



**January 28, 2024, 9:45 AM**

**WORSHIP MUSIC**

Sweeter as the Days Go By  
Boundless Love  
How Great Is Our God  
Mighty to Save

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)  
*Rick Poole*

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NRSV

**MESSAGE**

They, too, Love Jesus  
*Pastor Chad Beck*

*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  
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Nursery Specialist ..... Samantha Garcia  
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Preschool Director: Whitney Graham..... [preschool@chesterumc.org](mailto:preschool@chesterumc.org)



*A Community in Christ*  
**Chester United Methodist Church**

*Embrace – Love - Impact*

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*



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**FRESH START SERVICE**

January 28, 2024—8:30 AM



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

**WORSHIP MUSIC**

What A Friend

Everyday

How Great Is Our God

Mighty To Save

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)

*Rick Poole*

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 5:17-26

**MESSAGE**

You are to be a Faithful Friend

*Pastor Nathan Decker*

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

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January 28, 2024

A Service of Worship and Praise  
11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday  
after Epiphany

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Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Organist

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

Leader: Thank you, Jesus

**People: for hearing us when we cried for mercy!**

Leader: Thank you, Jesus

**People: for feeding us when our hands were unclean!**

Leader: Thank you, Jesus

**People: for welcoming us when we were foreigners!**

Leader: Thank you, Jesus

**People: for healing us when we were wounded.**

Leader: Thank you, Jesus

**People: for sending us to do the same.**

Leader: Thank you, Jesus.

**People: Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 98

*To God Be the Glory*

\* Affirmation of Faith<sup>2</sup>

\* 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.**

Anthem

*Joy In My Heart*

Chancel Choir  
Craig Seal, soloist

Children's Message

Chad Beck

Why We Give

Offertory

*Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)*

Rick Poole

\* 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. 557

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Scripture Reading

*Luke 5:17-26*

Sermon

*Teaching Children Our Faith:  
You Are to Be a Faithful Friend*

Pastor Nathan Decker

\* Hymn No. 581                      *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*                      Stanzas 1, 3, & 4

\* Benediction<sup>3</sup>

Leader: The peace of God go with you this day, reigning within you, and in your families.

**People: God's peace will make a difference in our lives, in all our relationships.**

Leader: Walk in confident friendship with Christ, who suffers and rejoices with you.

**People: Christ's presence will transform and strengthen us, wherever our journeys take us this week.**

Leader: Live by the Spirit, acknowledging God's rule in your hearts and in your actions.

**People: We welcome the fires of the Holy Spirit, the refreshing wind of God's surprising grace. Amen.**

\* Choral Amen

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

<sup>1</sup>Worship & Song Worship Resources, pg. 66, No. 175, Taylor Burton Edwards

<sup>2</sup>Africana Worship Book, pg. 194

<sup>3</sup>Flames of the Spirit, pg. 94, Ruth Duck

**Soloist Rick Poole** has been singing in choirs all of his life, from the Baptist church where he grew up, to UVA Glee Club, and the Richmond Men's Chorus. He is happy to have found a new musical and spiritual home in our Chancel Choir. After 30 years as the General Manager at The Tobacco Company, Rick is now a Registered Nurse with UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing).

# Calendar

*January 28 – February 4, 2024*

Today	8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM	Thurs:	1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl-Parlor
	8:30 AM	Fresh Start-DFH		6:30 PM	Women’s Book Club- Annex Loft
	9:45 AM	Bridge Worship- Sanctuary Sun Sch PreK-107 Sun Sch Gr K-5-206 Adult SS-Various		6:30 PM	Spanish Class-220
	11:00 AM	Traditions-Sanctuary	Fri:	7:00 PM	ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226
	12:30 PM	Youth Group-Annex		6:30 PM	Suenos Health & Safety for Latino Families- DFH
Mon:	6:00 PM	Stum & Smile- Music Suite	Sat:		
	6:30 PM	Boy/Cub Scouts			
Tues:	10:30 AM	Joy Singers- Tyler’s Retreat			
	11:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer- Trinity UMC			
	3:00 PM	Rest Stop			
	6:30 PM	Spanish Class-220			
	7:00 PM	ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226			
Wed:	12:00 PM	Bulletin Deadline			
	5:45 PM	Handbell Choir-Music Suite			
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir-Music Suite			

## Next Sunday: February 4, 2024

8:15 AM	Nursery until 12 PM
8:30 AM	Fresh Start-DFH
9:45 AM	Bridge Worship-Sanctuary Sun Sch PreK-107 Sun Sch Gr K-5-206 Adult SS-Various
11:00 AM	Traditions-Sanctuary
12:00 PM	TDHS Key Club Board-116
4:00 PM	Youth Activities- Annex

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
February 4	8:30/ 9:45/ 11:00- God bless the Child who Prays	Luke 11:1-13
February 11	8:30/ 11:00- God bless the Child who Grows 9:45- Eternity	Luke 2:41-52 Psalm 90:1-14 NIV

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



**Altar Flowers for the Sanctuary: Help Beautify the Altar for Worship!** 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 !**

***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 Assistant Parish Nurse**, Pat Baake, is available today, 9:00 AM, Room 105.

**Cremation Garden Survey**: Please fill out and return the yellow Cremation Garden Survey included in this bulletin. You may place your completed survey in the offering plate or drop it by the Church Office.

**Youth Group Activity**: *Today*, Time change for today only- 12:30 PM- 2:00 PM, Annex. Come out for some fun and amazing lessons taught by our awesome leaders. POC: Juliana Paradie

**Sueños Health & Safety for Latino Families**: Friday, February 2, 6:30 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. (1<sup>st</sup> Fridays) A variety of topics, good food, childcare provided. POC: Pastor Chad [chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

**Blood Drive**: Wednesday, February 7, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, DFH. Register online today! All blood types are needed! One donor will help save three lives. Donors will receive a \$20 Amazon E-Gift Card as a thank you! Share your heart!. [rcblood.org/heart](http://rcblood.org/heart).

**Souper-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. All are invited to join us for a soup luncheon! 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.

**Mardi Gras Pancake Supper**: Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. Come eat some delicious pancakes! There will be a casual Ash Wednesday worship service following the pancake supper.

**Ash Wednesday Service**: Wednesday, February 14, 12:00 PM, Sanctuary. Traditional Ash Wednesday Service

**Parent Night Out/ Community Movie Night**: Saturday, February 17, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. POC: Juliana Paradie ( [juliananparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:juliananparadie@chesterumc.org))

**Easter Choir**: Join the choir as we prepare for our Easter Musical. Rehearsals are weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Singers of all ages and skill levels are welcome! The musical will be presented on March 24, 25, and 28. POC: Joshua Wortham

**KEEP IN PRAYER:** Bryan Manna; Family of John Coghill; Joe & Diane Manna; Dick Weis; Summer Vaughan; Margie Donald; Janis Hargrave; Lynda Richardson; Charles Smith; Isaias; Sandra Cherny; Susan Henry; Charles Cressell; Karen Cole; Mary Tyree; Tiffany Croxford; Billy Hopson; Minoo Oden; Ken Farmer; Marie Purdue; Dee Watkins; Dollie and Malcom Stone; Daphne Jolly’s mother; Susie Hall; Carolyn Maxwell; Bill Burton; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Jo Kiser; Kitty Lipscomb; Clara Gestwick.

**Our Presence January 21, 2024**

8:30 Fresh Start .....	86
9:45 Bridge.....	172
11:00 Traditions .....	56
Online.....	42
<b>Total Worship Attendance .....</b>	<b>356</b>

**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/>
- **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](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, Sunday, January 28, 2024**

<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Andy & Eileen Steck	
	<b>9:45</b>	Cathy Epps	
	<b>11:00</b>	Hunter Beazley & Martha Miles	
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Gordon Jones*, Ron Dombrowski	* Head Usher
	<b>9:45</b>	Jim Watkins*, Pat Stanfield	
	<b>11:00</b>	Will Herrmann*, Dean Hutchins, Bob Kutz, Tom Petrey, Don Schmidt	
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>8:30, 9:45, 11:00</b>	Staff Member: Carla Adams, Samantha Garcia	

**Lenten Small Group Study- How To Reach New People.** Sunday, February 18 through March 24, 9:45 AM. Led by Pastor Nathan Decker. We will use the book, Get Their Name, by Farr, Anderson, and Kotan. Books provided. *Sign up in the pew pad, today!*  
POC: Pastor Nathan Decker

**Lenten Study- The Gospel Truth:** The Easter Story from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Two session options- Virtually, Sundays, (Feb. 18, March 3, 10, and 17) from 6:30PM-7:30PM. In-Person- Wednesdays (Feb. 21 and March 6, 13, and 20) from 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM in person at the church, Room 205. Lenten studies generally focus on the life and crucifixion of Jesus, seldom on the resurrection of Jesus. This four-week study will take a fresh look at the resurrection stories from the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. How are the four accounts alike and how are they different? What does it mean “Jesus rose from the dead” and what is “the resurrection of the body”? What is the difference between the resurrection and the ascension? What other questions do you have about the resurrection of Jesus? This study led by Marg Kutz. There is no study book except the Bible and no assignments. *Sign up on the pew pad today*, or contact Marg Kutz at margkutz72@gmail.com or 804-305-6100. This is especially important if you are going to participate virtually as you will need the link.

**Confirmation:** Sundays, February 18, March 3, 10, 24, 2:15 PM– 3:45 PM, Annex. A confirmation service will take place during worship on *Sunday, April 7*. Confirmation is a spiritual journey of youth who wish to grow in their faith in Jesus. All youth are welcome to participate (previous baptism is not a requirement; previously confirmed youth are also welcome). Come for food, fun learning activities, a mission, and spiritual experiences. Youth will be invited to become professing disciples of Jesus in the United Methodist church.  
POCs: Pastor Chad or Julianna Paradie.

**Spanish as a Hospitality:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Room 220, Learn to speak basic Spanish. Sign up in the Pew Pad or contact Vince D’Agostino. ([vdagos@comcast.net](mailto:vdagos@comcast.net))

**Suenos ESL Classes:** English as a Second Language: Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 PM–8:30 PM, Rooms 205, 214, 221, 226. POC: Pastor Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.com](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.com))

**Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, February 4, 2024**

<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Cathy Epps	
	<b>9:45</b>	Donna Nunery	
	<b>11:00</b>	Sharon Buchanan and Linda Large	
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	* Head Usher
	<b>9:45</b>	Linda D’Agostino*, JR Irvin*	
	<b>11:00</b>	Beth Stewart*, Dean Hutchins, Tommy Petrey, Steve & Joan Osborne	
<b>Communion</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Lilly Freiin von Ketelhodt, Liam Johnston, Erik Johnston	
<b>Servers:</b>	<b>9:45</b>	Sandra Dishman, Paul Marretti	
	<b>11:00</b>	Chester & Pat Baake, Will Schmidt	
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>8:30, 9:45, 11:00</b>	Staff Member: Carla Adams, Samantha Garcia	



## 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](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org)).

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

**Fresh Start Sunday School Class:** 9:45 AM, Room 221. Continuing through February 11--Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith, by best-selling author and pastor, Adam Hamilton. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:landisfamily05@gmail.com)); Eric Houglan ([ehouglan88@gmail.com](mailto:ehouglan88@gmail.com))

**Seekers Sunday School Class:** 9:40 AM, Room 226. Jan.7-Feb.11 and after Lent. Join us as we learn to overcome the intimidation associated with evangelism. In *Evangelism: A Way of Life*, by Rebecca Pippert & 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](mailto:telluwhatbarbara@aim.com))

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

**Middle & High School, Sunday School Class:** 9:45 AM, Annex Loft Come out for some fun and hear an amazing lesson that is being taught by one of our incredible leaders. Bring your friends! Grades 6-12 POC: Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org))

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**Bridge Builders-Jail Ministry:** Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:mcoker2003@comcast.net))

**Middle & High School:** 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. Bring your friends! Grades 6-12. POC: Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:smorris787@aim.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. [music@chesterumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:lisajostanfield@gmail.com)

**Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 PM. Have fun learning to speak some basic Spanish. POC: Pastor Chad [chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:music@chesterumc.org)

**Handbells** for adults, Wednesdays, 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](mailto:gordo1545@aim.com))

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 1:30 PM. We visit a different local restaurant each month for a time of fellowship and good food. POC: Joan Osborne ([josbor61@gmail.com](mailto:josbor61@gmail.com))

**Prayer Shawl Group:** Thursdays, 1:30 PM, 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 (804) 914-0433 [wvalady@verizon.net](mailto:wvalady@verizon.net)

**Women's Christian Book Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 6:30 PM, Annex Loft. Our January read is *Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown. <https://a.co/d/eUG2Gea>  
POC: Jennifer Brame [jrbrooksiee@gmail.com](mailto:jrbrooksiee@gmail.com)

**Sueños Health & Safety for Latino Families:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, 6:30 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. Variety of topics, good food, childcare provided. POC: Pastor Chad [chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

**Strum and Smile:** *NEW Day and Time-* Monday evenings, 6:00 PM, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 6:00 PM, Join us for food and a variety of fun activities!  
POC: Charlotte Brummette [Charl208@yahoo.com](mailto:Charl208@yahoo.com) (804) 833-1174

**THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)** is to “be 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.”

- ◆ **Jean Craig Fellowship:** Monday, February 5, (first Mondays) 7:00 PM, Room 205 to pack Valentine Gift Bags for the kids of United Methodist Family Services. For more information, call Susan Petrey 804-938-5396
- ◆ **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship:** February 8, (second Thursdays), 10:30 AM, Room 226, for a time of Christian fellowship. For more information, call Martha Miles, 804-748-5476.

**BACKPACK Ministry:** 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. Monetary donations are always appreciated! Checks payable to CUMC (memo: Backpack). Thank you for your support of the ministry.

**VBS Volunteers needed:** VBS is around the corner, and we are in our planning stages. We are looking for VBS Volunteers to help on June 24-28 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please sign up with this QR Code. POC: Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org))



**Valentines For Veterans:** We will be collecting Valentines for Veterans from January 21 through February 4. Please Do not sign your last name and do not seal the envelopes. They will be sorted by religious and non-religious content. Address the envelopes with phrases such as, "To a Special Veteran", "To Someone Special", "You're Special to Me". Drop cards off in the Sharing Bin outside the Welcome Center or in the Mission Closet in the Church. We are still collecting packages of boxer shorts in sizes Small - XXXL. Thank you for your cards and prayers for our veterans. POC: Barbara MacIntyre [telluwhatbarbara@aim.com](mailto:telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

**UMCOR Kits for Conference:** The United Methodist Committee on Relief operates two relief depots, one in Salt Lake City and the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. For the past several years CUMC and the UMW have collected materials for and assembled hygiene kits to be sent to Sager Brown. They collect kits to have on hand when disaster strikes. Due to tornadoes and flooding in the Southeast and war in Eastern Europe and the Near East there is an urgent need to restock their inventory of hygiene kits. Our goal for this year's June 20-22 Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference is 100 kits. The congregation is invited to support this effort by donating items for the kits. Pick up your “assignment ticket” from the display in the Atrium beginning February 1 and return the assigned items to the collection box in the Mission Closet no later than 12 noon on Sunday, April 7. POC: Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

**Beginner Music Reading Class:** Tom McHugh is offering to lead a weekly class for those who wish to learn to read music - whether you've always wanted to learn or want to brush up on your skills. He will utilize the handbells, but the group will only play publicly if/when they feel ready. *Register in the pew pad* today if you are interested in participating. POC: Tom McHugh (vthokietom@gmail.com)

**Stephen Ministry:** In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. 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, talk with Steve Osborne at 407-921-0227. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

**Rest Stop:** is a Chester UMC after school program designed to provide rest and encouragement to at-risk youth from Thomas Dale High School. Do you have a special gift to share with these young people or just an abundance of love to give? A small team is already assembled to support this ministry, but you are encouraged to join the effort! 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 gave! Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Contact REST STOP Team Leader Susan Petrey, 804/938-5396, for more information or to volunteer.

**Journey Middle School Retreat 2024:** March 15-17, 2024, Young Life's Rockbridge Alum Springs Camp, Goshen, VA. Journey, a weekend getaway retreat for Middle School students is coming on March 15-17. Any adults that would like to volunteer and teens that would like to attend. Price: \$195 per person. For details of the weekend, click this link: <https://journeyweekend.com/>. POC: Juliana at [julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org)

**Save the Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2-4 PM, *Afternoon Tea* Fundraiser hosted by the Chancel Choir. Watch for more info!

**Thank You:** On behalf of those whose hearts we'll reach, whose minds we'll set on God, and whom we'll provide a safe place, Thank you for your 2024 pledge and commitment to CUMC's ministries. You've demonstrated your willingness to be trustworthy stewards and achieved our pledge goal of a 5% increase! Please remember, each year's pledge goal is only two-thirds of the church's budgeted expenses for that year. As the year progresses, it is important that each of us participates in our ministries and stays on track with our giving. Remember, if your financial situation allows you to fulfill your commitment early, we hope you choose to do so. Peace be with you. Blessings abound!

# **Yes, There Is Texting In Church!**

We are a growing and connecting bunch! We are pleased to announce the launch of a new texting ministry to help connect us as the Body of Christ. In addition to the other forms of communication (print and digital), we now have a texting service to help us connect with guests, sign up for small groups and ministry opportunities, find out if the church is closed due to inclement weather, and so much more!

**To sign up and be a part of our Text Ministry, scan the QR code below or text the word “Connect” to (804) 979-2922.**

