

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

# THE CHIMES

Official Newsletter of Chester United Methodist Church—www.chesterumc.org



A Community in Christ  
Chester United Methodist Church

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Fresh Start**  
**Contemporary Worship**  
Sanctuary  
8:30 AM

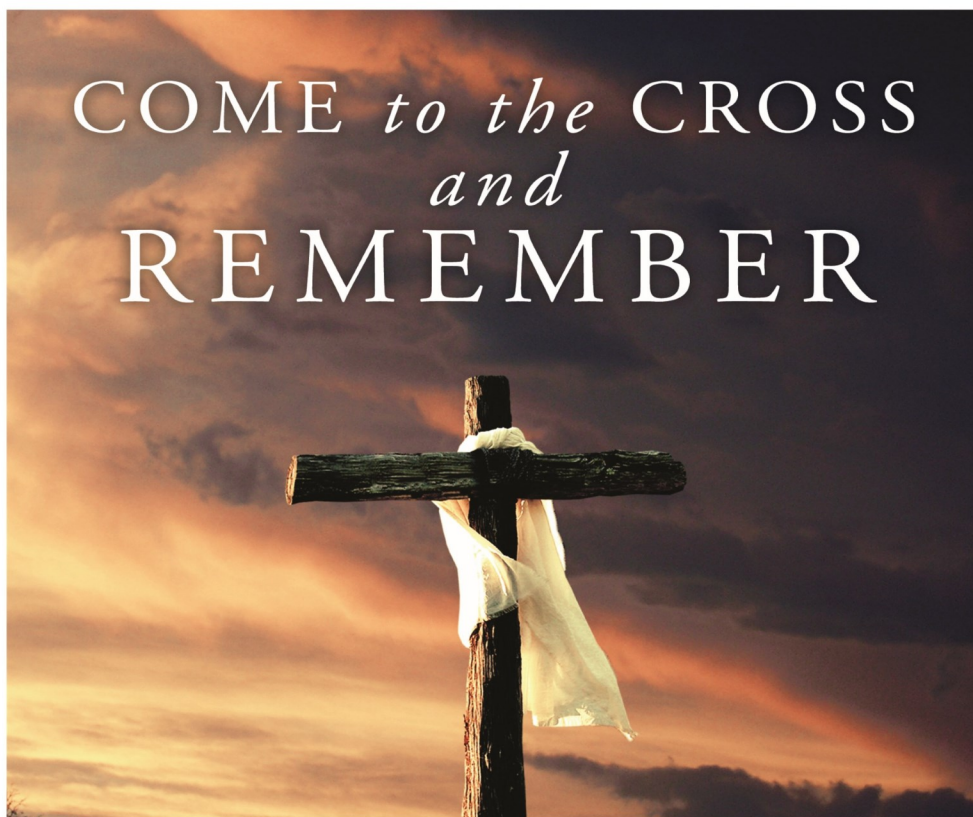
**The Bridge**  
**Southern Gospel Worship**  
Sanctuary  
9:45 AM

**Traditional Worship**  
Sanctuary  
11:00 AM

**Worship By Phone**  
804-768-9594  
Anytime

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COME *to the* CROSS  
*and*  
REMEMBER

## CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, March 24 \* 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday, March 25 \* 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 28 \* 7:00 PM

*Chester United Methodist Church*

*12132 Percival Street \* www.chesterumc.org*



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

### Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 PM

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper in Davis Fellowship Hall  
Followed by Casual Ash Wednesday Service

### Wednesday, February 14, 12:00 Noon

Traditional Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary

# DENYING SELF TO GROW THE KINGDOM

By Nathan Decker

*“Play is the highest form of research.”  
-Albert Einstein*



“You matter.” The words dripped like honey to the child hiding in the corner crying. He had been in the sanctuary just moments before the incident. Lying down in the pew, coloring in one of the books passed out by the ushers to keep little hands occupied, he had been happy. But as he stretched out his arms in a yawn, the way children do, not paying attention to who or what they might bump, his hand knocked the hymnal ajar causing it to fall out of its holder.

The thud was louder than the squeal that occasionally came from the sound system. The thud was louder than the whispers of Sister Bettina who always feigned innocence about gossip. The thud was louder than the soloist who at that moment was singing his heart out as if he was on Broadway or in some Opera house. The thud interrupted everything.

The preacher stood to see from where it came from. The organist hit wrong notes and rested her fingers and feet to silence as she realized the long-practiced music was no longer the center of attention. Everyone turned to see the wild tuft of hair, two little eyes, and one little nose peeking above the next to the last pew.

“Well, I never...” Sister Bettina began a long monologue of proper parenting, disciplines, and punishments she’d deal out, peppered with several cordial notes of “bless his heart.” The preacher sat back down, but the interruption had clearly disturbed her. The collective scowl from the organist and the soloist was beyond compare. The child had placed a solid staccato where it should not have been.

The sum total forced the shamed child out of the sanctuary and into the corner. That’s where the old gentleman found him, crying. Placing his arm on the boy’s shoulder, he simply said, “You matter. No matter what looks people give, no matter what they say or do, know that you matter more.” The boy’s ears didn’t understand the meaning, but his heart received the message. He mattered to God. The old man’s words were not minced. “God loves you. You matter.”

As we begin Lent this year, a season of giving up self and focusing on God, we might also pay attention to where God’s focus has led us: Children. The older I get, the more I am tempted to want worship and church to feed me and focus on me. I forget that I’m called to give up self so Christ’s Kingdom will grow among the children. As a welcoming church, we’re called to deny ourselves and offer hospitality to the mother who’s desperately trying to quiet the baby and to the child who fidgets, whispers, and can’t seem to keep still. We thank God for the interruptions no matter how large or small because they are blessed interruptions.

At Chester UMC, God is calling us to be the children’s church. We’ve hired Juliana as our Director of Christian Formation to lead this effort. We continue to partner with our Chester UMC Preschool to share faith and education with tiny ones. We’ve put rocking chairs in the back for moms and dads with babies. Our nursery staff are some of the most loving people I know. We’re following Christ when he speaks to us concerning the littlest among us. We’re giving up self to grow the Kingdom. After all, it’s what Jesus would do.

“Let the little children come to Me; Do not get in their way. For the kingdom of heaven belongs to children like these.” Matthew 19:14 *The Voice*



## Save The Date!

Saturday, April 13, 2 - 4 PM

Afternoon Tea Fundraiser Hosted by the Chancel Choir

# SUEÑOS MINISTRY

The Sueños Ministry is going strong!

We continue to host Health and Safety nights on the first Friday of each month. In December we had a presentation on Fire Safety, and in January guest speakers from the Casa de Salud discussed how to take control of your health. Childcare with fun activities is provided by volunteers while parents attend the presentation. We also enjoy a brief devotional time and fellowship with a delicious meal.

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes have resumed for the spring semester, which runs through March 14. These classes are well-attended and, childcare is provided so parents can focus on learning. We celebrated the end of our last semester with a pot-luck dinner and certificates for everyone who completed the course.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to make this impactful ministry possible!

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Pastor Chad Beck at [chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org).



ESL end-of-semester celebration on November 16.

## MUSIC NOTES

Rehearsals are underway for our Easter concert, but it's not too late to join us! Singers are all ages (high school on up) and skill levels are encouraged to participate! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Contact me for more info, or simply show up!

Our Easter cantata, "Come to the Cross and Remember," will be presented on Sunday, March 24, at 8:30 and 11 AM; on Monday, March 25, at 7:00 PM; and once more on Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 PM as part of our Holy Thursday service with communion. Begin praying now about who you will invite for these moving services!



Looking ahead, we will welcome our friend, Mark Kroos, who will present a concert during worship on Sunday, April 7, at 11:00 AM. You won't want to miss this singer/songwriter, double necked guitar playing gem of a person!

“Sing” - cerely,

Joshua Wortham, Minister of Music



# FAMILY MINISTRY



AHHH, Christmas is over!! Our KIDZ ZONE ministry was full of involvement this Christmas Season. The Kids were able to perform during the Cantata, had an amazing Christmas pageant, enjoyed Caroling with the youth at the Dunlop House, participated in the Young Families Christmas party, and had a fun Preschool Sunday School Happy Birthday Jesus party.

Our KIDZ ZONE Sunday School has grown to 25 children in K-5th, with an average of 7 in Preschool Sunday School. Our youth have been very involved in our Fresh Start worship service by reading scripture, participating in meaningful moments and children's messages, and announcing the ways we can be plugged into our community and our church. During the Fresh Start service, we have a designated KIDZ ZONE area where children can color and do crafts. God is doing amazing work in our Family Ministry, and we are so excited to see what is going to happen in the future!

Our Youth Group has also been very busy! They helped with the Christmas pageant, went Christmas Caroling at a nursing home, made cards for veterans, and enjoyed an amazing Christmas party. They're also growing in the Lord during our weekly our Youth Group gatherings.

We are looking forward to our Parent night out in February, Confirmation classes for teens, Middle School Retreat in March, and a Community Easter Egg Hunt. It's not too early to be thinking about Vacation Bible School, which will be June 24-28. We're already starting to plan and recruit volunteers!

I encourage you to get excited about what is happening with Family Ministry. I am so happy to see that our young families are coming back to this church, because of YOU!! We as a church have opened our doors to welcome new people with love and care. We want to impact our community and impact those in our church. Colossians 3:14 reminds me of this kind of love that brings unity to the church and community, "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."



In Christ,

Juliana Paradie

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## CONFIRMATION

**Go therefore  
and make  
disciples of all  
nations ...**

- Matthew 28:19

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. **Meet at the Annex, 2:15 – 3:45 pm on 2/18, 3/3, 3/10, and 3/24.**

**A Confirmation service will be in worship on April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

For Questions, contact Pastor Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org)) or Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org)).

# Holy Week Worship

*Sunday, March 24 ~ Palm Sunday*

8:30 AM Easter Musical

9:45 AM No Worship Service

11:00 AM Easter Musical

*Monday, March 25*

7:00 PM Easter Musical

*Thursday, March 28 ~ Holy Thursday*

7:00 PM Easter Musical with Communion

*Sunday, March 31 ~ Easter Sunday*

6:30 AM Sunrise Service on Annex Lawn

8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship Service

9:45 AM The Bridge Service

11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service



## BACKPACK MINISTRY

With your help, we continue to fill 55 backpacks each week for children at C.E. Curtis and C.C. Wells Elementary Schools. Over the past months, we have been blessed to receive food donations from the wonderful folks at Chester Village Apartments and the fantastic families and staff of the CUMC Preschool. Those donations have really helped us to stretch our dollars and are greatly appreciated. Are you a member of an organization looking for a mission project? We would love for you to consider the Backpack Ministry. Call Karen Comer, (804) 796-2910, for details! Thanks to all who are donating dollars or food items – we are thankful for each of you!



***Blood Drive Wednesday, February 7, 2024***

*10:00 AM—3:00 PM in Davis Fellowship Hall*

*Sign up online at:*

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva>

Call the Church Office (804-748-6006) if you need assistance.

# SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

**KIDZ ZONE (Children's Sunday School)** 9:45 AM. Pre-K (Rm. 107); Grades K-5 (Rm. 206). POC: Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org))

**Fresh Start Sunday School Class** 9:45 AM, Room 221; POC: Susan Petrey (804-938-5396)

**Journey Sunday School Class** 9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve>)  
POCs: Carolyn Landis ([landisfamily05@gmail.com](mailto:landisfamily05@gmail.com)); Eric Hougland ([ehougland88@gmail.com](mailto:ehougland88@gmail.com))

**Seekers Sunday School Class** 9:40 AM, Room 226; 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))

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

**The Gathering Sunday Small Group** 9:45 AM, Room 205, Join us for study and fellowship with other young families. POCs: Andrew Brummette ([andrew.brummette@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.brummette@gmail.com)), Brion Seward ([1bseward@comcast.net](mailto:1bseward@comcast.net)), Sonja Seward ([sonjaseward@yahoo.com](mailto:sonjaseward@yahoo.com))

**Middle and High School Youth Sunday School** 9:45 AM, Annex Loft, POC: Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org))

**Friendship Ministry Class** 10:40 AM, Room 116, for adults who are cognitively challenged.  
POC: Mari & Dan Hayes ([JLMinNaples@msn.com](mailto:JLMinNaples@msn.com))

**Bridge Builders** 12:15 PM, Room 116, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month. **Next meetings February 11 and March 10.** POC: Maureen Coker ([mcoker2003@comcast.net](mailto:mcoker2003@comcast.net))

**Middle & High School Youth Meetings** On scheduled Sundays, 4:00 PM, Annex Loft. For 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> Mondays, 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior APTS (11701 Chester Village DR.)

**Joy Singers** (for our retired folks) Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Music Suite. POC: Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org))

**Contemplative Prayer Group** Tuesdays, 11:00 AM, at Trinity UMC. Read scripture, focus, pray, chat, connect with God. POC: Lisa Stanfield: [lisajostanfield@gmail.com](mailto:lisajostanfield@gmail.com)

**Chancel Choir** Rehearsals Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Music Suite. Singers of all skill levels are welcome to join us!  
POC: Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org))

**Handbell Choir for adults** Wednesdays, 5:45 PM. POC: Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org))

**Thursday Morning Men's Group** Thursdays, 7:30 AM, Grants Coffee Co. (11884 Chester Village DR).  
POC: Gordon Morris ([gordo15458@aim.com](mailto:gordo15458@aim.com))

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon** 1:30 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at a local restaurant. Next luncheon Thursday, February 15, location TBA. RSVP by Monday, February 12. POC: Joan Osborne ([josbor61@gmail.com](mailto:josbor61@gmail.com))

**Prayer Shawl Group** Thursdays, 1:30 PM, Church Parlor. All are invited to join us! We will happily teach you how to knit or crochet. POCs: Beverly Trevillian (804 3377-2367 / [beverly.trevillian@comcast.net](mailto:beverly.trevillian@comcast.net)), Betty Stone (804 914 0433 / [wva\\_lady@verizon.net](mailto:wva_lady@verizon.net))

**Women's Christian Book Club** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month, 6:30 PM, Annex Loft. You have a month to read each book before we gather to discuss it. POC: Jennifer Brame ([jrbrooksiee@gmail.com](mailto:jrbrooksiee@gmail.com))

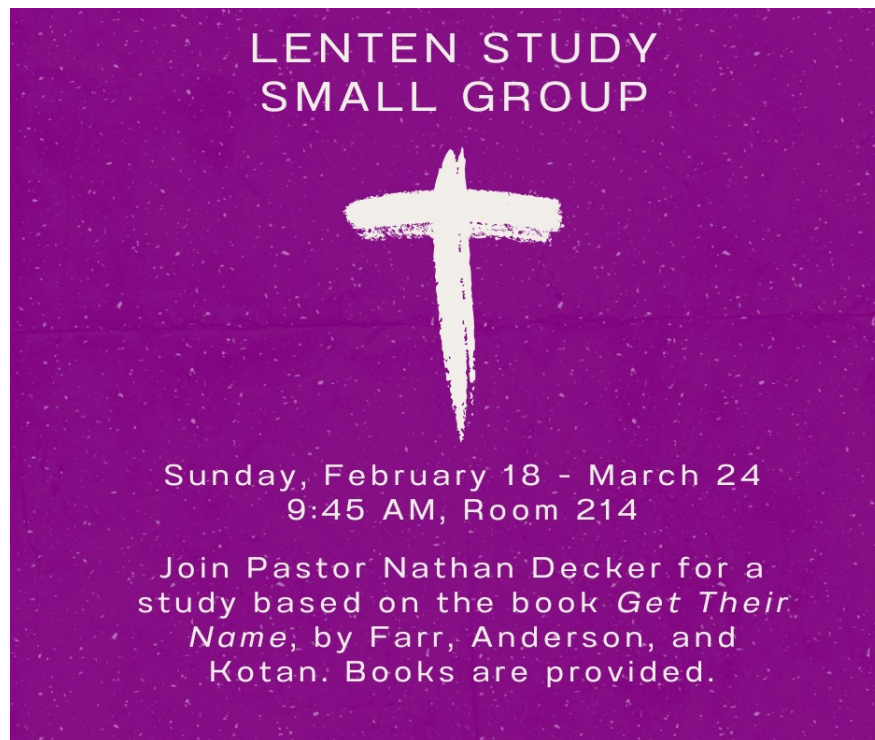
**Learning Spanish as Hospitality** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM, Room 220. Have fun learning to speak some basic Spanish. POC: Vince D'Agostino ([vdagos@comcast.net](mailto:vdagos@comcast.net) / 804 461-8529).

**"Strum and Smile" Small Group** Mondays, 6:00 PM, Music Suite. For guys & gals who play stringed instruments with no intention of performing. All levels of play are welcome! POC: Keith Woods ([the.gibson.kw@gmail.com](mailto:the.gibson.kw@gmail.com))

**Sueños: Health and Safety for Latino Families** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, 6:00 - 8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. A variety of topics related to health and safety, as well as food from different regions, is presented at each gathering. Childcare provided. POC: Chad Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))

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

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## REST STOP

REST STOP is a Chester UMC after school program designed to provide rest and encouragement for at-risk youth from Thomas Dale High School. The week of January 15 we had a cold snowy day to hunker down, eat pizza, watch "Home Alone," and celebrate two kids' birthdays. The following week we made Valentine cards for patients at Richmond VA Medical Center and discussed goals for the future. A visit to Bright Point (formerly JTCC) for a tour and discussion about admission planning rounds out January's activities.

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.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY MUSINGS

Did you know that 2025 will be the 50th Anniversary of the Stephen Ministry program?! Exciting things are happening now at the home office and around the world. It has always been their mission to “to organize, equip, and supervise Stephen Ministers, to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.” But nothing ever stays the same. The organization, under the leadership of Ken Haugk since 1975, has developed a new mission:



“To equip **All People** to care and relate with greater excellence.”

Church Stephen Ministry will continue, but now the organization is reaching out to even more groups such as hospitals, financial groups, police and fire departments, and prisons to build a more caring world. They want to be the caring presence of Jesus throughout the world, and will be doing this with their new book, *The Gift of Empathy, Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared for, and Understood*. What is Empathy? “True Empathy only occurs when we make a personal connection, when we directly interact with someone by listening, asking questions to encourage more sharing, and by being present as they tell their story...we care about what they are going through.”

And how do we at CUMC fit into this vision? This book is being pilot tested all over the world. Churches and other groups have been asked to read it, have small group discussions, and answer questions to help to edit the book. Andy and Eileen Steck, two of our Stephen Ministers, will be presenting this book over the course of three months to our current group of Stephen Ministers. They will provide feedback to help make it easy to read the book and apply the concepts. It is already being used by teachers, pastors and church staff, emergency responders, medical professionals and more.

Can you imagine a world where everyone has empathy? It is the new vision of the Stephen Ministry, and we are proud to have even a small part in this. Our hope is to share our experience with other small groups in our church and community once the final draft is published.

Please call Vince D’Agostino at 804-461-8529 for more information about Stephen Ministry.

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## STEWARDSHIP

By Bryon and Josefa Wall

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 about 2/3 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!



# Plant and Seed Swap

Sunday, March 3, 12:15 PM

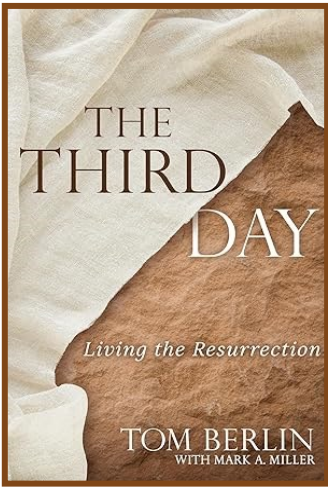
Davis Fellowship Hall

Swap seeds and talk a little dirt with fellow green thumbs and green thumb wannabes!

Questions: Katey Petrey McCarney, (804) 402-0084



## FRESH START



Join us starting February 18 for a new study.

Using the book *The Third Day* by Tom Berlin, we'll gain insight into the experiences of several people around Jesus during his final days. We'll learn about the despair of Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and then the surprise and joy of the resurrection.

The Fresh Start Class meets every Sunday at 9:45 AM in Room 221 (at the top of the "old" stairway). We welcome visitors and new members.

Call Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396, for more information.

## SUPERBOWL SUNDAY SOUP LUNCHEON

The whole congregation is invited to join us for a soup luncheon Sunday, February 11, immediately following 11:00 AM worship. The menu includes a variety of heartwarming homemade soups, corn muffins, desserts and beverages. Cost at the door is \$10 per person, and proceeds will go to the United Methodist Women's mission projects.

Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.



CHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO

Parent night out  
**MOVIE**  
Night

Drop the kids  
off or stay  
and enjoy the  
movie.

Popcorn,  
drinks &  
snacks  
provided!

Abominable

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17, AT 6:15  
**CHESTER UMC**  
12132 PERCIVAL ST.  
CHESTER

Doors open  
at 6:00  
movie starts  
at 6:15!



If you plan to drop your child off,  
please register them here through  
this QR code.

If you need further help please  
contact Juliana Parade at  
julianaparade@chesterumc.org



If you or someone you know would like to reserve a space at the Arts and Crafts Show, please call Katey Petrey McCarney at (804) 402-0084 or find the application on our website:

[www.chesterumc.org](http://www.chesterumc.org)

# PRESCHOOL

Chester United Methodist Church Preschool is now enrolling for our 2024-2025 school year!

We have openings from 2 ½ to JK, Call 804-748-2275 to reserve your spot or schedule a tour. We have registration packets available in the Sharing Bin outside the Welcome Center.

The children are back from Winter break ready to continue their learning journey! Our classes are preparing for our annual Dr. Suess Party. This year we have partnered with local CUMC Preschool Alumni on an art project fundraiser. The preschool will sing collective nursery rhymes to match the art projects donated by the alumni students, who range from Kindergarten to Collage Age. The children's song collection will be videoed and displayed at our first annual Preschool Welcome Open House church service on **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will ask the congregation to vote on their favorite artwork during services March 10<sup>th</sup> by donating a few dollars in the jar in front of the artwork. Your donations will go toward our scholarship program, which is supported by the Methodist Conference and provides opportunities for children to receive the wonderful education we provide here at CUMCPS!

Whitney Graham  
CUMCPS Director  
(804) 748-2275  
[preschool@chesterumc.org](mailto:preschool@chesterumc.org)



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### Reaffirmation of Faith

Patricia and Chester Baake	Virginia Beach UMC
Lauren Cox	Winfree Memorial Baptist
Joan Marie Crowder	Swift Creek Baptist
Jackie Farley	Colonial Heights Baptist
Sarah and David Glass	Beulah UMC
Dawn and John Hall	Beulah UMC
Jayne Haycox	Ramsey Memorial UMC
Jane and Bob Huffman	St. Michael's Episcopal
Mary Luther	Woodway First UMC
Penny and Herb McCulloch	St. Michael's Episcopal
Sharon and Richard Robertson	Beulah UMC
Charles Smith	USMC
Jane Spain	Beulah UMC
Amie-Anne and Bill Talley	Bermuda Hundred UMC
Elsie Whitton	Ocean Heights Presbyterian
Beth VanDenBerg	Beulah UMC

### Profession of Faith

Patty Miller  
Lynn and Dick Weiss  
Judy and Rex White

# FOOD PANTRY

Did you know Chester UMC hosts a distributing food pantry for Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry (CCHASM)? In a typical week we provide two CCHASM-referred families with a cart full of non-perishable food and a modest Kroger gift card to use for perishable items. We also serve walk-in clients who have not yet enrolled with CCHASM. Food pantry clients may schedule one appointment per month, and their grocery order is tailored to the size of their household. As a special blessing to our clients, the Jean Craig Fellowship ladies recently assembled and donated birthday cake kits. The kits contain everything needed to bake and decorate a cake, along with some other goodies like balloons and a card.

A fabulous team of faithful volunteers keeps our food pantry running smoothly. John Radford monitors inventory and shops frequently to replenish the shelves. He always goes the extra mile, even delivering groceries to a client who can no longer drive. Several dedicated volunteers take turns packing and distributing food each week.

The food pantry is funded entirely by donations. If you'd like to contribute, we especially appreciate monetary donations (make check to Chester UMC, *Food Pantry* on memo line). If you prefer to donate food, there's an inventory list on the pantry door. **Please note we cannot accept opened or expired items!** If you have any questions about the food pantry or how you can help, please contact Sally Maxwell at [assistant@chesterumc.org](mailto:assistant@chesterumc.org).



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## 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. UMCOR keeps the kits on hand for 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. Therefore, our goal for this year's June 20-22 Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference in Hampton is **100 hygiene kits**. *The entire congregation is invited* to support this effort by donating items to be packed into 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 next to Pastor Nathan's office ASAP but no later than 12 noon on Sunday, April 7. Call Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396, for more information.

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## CUMC STAFF

Pastor:.....Rev. Nathan A. Decker ([nathandecker@chesterumc.org](mailto:nathandecker@chesterumc.org))  
Associate Pastor:.....Rev. Chad T. Beck ([chadbeck@chesterumc.org](mailto:chadbeck@chesterumc.org))  
Minister of Music:.....Joshua Wortham ([music@chesterumc.org](mailto:music@chesterumc.org))  
Director of Christian Formation.....Juliana Paradie ([julianaparadie@chesterumc.org](mailto:julianaparadie@chesterumc.org))  
Financial Specialist:.....Julie Jones ([finance@chesterumc.org](mailto:finance@chesterumc.org))  
Preschool Director:.....Whitney Graham ([preschool@chesterumc.org](mailto:preschool@chesterumc.org))  
Nursery Staff:.....Carla Adams, Samantha Garcia  
Office Manager:.....Michelle Couvillion ([office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@chesterumc.org))  
Office Assistant:.....Sally Maxwell ([assistant@chesterumc.org](mailto:assistant@chesterumc.org))

# MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

## In Memory of Louise Sheets

Wayne and Ginny Virag

## In Memory of Judy Dee

Nancy E. Wilson

## In Honor of Judy Gilliam

Robert J. Goldston – Music Program

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## BAPTISM

Andy Alexis García Ramírez

Son of Melissa García Ramírez and Grandson of Sandra García Ramírez

January 21, 2024

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## THANK YOU NOTES

I want to thank each and every one of you for the prayers offered for me during my recent surgery and recovery. I could feel each and everyone as they warmed my heart. Also, for the cards and phone calls. With wonderful friends like you, my recovery has been “a piece of cake”. Also, a message to the Ladies, if you experience any unusual feeling in your chest, please go to an ER and get it checked. Ladies do not always experience the symptoms that are typical of a heart attack. I had absolutely no pain, I felt flushed and a warm sensation in my chest.  
Blessings, Gail King

Halleluiah! And thank you, CUMC family, for all of the wonderful Christmas cards that you made and/or wrote to our veterans at Richmond VA Medical Center (formerly McGuire VA Hospital) and at Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center. We took **306** Christmas/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!  
Barbara MacIntyre

A very heartfelt thank you to Marshall Henry and the Key Club at Thomas Dale High School. They held a food drive in December and donated several bags full of meat products to our food pantry. Our clients will be blessed by your generosity and kindness!

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## LENTEN STUDY

### **The Gospel Truth: The Easter Story from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**

This four-week study, led by Marg Kutz, 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? There is no study book except the Bible and there are no assignments.

Two session options: Virtually, Sundays, (Feb. 18, March 3, 10, and 17) from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM. 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.



Sign up on the pew pad today, or contact Marg Kutz at [margkutz72@gmail.com](mailto:margkutz72@gmail.com) or (804)305-6100.



We're already planning a super fun VBS for kids PK - grade 5!

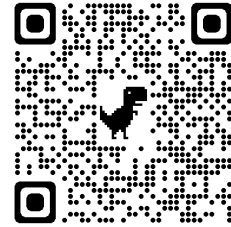
June 24 - 28  
9 AM- 12 PM.

Scan or click to volunteer:

<https://chester-umc.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-volunteer>

POC: Juliana Paradie

[juliana\\_paradie@chesterumc.org](mailto:juliana_paradie@chesterumc.org)



## TEXTING IN CHURCH



Yes, there is texting in church!

We're pleased to announce the launch of a new texting ministry to help us connect 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.

Scan the QR code or text the word "Connect" to (804) 979-2922 to join.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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."

- The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, February 5, 7:00 PM, Room 205. We will pack Valentine Gift Bags for the kids of United Methodist Family Services. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, February 8, 10:30 AM in Davis Fellowship Hall for a time of Christian fellowship. Call Martha Miles, 748-5476, for more information.
- The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, March 4, 7:00 PM, Room 205. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, March 14, 10:30 AM, Room 226. Call Martha Miles, 748-5476, for details.
- **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. Terri Dombrowski will present a program on her recent trip to Spain and hike of the Camino de Santiago. Bring a salad or dessert to share. The Jean Craig Fellowship will host.



Call Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396, to learn more about UMW, our two participating fellowships, and how you can become involved.

# February Birthdays

## February 1

Erika Hilton

## February 2

Vann Hall  
Tonya Harris  
Gabe Higgins

## February 3

Stede Barnes  
Katie Blevins  
Blake Miles

## February 4

Beth Duke  
Bob Kutz  
Lilian Lashley  
Kenzie McHugh  
Charles Morgan

## February 5

Kerrie Browder  
Lindsay Goyne

## February 6

Pat Baake  
Jason Szymczak  
Dianna Tate  
Lauren Vargas

## February 7

Jamie Bittenbender  
Allison Brubaker  
Everret Daniels  
Scott Finkler  
Frank Kirtley  
William Topping II

## February 8

Dawn Boyd  
Charlotte Brummette  
Ken Farmer, Jr.  
Kelly Krukiel

## February 10

Marian Garrett  
Bridget Mauro  
Beth Powell

## February 11

Monta Anthony  
Phillip Arnold  
Stephen Arnold  
Hayden Coyner  
Keith Dunnivant  
Perry Miles  
Drew Patton  
Christopher Rasnick  
Benjamin Wisegarver

## February 12

Sharon Bartlett  
Brad Browder  
Justin Burnham  
Scott Flaherty  
Patrick Mims  
Addison Winn

## February 13

Laura Hougland  
Peter Koch  
Sharon Martin  
Sarah Miller  
Jason Morgan  
Don Pospahala  
Beth Woodard

## February 14

Patrick Buzzee  
Kathy Martin

## February 15

Suzanne Anderson  
Roy Dunnivant  
Barbara MacIntyre  
Deepak Thomas

## February 16

Heath Anderson  
Mallory Lenz  
Emilia Levin  
Ritu Lijewski  
Rob Tankard III  
Bennie Wilkinson, Jr.

## February 17

Julia Bowman  
Rotha Covington  
Ann Jeter  
Pam Kasky  
Keith Koob, Jr.  
George Ruffin, Jr.

## February 18

Wesley Lee  
Dale Patton

## February 19

Kiefer Gibson  
Cody Mauro  
Courtney McCotter  
Lauren Slaasted  
Betty Stone

## February 20

Phillip Arnold  
George Avery, Jr.  
Terrie Mason

## February 21

Scott Brubaker  
Madison Clark  
Sydni Kilbourne  
Joan Osborne

## February 22

George Johnson, Sr.  
Jane Spain  
Trip Spain III

## February 23

Kathryn Alexander  
Mark Elbon  
Joyce Freed  
Shawn Goodman  
Matthew Mauro  
Caroline McCormack  
John Rasnick, Sr.  
Dee Watkins

## February 24

Nat Comer  
Terri Drewry  
Rebecca Mahoney  
Paul Marretti  
Sarah McHugh  
Amanda Perry

## February 25

Douglas Anderson  
Susan Carraway  
Peter Davis  
Bob Nixon  
Alana Watkins

## February 26

Aria Bala  
Debbie Degraha  
Danny Fogleman  
Joan Furr  
Tory Powner  
Rudy Willis, Jr.

## February 27

Jake Bradley  
Wyatt Gordon  
Malachi Landis

## February 28

Curt Baucom  
Kristen Coker  
Kim Harper  
N.W. Manuel, Jr.  
Rev. Sylvia Meadows  
Abbygail Overstreet  
Mary Roberts  
Eileen Steck  
Judy Strawn  
Nimmi Vasa

# March Birthdays

## March 1

Israel Beck  
Jill Gregory  
Julie Newcomb  
Jacob Tuck

## March 2

Amy Cole  
Brandon Davis  
John Earley  
Alina Roy  
Kary Showers

## March 3

Leroy Bryant IV  
Ginger Chadwick  
Mark Houchins

## March 4

Sarah Bowers  
Lea Brooks  
Camden Chatham  
Dave Deck  
Courtney Engelking  
Andrew Krukiel  
Steve Shultz

## March 5

Jim Hobson  
Madelyn Jackson

## March 6

Sandy Burch  
Jason Compton  
Aiden Freed  
Bruce Nugent  
Chelsea Waldrop

## March 7

Boonie Anderson  
Emily Comer  
Carly Lowder  
Kelly Overstreet  
Billie Tyus  
Corey Waldrop

## March 8

Jessica Brock  
Tom Clark  
John Hancock, Jr.  
Susan Irvin  
Britt McCall  
Andrew McVicker  
Fred Roberts  
Ron Spohn  
Levi Wargofcak

## March 9

Allison Forlines  
Edie Higgins  
Angela Roddy  
Penn Shultz

## March 10

Parker Davis  
Allison Dodd  
Griffin Kilbourne  
Susan Petrey  
Linda Willingham  
Bonnie Wray

## March 11

Stacey Broga  
Ellis Chatham  
Lional Dunnivant  
David Hainley  
Chris Howard  
Eric Krukiel  
Sonja Seward

## March 12

Angelo Galarza  
Brian Garrett  
Sarah Mason

## March 13

Scott Barnes  
Chris Keffer  
Melanie Mims

## March 14

Sara Flowers  
Matt Lloyd  
Beth Russell  
Chappell Talley

## March 15

Chris Akom  
Rishi Bala  
Peggy Cole  
Rebecca Lee  
Kim Young

## March 16

Ryin Ahlers  
Esther Awalt  
Ella Becker  
Patricia Griffin  
Janis Hargrave  
Daphne Jolly  
Dean Miller  
Meaghan Payne  
Sophie Radford  
Hunter Ann Taylor

## March 17

Bill Burton  
Todd Finkler  
Laura Godsey  
Patty Miller  
Aarun Roy  
Dollie Stone  
Savannah Stone  
Brian Waring

## March 18

Caroline Carson  
Charis Landis  
Marie Perdue  
Lou Shoff  
Matthew Squires  
Stephanie Thomas  
Caden Yerby

## March 19

Tiege Ferguson  
Joseph Hurt  
Greg McCarney

## March 20

James Castleberry II  
Thomas Floyd  
William Hall  
Carole Kelley  
Brady McCormack  
Alan Pratt  
Gary Williams

## March 21

Katie Bartlett  
Conaway Haskins  
Jane Haycox  
Cyndi LeSueur  
Wayne Motley

## March 22

Kaitlin Baker  
Terri Costner  
Dick Goyne, Sr.  
Molly Jones  
Chris Williams

## March 23

Greta Getch  
Cheryl Green  
Carolyn Maxwell  
John Parker  
Martha Shelton

## March 24

Hannah Bowles  
Katey McCarney  
Mathis Seal  
Todd Zimmerman

## March 25

Logan Carson  
Addison DePhillip  
Anna Evancho  
Luke Fields  
Rod Holmes  
Elizabeth Jones  
Daniel Sink  
Linda Thomas  
John Turner  
Madison Williams  
Meg Woolard

## March 26

Allison Harris  
Adam Martin  
Leanne Pillow

## March 27

Samantha Garcia  
Kate Moore  
Tom Payne, Jr.  
Ashton Read  
Matthew Scott

## March 28

Christi Brubaker  
Bobby Feind, Jr.  
Alexander Hodell  
Sam Jackson, Sr.  
James Robinson  
Jamie Shannon  
Dylan Stone

## March 29

Denise Blankenbecler  
Olivia Bowles  
Vance Davis  
Derek Getch  
Hunter Miles  
Margo Sommer  
Bert Watson  
Keith Willingham

## March 30

Dan Hayes  
Will Herrmann  
Brian Houston  
Laura Morris  
Ella Sink  
Sydney Sink  
Debbie Swinson

## March 31

Mary Beth Cavey  
Bailey James

**Chester United Methodist Church**  
**12132 Percival Street**  
**Chester, VA 23831**



**REMINDER:** Regular church office hours are 8:30 AM-2:00 PM Monday-Thursday.  
If you need to visit the office after 2:00 PM, kindly schedule the visit in advance.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 1.



**THE CHIMES articles** may be submitted to [assistant@chesterumc.org](mailto:assistant@chesterumc.org).

The deadline for submission to the **April/May Chimes is Wednesday, March 20.**

### **CONNECT WITH CHESTER UMC**

**Website:** [www.chesterumc.org](http://www.chesterumc.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch/>

**Facebook Closed Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterUMC/>

**Daily Email News:** Visit <http://eepurl.com/bV9Tv> to subscribe.

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC>

**Prayer Chain Email:** Submit your name and email address to [office@chesterumc.org](mailto:office@chesterumc.org) with “Prayer Chain” in the subject line to subscribe.

**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))

**Texting Ministry:** Text “Connect” to (804) 979-2922