

JUNE/JULY 2023

THE CHIMES

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



A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church

Summer Worship Schedule

Nursery Available for All Services

June and July

- 8:30 AM ~ Fresh Start Service
- 9:45 AM ~ Children's Sunday School
Adult Sunday School
- 9:50 AM ~ The Bridge Service
- 11:00 AM ~ Traditions Service

August 6 - September 3

- 9:30 AM ~ Children's Sunday School
Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 AM ~ Combined Worship Service

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Contemporary Worship

Davis Fellowship Hall
8:30 AM

Southern Gospel Worship

Sanctuary
9:55 AM

Traditional Worship

Sanctuary
11:00 AM

Worship By Phone

804-768-9594
Anytime

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

REGISTER NOW!

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

Register your child at
<https://forms.gle/2avsjE5wDUK77RX17>
or scan the QR code.

HEARING GOD IN PASSIONATE WORSHIP

by Pastor Nathan Decker



“We are perishing for lack of wonder, not for lack of wonders.” - G. K. Chesterton

One of the more humorous stories from the Bible is found in Acts 20 where a young man sitting in a window falls asleep while the Apostle Paul was preaching. Eutychus, the young man, falls to his death three stories down. Paul stops preaching long enough to go down and bend over the young lad. “There is life in him yet, don’t be alarmed.” He says this and then returns upstairs to serve communion. The story ends with “they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.”

A part of the Vision we have discerned for Chester UMC is to have Passionate Worship. I think this means more than just keeping people awake in the pews. Worship is a verb. Worship was never meant to be passive. In the 1500’s, worship for Protestants began moving away from liturgy and ritual to focus on intellectual and practical sermons where active listening became the focus. In the American experience of the 1800’s, emotional outbursts and inward changes that brought about outward signs became standard understanding of Spirit-filled worship. Following the Civil War, worship became a bully pulpit for correcting the ills of society; preaching focused on encouraging the masses to stand against the ways of the world and bring about Kingdom come through social change. Throughout history, worship has always been a verb, something we did as an offering to God.

Our context today struggles with this as a model. We are consumers. The consumer confidence index drives political policy to keep the economy growing by continually growing appetites and abilities to feed consumers consumption. So on Sunday morning, we come ready to consume rather than offer. We want Hollywood style music like that of Sister Act or a Rock Concert. We want TED Talk worthy sermons that hit home. We want this cheaply (don’t ask us to help out with the AV booth or usher or volunteer in the nursery). We want this timely (don’t ask us to stay more than an hour). We want this on our terms (we’re the audience, the customer, the congregation gathered to consume). We want worship to make us feel good (don’t tell me my views don’t align with Jesus’ teaching). Worship is a show, not a verb.

We might as well be asleep or falling out the window because if that is what we feel worship should be, we’ve missed out. A disciple passionately worships God. We come to worship the way Eutychus does after his fall: reborn, resurrected, renewed. To add more humor to the story, Eutychus’ name literally translates as fortunate or lucky. How lucky we are at Chester UMC. We have the honor of worshipping God. We have the privilege not to come to a show, but to show up with thanksgiving and praise. We have the freedom to not consume music and preaching, but to sing before Christ’s throne and to receive and act upon the life-changing Word. And we should do this with passion.

I love that word: passion. It speaks of offering God our essence, our emotions, our heart. I challenge you this summer to passionately worship God as the church. Let your prayers and soul get lost in the music. Let your life reflect on Monday-Saturday what shined from heaven on Sunday. Make the choice to be revived and awake and active in Worship. Be a disciple who passionately worships God.

“Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us; the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the LORD!”

Psalms 117

MUSIC NOTES

As summer approaches, several of our music groups will take a couple of months off. But our music ministry continues in full sing, I mean, swing! Summer worship is host to a wide variety of musicians, from our bank of incredibly talented in-house folks to some special guests. Here are a few guests you can look forward to in the coming months!

Sunday, June 25 - Brian Baez - Manager of Theatrical Casting for Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Sunday, July 2 - Eden Espinosa - She has played Elphaba in Wicked on Broadway (as well as in Los Angeles and San Francisco), and she played Maureen in Rent as part of the closing company on Broadway.

“Sing”-cerely,
Joshua Wortham



CHAD'S CHALLENGES

By Pastor Chad Beck

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.'" Matthew 25:35-35.



In March, our church invited Latino immigrants to our church as we began an ESL (English as a Second Language) class. We are serving Jesus and showing our Christian hospitality as we serve Latino immigrants who want to improve their lives and adapt to our country. We have 24 adult students and 17 children enrolled! This affirms Chester UMC's values of *positively impacting our community and loving children and families.*

As we offer value to these families' lives, we are enacting the Kingdom of God! We offer hospitality and food so that they feel welcome. We offer childcare, nurture, and games which enable immigrant families with busy work and school schedules to attend and feel safe and loved. It's amazing to see them enthusiastically learning English and experiencing God's love and our church's love for their families and children.

Wilmer and Maria shared that they are excited about learning English because it will help them in their work opportunities and improve the lives of their children. While they are in class learning English, their children are having fun with friends in our safe and nurturing childcare.

We need volunteers, financial support (check memo: Latino Ministries), and your prayers. Volunteers serve by teaching, record keeping and administrative tasks, offering hospitality by serving food and drinks, and nurturing children in childcare. We will grow and expand this ministry to several new classes with different levels. When you support, pray for, or volunteer for this ministry, you will experience this spiritual truth: serving "the least of these who are members of my family" is serving Jesus himself (Matthew 25:40). You also will be transformed by their warm embrace! When they feel your sincere love and welcome, the smiles on the faces of these Latino children and families will warm your heart!



STEPHEN MINISTRY MUSINGS

Reach Out for Help

Not all of us find it easy to ask for help. Some of us think it makes us look weak if we can't handle problems on our own, or we worry about what others might think. Fortunately, CUMC is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. We have highly trained, very compassionate Stephen Ministers waiting to listen, to be there just for you during a difficult time. You can choose to meet in person, or if you prefer, just speak on the telephone. Whatever you talk about is confidential, between you and your Stephen Minister only. Here are a few real-life comments from those who have a Stephen Minister:



“I can feel God’s presence when my Stephen Minister is here.”

“There is no judgement. She walks beside me. She doesn’t try to fix me, she just listens.”

“My weekly visits with her are an anchor in my life, something I can rely on when everything else is so uncertain. She is a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me to know that I am never alone.”

“It is a safe, confidential relationship where I can totally share my heart, and she just listens.”

“My Stephen Minister shows me the face of Christ. God brought me exactly what I needed.”

“I needed to know that there was just one person in the world who knew the good, bad, and ugly about me and still cared for me. Experiencing this through my Stephen Minister is a tangible expression of God’s love. It is changing my life.”

“My friends support me, but I also needed someone objective, someone I can count on every week to encourage me on this roller coaster of life. There is genuine acceptance, encouragement to confess my feelings, and finally, help to accept forgiveness. The consistency of our relationship is crucial in helping me to cope.”

“When I am with my Stephen Minister, I feel Jesus with me. The love of God in his eyes is there while we talk and pray. It is such a comfort and a feeling of peace.”

If you or someone you know could benefit from talking to one of our Stephen Ministers, please call our Church Office at 804-748-6006.

BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE

THANK YOU CHESTER UMC!!! We are wrapping up another successful year of delivering weekend meals to 55 children at C.C.Wells and Curtis Elementary schools. This would NOT have been possible without the support of so many people. First, a BIG thank you to the people who gave cash donations. These much-needed offerings enabled Vicki, Sarah and Rick Bowers, and Bill and me to purchase food each week. I also want to thank those who donated food items. These donations helped us stretch the finances even further!

I’m also thankful for the people who worked this ministry each week. The Jean Craig Fellowship ladies, coordinated by Susan Petrey, delivered food packages to the schools every Wednesday. Carolyn, Wendell, and Charis Landis packed items every Sunday after church. Tim, Stan, and David (the management team at Kroger on Ironbridge), worked with us to obtain the best possible prices.

The school year is winding down, but we’ll be watching the summer sales to stock up for the fall.

Karen Comer



Celebrating 150 Years

The History Committee has planned two additional events as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, and we need your financial support to make them happen. Please help us continue to celebrate with a monetary donation designated to the History Committee.

Thank you for your support and interest in the life of our Church!

REST STOP

REST STOP is a Chester UMC after school program designed to provide rest and encouragement to at-risk youth from Thomas Dale High School. Our regular activities include snacks, conversation, homework, tutoring, games, outdoor activities, and dinner. Do you have a special gift to share with these young people or just an abundance of love to give? A small faithful team is assembled to support this ministry, and we encourage you to join the effort!

- REST STOP is coming to a close for the 2022-23 school year. BUT NOT REALLY. We will continue to meet, once a month, throughout the summer. Our first summer activity is a day of fishing and picnicking at the home of Willie and Sherie Orton on Tuesday, June 13.
- Special thanks to our REST STOP Team of Maureen Coker, Terri Dombrowski, Jonathan Moore, Lisa Stanfield, and Dawn York for their weekly consistency. Your loving support of our REST STOP kids makes a difference in their lives.
- Call Susan to volunteer or to sign up to provide a meal. Make a check payable to CUMC, (memo: Rest Stop) to help cover our small expenses including gas for the church bus. You will leave REST STOP with a joyful heart, receiving more than you give! Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

Contact REST STOP Team Leader Susan Petrey (804 938-5396) for more information or to volunteer.

BLOOD DRIVE--Book Your Appointment Today!

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

(also August 9, October 11, and November 15)

10:00 AM—3:00 PM in Davis Fellowship Hall

www.redcrossblood.org

Call the Church Office (804-748-6006) if you need assistance.

Thank you to all who donated in May! 25 donations were collected!



SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

- Children's Sunday School** 9:45 AM. playground, Pre-K (Rm. 107); Grades K-2 (Rm.204); Grades 3-5 (Rm. 206).
POC: Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)
- Fresh Start Sunday School Class** 9:45 AM, Room 221; POC: Susan Petrey, 804-938-5396
- Journey Sunday School Class** 9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>) *Will not meet in August.* 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)
- Senior Singles Sunday School Class** 9:45 AM, Parlor; *On summer break June 4-September 3.* POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)
- Adult Small Group Sunday Bible Study** 9:45 AM, Room 213; Facilitated by Jeff Marlin (jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com)
- The Gathering Sunday School Class** 9:45 AM, Room 205, for singles/couples with children under 18 at home. *On summer break June 4 - September 3.* POC:s Andrew Brummette (andrew.brummette@gmail.com); Brion Seward (1bseward@comcast.net); Sonja Seward (sonjaseward@yahoo.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 & Dan Hayes (JLMinNaples@msn.com)
- Bridge Builders** June 25, 12:15 PM (new date), Room 116, *final meeting until September, 2023.*
POC: Maureen Coker (mcoker2003@comcast.net)
- Fiber Friends** 4th Sundays, 12:15—1:45 PM, Room 205, 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)
- Middle & High School Youth Meetings** Monthly activities in June, July, and August for rising 6th graders - 12th grade. POC: Jennifer Brame (youthleaders@chesterumc.org)
- Play 'N' Share:** Next meeting June 4, 4:30 PM (1st & 3rd Sundays), Point of Rocks Park playground (*201 Enon Church Rd, Chester*). All ages are invited! POC: Pastor Chad.

OTHER 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)
- Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group:** 3rd Mondays in June, July, and August, 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR).
- Joy Singers** (for our retired folks): Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Music Suite. Will meet through June 13 then break for the summer. POC: Joshua Wortham (music@chesterumc.org)
- Contemplative Prayer Group** Tuesdays 11:00 AM, Church Parlor. We read scripture and then focus, pray, chat, and connect with God. Please join us. POC: Lisa Stanfield (lisajostanfield@gmail.com)

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

Women's Fellowship Luncheon 1:00 PM, third Thursdays at a local restaurant. The next gathering will be on
Thursday, June 15, Antonio's (11956 Iron Bridge Plaza, Chester) POC: Joan Osborne (josbor61@gmail.com)

Prayer Shawl Group Thursdays, 1:30 PM, Church Parlor. All are invited to join us! We will happily teach you how
to knit or crochet. POCs: Beverly Trevillian (804 3377-2367 / beverly.trevillian@comcast.net);
Betty Stone (804 914 0433 / wva_lady@verizon.net)

Women's Christian Book Club 1st Thursday each month, 6:30 PM, Annex Loft. Next meeting is Thursday, May 4.
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 September 9, 2023. **Saturday** mornings at 10:00 AM, Music Suite. Guys
& gals who play stringed instruments with no intention of performing. 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)

Latino Health and Safety will meet on the 1st Friday of each month, beginning July 7. 6:00 - 8:30 PM in the fellowship
hall. Childcare provided. POC: Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)



YOUTH SUMMER KICK-OFF

Start summer off right with putt-putt golf, fun, and pizza!

Sunday, June 11, 12:30 - 2:00 PM, \$10 per person

Ironbridge Sports Park, 11400 Iron Bridge Rd

For rising 6th graders - 12th grade; POC: Jennifer Brame (youthleaders@chesterumc.org)

LADIES' AFTERNOON TEA UPDATE

A great time was had by all at the Afternoon Tea Fundraiser for the Chancel Choir. We are beyond grateful for your support as we raised \$3,800 to support our Music Ministry and Choir Tour 2024! As a first-time Table Hostess at the Afternoon Tea Fundraiser on April 29, I didn't know what an extravaganza I was volunteering for. It was a MARVELOUS time with laughter, smiles, wonderful food, and the best tea selection this side of Boston! The entertainment was delightful and just enough to allow table talk to flourish between the excellent performances. To everyone who played a part in making this event a success, the Chancel Choir THANKS YOU from the bottom of our music filled hearts. Next year...volunteer to be a Table Hostess. I guarantee your heart will be rewarded with overflowing joy. Have a blessed summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Dee, Choir Member



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Frederick Buck

Joseph and Geraldine Saladino
Bookman Fellowship
Don and Pat Pospahala
Kathleen Parker
Seekers Sunday School Class
Barbara Ward
Martha Miles

In Memory of Isabel Jones

Betty Martinko
Wayne and Virginia Virag
Rita Jones
Don and Pat Pospahala
Virginia R. Cragg and Family
Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship
Ela May T. Wulff

In Memory of Betty Davis – Donation to the Prayer

Shawl Ministry

Brooke H. Rogers

In Memory of Rev. Doug Gestwick

Marshall and Susan Henry-Music Fund

ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you ever thought about the many shoulders we stand upon as the current congregation of CUMC from 150 years? What a testament to their faith that from our humble beginnings, we serve the greater Chester community from the congregation and facility we now have!

Our fore-brothers and sisters in Christ saw a vision of what He was calling for us to be a part of. They were inspired to be all they could be, an open door through which that love would be shared. It is because of their commitment, generosity, and devotion that CUMC has grown in God's grace.

As we progress along the path 150 years into the future, what will those generations say of us? What will our legacy be?

Please prayerfully consider donations to CUMC's Endowment Fund. Your financial advisor can be of assistance with planned giving opportunities including bequests, life insurance, retirement accounts, annuities, and trusts. Contributions made directly from these funds to CUMC are tax-free.

"Jesus told them another parable: the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

Please direct questions to Harold Crowder, Endowment Chair at (804) 920-7277.

THANK YOU NOTES

From Beth Powner:

Thank you for all the prayers, good wishes and cards that I received during my recent hospitalization and recuperation. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring congregation. My time in the hospital was so unexpected, and the outpouring of love that I felt is what got me through the scary hours of the night. A huge shout out to Sherry Morris for providing us with more food than we could possibly eat, so we had lots of wonderful leftovers. CUMC took care of us in every way possible...thank you!

From Barbara MacIntyre:

On behalf of the veterans at McGuire Hospital and Sitter-Barfoot Care Facility, thank you for all of the beautiful and thoughtful Easter cards. We delivered 151 Easter/Spring greetings. Many of you have been so faithful to this project throughout the year. You never know who will read your cards at just the right moment to lift their spirits. God bless you!

From Bonnie Hopson:

Billy and Bonnie Hopson want to thank CUMC for being such a caring church. Billy's cards and offers of help have been amazing. You have surrounded us with love.

From the York Family:

Rachel York is cancer free! We are so grateful for your thoughts and prayers during Rachel's cancer journey.

HISTORY MOMENT

“Circuit Riders” rode on horseback and rotated among the numerous churches on the circuit. In 1890, the Virginia Conference assigned Chester, Zion Hill, Ivey Memorial, Trinity (at the Chesterfield Courthouse) and Beulah to our circuit. Chester, according to the records, was the strongest church in the charge in 1890. Below are two photographs of the first parsonage built on Winfree Street.

The parsonage is the original structure built in 1895. Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Perdue (Hap Perdue’s parents) purchased the lot for \$1,000 and donated it to the project. The building was large enough to provide rooms for preachers on the Chesterfield Circuit and the Circuit shared in the cost. It included an old stable and carriage house (north of the building) and was located at 12020 Winfree Street--at the corner of Winfree and Dodomeade Streets. This two-story framed hip-roofed house faces the former Chester Methodist Church rather than the street. The dwelling has a three-bay front with floor-length windows, an asymmetrical five-bay lateral facade, and wrap-around Eastlake verandas on the front and west sides.



Side View of Parsonage



Front View of Parsonage that still stands on Winfree Street (across from Christ Church) photographed in the 1960s.

The home was spacious and built to accommodate large families. The grounds were extensive. The minister needed a pasture for his horse, stable and carriage house, woodshed, and other necessary buildings. In addition, it was wise to provide ample space for a vegetable garden and play area for the children. This accounted for about two acres of land, owned by all the churches of the Chesterfield Circuit of which Chester was one. It was used as a parsonage from 1895 to 1925. It was later converted into apartments and still stands today at Dodomead and Winfree Streets.



John White performs at the 120th Anniversary of Chester UMC teaching the children about Circuit Riders.



Calling all families with children under age 18! Please join us for a picnic and fellowship with other CUMC families.

POC: Charlotte Brummette (charl208@yahoo.com)

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

We've reached the end of another successful year for our preschool! The children had fun while learning, growing, and making friends. They didn't just learn academic and social skills--they also learned about God's love for them.

We are so excited to do it all over again next year! Registration has begun for the 2023-2024 school year for children ages 2.5 to 5 years old.

CUMCPS is excited to be re-opening our toddler classroom for the upcoming school year and we're looking for two individuals that feel God calling them to come join the preschool family. Working hours would be Monday - Thursday from 8:30 AM - 12:45 PM.

Please contact me for information or questions regarding registration or employment.

Blessings,
Jen Barnes
(804) 748-2275
preschool@chesterumc.org



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) is “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 5, 6:00 PM at the Petrey's for a picnic. We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey (804 938-5396) for details.

The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will resume meeting in the fall. Call Martha Miles (804 748-5476) for details.

The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, July 10, 7:00 PM in the church parking lot. We will take the bus and visit local police and fire stations. Call Susan Petrey (804 938-5396) for details.

To learn more about UMW, our two participating fellowships, and how you can become involved, please call Susan Petrey (804-938-5396).

MISSION TRIP NEWS

The Missions Team reports that , for a variety of reasons, they will not be moving forward with a return trip to Buchanan County, VA to assist flood victims this summer. However, there is still a great need and they are working with the Baptist General Association of Virginia to stay involved and informed. The Missions Team is planning one or possibly two trips in the fall, so please stay tuned for details later in the summer. Lynn Crump and the entire team are grateful for all the words of encouragement, prayers, and donations they've received. For more information about the impactful work of the Missions Team, or to find out how you can help, please contact Lynn Crump (lynncrumppla@gmail.com) or Keith Mottley (pretea18@comcast.net).

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

It's Summertime!!!

Finally we're free of winter's lip-chapping temperatures and spring's annoying pollen counts. We've moved on to planning staycations and vacations. We're cleaning grills and planting flowers. And we're all thinking about exercising more, right? Riiiiight!! Well, here's something to ponder. Are we thinking about how to maintain our giving to CUMC to help the church avoid the traditional summer slump?

Summer months are harder on churches and other non-profits because giving and support drops drastically. You help CUMC this summer by ensuring your giving does not take a vacation! To make that easier, below are a few tips:

- Set up autopay through your bank or app,
- Set calendar reminders and/or alarms on your cell phone,
- Tell a friend or family member of your intentions and ask them to remind you.

Let's be good stewards of the gifts and resources we've been given. Let's stock shelves for the hungry. Let's provide safety for the vulnerable. Let's keep our children's minds occupied with positive things. Let's have a safe and happy summer while helping others do the same. Let's be the church God has called us to be. We can do it!

Peace be with you,

Byron and Josefa Wall, Stewardship Team Co-Chairpersons



WELCOME NEW OFFICE STAFF

Michelle Couvillion is joining CUMC on June 12 as our new Office Manager. She holds a Master's degree in Elementary Education and has worked for many years as an Elementary School Teacher. Michelle has 2 adult children and lives in Henrico County with her two adorable dogs. When she's not working Michelle enjoys being outdoors hiking, exploring local parks, and just enjoying nature. Please give Michelle a warm welcome when you see her in the office!



Sally Maxwell began as the Office Assistant in March. She has a Bachelor's degree in Nursing, and has previously worked as an RN, stay-at-home mom, and Teacher Assistant. In their free time, Sally and her husband John love camping and visiting Virginia's beautiful state parks. Please contact Sally at assistant@chesterumc.org if you'd like an activity publicized via email, Facebook, or in *The Chimes*.



ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW UPDATE

The first Annual Chester UMC Arts and Crafts Show was held Saturday, May 6, in Davis Fellowship Hall. CUMC Crafters Keith Mottley, Holly Scarborough and Tommy Petrey displayed their wares along with various artisans from the community. Admission was free, and breakfast and lunch items were served. Thanks to all who volunteered, visited, and shopped! Watch for an announcement of the spring 2024 date. If you craft and are interested in obtaining a space, or know someone else who might be interested, call Katey Petrey McCarney at (804) 402-0084.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER 2023

Mark your calendar now – Sunday, August 20 – to Rise Against Hunger!

In the fall of 2022 Chester UMC participated in Missions Sunday and completed many worthy mission projects. One of those projects was packing 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger works to nourish, respond and empower communities where access to diverse and nutritious food is limited. Check out their website here: <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>

Missions Sunday will return on October 29, 2023, but on August 20th we will pack meals at the Rise Against Hunger event. There are tasks for all ages and ability levels, and all are invited to participate. Be on the lookout for sign-up details soon. This is a great way for your family, small groups, and friends to be in mission together!

Eric Hougland, CUMC Missions Team Chair
ehougland88@gmail.com



Volunteers from Chester UMC packing 10,000 meals on September 25, 2022.

Join the Fresh Start Sunday School class for NOOMA starting June 11. NOOMA is an English phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma, which is commonly translated to “spirit” or “breath.” Pneumatology refers to the study of spiritual beings, particularly the interactions between humans and God. The NOOMA series, by popular pastor Rob Bell, includes short films, scripture, and discussion.

The Fresh Start Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in room 221. Visitors and new members are always welcome! Call Susan Petrey at (804) 938-5396 for more information.

CUMC STAFF

- Pastor:..... Rev. Nathan A. Decker (nathandecker@chesterumc.org)
Associate Pastor: Rev. Chad T. Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)
Minister of Music: Joshua Wortham (music@chesterumc.org)
Financial Specialist: Julie Jones (finance@chesterumc.org)
Preschool Director:..... Jen Barnes (preschool@chesterumc.org)
Nursery Staff: Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves
Office Manager: Terry Wisegarver (cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org)
Office Assistant:..... Sally Maxwell (assistant@chesterumc.org)

June Birthdays

June 1

Michelle Jackson
Angie Smith
Hillary Smith
Wayne Stuart

June 2

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

June 3

Celeste Buccola
Beth Johnson
Sarah Jones
Kylie Moore

June 4

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

June 5

Karen Comer
Kendall Mims
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

June 9

Sharyn Abernatha
Mike Anderson
Reed Boyd
Betty Jones
Kitty Lipscomb
Randy Melton

June 9 (continued)

Ethan Rutledge
Chelsea Slaasted
William Topping

June 10

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

June 11

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

June 12

Tom Jenkins
Christy Pritchard
Robert Russell
Vann Stanfield

June 13

Ben Ferry
Melissa Heyer
Kinsley Yerby

June 14

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

June 15

Aiden Beck
Andrew Bittenbender
Kyleigh Ferguson
Corrine Lewis
David Maher
Jim Rhodes

June 16

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
Scott Herndon
Karen King
Eliza McVicker
Adrienne Shaner
Adam Tyus

June 21

Avery Anderson
Denise Gilpin
Alex Mason
Larry Sheppard
Wayne Smith
Rebekah Thomas
Phil Wallace

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
Dana Potter

June 24

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

June 25

Laurie Garnett
Carson Miles
Priya Vasu
Kathi Williams

June 26

Talina Beck
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
June Lowder
Marley Sarver
Jordan Tignor
Jane Turner
Jayna Zwennes
John Zwennes

June 29

Allan Buccola
Dave Fournelle
Michael McVicker
Jeff Perry
Joshua Wortham

June 30

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

July Birthdays

July 1

Danielle Hawkins
Samantha White

July 2

Zeliha Aslan
Debbie Bonham
Jack Comer
Laurie Fields
Chris Grinter
Mallory Moody

July 3

Atlas Hardison
Matt Johnson
Jackson Pospahala
Mike Potvin
Debbie Smith
Emma Swofford

July 4

Sandy Craven
Julie Ferry
Pam Hudson
Larry Koon
Andrew Levin
Leslie Merriam
Haley Miles
Jim Watkins

July 5

Kayla Newton
Clara Overstreet
Maggie Poulsen
Zach Trimble

July 6

Christine Brock
Linda Broughton
Ann Goodman
Maryn Lenz
Emma Mims
Jesse Pugh

July 7

Jeffrey Hodell
Patsi Peterson
Valerie Smith
Drew Tester

July 8

Christopher Latimer
Peter Moody

July 9

Kevin Carraway
Andrew Faucette
Becky Fogleman
Bill Nabors
Harmony Wilkerson
Erin Willingham

July 10

Chance Davis
Ralph Hall
Thomas Hamilton
Jessica Malkerson
Chelsea Matthews
A E McCants
Chris Miller
Billy Simpkins
Eli Squires

July 11

Lee Bess
Jackson Betz
Ella Hutchins
Bruce McCoy
Annie Ridout

July 12

Amber Martin
Mary Beth Radford
Corey Squires
Derrick Vaughan

July 14

Sebrell Bryant
Kayla Dodd
Katherine Fender
Michelle Gibson
Scot Labin
Sophia Lawhon
Sandy Tuck

July 15

Andrew Crowder
Bailey Gregory
JoAnn Neal
Dawn York

July 16

Max Dho
Susan Henry
Jesse Leacock
Alexander Nagy
Chris Watson
Phillip Yerby V

July 18

Sara Burks
Robert Davis
Kyla Garrett
Beatrix Robin
Tabitha Strickler
Evan Voros

July 19

Jerry Allen
Storm Burks
Mike Hewitt
Traci Miller
Audrey Smith

July 20

Betsy Baker
Roger Gibson
Blake Scruton

July 21

Linda Alexander
Harold Fender
Kailynn Fournelle
Delanie Lipscomb
Chad Matthews
Nic Snow
Debbie Vaughan

July 22

Corey Brick
Lorraine Buck
Kelly Davis
Colleen McCoy
Lisa Stanfield

July 23

Tripp Bishop
Steve Gilliatt
Joyce Lott
Diane Medina
Cheryl Waterson
Cindy Webb

July 24

Rodney Barrell
Jan Bryant
Lynwood Fields
William Shelton
Raven Slaasted
Gabriel Smith

July 25

Gavin Fabian
Diane Hargraves
Bonnie Hopson
Joe Welchel, Jr.

July 26

Shelley Barnes
Tracy Bradford
Katie Bradshaw
Diane Higgins
Jerry Higgins
Steven Mariani
Suzi Miller
Mary Rhodes

July 27

Dale Clark
Trish Dunn
Dylan Jackson
Samantha Johnson
Maxwell Latimer
Ashley Miller
Trent Patton
Allison Wood

July 28

Jeff Gilliatt
Ann Harris
David Overton

July 29

Nancy Carruth
Ethan Flowers
Logan Flowers
Mary Frank
Betty Jellie
Jake Nelson
Russell Wyndham

July 30

Jordan Clark
Sean Daugherty
Ginni Goodwyn
Chris Pendlebury
James Price
Mallory Schaffer
Lynn Talley
Laura Thomas

July 31

Edward Boroch
Alexander Buchanan
Desiree Davis
Kim Feind
Adalyn Moore
Jean Simonsen
Bobbi Welchel
David Williams

Chester United Methodist Church
12132 Percival Street
Chester, VA 23831



REMINDER: Regular church office hours are 8:30 AM—2:00 PM Monday-Thursday.
If you need to visit the office after 2:00 PM, kindly schedule the visit in advance.



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

The deadline for submission to the **August/September Chimes is Wednesday, July 19.**

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