

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023  
**THE CHIMES**

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



A Community in Christ  
 Chester United Methodist Church

**Worship at Chester UMC August 6 – September 3**

Adult and Children’s Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Worship Service at 10:30 AM

- Aug. 6 Hymn Sing and Testimonials
- Aug. 13 Guest Musician and Singer Allison Speer  
Ice Cream Social after worship
- Aug. 20 Blessing of Backpacks  
Wear a Chester UMC shirt  
Rise Against Hunger Event 12:00 – 2:00 PM
- Aug. 27 Guest Preacher Sylvia Meadows
- Sept. 3 One combined Service at 10:30 AM

**3 Worship Services Resume September 10**

- 8:30 AM Fresh Start Service (Contemporary)
- 9:45 AM Adult and Children’s Sunday School
- 9:55 AM The Bridge Service (Southern Gospel)
- 11:00 AM Traditions Service



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
*Resumes September 10*

**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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# GROWING BY GETTING SMALL

by Pastor Nathan Decker

*“Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance.” -Brene Brown*

There is something powerful about finding your tribe. As human beings it is instinctual to group together. Whether it is that first friend we play tag with at the playground, our first bestie who sits next to us at lunch in school, or the group we consistently meet with to watch a game: we need a tribe. It offers protection, identity, and a safe place to explore ideas and actions. A small group provides the most important opportunities to be challenged, transformed, and experience growth.

That’s how Jesus did it. He started with some fishermen. “Follow me.” Soon Peter, Andrew, James, and John became the inner circle. Then he kept going. “Follow me.” There was The Twelve. I capitalize it because the number came to mean more than just how many, but an identity of those first ones Jesus not only called but sent out. “Follow me.” There were small groups of women doing all sorts of things supporting Christ’s ministry. “Follow me.” Jesus called and sent out, two by two, 70 disciples to spread the good news. “Follow me.” Even in the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus had them sit down in small groups.

Too many times we as a church focus on the big events, but if we want to *follow* Jesus we also have to get small. We have to create and be a part of small groups, tribes of love. Unlike the tribes of the world that compete and bicker and exclude, our small groups will have a “follow me” approach. A small group can meet weekly, every other week, or monthly as long as they meet regularly. Small groups care for us, give us identity, and create safe places to study, doubt, grow, and experience God. I want to challenge each of us to be a part of a small group. (I know some of you are already and I’m so proud!)

Our small groups at Chester UMC focus on the three “S’s,” **Study, Service, Social**. Each group majors in one and minors in the other two. Some groups will be like our Sunday Small Groups and focus on studying how to be a better disciple of Jesus. Others may be like some of our weekday groups that are more social or service in nature: playing instruments, working out, doing a mission project, or just having coffee and prayer. All of them represent tribes of God’s love in the world, challenging, transforming, and growing our church.

When Christ walked upon the earth, he didn’t just have massive crowds that showed up once a week to hear good preaching. He empowered them to gather in small groups to care for one another and change the world around them. Let’s “follow” Jesus by finding our tribe, the place where we belong at Chester UMC. After all, it’s what Jesus would do...

*“Day after day they met in the temple continuing with one mind, and breaking bread in various private homes. They were eating their meals together with joy and generous hearts, praising God continually, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

-Acts 2:46-47



Did you know there are over **25** different small groups here at Chester United Methodist Church?  
ALL of them welcome new members!

# CHAD'S CHALLENGES

By Pastor Chad Beck



*“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20 Good News Translation)*

Go. Don't just stay where you are. Don't get too comfortable. Some people come to us, but most don't. Jesus had the divine wisdom and the human experience to know that you must go out into the community. That is, leave your home and go, talk, and play with your neighbors. Leave your neighborhood. Leave your church (well, just for a time, then come back next Sunday!). Go to the park, sports fields, stores, coffee shops – anywhere people are. Go out into the community. If you physically or medically can't leave home, then pick up the phone, get on social media, or just reach out to whoever you can. Get to know them and their families. Ask questions and show interest in them. Have fun. Find ways to show them you care. That's easy. Our church excels at social events and caring for each other. Just extend that to others.

Go. To all peoples. Jesus spent most of his time in a few communities – Galilee, Jerusalem, etc. Yet he encountered Jews and Gentiles (different ethnic groups), wealthy and poor, settled people and sojourners. Who are the peoples in the neighborhood of our church? Who are the peoples in a 3- or 6-mile radius of our church? With whom is God calling us to spend our time?

To take an example, one group are children and families. They come from many different neighborhoods, social classes, ethnic groups, cultures, and languages. Leave and go to them. Build relationships. Go with your church to Play N Share. Volunteer at a community event, like the Chesterfield County Fair. Invite them to come with you to Family Game Night or to ESL (English as a Second Language) or some other ministry. Transform existing ministries (like the church picnic or the youth group—you can still celebrate your traditions, just invite others to join in!). How might we rethink our ministries so that they are outward-focused, outreach-focused, and hospitable to the unchurched?

There are other groups. Go to the peoples. Go with a friend or a group from church. Follow the nudging of the Holy Spirit. Get creative with ministries. Be outward-focused, community-focused.

Make disciples. As you get to know people, they will probably start to ask you questions about yourself, your church, or your faith. Take that opportunity. Even if they don't ask, as they see you truly care about them, you will earn credibility. Then, share your faith story. Share something about how God has been there for you and loves you, or how or how you've experienced the Holy Spirit. Tell them a story—a story about Jesus from the Gospels, or your story of your walk with Jesus.

Go. Don't just stay where you are. Don't get too comfortable. Go to all peoples. Share Jesus. Make disciples of Jesus.



**Play 'N' Share is a great opportunity to make new friends and invite them to activities or worship at Chester UMC.**

# MUSIC NOTES

**Allison Speer**, one of our favorite guest musicians, returns to Chester UMC on **Sunday, August 13, at 10:30 AM**, during our combined worship service! Don't miss this incredible concert of worship with one of the most gifted, Spirit-filled Christian artists in the industry! Allison has traveled the world sharing the Gospel through her ministry of music, laughter, and preaching. All are welcome for this very special time of worship!



**Allison Speer**

**Chancel Choir** rehearsals will resume weekly on **Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 PM**. Singers of all ages and skill levels are welcome without audition! The Chancel Choir sings during 11:00 worship each week.



**Joy Singer** rehearsals will resume weekly on **Tuesday, September 12, at 10:30 AM**. This group is designed for our retired folks. Come make a joyful noise with us! This group regularly sings for area nursing homes, senior living facilities, and for other community groups.

**Handbell Choir** is making a triumphant return this fall! If you're interested in participating, please contact Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org)).

"Sing"-cerely,

Joshua Wortham  
Minister of Music

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# STEPHEN MINISTRY MUSINGS

## What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry happens when one specially trained Christian, the Stephen Minister, helps another person through a difficult time. It is one on one care, and everything shared with a Stephen Minister is completely confidential. Our goal as Stephen Ministers is to carry out Christ's commandment in John 15:12 to "Love one another as I have loved you," and to do it in a practical way that brings healing and comfort to those who are troubled. When you have a Stephen Minister, you have someone who will walk with you for a season through your troubles. This may take a month, a year, or longer. Your Stephen Minister is there to support you, pray for you, and care for you. He or she will not judge you or tell you what to do. They will listen and be a safe place where you can share your burdens. A Stephen Minister will help anyone who asks, regardless of church membership.



## What kind of troubles might a Stephen Minister help with?

There are many reasons a person seeks a Stephen Minister. Someone struggling with a relationship with a parent, a child, a co-worker, or even God, may benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister. A person who has lost their job, their health, or a loved one may seek the help of a Stephen Minister. A caregiver who is feeling overwhelmed may want a Stephen Minister. The reasons are as varied as there are people in this church.

**We all have burdens that drive us to seek the risen Savior. Your Stephen Minister cannot take your troubles away, but they can walk beside you as you seek the One who can.**

If you have any questions or think you may want the support of a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Vince D'Agostino at (804)461-8529. You may also scan the QR code to find out more.



# TERRY'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Terry Wisegarver, Chester UMC's beloved Office Manager, recently retired. We honored Terry for her 14 years of selfless service at a reception on Sunday, May 2. Jill and Craig Seal planned a fabulous send-off that began with a beautiful cake baked by Kay Williams. Jill and a handful of others spoke from the heart about what Terry has meant to all of us here at Chester UMC. We played a game of "Who You Gonna Call?" and as you can imagine, the answer was always Terry! A great time was had by all singing specially modified hymns such as "What a Friend We Have in Terry" and "Blessed Retirement." Linda D'Agostino presented Terry with gifts on behalf of the SPRC, and the reception concluded with a receiving line for Terry to greet each guest.

Post-retirement, Terry will still be here at Chester UMC as an active member of the congregation. She'll continue singing in the choir and volunteering, and she plans to enjoy spending lots of time with her precious grandchildren.

Our congregation has been blessed by Terry's skill, devotion, and loving kindness for many years, and we're so grateful she remains a part of this community!



*Attentive to Detail*

**How CUMC  
members**

*Compassionate*

*Loving*

**Dedicated**

**Helpful**

**Great Listener**

**Describe Terry**

**Selfless**

**Beautiful Inside and Out**

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## BLOOD DRIVE--Book Your Appointment Today!



*Wednesday, August 9, 2023  
(also October 11 and November 15)*

*10:00 AM—3:00 PM in Davis Fellowship Hall  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)*

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

# SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

*Reminder: Sunday School Classes Meet at 9:30 AM August 6 - September 3*

**Children's Sunday School** 9:45 AM. Pre-K (Rm. 107); Grades K-5 (Rm. 206). POC: Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:landisfamily05@gmail.com)); Eric Houglan ([ehouglan88@gmail.com](mailto:ehouglan88@gmail.com))

**Seekers Sunday School Class** 9:40 AM, Room 226; POC: Barbara MacIntyre ([telluwhatbarbara@aim.com](mailto: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](mailto:cacorley@ctsi.net))

**Adult Small Group Sunday Bible Study** 9:45 AM, Room 213 "Our Pad," Facilitated by Jeff Marlin ([jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com))

**The Gathering Sunday Small Group** 9:45 AM, Room 205, for singles/couples with/without children at home. *On summer break June 4 - September 3.* POC:s Andrew Brummette ([andrew.brummette@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.brummette@gmail.com)); Brion Seward ([1bseward@comcast.net](mailto:1bseward@comcast.net)); Sonja Seward ([sonjaseward@yahoo.com](mailto:sonjaseward@yahoo.com))

**Middle and High School Youth Sunday School** 9:45 AM, Annex Loft  
POC: Pastor Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

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

**Bridge Builders** 12:15 PM, Room 116, *will resume meeting September 24.* POC: Maureen Coker ([mcoker2003@comcast.net](mailto:mcoker2003@comcast.net))

**Fiber Friends** 4th Sundays, 12:15 PM, Room 205, bring a bag lunch and project to work on; *Will resume meeting Sunday, September 24.* POC: Beth Powner ([knit9grammy@gmail.com](mailto:knit9grammy@gmail.com) / 804 586 0735)

**Middle & High School Youth Meetings** Monthly activities in August for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. POC: Jennifer Brame ([youthleaders@chesterumc.org](mailto:youthleaders@chesterumc.org))

**Play 'N' Share:** Next gathering Sunday, August 13, 6:30 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays,) Point of Rocks Park playground (201 Enon Church Rd, Chester). All ages are invited! POC: Pastor Chad.

**New Adult Group** focusing on spiritual practices. Led by Pastor Nathan Decker, Pastor Chad Beck, Lay Leader Claudia Nagy, and Music Minister Joshua Wortham. Meeting August 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9:30 AM, Room 205.

## 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](mailto:julieferry@gmail.com))

**Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group** August 21, 2:00 PM, *Will resume meeting every Monday September 11.* Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR.)

**Joy Singers** (for our retired folks) Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Music Suite. *Will resume September 12.* POC: Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org))

**Contemplative Prayer Group** Thursdays 11:00 AM, Meeting at Trinity Methodist Church (215 S. Sycamore ST, Petersburg). We read scripture and then focus, pray, chat, and connect with God. Please join us. POC: Lisa Stanfield ([lisajostanfield@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:vannstan34@gmail.com))

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon** 1:00 PM, third Thursdays at a local restaurant. The next gathering will be on Thursday, August 16, at Carini's Italian Restaurant, 3620 Boulevard, Colonial Heights. POC: Joan Osborne ([josbor61@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:beverly.trevillian@comcast.net)); Betty Stone (804 914 0433 / [wva\\_lady@verizon.net](mailto:wva_lady@verizon.net))

**Women's Christian Book Club** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month, 6:30 PM, Annex Loft. Next meeting is Thursday, August 3. You have a month to read each book before we gather to discuss it. POC: Jennifer Brame ([jrbrooksiee@gmail.com](mailto:jrbrooksiee@gmail.com))

**"Strum and Smile" Small Group Resumes August 5.** 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! POC: Keith Woods ([the.gibson.kw@gmail.com](mailto:the.gibson.kw@gmail.com))

**Middle & High School Youth Meetings** Monthly gatherings in June, July, and August for rising 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. POC: Jennifer Brame ([youthleaders@chesterumc.org](mailto:youthleaders@chesterumc.org))

**Latino Health and Safety** meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, 6:00 - 8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Next meeting is Friday, August 4. A variety of topics related to health and safety, as well as food from different regions, will be presented at each gathering. Childcare provided. POC: Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

**ESL** Classes will resume Tuesday, August 29, meeting Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. POC Pastor Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

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## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP



**Malcolm and Dollie Stone enjoy working together at home and donating finished shawls.**

**If you don't know how to knit or crochet the wonderful ladies of Prayer Shawl group will be glad to teach you!**

**Sharon Gilliatt and Marian Garrett are attempting to teach Pastor Nathan how to knit.**



# MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

## In Memory of Judy Dee

Richard Miles Waugh - Music  
Bobbie Morrisette  
Donna Nunery  
The First Tee Ladies Golf League  
Dan Stackhouse - Music  
Thomas Wells - Music  
Charles and Sue Baird  
Stanley and Lee Hostetler  
Virginia Classic Thunderbird Club

## In Memory of Ronald King

Monty and Donna Nunery - Columbarium

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## THANK YOU NOTES

### **From Clara Gestwick:**

There have been many large and small ways that you have shown support and love to me. I have a deep gratitude for you especially at this time of my husband's death. I encourage you to continue sharing the love of Christ with each other and with the neighborhood in which you live. Let God's light shine bright! Blessings, Clara

### **From Ginger Chadwick :**

Thank you so much for the cards and notes I received following the passing of my brother and my sister, just days apart. Losing one sibling is difficult, but two in the same week really hit hard. I read and reread them every evening for almost two weeks. It took me that long to even be able to talk about the grief I was feeling.

Though I have been a Stephen Minister for almost two decades, I hadn't realized how much the thoughtfulness of friends could turn my sadness into renewed memories.

Simple words: "May your faith, family, friends, and memories help you through your loss."

They certainly did. I will forever remember the kindness shared with me.

### **From Terry Wisegarver:**

Beloved Friends, I love how you love me! When I broke my wrist in early May, you surrounded me with prayers for rest, healing, and a quiet heart. You praised God and celebrated with me when Annie Emilia was born on May 15, with me there immersed in the holy miracle. And now, in retirement, I am humbled by your hugs, texts, calls, and cards wishing me abundant life, continued health and well-being, and overwhelming JOY and PEACE. You bless me with such outpourings of love and kindness.

The lovely retirement reception you gave me touched my heart deeply. I'll always remember my sweet, sweet friends lined up to wish me well—such a vision of your smiling faces and so much love! I hold dear my memories of serving as your Church Secretary, and I treasure how you loved me extravagantly over the years. I loved my job, just as I love you. Thank you, Church.



Family Game Night will still be held on the third Saturday of each month, but with some exciting changes happening soon.

Be on the Lookout for More Details!

Next Family Game Night will be Saturday, August 19, 6 - 8 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall.

POC: Charlotte Brummette ([charl208@yahoo.com](mailto:charl208@yahoo.com))





## **BACKPACK MINISTRY**

School will be starting soon and that means we'll be loading up bags of food for children to take home for the weekend. Last school year, we served 55 children weekly. Our average weekly cost was about \$450, or \$8 per child. Can you help stock our shelves? All donations are welcome and appreciated! Cash donations allow us to shop sales at Kroger and Walmart for the best deals. Food items can be left in the missions closet in the bin marked "Backpack Ministry" or on the porch at the cottage – just give me a call if you do this so I can swing by and put them away. Thanks to all of you for your help in this ministry!

Karen Comer (804-796-2910)

### **Items we regularly use in the Backpack Ministry:**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Canned chicken                 | Chicken helper                             |
| Canned tuna                    | Tuna helper                                |
| Spam (or store equivalent)     | Applesauce cups                            |
| Vienna sausages                | Toaster pastries                           |
| Peanut butter (16 oz.)         | Fruit chews                                |
| Jelly (plastic jars only)      | Knorr Rice and Pasta pouches (5.7 oz size) |
| Macaroni & cheese              | Chewy granola bars                         |
| Ramen – beef or chicken flavor | Instant oatmeal                            |
| Canned pasta                   | Pasta Roni or Rice a Roni                  |
| Instant Potato pouches         | Scalloped or Au Gratin potatoes            |

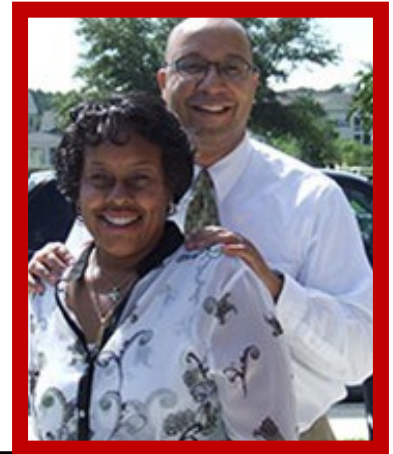
# STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

## How to Pay Your Annual Tithes in a Lump Sum

Raise your hand if you use/used IRAs to save money without having to pay federal taxes on it! Each year, members and friends of CUMC find themselves in the category of investors who are required to take “required minimum distributions” (RMD). If this is you or someone you know, please keep reading.

RMDs may place some of you in a higher tax bracket and federal tax is to be paid on each “required minimum distribution.” But guess what?!?! Your distribution can be taken as a “qualified charitable distribution” (QCD) directly from your IRA to Chester UMC and you will not pay federal tax on the distribution. If you were 72 years old by 12/31/22 or are now at least 73 years old and retired, you have QCDs as an option, but remember, a QCD is already a tax-free strategy, therefore, it cannot be included in your tax return as a gift. This is a great way to pay your annual tithes (first mile giving) all at one time.

Bryon and Josefa Wall, Stewardship Co-Chairpersons



## PRESCHOOL UPDATE

CUMC Preschool is seeking a God-loving, caring, and nurturing individual to join our team. The opening is for an Assistant in the 4-year-old classroom, helping the teacher with lessons, crafts, and guiding the children. Please help spread the word, and reach out to me if you’d like more information.

We’ve been resting up over the summer, and we’re ready to return to school soon. However, we are in need of some items for our classrooms. Please consider picking up a few to donate when you’re out shopping:

Glue sticks and bottles	Tissues	24 pack crayons
Sandwich bags	Baby wipes	Pencils
Gallon bags	Paper plates	Laminating pouches
Napkins	10 pack markers	Marble notebooks

Please place items in the labeled bin in the Missions Closet, and thank you in advance for your donations! We are excited to teach our students all about God’s love for them!

Blessings,  
Jen Barnes  
(804) 748-2275  
[preschool@chesterumc.org](mailto:preschool@chesterumc.org)



## CUMC STAFF

Pastor: .....Rev. Nathan A. Decker ([nathandecker@chesterumc.org](mailto:nathandecker@chesterumc.org))  
Associate Pastor:.....Rev. Chad T. Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))  
Minister of Music: .....Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org))  
Financial Specialist:.....Julie Jones ([finance@chesterumc.org](mailto:finance@chesterumc.org))  
Preschool Director: .....Jen Barnes ([preschool@chesterumc.org](mailto:preschool@chesterumc.org))  
Nursery Staff: .....Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves  
Office Manager:.....Michelle Couvillion ([office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@chesterumc.org))  
Office Assistant: .....Sally Maxwell ([assistant@chesterumc.org](mailto:assistant@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, August 14, 4:00 p.m. We'll take the bus to the VA UMC camp Westview on the James in Goochland for a tour and a picnic. We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey (804 938-5396) for details.

The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, September 11, 7:00 PM in room 205 to assemble period packs and make plans for the fall. Call Susan Petrey for details.

The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will resume their monthly meetings on Thursday, September 14, 10:30 AM. We will meet in room 226, the "Upper Room," for a time of fellowship. All ladies of the church are invited and no reservation is required. Just mark your calendars and join us. Contact Martha Miles (804 748-5476) or Ginger Chadwick (804 748-4778) if you have a suggestion for a program or would like to help in any other way.

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

## *Spiritual Practices*

Join us for a special Adult Small Group during the month of August.

Meet at 9:30 AM, Room 205

- August 6: Creating a Prayer Closet in Your Heart
- August 13: Prayer of Examen
- August 20: Lectio Divina
- August 27: Music and Meditation

## 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 but faithful team is assembled to support this ministry, but you are encouraged to join the effort!

- Rest Stop is continuing to meet, once a month, throughout the summer. In June we went fishing at the Ortons and in July spent an afternoon at the Richmond Metro Zoo. Our activity for **Tuesday, August 1** is a pool party and Low Country Boil dinner at the home of team members.
- School begins Tuesday, August 22. Our first meeting of the 2023-24 school year will be **Tuesday, August 29**. We'll pick up kids from Thomas Dale and meet at the Annex weekly at 3:00 PM.
- 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.

# 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Update provided by Erik Johnston

Hi Chester UMC! Claudia Nagy, Steve Osborne, Erik Johnston, Evan Moody, Pastor Nathan, Pastor Chad, and many of the retired clergy in our congregation attended the Virginia Annual Conference in Roanoke June 15-17. Our church is connected to other United Methodist Churches through the Living Waters District and through the larger Conference in Virginia. For Claudia, Steve and myself it was our first time attending the Conference.

Every church in the Virginia Annual Conference sends lay delegates equal to the number of appointed clergy (that's why Chester UMC gets two!). Claudia was also sent as our District's Lay representative. Evan was a part of the youth delegation. Over 1,800 UMC delegates worshipped and decided policy together on the floor of the convention center. We are the biggest Annual Conference in the United States. It was inspiring to worship with so many fellow believers!

The Conference provides support for missions in Virginia and across the world, equips our clergy and lay leaders to bring people to faith and service, supports Campus Ministries and our Methodist Universities and Colleges, and so much more. Perhaps most importantly Conference provides an opportunity for us to get together, learn from each other, and encourage each other.

We also get together to debate policy and create rules...we are still human after all and need to be organized as a church. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson set a tone of how we should see Christ in each other and debate respectfully. The Bishop is an inspiring leader who is focused on the future. She clearly sees the strength of the United Methodist church and communicates our mandate to be out in the world taking Christ to the people!

This is the second time since Covid began that we have been together in person at Annual Conference. It was a time to acknowledge the challenges and pain the church has experienced as some congregations have left the United Methodist Church through a process called disaffiliation. The United Methodist Church now stands ready for a rebirth and rejuvenation as over 90% of our churches are remaining United Methodist!

Many of the leaders' messages contained themes familiar to us at CUMC, as they are shared by our leadership. One message in particular spoke to us: we are in a moment where we should not circle the wagons and only share Christ with those like us, but we are to go outside the walls of our church and serve God's people. We, like Ezekiel, have seen the dry bones. We have been the dry bones as we experienced isolation, mental health challenges, a divided world and so much more...but God is ready to blow new life into us. We are a big tent church and can become even bigger!

We left the Annual Conference encouraged in our faith as we felt the Holy Spirit moving in this moment. We recall meeting a young new clergy member who shared that he'd been discouraged from his career choice due to the division and disagreements in our society. He then told us he believes we are called for times such as these to preach the Good News and to transform the world by renewing our minds to God's way.

We can choose to let the world define us, to focus on those churches that have left, and to become discouraged at the division in the world and the hardness all around. We can choose to circle the wagons and only be in the presence of those with whom we agree. Or we can choose to be reborn, to be transformed, and to let God's spirit blow life into these dry bones. We saw and felt that spirit blowing through our Annual Conference, and I see Christ's spirit blowing through Chester United Methodist Church. This is especially evident as we get outside our campus and take Christ to Chester and the world. We are **all** called for a time such as this to experience the abundant life and encouragement of being called to serve together. Let's all lean in to support our pastors, staff, and lay leaders at this important moment in the life of our church and the church at large.



## VOLUNTEER AT THE FAIR

Sign up to help out at the Chesterfield County Fair Friday, August 25 - Saturday, September 2. Chester UMC receives compensation for our volunteer service, and it's also a great way to share God's love in our community! Scan to learn more or to sign up.



# RISE AGAINST HUNGER 2023

Mark your calendar now – Sunday, August 20, 12 - 2 PM – 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 20, 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. 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](mailto:ehougland88@gmail.com)



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



Scan the QR Code to  
sign up for the Rise  
Against Hunger Event

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## FRESH START

### Looking for an Opportunity to Grow by “Getting Small”?

Check out the Fresh Start Sunday School Class for study, fellowship and service.

- **Through September 3—NOOMA.** The name **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. **NOOMA** is a series, by popular pastor **Rob Bell**, that includes short films, scripture and discussion of issues that we really care about.
- **Beginning September 10—What does Jesus want to know about us?** Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? In *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives. Are you willing to step out in faith? Are you ready to answer the questions Jesus asked?

The **Fresh Start Class** will meet Sundays, August 6-September 3 at 9:15 a.m. September 10 we will resume meeting every Sunday morning at 9:45 in room 221 (at the top of the “old” stairway). Visitors and new members are always welcome. Call Susan Petrey (804 938-5396,) for more information.

# August Birthdays

## August 1

Linda D'Agostino  
Elinor Daniels  
Laura Deck  
Amanda Doyle  
Mathew Eapen  
Bryan Farmer  
Nancy Herrmann  
Collin Martinko  
Brandon Stone

## August 2

Joyce Bratton  
Joshua McCotter

## August 3

Laci Hughes  
Monty Nunery

## August 4

Caroline Amsel  
Maggie Bradford  
Fae Hardee  
Emily Keys  
Brittany Lawson  
David Poulsen  
Davis Roper

## August 5

Elaine Kelley  
Connie Martin  
Douglas Poulsen  
Jennie Sisler  
Shirlen Wilson

## August 6

Bill Sisler  
Will Strickler  
Bob Waldrop

## August 7

Nico Galarza  
Don R. Higgins  
David Johnson  
Sue Matthews  
Beth Stewart  
Paula Stroupe  
Betty Tatum  
Emily Woodard

## August 8

Rebecca Parker

## August 9

Nicole Lowry

## August 10

Kelsey Green  
Patrick Lloyd  
Bill Schaffer  
Kay Williams

## August 11

Chris Hardee  
Jennifer Lerch  
Ellie Martin  
Lynn Melton  
Pam Overton  
Jim Strawn

## August 12

Drew Coker  
Terri Dombrowski  
Carly Beth Edwards  
Garland Jones  
Anna Kerr  
Dante Latimer  
Beth Powner  
Shelly Shiflett

## August 13

Caitlin Carraway  
Nancy Ferrell  
James Hargraves  
Rebecca Hodell  
Krista Hutchins  
April Ross

## August 14

Ward Bizzell  
Suzanne Ridout  
Daniel Stanfield

## August 15

Rich Bonham  
Leigh Ann Kiebler  
Daren McCants

## August 16

Adam Arnold  
Pamela Avery  
Dana Bittenbender  
Carrie Coyner  
Susan Jackson  
Terry Kelley  
Terry Wisegarver

## August 17

Karen Akom  
Kathy Bradshaw  
Rachel Degraba  
Tony DePhillip

## August 17 (cont'd)

Dee Fisher  
Casey Gaffney  
Cy Jernigan  
Ralph Jones  
Courtney Lang  
Elizabeth Stone  
Amanda Woodman

## August 18

Rachel Zwennes

## August 19

Ashley Baylor  
Ted Moore, Jr.  
Emma Stroupe  
Matthew Trinkle  
Samuel Wisegarver  
Michael Woods  
Cindy Yuconis

## August 20

Sandra Dishman  
James Henry  
Cindy Hurt  
Kent Koller  
James Lee  
Brenda McCormac  
Joe Tyus  
Kim Wisniewski  
Harley Young, Sr.

## August 21

Amber Chadwick  
Katianna Stone

## August 22

Taylor Flowers  
Caroline Frank  
Les Harper  
David Krukiel

## August 23

Michelle Daniels  
Larry Smith  
J.P. Spinner, Jr.  
Jason Williamson

## August 24

Joel Beck  
Debbie Freed  
Danielle Irving  
Leslie Magnin  
Linda Nabors

## August 25

Edward Bizzell, Jr.  
Frank Jackson  
Henjo Mey

## August 26

Debbie Banty  
Kristen Bishop  
Marshall Henry III  
J.R. Irvin  
Regan Martinko

## August 27

Jake Akom  
Brandon Grubbs  
Shannon Johnson  
Katie Perry

## August 28

C.J. Garrett  
Doris Hancock  
Brett Hankey  
Jennifer Lenz  
Mark Markwood  
Jayme Thysell  
Lyne Williams

## August 29

Tanya Allen  
Syril Ellis  
Sam Higgins  
Kameron Melton

## August 30

Brittany Angle  
Logan Byrne  
Elijah Decker  
George Emerson, Jr.  
Sherry Grooms  
Jeff Maher  
Karen Showers  
Sabrina Slaasted  
Camryn Valley

## August 31

Grady Andrews, Jr.  
Rob Covington  
Mason Coyner  
Blakely Koob  
Anita Nugent

# September Birthdays

## September 1

Nathaniel Anderson  
Wayne Ewalt  
Megan Matthews  
Jeff Slaasted

## September 2

Doug Alexander  
Samantha Black  
Joan Pugh  
Libbie Roberts  
Henry Williams

## September 3

Ryan Burnette  
Piper Pospahala  
Ginny Virag

## September 4

Tristan Walls  
Carter Williams

## September 5

Anna Arnold  
April Buchanan  
Zoey Hargraves  
Eric McHugh  
Lisa Sharpe  
Sharon Wilson

## September 6

Anne Burkhardt  
Shannon McCotter  
Katie Seitz  
Gerald Stewart  
MayMay Stone

## September 7

Joan Dick  
Miranda Lojek  
Elizabeth McLendon  
Derek Sharpe  
Wes Taylor  
James Thomas, Jr.

## September 8

Cory Chatham  
Zac Hewett  
Gretchen Hodell  
Pat Jones

## September 9

David Ford  
Cindy Hall  
Susan Nixon  
Allison Ridout  
Spencer Seyb

## September 10

Danika Bala  
Savannah Dizon  
Robin Dougherty  
Alistia Mabry  
Gordon McConnell  
Joanna McVicker  
Stephanie Potvin

## September 11

Jack Marshall  
Steve Osborne  
Mildred Spinner  
Jan Spohn

## September 12

Mary Ann Hamilton  
Jordan Lee  
Anne Mann

## September 13

Macks McCants  
Jeanne Shelburne  
Bryant Tankard

## September 14

Benjamin Bowles  
Dan Dutton  
Bernard McCoy, Jr.

## September 15

Jim Dyson, Jr.  
John Ryan Irvin  
Mark Lewis  
Beckett Matthews  
Richard Noblitt  
Kinsey Slaasted  
Melissa Taylor  
Tommy Vilak

## September 16

Yurii Browning  
Gail Feind  
Jonathan Ridout

## September 17

Deborah Birk  
Linda Cooper

## September 18

Charles Green  
Louise Jones  
Jan Lewis  
Bill Lloyd, Jr.  
Hannah Verghese

## September 19

Sara Davis  
Matthew Ellis  
Shelby Hancock  
Molly Jones  
Joe Manna  
Karen Nash  
Marian Perkinson

## September 20

Sherie Orton  
Brion Seward  
Davis Topping

## September 21

Sandra Drees  
Steve Freed  
Paul Ireland III  
Jo Kiser  
Keith Mottley  
Caitlyn Partin  
Andy Whiteside

## September 22

Richard Chitwood, Sr.  
Walter Daniels  
Lee Ann Hill  
Bradley Munchel  
Henry Stone IV

## September 23

Blake Arpin  
Madison Beckner  
Shawn Blood  
Mark Ferrer  
Ella Westbrook

## September 24

Ashish Bala  
Erica Radford

## September 25

Brian Akom  
Alysia Boettcher  
Delaney Bradley  
Tracey Kellam

## September 26

Chloe Lerch  
Tom Roper  
Joe Welchel, Sr.

## September 27

Kathy Fox  
Natalie Mauro

## September 28

Sam Bennett  
David Ellis  
Tori Gray  
Sammy McKnight  
Katelyn Talley

## September 29

Ryan Bowman  
Jan Cyphers  
Andrew Dyson  
Mark Freed  
Emily Smith

## September 30

Cassandra Awalt  
Mary Jo Comeaux  
Leigh Dicks  
Brady Dyson  
Abbie Edmonds  
Ian Fleeman  
Madison Keffer  
Madelyn Martinko

**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](mailto:communication@chesterumc.org).

The deadline for submission to the **October/November Chimes is Wednesday, September 21.**

### **CHESTER UMC ONLINE RESOURCES**

**Website:** [www.chesterumc.org](http://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/bIV9Tv> to subscribe.

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC>

**Prayer Chain Email:** Submit your name and email address to [office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@chesterumc.org) with “Prayer Chain” in the subject line to subscribe.

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

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

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