



January 29, 2023

9:55 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC

Soon and Very Soon
Standing in the Need of Prayer
How Great Is Our God
Glory to His Name

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hold on to Me
Ashley Fuller

MESSAGE

“What’s So Amazing about Prevenient Grace?”

Rev. Nathan Decker

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139

Having trouble seeing the screen? Just ask an usher for a copy of today’s large print song lyrics.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Feb. 5	What’s So Amazing about Justifying Grace?	Psalm 51, NIV
Feb. 12	What’s So Amazing about Sanctifying Grace?	Isaiah 51:1-6, The Voice

* *Indicates that we will celebrate Holy Communion*

STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers.....All Disciples of the Congregation
Lead Pastor: Nathan Decker nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor: Chad Beck chadbeck@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music/Office Assistant: Joshua Wortham music@chesterumc.org
Office Manager: Terry Wisegarver cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org
Financial Specialist: Julie Jones finance@chesterumc.org
Ministry Intern: Izaak Spiers ispiers230@gmail.com
Nursery Specialist Carla Adams
Nursery Specialist Jessica Hargraves
MS & HS Youth Ministry (Jennifer Brame, Jeff Geisz, Gordon Morris) youthleaders@chesterumc.org
Preschool Director: Jen Barnes preschool@chesterumc.org



A Community in Christ

Chester United Methodist Church

Rooted in God, Growing in Christ, Bearing Fruit in the Spirit

12132 Percival Street, Chester, Virginia 23831 * Church: (804) 748-6006 Fax: (804) 748-0859

Web Site: www.chesterumc.org * *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



FRESH START SERVICE

January 29, 2023—8:30 AM



Please sign the teal attendance pad and pass it to your neighbor.

WORSHIP MUSIC

Let God Arise
Your Grace is Enough
How Great Is Our God
Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hold on to Me
Ashley Fuller

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139

MESSAGE

“What’s So Amazing about Prevenient Grace?”
Rev. Nathan Decker

Having trouble seeing the screen? Just ask an usher for a copy of today’s large print song lyrics.

January 29, 2023

A Service of Worship and Praise
11:00 AM

4th Sunday
after Epiphany

Please sign the red attendance pad, register for activities, and pass it to your neighbor.

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Chimes

Prelude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Organist

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

* Opening Hymn No. 374 *Standing on the Promises*

* Affirmation of Faith No. 881

* Gloria Patri No. 70

**Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Special Music

Hold On to Me

Ashley Fuller

Why We Give

Offertory

Grace Alone

Chancel Choir

* Doxology No. 94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Hymn No. 349

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Unison Prayer

Boundless Shaper of people and nations, you are beyond our knowing, yet closer to us than our every breath. You are before us and behind us, surrounding us with your love, and fashioning all of creation in the secret depths of your heart. With every thought, with every song, and with every prayer, turn these fragile, earthen vessels of our lives into the Spirit-filled body of Christ. Amen.

Scripture *Psalm 139* pages 854-855

Sermon *What's So Amazing about Prevenient Grace?* Rev. Nathan Decker

* Closing Hymn No. 700 *Abide With Me* stanzas 1, 3, 5

* Benediction

* Choral Amen

* *Please stand as you are able.* **Bold print indicates a response in unison.**

Hearing Assistance Devices, Large Print Hymnals, and Braille Hymn Sheets are available for use in the Sanctuary. Please ask an usher.

Worship Footnotes:

¹ Copyright © Stephen Ministries St. Louis

² <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4139/worship-elements-september-4-2022>

Leading Our Worship TODAY, January 29, 2023

Greeters:	8:30	Karen Comer	
	9:55	Stephanie Decker	
	11:00	Linda Large, Betty Labin	
Ushers:	8:30	Gordon Jones*, Bruce Johnson	*Head Usher
	9:55	Gordon Jones*, Beth Stewart	
	11:00	Gordon Morris*, Will Herrmann, Scott Pugh, Don Schmidt, Kay Williams	
Nursery:	8:30, 9:55, 11:00	Staff Members, Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves	

CALENDAR
January 29 – February 5, 2023

Today 8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
 8:30 AM Fresh Start-DFH
 9:30 AM Sun Sch Gr K-2 -Rm 204
 Sun Sch Gr 3-5-Rm 206
 Adult SS-Various
 9:55 AM The Bridge-Sanc
 Online Service
 11:00 AM Traditions Service-Sanc
 Online Service
 12:00 PM Confirmation #1-Loft
 4:00 PM NO YOUTH
 Mon.: 10:00 AM Worship Com-Parlor
 Tues.: 10:00 AM Joy Singers to Tyler's Retreat
 11:00 AM Contemplative Prayer-Parlor
 3:00 PM Rest Stop-Annex
 Wed.: 10:00 AM Visitation Team-226
 7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Sanc
 Thurs.: 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl-Parlor
 6:30 PM Disciple Life-Annex
 Women's Book Club-
Annex

Fri.:

Sat.: 10:00 AM Strum & Smile
 12:00 PM Celebration of Life-DFH
Hazel Miller/Debi Sheffield

Next Sunday: February 5, 2023

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
 8:30 AM Fresh Start-DFH
 9:30 AM Sun Sch Gr K-2 -Rm 204
 Sun Sch Gr 3-5-Rm 206
 Adult SS-Various
 9:55 AM The Bridge-Sanc
 Online Service
 11:00 AM Traditions Service-Sanc
 Online Service
 12:00 PM Confirmation #2-Annex Loft
 1:00 PM TDHS Key Club-116
 4:00 PM MS/HS Youth-Annex Loft
 5:30 PM UM VIM Mission Trip
 Info MTG-205
 6:30 PM Beth Moore Study-DFH

Online Giving: Scan the QR code with your smartphone to contribute online or visit www.chesterumc.org and click "Online Giving."



Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, February 5, 2023

Greeters: 8:30 Maureen Coker
 9:55 Donna Nunnery
 11:00 Ruth Devore, Andy & Eileen Steck
Ushers: 8:30 Gordon Morris*, Ron Dombrowski *Head Usher
 9:55 Jim Watkins*, Beth Stewart
 11:00 Gordon Jones*, James Bartlett, Will Herrmann, Steve & Joan Osborne
Nursery: 8:30, 9:55, 11:00 Staff Members, Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves

*We are truly blessed if you are a guest who has chosen to worship with us today!
First-time guests are invited to pick up a blue Welcome Bag from the Atrium or
Narthex. Thank you for celebrating the Lord with us today!*

Our Parish Nurse, Cindy Webb will not be in Office 111 on Sunday mornings until mid-March.

TODAY, We Commission Our New Stephen Ministers: Dianna Poulsen, Mark Sizemore, Andy Steck, and Eileen Steck have all completed the intensive 50 hours of training required and are ready to serve at CUMC.

HVAC Benefit Concert Update We received \$26,872.32 in donations. Prior to January 22, \$29,029.31 had been given, for a total of \$55,901.63 donated to the HVAC Sanctuary Fund!

NEW Women's Bible Study: Sundays, February 5 - March 12 (six weeks) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Upper Room (226). We will be using the new Beth Moore study called, "Now That Faith Has Come," a study from Galatians. POC: Darlene Emerson (agentches@aol.com).

BIGGEST Choir Ever! Join us this Easter Season as we form the BIGGEST choir ever in the 150-year history of Chester UMC! Rehearsals kick off with a workshop on Saturday, February 11, from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Then we meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Singers of all skill levels are welcome, and we have rehearsal tracks to aid in learning the music. We'll present "A Journey to Hope" which tells the passion of Christ using spirituals, on Sunday, April 16, and Tuesday, April 18. POC: Joshua Wortham (Minister of Music)

SUPER BOWL SOUP LUNCHEON: Sunday, February 12, noon. Join us for good food and fellowship. Proceeds will go to the United Methodist Women's pledge to mission. The entire congregation is invited to join us immediately following 11 o'clock worship. The menu includes several heartwarming soups, fresh bread and corn muffins, desserts, and beverages. The cost at the door is \$6 per person or \$10 to take home a quart. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more info.

Fresh Expressions are ways of joining unchurched people where they are already gathering and then making disciples. We can be creative or fun, or simply use our interests, passions, or gifts as we share the good news of Jesus. Would you like to try some Fresh Expressions, or are you curious and want more information? POC: Pastor Chad

Jean Craig Fellowship Meeting: Monday, February 6, 7:00 PM, Room 205. We will pack Valentine Gift Bags for the kids of UM Family Services. Call Susan Petrey for details.

Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship MTG: Thursday, February 9, 10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall for a time of Christian fellowship. Call Martha Miles, 748-5476, for more information.

KEEP IN PRAYER: Beth Powner; family of Betty Davis (wife of former pastor Ott Davis (deceased)); Rebecca Kirkman Gorhellr (friend of Paul Marretti); Dee Watkins; Jean Wallace; Jeanne Shelburne; Dorothy Nugent; Patrick & Melanie Mims; Skip Davis (the brother of Bob & Jonnie Davis’ daughter-in-law); family of Hazel Miller (mother of Sherri Snelson); family of Debi Sheffield (sister of Sherri Snelson); David Irvin (father of Melanie Mims); Sue Ellen Hudson (mother of Melanie Mims); family of Susan Hefele-Irvin (stepmother of Melanie Irvin Mims); family of Paul Duffy; Susan & David Irvin (mother and stepfather of Melanie Irvin Mims); Bert Watson [Terri] & Chase Watson (son & grandson of Ruby Bishop); Rachel York (granddaughter-in-law of John & Becky York); Lynda Richardson; Jo Kiser; Kitty Lipscomb; Doug and Clara Gestwick.

Our Presence January 22, 2023

8:30 Fresh Start Service	121
9:55 The Bridge Service.....	67
11:00 Traditions Service	138
Online.....	28
Total Worship Attendance.....	354
Benefit Concert.....	193

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.
- **Daily Devotionals from Pastor Nathan:** <https://www.facebook.com/BetterTogether.Devos/>.
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC>.
- **Prayer Chain Email:** to subscribe or to submit a prayer request, email Terry at cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org with “Prayer Chain” or “Prayer Request” in the subject line.
- **CUMC Library Catalog:** <https://16538.rmwebopac.com> (password: CUMC). Search for titles, peruse our inventory, and much more. POC: Ron Dombrowski (rmachachi@aol.com).
- **The Chimes**, bi-monthly newsletter: Submit items to communication@chesterumc.org on 3rd Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Temporary Offering Envelopes are ready for pick up in the Atrium for those who requested them on their 2023 Pledge Cards. (We are recycling blank and unused envelopes until our printed envelopes arrive.) If you didn’t sign up for envelopes and want some, please contact Julie Jones, Financial Specialist (finance@chesterumc.org / 804-748-6006). We appreciate your understanding as we battle supply/demand, equipment failures, and work force issues.

CUMC Blood Drive: Wednesday, February 8, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, fellowship hall. Please register at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html> to donate your life-saving blood or platelets.

Personal Financial Wellness & Estate Planning: The Stewardship Committee is developing a series of low stress, faith-based financial and estate planning information sessions for our CUMC members, friends, and community. If you are a financial wellness planner, estate planner, tax advisor, etc. and are willing to use your talent(s) to inform others, please contact Bryon Wall at 678-642-2788 or bryon.wall@bpretail.com.

Join the Fresh Start Sunday School Class in Study & Fellowship:

- **Continuing through February 26--God is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World** by Philip Mulholland.
- **Beginning March 5**—In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

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: 9:40 AM, Room 226. Come join us for a month of classes and special leaders for the month of February!

- Feb. 5 Vann Stanfield will lead a study on Hebrews 13 (Living an Honorable Life)
- Feb. 12 Ed Garrett will lead a study on angels. Materials will be provided.
- Feb. 19 Diane Merryman will lead a study on Healing Oils. Based on the book, *Healing Oils of the Bible*, by David Steward, Ph.D, you will learn about the many plants and essential oils God designed for physical and emotional healing and how to use them in your own life.
- Feb. 26 Special 6-week study for Lent, *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross*, by Magrey R. deVega. Come learn what Jesus' Crucifixion and resurrection do for you. Cathy Epps, Barbara MacIntyre, and Ed Garrett will rotate leading this study.

Journey Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM at the Annex

- Join us online at <https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>
- Jan. 22, began studying, "What We Need Is Here" by Roger Owens who shows us that in Jesus, God has already given us all we need to live and flourish.

POCs: Eric Hougland (ehougland88@gmail.com), Carolyn Landis (landisfamily05@gmail.com)

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; grades 3-5 in Room 206. POC: Chad Beck

Fresh Start Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 205; POC: Susan Petrey, 804-938-5396

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 Hougland (ehougland88@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: Mary Hayes (JLMinNaples@msn.com)

Bridge Builders (POC: Maureen Coker (mcoker2003@comcast.net))

2nd Sunday of the month, 12:15–1:30 PM, in Room 226

Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr 16 (due to Easter), and May 14.

Middle & High School Youth Meetings (POC: Jennifer Brame (youthleaders@chesterumc.org))

Scheduled Sundays, 4:00 PM, at the Annex Loft; 6th -12th grades are invited to join in study, missions, and fun!

Beth Moore Study (POCs: Darlene Emerson, agentches@aol.com)

Sundays, Feb. 5 to Mar. 12, 6:30 -8:30 PM in Room 226

Fiber Friends (POC: Beth Powner, knit9grammy@gmail.com. / (804) 586-0735)

Monthly on Sunday in Room 221, 12:15 PM, bring a bag lunch. Met 1-22-23.

1st Meeting was January 22, 2023. Future meetings TBA.

SMALL GROUPS

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

Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group Schedule meets on Mondays at 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR).

Joy Singers (for our retired folks): Tuesdays, 10:30 AM in the Music Suite. POC: Joshua Wortham.

Contemplative Prayer Group: TUESDAYS, 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)

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

Women's Fellowship Luncheon will meet at 1:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month at a local restaurant. *The next gathering will be on Thursday, February 16 (place TBD).* Joan Osborne (josbor61@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

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)

Women's Christian Book Club: *Next meeting – Thursday, February 2.* 1st Thursday each month, 6:30 PM at the Annex Loft. You have a month to read each book before we gather to discuss it. POC: Jennifer Brame (jrbrooksieeee@gmail.com)

Estudio Bíblico de Mujeres: el primer y tercer miércoles de cada mes, a las 7:00 PM en el Centro Comunitario YMCA en Greenleigh. Para más información habla con Pastor Chad.

"Strum and Smile" Small Group: Saturday mornings at 10:00 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, and let loose in a variety of musical madness. POC: Pastor Nathan

UMVIM Mission Trip to Southwest Virginia: March 12 – 18, 2023 to help those who were devastated by flooding last year. We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining the team. For those who went to Grundy, VA in fall 2022, we found it inspirational and uplifting to work with such wonderful people and to be welcomed so generously. We can use volunteers of all skill levels in carpentry, masonry, sheet rocking, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, cooking, health care, journaling, photography, cleaning, and those willing to learn. Our hope is to take a team of between 6 and 12. Applications and fees will be accepted for our congregation through January 31. Then, if there are still vacancies for the team, we will offer this opportunity to our community and beyond. **We will have an informational meeting on Sunday, February 5, at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall.** Please join us for the meeting even if you aren't sure that you will be able to participate. Contact Lynn Crump with any questions (804-513-0260 / lynncrumppla@gmail.com). Thank you for your prayers and support for this special mission.

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS: Valentine's Day is a great time to be creative and make your own Valentine cards and write cute poetry (Roses are red...) or send a heartfelt greeting. Through February 5, we are collecting Valentines for veterans at McGuire Hospital and Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Please **DO NOT** sign **last** names. **DO NOT** seal the envelopes since the cards must be sorted by religious and non-religious content. **Address the envelopes** with phrases like "To a Special Veteran", "To Someone Special", "You're Special to Me", "To an Awesome Veteran", "With Appreciation", "Happy Valentine's Day", "Just for You", etc. Please put your cards in the Sharing Bin outside the Atrium doors or the Missions Closet. We are also collecting new boxer shorts in size S – XXXL Thank you for your prayers for our veterans. POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Chester UMC Celebrates 150 Years: A book, written by Mary Musselwhite, entitled *A Community in Christ, Chester United Methodist Church, **Our History including Pastors, Sanctuaries, Missions, Choirs, and Fellowship 1873 - 2023***, is available for pre-order. Cost is \$30 plus an additional \$15 if shipping is required. The book is 314 pages and includes scanned documents, direct quotes from members past and present, and many, scanned color photographs. POC: Mary Musselwhite (804-330-0014 / softL1@gmail.com)

TO RESERVE YOUR COPY, register in the pew pad; submit your \$30 check/cash payable to CUMC (MEMO:HISTORY); and drop your payment in the offering plate or mail/deliver it to CUMC(12132 Percival Street, Chester, VA 23831). We plan to order more books per demand.