



February 18, 2024, 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC

Boundless Love
Blessed Be Your Name
I Saw the Light

SPECIAL MUSIC

Wonderful, Merciful Savior
Lamb of God
Charles & Cheryl Green

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15
NRSV

MESSAGE

The Repentance of Believers
Pastor Chad Beck

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers.....All Disciples of the Congregation
Lead Pastor: Nathan Deckernathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor: Chad Beckchadbeck@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music: Joshua Worthammusic@chesterumc.org
Director of Christian Formation: Juliana Paradie.....julianaparadie@chesterumc.org
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Nursery Specialist..... Carla Adams
Nursery Specialist..... Samantha Garcia
MS & HS Youth Ministry (Jennifer Brame, Jeff Geisz, Gordon Morris).....youthleaders@chesterumc.org
Preschool Director: Whitney Grahampreschool@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 * *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



FRESH START SERVICE
February 18, 2024—8:30 AM



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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Build Your Kingdom Here
Your Grace Is Enough
Glory to God Forever

SPECIAL MUSIC

Wonderful, Merciful Savior
Lamb of God
Charles & Cheryl Green

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:27-33
The Message

MESSAGE

Called to Carry the Cross into Finances
Pastor Nathan Decker

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

February 18, 2024

A Service of Worship and Praise

First Sunday

11:00 AM

in Lent

Welcome, Announcements, & Greeting

Prelude

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Jean Wallace, Organist

* Call to Worship¹

Leader: Good morning! Welcome to worship and celebration of God's love.

People: Thanks. It has been quite a week for us; for some good; for others difficult.

Choir: God is so good, God is so good, God is so Good, God's so good to me.

Leader: God's love is cast lavishly for you.

People: We surely need that love.

Choir: God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me, God's so good to me.

Leader: Come, be healed and live in that love!

People: Lord, help us to be open to your healing word and love for our lives. Amen.

All Sing: God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so, God's so good to me.

* Prayer²

Lord of Blessing and Redeemer who removes the curse of broken life: mark us as your children in the mercy that flows from you. Brand us with your love that calls us to remembrance and observance. Protect your flock, provide for their needs, and flood their lives with your presence, for we desire to be more than believers. Help us to follow you, Jesus, so the sick may be healed, so the debt-chained may be freed, so all the world will see you in us. Your spirit, your mark, your love within and through your church. Amen.

* Hymn No. 159

Lift High the Cross

* Generosity Creed³

* 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

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Cheryl & Charles Green

Why We Give

Offertory

In This Very Room

Chancel Choir

* 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**

Special Music

Lamb of God

Cheryl & Charles Green

Scripture Reading

Luke 14:27-33

The Message

Sermon

Called to Carry the Cross Into Our Finances

Pastor Nathan Decker

* Hymn No. 354

I Surrender All

Reception of New Members and Holy Baptism

* Benediction

* Choral Amen

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

¹<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8281/worship-connection-july-16-2023>

²<https://worshipwake.wordpress.com/2016/01/31/remove-the-curse/>

³<https://worshipwake.wordpress.com/2014/09/29/generosity-creed/>

Calendar

February 18, 2024 – February 25, 2024

Today	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 12:15 PM Bridge Builders-116 3:00 PM Youth Group-Dunlop House	Thurs: 8:30 AM Life Line Screening-DFH 11:00 AM Contemplative Prayer-Trinity UMC 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30 PM Spanish Class-220 7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226 Fri: Sat:
Mon:	10:00 AM Stephen Min. Training-226 6:00 PM Stum & Smile- Music Suite 6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Beginner Music Reading-Music Suite	Next Sunday: February 25, 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 12:15 PM Bridge Builders 4:00 PM Youth Activities- Annex
Tues:	10:30 AM No Joy Singers 3:00 PM Rest Stop 6:30 PM Spanish Class-220 7:00 PM Preschool Board- 116 7:00 PM ESL-205, 214, 221,226	
Wed:	12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Handbell Choir-Music Suite 6:30 PM Crew-206 6:30 PM Girl Scout Service- DFH 7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Music Suite	

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Feb. 25	8:30 /11:00 Overwhelmed by Blessings or Starving in Scarcity 9:45 The Good News of God’s Final Judgment	Matthew 6:24-33 Romans 14:1-12
March 3	8:30/ 11:00 Blessed to be a Blessing 9:45 The Means of Grace	Genesis 12:2-3 Malachi 3:1-7



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!*

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

Today, We Welcome into Christian Discipleship:

- + *Billy, Tyler, and Alex Vaughn* by holy baptism and profession of faith.
- + *Summer Vaughn* by reaffirmation of faith.

Bridge Builders: Today, Sunday February 18, 12:15 PM, Room 116. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God -Micah 6:8. We are a small group that formed during the pandemic studying social injustices. Next meeting, March 10. POC: Maureen Coker maureencoker2023@comcast.net

Dunlop House Outreach/ Youth Group: Today, Sunday, February 18, 3:00 PM. The youth group will be heading to Dunlop House in Colonial Heights to play Bingo with the residents. Meet at the Church at 2:15 PM. POC: Juliana Paradie julianaparadie@chesterumc.org

Beginner Music Reading Class: Starting Monday, February 19, 7:30 PM. Tom McHugh will 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)

Life Screening: Thursday, February 22, Fellowship Hall. By Appointment only. Take a step toward staying healthy and active. Life Screening offers preventative screenings. To register for your appointment please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit <https://discover.lifelinescreening.com/hsc3/?sourcecd=WNAT010>

Game Night for 5th & 6th Graders: Friday, March 1, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Annex. There will be a game night for all 5th and 6th graders. Come out for some fun and get to know some of our youth. POC: Juliana Paradie (julianaparadie@chesterumc.org)

The Chamber Choir of Walters State Community College (Morristown, TN) will present a concert on Friday, March 1, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

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: Casey Jones and family; The family of Steve Gilliatt; Mary Ann Bellamy; Elizabeth Cave; Dollie & Malcom Stone; The family of Douglas Spurlock; Julie Jones; Samuel Wisegarver, Becca Petrey; Dave King; the family of George Emerson, Sr.; The family of George Emerson, Sr.; The family of Glenn Skeen; Penny Creed, Jackie Cookie Tyler, Bryan Manna; Family of John Coghill; Joe & Diane Manna; Dick Weis; Summer Vaughan; Margie Donald; Janis Hargrave; Lynda Richardson; Charles Smith; Sandra Cherny; Susan Henry; Charles Cressell; Karen Cole; Mary Tyree; Tiffany Croxford; Billy Hopson; Minoo Oden; Ken Farmer; Marie Purdue; Dee Watkins; Susie Hall; Carolyn Maxwell; Bill Burton; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Jo Kiser; Kitty Lipscomb; Clara Gestwick.

Our Presence February 11, 2024

8:30 Fresh Start.....	79
9:45 Bridge.....	54
11:00 Traditions.....	180
Online.....	37
Total Worship Attendance.....	350

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, February 18, 2024

Greeters:	8:30	Laura Houglund	
	9:45	Ed & Marian Garrett	
	11:00	Ginger Chadwick and Linda Large	
Ushers:	8:30	Dave Coker*, Bill Comer	* Head Usher
	9:45	Jim Watkins*, Herb McCulloch	
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Bob Kutz, Will Orton, Tommy Petrey, Scott Pugh	
Nursery:	8:30, 9:45, 11:00	Staff Member: Carla Adams, Samantha Garcia	



Lenten Small Group Study- How To Reach New People. Today, Sunday, February 18 through March 24, 9:45 AM, Room 214. 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!* Use this QR code to join the Study. 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. Use this link on Sundays to join with Google Meet. <https://meet.google.com/eiw-dgeb-iby?hs=224>

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)

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.org)

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, February 25, 2024

Greeters:	8:30	Andy & Eileen Steck	
	9:45	Donna Nunery	
	11:00	Tim & Beth Stewart	
Ushers:	8:30	Gordon Jones*, Ron Dombrowski	* Head Usher
	9:45	Gordon Morris*, Andrew Brummette	
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Harold Crowder, Emory Large, Don Schmidt, Kay Williams	
Nursery:	8:30, 9:45, 11:00	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).

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. In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives. The Fresh Start Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 in Room 221. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Call Susan Petrey, 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 Houglan (ehouglan88@gmail.com)

Seekers Sunday School Class: 9:40 AM, Room 226. February 18 - March 31, the Seekers will have a special Lenten study using J. Ellsworth Kalas' book, *Easter From The Backside*. The author looks beyond the traditional Gospel scriptures to connect the story of Christ's resurrection with other stories and scriptures throughout the Bible (Genesis, Job, Ecclesiastes, Ezekiel, and Revelation). The study is enriched with contemporary illustrations and personal experiences to provide new perspectives on Easter. All adults are invited. POC: Barbara MacIntyre telluwhatbarbara@aim.com

Senior Singles Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Parlor, We are finishing up the book "*God Was Here And I Was Out To Lunch*", by James W. Moore. POC: Cynthia Corley (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)

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

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: *Thursdays*, 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. 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, 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, 1:30 PM. POC: Joan Osborne (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

Women's Christian Book Club: 1st Thursday, 6:30 PM, *New Location: Parlor*. Our next meeting is Thursday, March 7. Our next book is book number 2 in the Sensible Shoes series, Two Steps Forward: A Story of Persevering in Hope. 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: 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 3rd Saturdays, 6:00 PM, Join us for food and a variety of fun activities!
POC: Charlotte Brummette Charl208@yahoo.com (804) 833-1174

Bridge Builders-Jail Ministry: Meets 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 at mcoker2003@comcast.net

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, March 4 (first Mondays) 7:00 PM, Room 205. For more information, call Susan Petrey 804-938-5396
- ◆ **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship:** March 14 (second Thursdays), 10:30 AM, Room 226, for a time of Christian fellowship. For more information, call Martha Miles, 804-748-5476.
- ◆ **Salad Luncheon:** All women of the Church are invited to a luncheon meeting of the UMW Sunday, March 17, immediately following 11:00 AM worship. Bring a salad or dessert to share. The Jean Craig Fellowship will host. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, to learn more about UMW, our two participating fellowships, and how you can become involved.

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

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. Make a check payable to CUMC, (memo: Rest Stop) to help cover our small expenses including gas for the church bus. Contact REST STOP Team Leader Susan Petrey, 804/938-5396, for more information or to volunteer.



Volunteers are Needed for Communion: Would you like to volunteer to set up for Communion? Please use the QR code to sign up today!



Stephen Ministry: Stressed? Feeling Down? Need Encouragement? Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed, or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life! To find out more, talk with Steve Osborne at 407-921-0227.

Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations Needed: Our Glow-in-the-Dark Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 30th. We are looking for candy donations and glow in the dark plastic eggs. If you are interested in donating, please contact Juliana Paradie or drop off donations to the Missions Closet.

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)



Volunteer Opportunities: We are looking for communion servers for fresh start services, helpers for our parent night out and VBS. Please sign up through this link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BADAA28ABFCC25-47194296-volunteer>

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. 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 today 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.

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

Chester UMC Pictorial Directory: We will be taking pictures in the Davis Fellowship Hall between services for the entire month of March. Due to the Cantata on Palm Sunday, photos will be taken from 9:45AM -10:30 AM. You may also provide a recent photo of yourself or your family. If you provide a family picture, please indicate (left to right) the names of all in the photo. Sending a digital photo or having your picture taken for the directory at CUMC gives the church your consent to publish it in the printed pictorial directory and will be distributed to members of the congregation. You may send your digital photo and questions to Mary Musselwhite at softshl1@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 13, 2-4 PM, David Fellowship Hall, Afternoon Tea Fundraiser hosted by the Chancel Choir. Watch for more information to come.

Graduate Recognition: On May 5, we will recognize all our 2024 graduates during worship! Whether you are graduating from high school, college, trade school, secondary education—any sort of graduation—we want to celebrate with you! *Please sign up in the pew pad today, call, or email* the Church Office (office@chesterumc.org). Please send two or three pictures (no later than April 22) so we can include you in our PowerPoint presentation.

Men's Clothing Drive: A Place of Miracles is collecting size small and medium men's clothing for men living along the Rt.1 Corridor. A Place of Miracles is a food bank for people that are in need. They have recently opened a clothing closet at 2007 Willis Road and would appreciate your donations. Please drop off clothing donations in the collection box in the Mission Closet. POC: Diane Merryman (804) 586-4189 dianemerryman@gmail.com.

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.

Yes, There Is Texting In Church! We are excited to announce 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! Join us to help our Church stay connected! To sign up and be a part of our Text Ministry, scan the QR code or text the word "Connect" to (804) 979-2922.



Congratulations Pastor Chad!

We congratulate Pastor Chad Beck, as he was recently recommended for ordination as an Elder by the Board of Ordained Ministry. We look forward to his ordination at the Annual Conference in June in Hampton, Virginia.

Pastor Nathan Challenges you This Lent To:

- Give up saying, "Everyone I know goes to church". (In fact, less than 20% of people go anywhere.)
- Give up saying, "I am too busy to pray today". (This is how we remember who we are and Whose we are.)
- Give up your fear of talking about your church and faith to someone you know who doesn't go to church.
- Give up thinking the public is unspiritual. Over 70% of all age generations are spiritual.
- Give up saying, "When my kids were young they always came to Sunday School, why can't parents today?" It is a far-different culture and world today with many different Sunday morning schedules and impossible choices for parents.
- Give up on the notion that you will "die" if you invite someone. You won't die and a friend will be so thankful you did invite them.
- Give up criticizing your Pastor and other lay leaders and get busy meeting someone new.

Cremation Garden Survey: The Church Council would like your input on the idea of offering some type of memorial garden for the placement of cremains or small commemorative markers for the congregations to respectfully remember their loved ones. Please click on this link to take the Cremation Garden Survey. <https://forms.gle/7ep1LQDaByeyBtGw8>