



May 7, 2023, 9:55 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC

Unclouded Day
Peace Like a River
Mighty to Save

SPECIAL MUSIC

He Touched Me
*Charles & Cheryl Green,
Dave Hall, Rick Poole*

SCRIPTURE

I Peter 2:2-10 NRSV

MESSAGE

Growing from Babies to Living Stones
Pastor Nathan Decker

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE

SERMON TITLE

SCRIPTURE

May 14

Staying In Love with God

Mark 12:28-34 NIV

May 21

Noisy Church

Psalms 47 CEB

May 28

TBA

* *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: Joshua Wortham	music@chesterumc.org
Office Manager: Terry Wisegarver	cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org
Office Assistant: Sally Maxwell	assistant@chesterumc.org
Financial Administrator: Julie Jones	finance@chesterumc.org
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

May 7, 2023—8:30 AM



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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Open Up the Heavens
Build Your Kingdom Here
I Will Follow
I Refuse

SPECIAL MUSIC

He Touched Me
*Charles & Cheryl Green,
Dave Hall, Rick Poole*

SCRIPTURE

I Peter 2:2-10 NRSV

MESSAGE

Growing from Babies to Living Stones
Pastor Nathan Decker

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

May 7, 2023

A Service of Worship and Praise
11:00 AM

5th Sunday of
Easter

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Organist

* Call to Worship¹

Leader: In you, Lord, I have taken refuge.

People: Let me never be put to shame. Deliver me in your righteousness.

Leader: Turn your ear to me. Come quickly to my rescue.

People: Be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

Leader: Since you are my rock and my fortress,

People: lead and guide me, for the sake of your name.

Leader: Let your face shine upon your servant.

People: Save me in your unfailing love!

* Opening Prayer²

O God of all creation, become for us once again the solid foundation upon which we build our daily lives. We gather before you this first day of the week, to align our lives to the strong teaching and life of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone. Receive our praise and thanksgiving as expressions of faith and love. We come to you, O Lord, as people who desire to learn and serve like Christ. We are ready to receive your blessing and direction today. Amen.

* Hymn No. 529

How Firm A Foundation

Special Music

He Touched Me

Charles & Cheryl Green,
Dave Hall, Rick Poole

Why We Give

Offertory

How Beautiful

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. 334

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Graduate Recognition

Children's Message

Scripture

1 Peter 2:2-10

NRSV

Sermon

Growing from Babies to Living Stones

Pastor Nathan Decker

Holy Communion

* Closing Hymn No. 547

O Church of God, United

* Benediction

* Choral Amen

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

¹<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4962/worship-elements-may-7-2023>

²<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4962/worship-elements-may-7-2023>

The Flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ed Labin by Betty, Tracy, and Scot Labin.

CALENDAR
May 7-14, 2023

<p>Today 8:15 AM Nursery until 12 PM 8:30 AM Fresh Start Service-DFH 9:30 AM Sun Sch PreK-Rm 107 Sun Sch Gr K-2-Rm 204 Sun Sch Gr 3-5-Rm 206 9:45 AM Adult SS-Variou 9:50 AM The Bridge-Sanc 11:00 AM Traditions Service-Sanc 12:15 PM Plant/Seed Swap 1:00 PM TDHS Key Club Bd-116 2:00 PM Family Min. Team-Online 2:30 PM MS/HS Youth-Annex Loft 4:30 PM NO Play & Share 6:30 PM Women’s Bible Study-226 Mon.: 6:30 PM Cub/Boy Scouts-various Tues.: 10:30 AM NO Joy Singers-Music Suite 11:00 AM Buck Celebration of Life Contemplative Prayer 3:00 PM Rest Stop-Annex 7:00 PM ESL-205, 206, 221 Wed.: 10:00 AM Blood Drive-DFH 12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Wed.: 7:00 PM NO Trustees NO Church Council Thurs.:10:30 AM Bookman F’ship Lunch 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30 PM Disciple Life-Annex 7:00 PM ESL-205, 206, 221 Fri.: Sat.:</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Next Sunday: May 14

8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM
8:30 AM	Fresh Start Service-DFH
9:30 AM	Sun Sch PreK-Rm 107 Sun Sch Gr K-2-Rm 204 Sun Sch Gr 3-5-Rm 206
9:45 AM	Adult SS-Variou
9:50 AM	The Bridge-Sanc
11:00 AM	Traditions Service-Sanc
12:15 PM	NO Bridge Builders
2:30 PM	NO MS/HS Youth
6:30 PM	NO Women’s Bible Study

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
* May 7	Growing from Babies to Living Stones	1 Peter 2:2-10 NRSV
May 14	Not Orphans, but Children of God	John 14:15-21 ERV
May 21	Noisy Church	Psalm 47 CEB

* *Indicates that we will celebrate Holy Communion*



Online Giving: To contribute online, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.chesterumc.org and click “Online Giving.”

*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, is available today, 9:00 - 10:45 AM (Office 111).

Graduate Recognition: TODAY, **May 7**. We recognize all our 2023 graduates during worship!

Estate Planning Sessions: TODAY, **May 7**, in the fellowship hall after each service, join us for a 30-minute info session on Estate Planning. As good stewards of the blessings God has given us, we need to plan what happens with them while we are able to do so. Our sessions are designed for young adults to those preparing their legacy and beyond. POC: Bryon Wall (678) 642-2788.

PLANT and SEED SWAP: TODAY, **May 7**, 12:15 PM, Welcome Center. Do you have more okra or pea seeds than you know what to do with? Bought 12 tomato plants and only have room for 6? Bring your extras and meet other green thumbs and wannabe green thumbs. Let's swap seeds, share plants, and maybe talk a little dirt! POC: Katey Petrey McCarney, (804) 402-0084.

CUMC BLOOD DRIVE: Wednesday, **May 10**, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. Please register at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html> to donate your life-saving blood or platelets.

NEW PRE-K Sunday School Class begins TODAY, May 7, 9:45 -10:45 AM in Room 107. We are so excited to restart this class! Please bring us your children who will be 4 by September 30 (potty trained). Jackie Farley, who sings in the Chancel Choir, will be the lead teacher. Using Christian PK Sunday School curriculum and understanding how preschoolers learn, the lessons will include interactive stories. Please, prayerfully consider helping in our NEW PK classroom. We need an assistant every Sunday or a team of volunteers who serve on a rotating schedule. *Please register in the pew pad or contact Pastor Chad if you have a heart for our PK children.*

Altar Flowers for the Sanctuary: To donate Altar flowers, *please sign up in the pew pad or on the flower chart outside the Church Office and complete an Altar Flower Form.* The available dates are May 21; June 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Aug 6, 13, 27; Sept 3, 10, 17, 24; Oct 8, 22; Dec 3, 31. Make arrangements with the florist of your choice, including delivery to the church and payment to the florist. (The suggested price is \$55-\$65.) Special pricing and free delivery to the church have been arranged with River's Bend and Petals & Bows Florists. Thank you for helping to beautify the Altar for worship.

KEEP IN PRAYER: family of Fred (Fritz) Buck; Billy Hopson; Suzanne Rountree; Kay Williams; Beth Powner; Barbara Goodwyn; Peggy Bishop; Desiree Davis; Jennifer Brittenham (daughter of Joe & Diane Mannelta); family of George Sawyer; family of Victor Cunningham (father of Donna Elbon); Ethan Rutledge [Amanda]; Andrew Dyson; Joe & Diane Mannelta; Malcom & Dollie Stone; Ginny Virag; Peggy Meehan (friend of Lisa Stanfield); Dee Watkins; Jeanne Shelburne; Rachel York (granddaughter-in-law of John & Becky York); Lynda Richardson; Jo Kiser; Kitty Lipscomb; Doug and Clara Gestwick.

Our Presence April 30, 2023

8:30 Fresh Start Service	65
9:55 The Bridge Service.....	69
11:00 Traditions Service	134
Online.....	43
Total Worship Attendance.....	311

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 assistant@chesterumc.org on 3rd Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Leading Our Worship TODAY, May 7, 2023

Greeters:	8:30	Karen & Bill Comer	
	9:55	Marian & Ed Garrett	
	11:00	Linda Large, Mary Musselwhite	
Ushers:	8:30	Gordon Jones*, Bill Comer	*Head Usher
	9:55	Linda D’Agostino*, JR Irvin	
	11:00	Will Herrmann*, James Bartlett, Bob Kutz, Geoff LeSueur, Jeff Marlin	
Nursery:	8:30, 9:55, 11:00	Staff Members, Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves	

NEW Women's 4-Week Bible Study Sundays, 6:30-7:30 PM, (began April 23) in the Upper Room (226). *Sermon on the Mount: The Consolidated Core Teachings of Jesus*, a 4-Week Study on Matthew Chapters 5-7. Jesus is not only the Lord and Savior for Christians but a great rabbi for all. His teachings are consolidated into three chapters in the Gospel of Matthew (5, 6, 7). For more than 2,000 years, these chapters, known as the Sermon on the Mount, have served as the most concise, clear, universal lessons known to humanity. You are invited to dip your toes into this "sermon" on April 23, 30, May 7, and 21 (we will skip Mothers' Day). There is no homework and no book except your favorite Bible. POC: Marg Kutz (margkutz72@gmail.com.)

Fresh Start Sunday School Class: Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow the Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Rabbi Amy-Jill Levine shows us how these difficult teachings might have sounded to the people who first heard them. The Fresh Start Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 in Room 221 (at the top of the "old" stairway). Visitors and new members are always welcome. POC: Susan Petrey (938-5396)

Seekers Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Room 226. We are studying TROUBLESOME BIBLE PASSAGES by Douglas E. Wingeier and David Lowes Watson. This book addresses 23 scriptures that are often not fully understood, so we may ignore or overlook them. These passages deal with theological, ethical, and practical issues. Each lesson will help us grow toward faith and discipleship. Lesson 1 is on Genesis 3:1-24, "Is All This Sinning Really Necessary?" We welcome you to join us. POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, May 14, 2023

Greeters:	8:30	Laura Hougland	
	9:55	Donna Nunery	
	11:00	Hunter Beazley, Martha Miles	
Ushers:	8:30	Gordon Morris*, Ron Dombrowski	*Head Usher
	9:55	Gordon Jones*, JR Irvin	
	11:00	Gordon Jones*, Bob Kutz, Larry Koon, Willie Orton, Scott Pugh	
Nursery:	8:30, 9:55, 11:00	Staff Members, Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves	



Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!

Stephen Ministers are members of our church who have been through extensive training and provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists. If someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with our referrals coordinator, Vince D'Agostino, at 804-461-8529. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.

Job Opportunity: St. Mark's UMC in Petersburg is hiring a part time Administrative Assistant. The job is 16 hours per week. Experience with Microsoft Office Suite required. Contact our Church Office for a complete job description.

"Little Shop of Horrors" at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen (directed by Amy Perdue, music directed by Joshua Wortham). May 5-21. For tickets or more info visit: <https://cacga.na.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/13711>

REGISTER NOW!

Monday, June 19, through Friday, June 23
9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Grades PK-5.

Register your child at
<https://forms.gle/2avsJE5wDUK77RX17>
or scan the QR code.

If you are interested in helping,
contact Andy & Eileen Steck
(andyei10twitchell@gmail.com)

STAR WARS
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 19-23, 2023
CHESTER UNITED METHODIST
WWW.CHESTERUMC.ORG
Pre-K through 5th Grade

Class of 2023

Hayden Christian Coyner Life Christian Academy
Walter Taylor DanielsLC Bird High School
Elijah Oryen Decker.....Thomas Dale High School
Allison Nicole Dodd Cosby High School
Jackson Pruett Drewry..... Clover Hill High School
Angelo Francisco GalarzaAppomattox Regional Governor’s School
Faith Kinsley Geisz..... Cosby High School
Charis Grace LandisLC Bird High School
Jack Kellan McCall.....Fork Union Military Academy
Eliza John McVicker..... Thomas Dale High School
Dean Satchwell Miller..... Homeschool
Ella Marie Robbins Thomas Dale High School
Elijah Kevin Squires Matoaca High School
Zachary Jacob Trimble..... Matoaca High School
Addison Marie Winn..... Trinity Episcopal School
Dorothy Grace Zoller Thomas Dale High School

Talina Sarmiento Beck Wesley Theological Seminary
Master of Theology

Andrew Sean Carraway..... Virginia Tech
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

Madison Makenzie ClarkLongwood University
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic and Animation Design

Blakely Susanna Koob Virginia Tech
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Communication Science and Social Inquiry

Madison Grace Lenz Virginia Tech
Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Minor in Disabilities Studies

David Paul Spadaccia..... Virginia Tech
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Children's Sunday School: 9:45 AM. Pre-K (Rm. 107 – begins TODAY); Grades K-2 (Rm. 204); grades 3-5 (Rm. 206). POC: Pastor Chad Beck

Middle and High School Youth Sunday School

9:45 AM, Annex Loft; POC: Pastor Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

Adult Small Group Bible Study

9:45 AM, Room 213 “The Frog Room;” Facilitated by Jeff Marlin (jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com)

Fresh Start Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 221; POC: Susan Petrey, 804-938-5396

Friendship Ministry Class

10:40 AM, Room 116, for adults who are cognitively challenged.

POC: Mari and Dan Hayes (JLMinNaples@msn.com)

The Gathering Small Group (formerly Adult Small Group for Millennials)

9:45 AM, Room 205; for singles/couples with/without children at home.

Facilitated by Brion & Sonja Seward and Andrew Brummette.

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)

Senior Singles Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Parlor; POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)

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

June 25, 12:15 PM (new date), Room 116, final meeting until September 2023

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

Scheduled Sundays, 2:30 PM, Annex Loft; 6th -12th grades join in study, missions, and fun!

Fiber Friends: 4th Sundays in **Room 205**, 12:15 PM, bring a bag lunch. POC: Beth Powner, knit9grammy@gmail.com. / (804) 586-0735)

Men's Grill-N-Gaga: Monthly, 4:00 PM at the Annex. Join us for grilling, GaGa, and fellowship.

POC: Scott Pugh (scott.pugh@bldr.com) / 804-536-1771)

Play 'N' Share: WILL NOT MEET May 7. Next meeting May 21, 4:30 PM (1st & 3rd Sundays), Point of Rocks Park playground (201 Enon Church Rd, Chester). All ages are invited! POC: Pastor Chad.

Women's 4-Week Study: 6:30 PM, Room 226, April 23, 30, May 7 & 21.

SMALL GROUPS

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

Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group: 1st and 3rd **Mondays** at 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR).

Joy Singers (for 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 focus, pray, chat, and connect with God. 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: 3rd **Thursdays**, 1 PM at a local restaurant. *The next gathering will be on Thursday, May 18* (El Patron Cantina, 11211 Iron Bridge Rd, Chester) POC: Joan Osborne (josbor61@gmail.com).

Prayer Shawl Group: **Thursdays**, 1:30 PM, Church Parlor or you can work on your project at home. All are invited to join us! We can provide yarn and will happily teach you how to knit or crochet. POCs: Beverly Trevillian (804-337-2367); Betty Stone (wva_lady@verizon.net/804-914-0433)

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

"Strum and Smile" Small Group: WILL RESUME IN THE FALL. **Saturday** mornings at 10:00 AM, Music Suite. Guys & 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. POC: Keith Woods (the.gibson.kw@gmail.com)

United Methodist Women (UMW)

- Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship: 2nd **Thursdays**, 10:30 AM, Room 226 (POC: Martha Miles, 804-748-5476)
- Jean Craig Fellowship: 1st **Mondays**, 7:00 PM, Room 205 (POC: Susan Petrey, 804-938-5396)