

Teaching the Children Our Faith

Come explore with Pastor Nathan the many ways we are called to share our faith with the next generation of disciples.



Sermon Series Begins Sunday, January 7, during 8:30 AM
Fresh Start and 11:00 AM Traditions Services.

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*



FRESH START SERVICE
December 31, 2023—8:30 AM



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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Awesome is the Lord Most High
Everyday
Good, Good, Father
Open Up the Heavens

SPECIAL MUSIC

Breath of Heaven
Jen Fournelle
&
O Holy Night
Angelo Galarza

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20 KJV

MESSAGE

Welcoming the Christmas Bias
Pastor Nathan Decker

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

December 31, 2023

A Service of Worship and Praise
11:00 AM

New Years' Eve

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude

Christmas Celebration

Organist

* Call to Worship¹

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant. It will not be like the old covenant:

People: written on stone.

Leader: This will be a radically new covenant, my laws will be within you,

People: Written on hearts.

Leader: And God added these wonderful words – I am your God and you are my people.

People: Imprint these words anew on our hearts, O God, so that we know you in all your fullness, love you as you love us, and worship you as you deserve.

Leader: Let us worship God.

* Hymn No. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Stanzas 1, 3, 4 & 6

* 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

Breath of Heaven

Jen Fournelle, flute

Children's Message

Juliana Paradie

Why We Give

Offertory

O Holy Night

Angelo Galarza

* 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. 218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Stanzas 1 & 4

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

KJV

Sermon

Welcoming the Christmas Bias

Pastor Nathan Decker

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen

* Hymn No. 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

* Benediction

* Choral Amen

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

¹<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/call-to-worship-jeremiah-31-31-34.html>

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Melanie Scruton.

Altar Flowers for the Sanctuary: To donate Altar Flowers, please sign up in the pew pad or on the flower chart outside of the Church Office and complete the Altar Flower Form. Make arrangements with a florist of your choice, including delivery to the Church and payment to your florist. The suggested price is \$55-\$65. Special pricing and free delivery to the church have been arranged with River's Bend and Petals & Bows florists. Thank you for helping to beautify the Altar for worship.

Calendar

December 31, 2023 – January 7, 2024

Today	8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM	Wed:	10:00 AM	Visitation Team-226
	8:30 AM	Fresh Start-DFH		12:00 PM	Bulletin Deadline
	9:45 AM	No Bridge Worship Today			
		Sun Sch PreK-107	Thurs:	1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl-Parlor
		Sun Sch Gr K-5-206		6:30 PM	Women's Book Club-Annex
		Adult SS-Various	Fri:	6:30 PM	Suenos H & S- DFH
	11:00 AM	Traditions-Sanctuary	Sat:	10:00 AM	Strum & Smile-Music Suite
	4:00 PM	No Youth Group			
Mon:		Church Office Closed	Next Sunday:	January 7, 2024	
	6:30 PM	Boy/Cub Scouts		8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM
	7:00 PM	Jean Craig Fellowship-205		8:30 AM	Fresh Start-DFH
Tues:	11:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer- Trinity UMC		9:45 AM	Bridge-Sanctuary
	2:00 PM	Stephen Ministers-226			Sun Sch PreK-107
	7:00 PM	SPRC Meeting-226			Sun Sch Gr K-5-206
					Adult SS-Various
				11:00 AM	Traditions-Sanctuary
				12:00 PM	Key Club Board-116

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
January 7	8:30 AM / 11:00 AM- You Are Beloved	Mark 1:4-11
	9:45 AM - Come and See Greater Things	John 1:43-51
January 14	8:30 AM / 11:00 AM – You Are to be Love	1 John 2:12-14
	9:45 AM- The Kin-dom of God, La Familia	Mark 1:14-20 CEB

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



Happy New Year: The Church Office will be closed, Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of New Year's Day!

*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**.

NO Youth Group: There will be NO Youth group today. Enjoy your time with your families.

Sueños Health & Safety for Latino Families: Friday, January 5, (first Fridays), 6:30 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. 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: Pastor Chad chadbeck@chesterumc.org



Offering Envelopes are still in production and should be here in a few weeks. In the meantime, please feel free to use an envelope in the pews or ask your Usher for a blank one. Thank you!

Spanish as a Hospitality: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Room 220, Learn to speak basic Spanish. New semester, January 9 through March 7.
POC: Vince D'Agostino (vdagos@comcast.net)

Suenos ESL Classes: English as a Second Language: Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Rooms 205, 214, 226. New semester, January 11 through March 1.
POC: Pastor Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.com)

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Thursday, January 18, 1:00 PM, Pietro's Italian Restaurant, Chester. (3rd Thursdays) We will visit Pietro's Italian Restaurant, 2601 Osborne Road, Chester. RSVP by Monday, January 15. POC: Joan Osborne (josbor61@gmail.com)

Super Bowl Soup Luncheon: Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 12:00 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. Join us for good food and fellowship. Proceeds will go to the United Methodist Women's mission projects. The whole congregation is invited to join us for a soup luncheon immediately following 11:00 AM Traditions Worship. The menu includes a variety of heartwarming homemade soups, corn muffins, desserts, and beverages. The cost at the door is \$10 per person. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

KEEP IN PRAYER: Ken Farmer; Isaias-friend of the Becks; Cornelia DeWitt; Dee Watkins; Gail King; Dollie and Malcom Stone; the family of Louise Sheets; Tiffany Croxford; Daphne Jolly’s mother; family of Al Perdue; Diane Mannaetta; Susie Hall; Billy Hopson; Carolyn Maxwell; Bill Burton; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Rev. Eddie and Becky Leonard; Lynda Richardson; Jo Kiser; Kitty Lipscomb; Clara Gestwick.

Our Presence December 24, 2023

8:30 Fresh Start.....	49	
9:45 Bridge.....	0	7:00 PM Christmas Eve269
11:00 Traditions.....	242	11:00 PM Christmas Eve91
Online.....	67	
Total Worship Attendance	718	

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/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 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 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 Member: Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves

BACKPACK Update With the holidays and colder weather, our schools are asking to increase the number of children we assist. At this time, we are sending weekend meals home to 55 students – a cost of \$500 each week. We shop multiple stores and always watch for special sales to stretch these dollars as far as possible. Your donations – especially new or increased ones – will help us answer the needs. Food items we always 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.

Chester UMC Rose Window Notecards: The Rose Window was dedicated in 1957, it was installed in the Atrium following the 2007 renovation. The notecards make a great gift. The cost is \$10 per package of 10 cards, plus envelopes. Proceeds benefit the Chester United Methodist Women’s mission projects. POC: Susan Petrey (804) 938-5396.

Stephen Ministry: Being open to sharing personal conversation with another isn’t easy for many of us. We all possess different attitudes and sensitivities. Yet when we are willing to invite God into those spaces and situations, he can work positive and spiritual gain in us and through us. Prayerfully consider seeking the benefit of a Stephen Minister. Why not? For more information contact Beth Powner (804) 586-0735 or Steve Osborne (407) 921-0227.



Volunteer for ESL Childcare & Activities! Our ESL (English as a Second Language) ministry with children and families is growing! We need volunteers to assist with childcare, crafts, and nurture activities. Please sign up in the pew pad. POC: Emily Squires, emilysquires945@gmail.com

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, January 7, 2024

Greeters:	8:30	Bill & Karen Comer,	
	9:45	Ed & Marian Garrett	
	11:00	Steve & Joan Osborne	
Ushers:	8:30	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	* Head Usher
	9:45	Linda D’Agostino*, Andrew Brummette	
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Herb McCulloch, Willie Orton, Joan Osborne, Steve Osborne	
Communion:	8:30	Dawn York, Paige Irving	
	9:45	John & Dawn Hall	
	11:00	Claudia Nagy, Tracey Kellam	
Nursery:	8:30, 9:45, 11:00	Staff Member: Carla Adams, Jessica Hargraves	

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. Dec. 3-31. Join us as we examine Christmas through the eyes of Joseph with Adam Hamilton's book and DVD, *FAITHFUL*. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we do not understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength God provides. 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)

Advent Bible Study: Led by Rev. Dr. Marg Kutz. Final sessions today, Sunday, December 17, via zoom at 6:30 PM, and Monday, December 18, at 9:30 AM in Room 226.

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: lisajstanfield@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, will resume January 10, 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, 1:00 PM. 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