



September 17, 2023, 9:55 AM

**WORSHIP MUSIC**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms  
Where Could I Go?  
Old Time Religion  
Mighty to Save

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Amazing Grace  
*Dan Hayes*

**SCRIPTURE**

Acts 16:25-34 NRSV

**MESSAGE**

House by House, Family by Family  
*Pastor Nathan Decker*

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

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**STAFF DIRECTORY**

Ministers ..... All Disciples of the Congregation  
Lead Pastor: Nathan Decker ..... [nathandecker@chesterumc.org](mailto:nathandecker@chesterumc.org)  
Associate Pastor: Chad Beck ..... [chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org)  
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Nursery Specialist ..... Jessica Hargraves  
MS & HS Youth Ministry (Jennifer Brame, Jeff Geisz, Gordon Morris)..... [youthleaders@chesterumc.org](mailto:youthleaders@chesterumc.org)  
Preschool Director: Jen Barnes ..... [preschool@chesterumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.chesterumc.org) \* *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



### **FRESH START SERVICE**

September 17, 2023—8:30 AM



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

#### **WORSHIP MUSIC**

Open Up the Heavens

Everyday

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Mighty to Save

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Amazing Grace

*Dan Hayes*

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Acts 16:25-34 NRSV

#### **MESSAGE**

House by House, Family by Family

*Pastor Nathan Decker*

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

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September 17, 2023

A Service of Worship and Praise

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday

11:00 AM

after Pentecost

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Welcome, Announcements, History Moment, and Greeting

Prelude

*Rejoice, the Lord is King*

Pianist

\* Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

**O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 140

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

\* Affirmation of Faith No. 881

\* Gloria Patri No. 70

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

Special Music

*Because You Are*

Chancel Choir

Why We Give

Offertory

*Amazing Grace*

Dan Hayes

\* 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. 328

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

Children's Message

Juliana Paradie

Scripture

*Acts 16: 25-34*

*NRSVUE*

Sermon

*Reaching Families One by One*

Rev. Nathan Decker

Baptism Remembrance

Rev. Chad Beck

\* Hymn

*The Family of God*

\* Benediction

\* Choral Amen

Chancel Choir

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

<sup>1</sup> Book of Common Prayer, pg. 815, No. 3.

**Homecoming Sunday:** Sunday, October 8, following the 11:00 AM worship service. We invite you, and all that grew up at Chester UMC, to a Homecoming as we continue to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mark your calendars and join us for this event! We will convene in the Fellowship Hall for a covered dish lunch. Fried chicken will be provided by the History Committee. The scrapbooks showing how our church evolved over the years will be on display with other historic memorabilia. POC: Mary Musselwhite (804) 330-0014

**Church WORKDAY, Saturday, September 30:** Our Trustees have prepared a list of cleanup and maintenance jobs (for all ages) that need attention around our facility. Please join us at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning as we spruce up the church.

**Communion Servers:** This ministry is growing, and we'd love to include you! Youth and adult volunteers are invited to help the pastors serve communion. Training is provided as needed. Scheduling is based on your availability. POC: Beth Stewart -Text and indicate service time preference (919-210-2220 / [bethstew@gmail.com](mailto:bethstew@gmail.com)).

## CALENDAR

*September 17 – September 24, 2023*

Today	8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM			Howlett’s Restaurant
	8:30 AM	Fresh Start Service-DFH		1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl-Parlor
	9:45 AM	Sun Sch PreK-107		6:00 PM	People First RVA-DFH
		Sun Sch Gr K-5-206		6:30 PM	In the Midst of Trouble-116
		Adult SS-Various		7:00 PM	ESL Intro and Level 1
		Advanced Planning-Parlor	Fri:		
	9:55 AM	The Bridge-DFH	Sat:	10:00 AM	Strum & Smile-Music Suite
	10:45 AM	Advanced Planning- Parlor			
	11:00 AM	Traditions Service-DFH			
	12:00 PM	Advanced Planning- Parlor			
	12:15 PM	Small Group Leader-DFH			
Mon:	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts			
Tues:	10:30 AM	Joy Singers-Music Suite			
	3:00 PM	Rest Stop-Annex			
	7:00 PM	ESL Intro and Level 1			
Wed:	10:00 AM	Worship Committee- Parlor			
	12:00 PM	Bulletin Deadline			
		Chimes Deadline			
	6:30 PM	Crew-116			
		Girl Scouts-DFH			
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir-Music Suite			
Thurs:	10:00 AM	Day Apart-DFH			
	1:00 PM	Women’s Fellowship Lunch			

### Next Sunday: September 24

8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM
8:30 AM	Fresh Start Service-DFH
9:30 AM	Nutshell Class-Parlor
9:45 AM	Sun Sch PreK-107
	Sun Sch Gr K-5-206
	Adult SS-Various
	Ruth Bible Study-Annex
9:55 AM	The Bridge-DFH
11:00 AM	Traditions Service-DFH
12:15 PM	Fiber Friends-205
	Bridge Builders-116
5:00 PM	Koinonia Communion
	Training-DFH
6:30 PM	Play ‘N’ Share-Point of Rocks Park

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sept. 24	Loving beyond Our Side of the Lake	Mark 5:1-20 CEB
Oct. 1 *	Humbly Serving the Well-Being of Others	Philippians 2:1-13 NIV

*\* Indicates that we will celebrate Holy Communion*

**Online Giving:** To contribute online, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.chesterumc.org](http://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!*

**We Welcome into Christian Membership:** *Kandy Baker* by transfer from Wellspring UMC (Williamsburg).

**Our Assistant Parish Nurse,** Pat Baake is available today, 9:00 - 10:45 AM (Office 111).

**Small Group Training:** *Today, September 17; 12:15 PM*, Davis Fellowship Hall. All small group leaders are encouraged to attend. We will share a light lunch as we learn and explore our unique opportunity (and responsibility) to help develop and grow disciples of Christ through our small group ministry. POC: Pastor Nathan, Beth Stewart ([bethstew@gmail.com](mailto:bethstew@gmail.com))

**Advanced Planning Seminar:** *Today, September 17*, in the Parlor after each worship service. Learn about the benefits of preplanning your final arrangements. This short seminar will focus on preplanning documents and information that should be available to your family when a death occurs. POC: Brion Seward ([1bseward@comcast.net](mailto:1bseward@comcast.net))

**Joy Singers:** *Resumes Tuesday, September 19 at 10:30 AM*, Music Suite. Rehearsals for our retired folks. This group sings for local nursing home residents and community groups. POC: Joshua Wortham.

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon:** *Thursday, September 21, 1:00 PM* (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays) will be at Howlett's Restaurant and Tavern, 3530 Festival Park Plaza, Chester, VA 23831. RSVP by Monday, Sept. 18 to Joan Osborne ([josbor61@gmail.com](mailto:josbor61@gmail.com)).

**Nutshell Class:** *September 24, 2023, at 9:30-10:30, Parlor.* Would you like to know more about our Church? Are you thinking about joining Chester United Methodist Church? Are you looking for a Mission that will help you better “connect” to God and our Church? If you answer yes to any of these questions, we invite you to come to the Nutshell Class. Sign up in the pew pad today or email [office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@chesterumc.org). POC: Joan Osborne ([josbor61@gmail.com](mailto:josbor61@gmail.com))

**Kid's Koinonia Communion Training:** *Sunday, September 24, 5:00 PM.* A time of art, craft, experience, and growth. Kids will have time with Pastor Nathan exploring how God loves us through bread, juice, and Jesus. On *Sunday, October 1*, during Communion at the Fresh Start Worship Service, the kids will assist serving the congregation the bread and cup. Please register your children in the pew pad today or contact the Church Office ([office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@chesterumc.org))

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

**KEEP IN PRAYER:** Amanda Clark; Marie Perdue; family of Matt Coyner; Bill Burton; Jim Lewis; Leroy Millar; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Lynn & Tom McHugh; Nathan Rutledge; family of Captain Jason Ware; family of Keith Harper; Louise Sheets; Peggy Meehan; E.J. Walters; Hailey Wilde; Becky Kirkman; Carol Davis; Nancy Corbin; Linda Willingham; Ruth DeVore; Rev. Eddie and Becky Leonard; Dee Watkins; Malcom & Dollie Stone; Lynda Richardson; Jo Kiser; Kitty Lipscomb; Clara Gestwick.

**Our Presence September 10, 2023**

8:30 Fresh Start Service..... 81  
 9:55 The Bridge Service.....59  
 11:00 Traditions Service.....161  
 Online.....42  
**Total Worship Attendance.....343**

- **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/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 Michelle at [office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@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](mailto:rmachachi@aol.com)).
- **The Chimes** – Submit items to [assistant@chesterumc.org](mailto:assistant@chesterumc.org) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of January, March, May, July, **September**, and November.

**Leading Our Worship TODAY, September 17, 2023**

<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>8:30</b> William & Karen Comer	
	<b>9:55</b> Stephanie Decker	
	<b>11:00</b> Steve & Joan Osborne	
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>8:30</b> Wendell Landis* Ron Dombrowski	* Head Usher
	<b>9:55</b> Linda D’Agostino* Diane Medina	
	<b>11:00</b> Will Hermann, James Bartlett, Marshall Henry, Willie Orton, Tommy Petrey	
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>8:30, 9:55, 11:00</b> Staff Members, Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves	

**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, but you are encouraged to join the effort! Contact REST STOP Team Leader Susan Petrey, 804/938-5396, for more information or to volunteer.

### **THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)**

- **Jean Craig Fellowship:** We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for details.
- **Bookman Fellowship:** We welcome any women who are looking for a morning circle. Call Martha Miles 804-748-5476

**Grace in the Midst of Trouble:** Thursday, September 21-October 26, 6:30 PM, Room 116. You are invited to join in a study that will explore God’s grace in the lives of 6 Old Testament characters who find themselves out of sync with God. For six weeks we will explore how God interacts with these fallible characters with grace while at the same time holding them accountable for their actions. POC: Stan Hargraves ([stanhargraves@vaumc.org](mailto:stanhargraves@vaumc.org))

#### **Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, September 24, 2023**

<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Andy & Eileen Steck	
	<b>9:55</b>	Ed & Marian Garret	
	<b>11:00</b>	Janis Hargrave, Will Schmidt	
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Gordon Jones*, Bill Comer	* Head Usher
	<b>9:55</b>	Gordon Morris*, JR Irvin	
	<b>11:00</b>	Gary Williams*, Bob Kutz, Emory Large, Don Schmidt, Kay Williams	
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>8:30, 9:55, 11:00</b>	Staff Members, Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves	



## SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

**Children's Sunday School:** 9:45 AM. Pre-K (Rm. 107); Grades K-5 (Rm. 206).

POC: Pastor Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

**Middle and High School Youth Sunday School:** 9:45 AM, Annex Loft;

POC: Pastor Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

**Adult Small Group Bible Study:** 9:45 AM, Room 213 "Our Pad" facilitated by Jeff Marlin

POC: Jeff Marlin ([jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com))

**Fresh Start Sunday School Class:** 9:45 AM, Room 221; Visitors and new members are welcome.

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](mailto:JLMinNaples@msn.com))

**The Gathering Small Group:** 9:45 AM, Room 205; We will begin the video series entitled, "Sacred Parenting. How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls". Join us for a time of study and fellowship with other young families. POCs: Brion & Sonja Seward and Andrew Brummette.

**Journey Sunday School Class:** 9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet

(<https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>) Pastor Chad will be leading a three-week study on the Book of Ruth. September 10, 17, & 24. POCs: Carolyn Landis([landisfamily05@gmail.com](mailto:landisfamily05@gmail.com)); Eric Hougland ([ehougland88@gmail.com](mailto:ehougland88@gmail.com))

**Seekers Sunday School Class:** 9:40 AM, Room 226. Oct.1 - Nov. 26, We will be using a new study book SPIRITUAL WARFARE by Jack Kuhatschek. Lessons include: Facing Temptation, The War Within, and Surviving Satan's Attacks. The Bible has much to say about the battles we face. These studies will deepen our understanding of our supernatural struggles and direct us towards sources of power and hope. POC: Barbara MacIntyre ([telluwhatbarbara@aim.com](mailto:telluwhatbarbara@aim.com))

**Senior Singles Sunday School Class:** 9:45 AM, Parlor; (*Exception-on Sept. 17 & Sept. 24- meet in the music suite*) POC: Cynthia Corley ([cacorley@ctsi.net](mailto:cacorley@ctsi.net))

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**Fiber Friends:** (*resumes September 24*) Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 12:15-1:45 PM; Room 205. We are knitters, crocheters, rug hookers, people who sew, macrame, embroider, and more! Bring friends. Grandchildren are welcome. We bring a bag lunch and any treats we feel like sharing. POC is Beth Powner, 804-586-0735 or [knit9grammy@gmail.com](mailto:knit9grammy@gmail.com).

**Play 'N' Share:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 6:30 PM, Point of Rocks Park playground (*201 Enon Church Rd, Chester*). A fresh expression of church in which we go where people are gathering in our community. POC: Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

**Middle & High School Youth Meetings:** Resumes today, Sunday, September 17, 4:00 PM, Annex Loft; Meets on scheduled Sundays; for rising 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Join in study, missions, and fun! POC: Jennifer Brame ([youthleaders@chesterumc.org](mailto:youthleaders@chesterumc.org))

## OTHER 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](mailto:juliejerry@gmail.com))

**Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group:** *3<sup>rd</sup> Monday* at 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR).

**Joy Singers:** *Tuesdays, at 10:30 AM* in the Music Suite. Rehearsals for our retired folks. This group sings for local nursing home residents and community groups.  
POC: Joshua Wortham.

**Chancel Choir** rehearsals, *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM*. Singers of all skill levels are welcome to join!  
POC: Joshua Wortham

**Handbell Choirs** for adults are coming back! *Wednesdays* at 10:30 AM and 5:45 PM. Start date TBA. POC: Joshua Wortham

**Thursday Morning Men's Group:** *Thursdays, 7:30 AM* at Grants Coffee Co. (11884 Chester Village DR). POC: Gordon Morris ([gordo1545@aim.com](mailto:gordo1545@aim.com))

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon:** *3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 1:00 PM* at a local restaurant. The next gathering is on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 1:00 PM at Howlett's Restaurant and Tavern, (3530 Festival Park Plaza, Chester. RSVP by Monday, Sept. 18 to Joan Osborne ([josbor61@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wva_lady@verizon.net/804-914-0433))

**Women's Christian Book Club:** Meets on 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:jrbrooksiee@gmail.com))

**Latino Health and Safety:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, 6:00-8:30 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. Childcare provided. POC: Chad Beck

**Strum and Smile:** Meets every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. in the CUMC Music Suite. This is a group of guys and gals who play stringed instruments with no intention of performing. All levels of play are welcome! We will learn from one another, share in a reading of a Psalm, and grow together in Christ as we strum, pick, smile, and let loose in a variety of musical madness. POC: Keith Woods





**Whaley Pecans Annual Sale** by the Ladies of Faith. Orders are being taken now. Harvesting will be late October with delivery in early November. *Register in the pew pad* or call Lorraine Young (804-748-6852) to order (\$12.00 per pound for halves or pieces). *Please make checks payable to Ladies of Faith.*

**Dinner for Six or Eight:** Couples and singles gather once a month September - November and January - May at a host home (who provides the meat and beverage). Others bring an appetizer (optional), bread, salad, vegetables, or dessert. Each month, someone else in the group hosts. Don't be shy...it may be any combination of up to 8 people, singles and couples. Once the groups are assigned, the host will contact you to schedule the first dinner and plan the meal. *If interested, please register in the pew pad and indicate if you are willing to host.* POC: Mary Musselwhite (804-330-0014)

**Stephen Ministry:** Are you stressed? Discouraged? Feeling Down? You don't have to go through difficult times alone. These are hard times we are experiencing in this post Covid world...job loss, divorce, loss of a relationship, even feeling out of touch with God. There are no problems that are too small. So, don't keep it all inside and struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with confidential, one-on-one, Christian care and support to help you get through a tough time. Our Stephen Ministers are here to care. To find out more about Stephen Ministry, please talk with Vince D'Agostino at 804-461-8529.



**TDHS 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion:** October 7, 2023, at 3001 West Hundred RD. If you're a 1973 TDHS graduate, visit <http://tdhs1973.com/> to register and get full details on all of the events.