuna helper, Knorr rice sides (5.7 oz size), toaster pastries, oatmeal, fruit chews, and peanut butter crackers. Donations may be left in the labeled bin in the Missions Closet or on the screened porch on the left side of the Cottage. You may text Karen Comer (804-683-5645) to let her know you left items for the Backpacks. Monetary donations are welcomed as well! Make a check payable to CUMC (Memo: Backpack). Carolyn Landis has accepted a full-time position this year so the Jean Craig Fellowship is assisting by delivering the bags of food to the schools each week. Thank you to all who contribute time, donations, and food items in support of this vital ministry.

TACKY LIGHT RUN

Brace Your Elves!

Saturday, December 10, at Midlothian Mines Park. Registration for the CarMax Tacky Light Run is open. The 6K run/walk begins at 6 PM. Register at <https://bit.ly/3UMz1IJ>. BE SURE TO SIGN UP for the church group (Chester Methodist Bells of Love) after you register.

POC: Natalie Galarza (familygalarza05@gmail.com)



December Birthdays

December 1

Nathan Decker
Barbara Goodywn
Taylor Hall
Erik Johnston
Sherri Morris
David Pirog
Bob Stanfield, Jr.

December 2

Richard Fox
Amy Harris
Andy Steck

December 3

Allan Buccola
Cliff Gilpin III
Pamela Graham
Helen Jones
Danny Vilak

December 4

Mike Browder
Darlene Emerson
Shelby Floyd
David Patterson
Tim Stewart
Robin Willingham

December 5

Audrey Freed

December 6

Kathleen Amsel
Reinhard Birk
William Gibson
Stephen Higgins
John Martin
Hailey Parisi
Robin Simpkins

December 7

Edward Barrell
Ben Morrison
Kelly Waring
Bill Zimmerman

December 8

Laura Blood
Grey Brame, Jr.
Bob Comer
Jackson Drewry
Violet Gilliatt
Diane Jones
Natalie Waddill
Denny Zeiters

December 9

Wayne Bishop
Kimberly Sink
Bryon Wall
Katelyn Waring

December 10

William Hudson
Riley Irving
Roger Stone, Sr.

December 11

Emily Johnson
Julie Koob
Brooke Lee
Mary Lou Willis

December 12

Catherine Allen
Beatrix Ford
Kinsley Johnston
Micah Johnston
Billy Koob
Sandra Marshall
Micah Poulsen
Mitchell Poulsen
Neal Rollins
Stephanie Wilson

December 13

Laura Baker
Susan Buzzee
Abigail Gilliatt
Mark Hankey
Jenny Jernigan
Brian Lashley
Andrew Rhea
Sandy Swiney
Sonia Zwennes

December 14

Jennifer Chadwick
Chip Johnson, Jr.
June Jones
Krista Manuel
Kevin Martin
Barbara Watters

December 15

Tracy Beaver
Lisa Clark
Graham Daniels
Bart Gibson

December 16

Scott Edwards

December 17

Frank Baylor III
Katrina Castleberry
Tristan Goodman
Tom Murdock

December 18

Brooke Davis
Jenna Davis
Conner Deckert
Diane Duffy
Aislyn Fisher-Turner
Bryan Graham
Maura Graham
Michael Jenkins
Robert Russell, Sr.
Hunter Zoller

December 19

John Gray
Lindsay LeSueur
Carole Russell

December 20

Linda Mottley
Wesley Munchel

December 21

Betty Marie Irving
Mike Kelley

December 22

Lesley Anderson
Jordan Beckner
Megan Johnston
Alexander Mason, Jr.
Taylor Stone II
Eddie Williams
Justin Willis

December 23

Ralph Dunnivant
Eden Harper
Jamie Zeiters

December 24

Gordon Jones
Kristin Lowe
Tracy Ross

December 25

Benjamin Ellis Jr.
Aaron Jernigan
Meredith Mogensen

December 26

Mindy Crawford
Charlie Doyle, Jr.

December 27

Diane Mannelta
Joshua Manuel

December 28

Aubrey Arntson
Sierra Lannan

December 29

Paula Branch
Betty Davis
Drew Frank
Sid McCormac
Morgan Mick
Frayser Micou
Carol Pawluk
Doug Pike

December 30

Corabelle Esch
Eli Harmon

December 31

Paula Bengé

January Birthdays

January 1

Joyce Battle
Jeanne Givens
Barbara Rollins
Bill Wisegarver
James Woolard, Jr.

January 2

Brittany Levin
Robert Martinko
Griffin Winn

January 3

Vicki Gaffney
Gail King
Sharon Larew
Craig Seal
Sophia Verghese

January 4

Christina Chern
John Dodd
Lauren Hill
Frank Smith

January 5

Chelsea Buyalos
Richard Campbell
Bill Comer

January 6

Luke Carson
Taylor Jernigan
Caroline Johnson
Liam Johnston
Travis Miller
Madeline Read
Nina Whittleton

January 7

John Degraba
Rae Ann Janderwski

January 8

Melissa Moore

January 9

Donna Dennis
Natalie Galarza
Victoria Harrington
Madison Lenz
Madison Vaughan

January 10

Wayne Haley
Christopher Irving
Matthew Johnson-Ebert
Colin Kiebler
Jack Kirwan
Amelia Morgan
Rebecca Murphy

January 11

Cole Irving
Russell Matthews
Berend Sarver

January 12

Bill Bowles, Jr.
Laura Davis
Megan Davis
Janean Trimble

January 13

Aubyn Anderson
Taylor Banty
Nancy Baylor
Jessica Gray
Stephen Hetrick
Anne Johnson
Tamera Krukiel

January 14

Lisa Anderson
Rebecca Chitwood
Delaney Coyner
Sam Perdue
Morgan Trimble
Owen Trimble

January 15

Taylor Bernas
Richard Bowers
Catherine Rhea
Grace Zoller

January 16

Harold Boettcher
Christopher Brummette
Scott Byer
Lila Farrell
John Radford
Jolyn Topping
Sean Williams
Darrin Zoller

January 17

Bruce Cavey
Katelyn DePhillip
David Ferry
Mallory Flores
Monte Nagy, Jr.

January 18

Samuel Bartlett IV
Linda Pritchard
Presley Roy

January 19

Susan DePhillip
Connor Jacka
Leia Verghese

January 20

Linda Marlin
Amelia Wisniewski

January 21

Lillian Anderson
Margaret Bodenhamer
Christopher Peck
Meaghan Watkins

January 22

Zach Baker
Megan Clarke
Diane Merryman
Craig Wisniewski
Ed Zaunick

January 23

Michael Barker
Stephanie Cull
Bobbie Eddy

January 24

Cabel Allen
Andrew Brummette
Cornelia DeWitt
Jim Shelburne
Tatiana Sizemore
Jackie Stewart
Bracelynn Stone
Bob Wood, Jr.

January 25

Cathy Epps
Tyler Marshall
Grayson Smith

January 26

Tracey Canipe
Jeff Crampton
Lynn Crump
Christian Goodfellow
Zak Goodwyn
Sally Johnson
Ann Stuart
Wendy Walker
Alan Woodard

January 27

Augustine Allen
Sora Arpin
Michelle Bryant
Bailey Jacka
Wendell Landis
Robbie Partin
Judy Thomas

January 28

Clinton Davis
Alan Scholtzman

January 29

George Bryant III
Jason Deckert
Noah Hughes
Kriston Seward
Charles Sibley, Jr.

January 30

Lois Cain
Brian Davis
Melody DePhillip
George Fisher
David Miles
Jean Morrison
Wayne Virag

January 31

Sandra Graham
Ann Stanfield
William Waterson

Chester United Methodist Church
12132 Percival Street
Chester, VA 23831



CHIMES articles may be submitted to communication@chesterumc.org.

The deadline for submission to the **February/March Chimes is Wednesday, January 18.**

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