



FRESH START SERVICE

December 17, 2023—8:30 AM



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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Majestic

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Christmas Carol Medley

Joy (Unspeakable Joy)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Jack Price, trumpet

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14 The Message

MESSAGE

Welcoming the Light

Pastor Nathan Decker

STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers	All Disciples of the Congregation
Lead Pastor: Nathan Decker	nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor: Chad Beck	chadbeck@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music: Joshua Wortham.....	music@chesterumc.org
Director of Christian Formation: Juliana Paradie	julianaparadie@chesterumc.org
Office Manager: Michelle Couvillion.....	office@chesterumc.org
Office Assistant: Sally Maxwell	assistant@chesterumc.org
Financial Administrator: Julie Jones.....	finance@chesterumc.org
Nursery Specialist	Carla Adams
Nursery Specialist	Jessica Hargraves
MS & HS Youth Ministry (Jennifer Brame, Jeff Geisz, Gordon Morris).....	youthleaders@chesterumc.org
Preschool Director: Whitney Graham.....	preschool@chesterumc.org



A Community in Christ

Chester United Methodist Church

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

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

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



December 24, 2023

A Service of Worship and Praise
11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in
Advent

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude

Joy to the World

Chris Daniels, piano
Joshua Wortham, organ

* Lighting the Advent Wreath¹

The Bartlett Family

* Hymn No. 224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

* 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.**

Why We Give

Offertory

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Jack Price, trumpet

* 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. 245

The First Noel

Stanzas 1 and 2

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

- * Benediction
- * Postlude

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

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022>

A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant

CAST LIST

Reverend: Emily Galarza

Leslie: Alexandria Paradie

Narrator: Julius Paradie

Gabriel: Lily Harvey

Mary: Quinn Harvey

Joseph: Cole Irving

Herod: Joel Beck

Magi: Bailey James, Christopher Brummette, Angelina Bartlett

Star: Kinsley Johnston

Dragon: Ava Brummette

Interjecting Kid: Jordan Beckner

Shepherds: Madison Beckner, Jordan Beckner, Isabella Brummette

Animals: Pre-School Kids

Angels: Pre-School Kids

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" Soloists: Emily Galarza, Bailey James, Alexandria Paradie

"Jingle Bells" Trio: Madison Beckner, Lily Quinn, Alexandria Paradie

Sound/A/V: Terry Wisegarver, Jill & Craig Seal, Joshua Wortham

Play Assistants: Darlene Emerson, Sandra Dishman, Debbie Freed, Laura Houghland

Assistant Play Director/Music Director: Kelly Harmon

Assistant Play Director: Beth Harvey

Family Ministries Director/Play Director: Juliana Paradie

Calendar

December 24 – December 31, 2023

Today	8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM	Thurs:	
	8:30 AM	Fresh Start-DFH	Fri:	
	9:45 AM	Sun Sch PreK-107	Sat:	10:00 AM Strum & Smile-Music Suite
		Sun Sch Gr K-5-206		
		Adult SS-Various	Next Sunday: December 31	
11:00 AM		Children's Play-Sanctuary	8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM
4:00 PM		No Youth Group	8:30 AM	Fresh Start-DFH
7:00 PM		Candlelight Service-Sanc	9:45 AM	NO Bridge Service
11:00 PM		Candlelight Service-Sanc		Sun Sch PreK-107
Mon:		Merry Christmas!		Sun Sch Gr K-5-206
Tues:	11:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer- Trinity UMC	11:00 AM	Adult SS-Various
Wed:	12:00 PM	Bulletin Deadline		11:00 AM Traditions Service-Sanc
	6:30 PM	Crew-206		

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Dec. 31	Resolving to be Known to God <i>-NO BRIDGE SERVICE at 9:45AM</i>	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Jan. 7	8:30/11:00-Teaching Our Children Our Faith 9:45 Bridge- Come and See Greater Things	Mark 1:4-11 John 1:43-51 NRSV

Zelle is a great way to send your donations to the church. Use the QR code here. Once you enroll, all you need to send money to the Church is our e-mail address: finance@chesterumc.org.



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

Our Parish Nurse, Cindy Webb is available today, 9:00 AM, **Room 105**.

Christmas Pageant: TODAY, December 24, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary. Come see the Kidz Zone Christmas Play, "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas".

Extra Fund Giving: How do we give Jesus a Birthday Present? We have been blessed with a matching gift opportunity up to \$50k of second mile giving. **Today is the last day!** Your giving to the "Extra Fund" will double its impact to our ministries. So we can track your gift, please note "Extra" on your envelope, in the memo section of your check, or in the comments section when giving via Zelle. As a reminder, second mile gifts will appear on your giving statement(s), however, they do not count as part of your pledge. Let's double our impact!

NO Youth Group: There will be NO Youth group today, December 24 and December 31. Enjoy your time with your families.

Chester UMC Rose Window Notecards: The Rose Window was dedicated in 1957, it was installed in the Atrium following the 2007 renovation. You can share our Rose Window with friends and relatives! The notecards may be purchased weekdays in the Church Office. The cost is \$10 per package of 10 cards, plus envelopes. Proceeds benefit the Chester United Methodist Women's mission projects including, but not limited to, our CUMC Food Pantry, Back Pack Ministry and Rest Stop. POC: Susan Petrey (804) 938-5396.

Thank you: Halleluia! and thank you, CUMC family, for all the wonderful Christmas cards that you made and wrote to our veterans at Richmond VA Affairs Medical Center and at Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center. We took 306 Christmas and Holiday cards, 21 calendars for 2024, and 15 magazines. You also gave the veterans several hundred cards to send to friends and family. Thank you for remembering our veterans and for supporting this project.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 25, through Wednesday, December 27, 2023 and January 1, 2024. Regular, Non-Holiday Church Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM.

KEEP IN PRAYER: Cornelia DeWitt; Family of Louise Sheets; Steve Gilliat; Dee Watkins; Gail King; Dollie and Malcom Stone; Ken Farmer; Tiffany Croxford; Daphne Jolly’s mother; family of Al Perdue; Diane Mannetta; Susie Hall; Jean Beck; family of Joe Spadaccia; family of Gregory Geisz; Billy Hopson; Carolyn Maxwell; Frayser Micou.; family of John Alden (son of Beth Powner); family of Matt Coyner; Trudy Milian; Martha Schulman; Jim Lewis; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Lynn & Tom McHugh; Peggy Meehan; Nancy Corbin; Lynda Richardson; Kitty Lipscomb; Clara Gestwick.

Our Presence December 17, 2023

8:30 AM Fresh Start..... 92
 9:45 AM Bridge 57
 11:00 AM Traditions..... 165
 4:00 PM Blue Christmas 20
 Online..... 78
Total Worship Attendance 412

CHESTER UMC ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Website:** www.chesterumc.org.
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch/>.
- **Facebook Closed Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterUMC/>.
- **Instagram:** [Instagram.com/chesterumc](https://www.instagram.com/chesterumc)
- **Daily Email News:** Visit <http://eepurl.com/blV9Ty> 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 with “Prayer Chain” or “Prayer Request” in the subject line.
- **CUMC Library Catalog:** <https://16538.rmwebopac.com> (password: CUMC). Search for titles, peruse our inventory, and much more. POC: Ron Dombrowski (rmachachi@aol.com).
- **The Chimes** – Submit items to assistant@chesterumc.org no later than the 3rd Wednesday of **January**, March, May, July, September, and November.

Leading Our Worship TODAY, Sunday, December 24, 2023

Greeters:	8:30	Maureen Coker
	11:00	Sharon Buchanan, Betty Labin
	7:00	Ed Garrett
Ushers:	11:00	Beth Stewart
	8:30	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer * Head Usher
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Andrew Brummette, Larry Koon, Geoff LeSueur, Kay Williams
	7:00	Beth Stewart*, Bill Comer, Pat Stanfield, James Bartlett, Tommy Petrey
Communion:	11:00	Gordon Jones*, Bob Kutz, Joan & Steve Osborne, Larry Koon
	7:00	Sandra Dishman, Terri Dombrowski, Brion & Sonja Seward, Lilly Frein von Ketelhodt, Alexandria Paradie
	11:00	Tracey Kellam, Sandy Sims
Nursery:	8:30, 11:00	Staff Member: Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves

BACKPACK Ministry: With the holidays and cold weather, our schools are asking to increase the number of children we assist. Currently, we are sending weekend meals home to 55 students—a cost of \$500 per week. Your donations, especially new or increased ones, will help us meet the needs. Food items we need include tuna, tuna helper, chicken, chicken helper, spam, canned pasta, pasta roni, rice a roni, pop tarts, oatmeal and applesauce. Donations of food items can be placed in the mission closet in the container marked for backpack. Cash donations are always appreciated! Thank you for your support of the ministry.

Stephen Ministry: In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God’s warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, contact Steve Osborne (407) 921-0227.



Sueños ESL (English as a Second Language): New Semester begins Thursday, January 11, 2024. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 PM, POC: Pastor Chad (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

Learning Spanish: New semester begins Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 PM. Have fun learning to speak some basic Spanish while sharing faith and church hospitality with Latino children and families. Sponsored by Sueños. POC: Pastor Chad (chadbeck@chesterumc.org) and Vince D'Agostino (vdagos@comcast.net)

Altar Flowers for the Sanctuary: To donate Altar flowers, please sign up on the flower chart outside the Church Office and complete an Altar Flower Form. Available dates include January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25. *Make arrangements with the florist of your choice*, including delivery to the church and payment to the florist. (The suggested price is \$55-\$65.) Special pricing and free delivery to the church have been arranged with River’s Bend Florist and reduced delivery fee with Petals & Bows Florist. Thank you for helping to beautify the Altar for worship.

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, December 31, 2023

Greeters:	8:30	Bill & Karen Comer	
	11:00	Donna Nunery, Janis Hargrave	
Ushers:	8:30	Gordon Jones*, Ron Dombrowski	* Head Usher
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Bob Kutz, Larry Koon, Jeff Marlin, Tommy Petrey	
Nursery:	8:30, 11:00	Staff Members: Carla Adams,	

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Children's Sunday School, KIDZ ZONE: 9:45 AM. Pre-K (Rm. 107); Grades K-5 (Rm. 206) Come join our Kidz Zone Ministry. POC: Juliana Paradie (julianaparadie@chesterumc.org).

Adult Small Group Bible Study: 9:45 AM, Room 213 "Our Pad" facilitated by Jeff Marlin jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com.

Fresh Start Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Room 221; Visitors and new members are welcome. Call Susan Petrey for details (804) 938-5396.

Friendship Ministry Class: 10:40 AM, Room 116, for adults who are developmentally challenged. POC: Mari and Dan Hayes (JLMinNaples@msn.com)

The Gathering Small Group: 9:45 AM, Room 205; Join with other young families for a time of study and fellowship. POC: Brion & Sonja Seward 1bseward@comcast.net, and Andrew Brummette.

Journey Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. Join by video link: <https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>
POCs: Carolyn Landis (landisfamily05@gmail.com); Eric Hougland (ehougland88@gmail.com)

Seekers Sunday School Class: 9:40 AM, Room 226. Jan.7-Feb. 25 and after Lent. Join us as we learn to overcome the intimidation associated with evangelism. In EVANGELISM: A WAY OF LIFE, by Rebecca Pippert and Ruth Siemens; we will find help with topics such as overcoming fear, getting people interested, communicating creatively and talking with friends about Jesus. All are welcome. POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Senior Singles Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Parlor, POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)

Bridge Builders-Jail Ministry: Meet 2nd Sundays, 12:15PM, Room 116. "Acceptance is the Answer". Please join us as we look to strengthen our Jail Ministry with Chesterfield County HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively Program). POC: Maureen Coker (mcoker2003@comcast.net)

Middle & High School Youth: 4:00 PM, Annex Loft. Come out for some fun and hear an amazing lesson that is being taught by one of our incredible leaders. Grades 6-12. POC: Juliana Paradie (julianaparadie@chesterumc.org)

OTHER SMALL GROUPS

Faith Keepers Women's Prayer Group: Mondays, 9:00 AM at Grants Coffee Co. (11884 Chester Village DR). POC: Sherri Morris smorris787@aim.com

Village People Study, Socialize, & Service Group: 3rd 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. music@chesterumc.org

Contemplative Prayer Group: Tuesdays, 11:00 AM, Trinity UMC. Read scripture, focus, pray, chat, connect with God. POC: Lisa Stanfield: lisajostanfield@gmail.com

Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality! Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 PM. Next class begins January 9, 2024. Have fun learning to speak some basic Spanish.
POC: Pastor Chad chadbeck@chesterumc.org

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

Handbells for adults, Wednesdays at 5:45 PM, Sanctuary, 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)

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: 3rd Thursday, We visit a different local restaurant each month for a time of fellowship and good food. POC: Joan Osborne (josbor61@gmail.com)

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

Women's Christian Book Club: 1st Thursday, 6:30 PM, Next meeting December 7, Annex Loft. December book link <https://a.co/d/dZXKcLi>. POC: Jennifer Brame (jrbrooksiee@gmail.com)

Sueños Health & Safety for Latino Families: 1st Fridays, 6:30 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. Variety of topics, good food, childcare provided. POC: Pastor Chad chadbeck@chesterumc.org

Strum and Smile: Meet Saturday mornings, 10:00 AM, Music Suite. This is a group of guys and gals who play stringed instruments with no intention of performing. POC: Keith Woods

Kidz Zone Night: Meets 3rd Saturdays, 6:00 PM, Join us for food and a variety of fun activities!
POC: Charlotte Brummette Charl208@yahoo.com (804) 833-117



Wreath Dedications

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

- ◆ **Our parents, Robley & Roslyn Bates and Ed & Sue Hicks** by Charles & Ellen Bates
- ◆ **Gibson Belcher, Sr.** by Nancy Belcher
- ◆ **Russell & Alma Burton** by Barbara Burton Micou
- ◆ **John O. Cook** by Gypsy Cook
- ◆ **Our daughter, Kate Kelley Ewalt** by Mike & Mindy Kelley
- ◆ **Betty & Edwin Pospahala and Robert & Dorothy Schaumann** by Pat Pospahala
- ◆ **Our father, Teddy Nicholson** by Thomas & Caroline

IN HONOR OF

- ◆ **Our new grandson, Lachlan John Dougan** by Steve & Penn Shultz
- ◆ **CUMC Pastors and Staff** by anonymous
- ◆ **CUMC Music Ministry** by anonymous



Poinsettia Dedications



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

- ◆ **My sister, Ann Waynick** by Nancy Carrouth
- ◆ **My parents, Michael & Rachel Epps** by Cathy Epps
- ◆ **Bill Goodwyn** by his loving family
- ◆ **Ron Hargrave** by Janis Hargrave
- ◆ **My husband, Charlie** and my parents, **Rev. & Mrs. Elmore Brown** by Diane Higgins
- ◆ **Blake & Wilma June Holmes** by Rod & Charlene Holmes
- ◆ **Jim Huber** by Rod & Charlene Holmes
- ◆ **Bill & Helen Cole** by Chris & Betty Marie Irving
- ◆ **Harold Irving** by Chris & Betty Marie Irving
- ◆ **My parents, Laura & Cyril** by Barbara John
- ◆ **John & Joyce Harvey** by Matt, Mary Beth, Emily, and Caroline Johnson
- ◆ **Don & Grace Darling** by Matt, Mary Beth, Emily, and Caroline Johnson
- ◆ **Rachel Cauble** by Daphne Jolly
- ◆ **Ron King** by Gail King and family
- ◆ **John & Doris Owen** by Gail King
- ◆ **Sidney & Madeline King** by Gail King
- ◆ **Ed Labin** by Tracy, Scot, and Betty Labin
- ◆ **My sister, Sandra Lewis** by Linda Large
- ◆ **Geraldine Cahill (mother)** by Emory & Linda Large
- ◆ **June Irvin** by Patrick & Melanie Mims
- ◆ **My father, Bill Morrissette** by Donna Nunery
- ◆ **Dick & Marion Poole** by Rick Poole
- ◆ **Ricky Swinson** by Debbie, Aubrey, and Meredith

- ◆ **Gerry George** by Jim Rhodes
- ◆ **William & Kathleen Rhodes** by Jim Rhodes
- ◆ **Dennis Dunn** by Tom Mayo and Jim Rhodes
- ◆ **Preston & Jackie Wilkinson** by Kent & Barbara Yandle
- ◆ **Clyde & Jane Yandle** by Kent & Barbara Yandle
- ◆ **Charles & Louise Young and Edwin Fisher** by Kim Young
- ◆ **Coleman & Marie Dick, and F.A. & Mary West, and David & Dorothy Pinkus, and Catherine Woodle** by David & Joan Dick
- ◆ **John B. York, Jr.** by The York Family



IN HONOR OF



- ◆ **Joyce Battle** by her children, grandchildren & great grandchildren
- ◆ **Our loving mother & Grandmother, Barbara Goodwyn** by her children and grandchildren, and their families.
- ◆ **My four daughters** by Diane Higgins
- ◆ **Lisa, Riley, Paige, and Cole Irving** by Chris & Betty Marie Irving
- ◆ **Danielle Irving** by Chris & Betty Marie Irving
- ◆ **Kenneth & Barbara Rhodes** by Daphne Jolly
- ◆ **My mother, Bobbie Morrissette** by Donna Nunery
- ◆ **John & Donna Iannuzzi (Joan's parents)** by Steve & Joan Osborne
- ◆ **Jackie Osborne (Steve's mother)** by Steve & Joan Osborne
- ◆ **Terry Wisegarver, for her continued service to CUMC** by the Church Office staff