the bridge

January 18, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
I Saw the Light
Boundless Love
Revive Us Again
Awesome is the Lord Most High

SCRIPTURE
Psalm 116:5 NIV

SPECIAL MUSIC
Word of God Speak
Jen Fournelle and Megan Johnston

MESSAGE
God's Compassionate Wrath
Joshua Wortham

CUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers ..... All Disciples of the Congregation
Lead Pastor: Nathan Decker ..... nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music: Joshua Wortham ..... music@chesterumc.org
Pastoral Intern: Evan Moody ..... youthleaders@chesterumc.org
Office Manager: Michelle Couvillion ..... office@chesterumc.org
Office Assistant: Sally Maxwell ..... assistant@chesterumc.org
Financial Administrator: Julie Jones ..... finance@chesterumc.org
Nursery Specialists ..... Carla Adams, Morgan Hall
Children's Ministry: Whitney Graham ..... preschool@chesterumc.org
MS & HS Youth Ministry: Evan Moody ..... youthleaders@chesterumc.org
Preschool Director: Whitney Graham ..... preschool@chesterumc.org

A Community in Christ

Chester United Methodist Church

Embrace – Love - Impact

12132 Percival Street, Chester, Virginia 23831 * Church: (804) 748-6006
Web Site: www.chesterumc.org ***** *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

FRESH START SERVICE

January 18, 2026 - 8:30 AM

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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Let God Arise
Build Your Kingdom Here
This Is Our God
This is Amazing Grace

SPECIAL MUSIC

Word of God Speak
Jen Fournelle and Megan Johnston

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 40:1-11 NIV

MESSAGE

A New Song
Evan Moody

January 18, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Human Relations Sunday

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting
Prelude ***To God Be the Glory*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Jane Huffman, Liturgist

Leader: Listen up, everyone! God has given us work to do.
People: God has called each of us before we were even born.
Leader: It was God who named us.
People: It is God who claims us.
Leader: The light of God's love shines in us.
People: Let's shine God's love into all the world!

* Opening Prayer[1]

God of Isaiah, you are our God, too. You spoke to the prophets, but your message did not end with them. There is still work to be done, and we pray to hear your call afresh. Help us joyfully claim our role as your beloved servants, knowing that you provide all that we need to do our work. You walked with us before we were even born, and you continue to hold us by the hand each and every day of our lives. We pray with the confidence of those who have been filled with your light. We pray with the assurance of those who have been called into fellowship with your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Hymn No. 133 ***Leaning on the Everlasting Arms***
* Affirmation of Faith No. 881
* Gloria Patri No. 70

Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Anthem ***Beautiful Savior*** Chancel Choir

Why We Give
Offertory ***Word of God, Speak*** Jen Fournelle & Megan Johnston

* 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 and 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. 377	***It Is Well With My Soul***	
	Scripture	***Isaiah 49:1-7***	NRSVUE
	Sermon	***Carry the Light***	Melanie G. Fleischer
*	Hymn	***The Summons***	
*	Benediction		
*	Choral Amen		Chancel Choir

---

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

[1]https://ministrymatters.com/2019-12-11_worship_elements_january_15_2023/

Assisted Listening Devices are available for anyone who has trouble hearing during worship in the Sanctuary.

Altar Flowers: Are given by Dave & Bonnie Anderson to the glory of God and in memory of their fathers, Art and Ken.

Calendar

January 18, 2026– January 25, 2026

Today: Sunday, January 18

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship- Davis Fellowship Hall
9:45 AM Bridge Worship-Sanctuary
Sun Sch PreK-107
Sun Sch Gr K-5-206
Adult SS-Various
Youth Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditions Worship- Sanctuary
4:00 PM Youth Group-Youth House

Monday: January 19

6:30 PM Boy Scouts- DFH

Tuesday: January 20

3:00 PM Rest Stop- Youth House
7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226

Wednesday: January 21

12:00 PM Bulletin Submissions Due
12:00 PM Chimes Submissions Due
12:00 PM Trustee Meeting- Annex
5:45 PM Wacky Wednesday- Trinity UMC
5:45 PM Handbell Choir
6:00 PM Cub Scouts- 226
6:15 PM Youth Bible Study- Trinity UMC
6:30 PM Crew-206
6:30 PM Girl Scouts- DFH
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday: January 22

11:30 AM Women's Fellowship Luncheon- Pietro's
1:30 PM Prayer Shawl- Parlor
6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study- Youth House
7:00 PM ESL Social Gathering- DFH

Friday: January 23

4:00 PM Youth Movie Night- Fellowship Hall

Saturday: January 24

7:00 AM Running for HIS Glory- CUMC Parking Lot

Next Sunday: January 25

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship- Davis Fellowship Hall
9:45 AM Bridge Worship- Sanctuary
Sun Sch PreK-107
Sun Sch Gr K-5-206
Adult SS-Various
Youth Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditions Worship- Sanctuary
4:00 PM Youth Group- Youth House
5:30 PM Confirmation- Youth House

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

Our Parish Nurse, will not be here today. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Guest Speaker Melanie Fleischer (she/her/hers) is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College as an A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholar. She currently studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary on the Richmond campus. She is in her third year of her four-year dual degree program, in which she will receive both Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education. Mel is a cradle Methodist, pastor's kid, and is a candidate for ordained ministry in the UMC. She currently resides as the Director of Youth and Children's Ministry at Welborne UMC in Tuckahoe. A fun fact about Mel is that she is a huge bookworm and read 131 books in the year of 2025.

Eliza Furr, a 20 year old member of CUMC, is awaiting a double lung transplant as part of her ongoing journey with Cystic Fibrosis. She has been in the PICU since Christmas Eve, on top of an already challenging year of health issues. The family is seeking to raise a minimum of $65,000 to cover expenses that are not covered by insurance, including but not limited to housing (the transplant will be done at Duke University Medical Center), travel expenses, medical equipment, additional medical supplies, post-operative care, rehabilitation, recovery care, as well as ongoing therapies and medications. The family covets your prayers. If you would like to support the family financially, make a check payable to CUMC (Memo: Eliza Furr). Additional info is available at https://gofund.me/45785de43.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Thursday, January 22, 11:30 AM, Pietro's Italian Restaurant. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com, 540-270-4251.

Winter Wonderland Literacy Night at CC Wells Elementary: Thursday, January 22, 5:30-7:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to run stations. Enjoy food, hot chocolate, games, and more. To volunteer use this link or QR code. eventhttps:/.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845AAAC2EABFDC25-60449653-holiday#/

Jesus and Jammies Movie Night: Friday, January 23, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Chester UMC Preschool presents Jesus & Jammies. Feature Film: *King of Kings*.
Join us for a free, family-friendly event. RSVP by emailing Whitney at preschool@chesterumc.org. Find more information in the bulletin.

Rebuilding From Hurricane Helene: Attention anyone who is interested in going to Western N.C. to provide Hurricane Helene relief. There will be an informational meeting for all interested on Sunday, *February 1 at 2:00 PM* in room 226. You do not need to know how to use tools, just a heart for those affected by the hurricane. POC: Keith.Mottley@comcast.net

Keep In Prayer: Jim & Jeanne Shelburne; Bruce Nugent; Sharon Buchanan; The family of Marlene Jinkins; The family of Hunter Beazley, Jr.; Bennie Wilkinson; Betty Tatum; Doug Pike; Linda Willingham; Susan May; Eliza Furr; Cynthia Corley; Becky York; Wayne Scruton; Dorothy Gonzalez; Dick & Lynn Weis; Bruce Highley; Ann Stuart; Billy Hopson; Bert Watson; Jo Kiser; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Susan Young; Harold Worcester; Brooke & Mary Ann Hamilton; Summer Lannan; Wayne & Ginny Virag; Lynda Richardson

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
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.
The Chimes – Submit items to assistant@chesterumc.org no later than the 3rd Wednesday of ***January,*** March, May, July, September, and November.

Our Presence on Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:30 AM Fresh Start 73
9:45 AM Bridge 41
11:00 AM Traditions.....135
Online.....58
Total 307

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, January 18, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Maureen Coker and youth	
	9:45	Andy Steck & McDuff	
	11:00	Mary Musselwhite, Sharon Buchanan	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	* Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy*, Jesse Stacy	
	11:00	Gordon Morris*, Bobb Huffman, Jane Huffman, Scott Pugh, Tommy Petrey	
Donut Disciple:		Laura Hougland	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Morgan Hall	

Girl Scouts Shoe Collection: Clean out your shoe closet for the New Year and consider donating gently worn, used shoes you no longer need or want. You will be helping to support the local community and communities around the world. Place shoes in the tall box in the Church Welcome Center no later than Thursday, January 29. For more information, contact Girl Scout Troop 5248 at (910) 250-6225.

Visitation Teams at CUMC – Help Needed! Teams of two people visit church members and family members who are experiencing illness, loss of a loved one, isolation, aging. There are usually seven visitation teams, but right now, we are down to five. We are in need of new volunteers to help with visiting. There is a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM at the church. Current team members who make once-a-month visits are Martha Miles, Nancy Carrouth, Bonnie Hopson, Penny McCullouch, Carolyn Maxwell, Linda Large, Janie Zimon, Will Schmmidt, Joan Osborne, Sharon Robertson, Steve Osborne, and Don Schmidt. Karen Comer prepares the visitation schedule each month. Chris Grinter, Linda Marlin, Merlin Mitchell, and Anne Muzos send cards each month. If you are interested in serving on a visitation team, please call Karen Comer at 804-796-2910 or Will Schmidt at 804-931-3660. We need you!

A Place of Miracles/Clothes Closet: Please drop your donations off in the bin in the Church Missions Closet. POC: Diane Merryman, 804-586-4189 dianemerryman@gmail.com

Cookie Tins Needed: As you pack up your Christmas decorations, please wash and donate your cookie tins to the UMW. Please place *clean* cookie tins in the designated bin in the Mission Closet. POC: Susan Petrey (804) 938-5396.

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, January 25, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Andy Steck & McDuff, and youth	
	9:45	Cyndi LeSueur	
	11:00	Pam Kasky, Jim Rhodes	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Will Herrmann*, Ron Dombrowski	* Head Usher
	9:45	Jim Watkins*, Pat Stanfield	
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Sandy Sims, Steve Osborne, Don Schmidt, Kay Williams	
Donut Disciple:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Morgan Hall	

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? 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. Contact Rest Stop Team Leader, Susan Petrey, at (804) 938-5396, for more information.

Backpack Ministry: Backpack Needs: It is amazing how fast we go through our supplies! Feeding 60 children each weekend takes a lot of food. This week Kroger has continued some good specials. They include Tuna Helper for 99c if you buy 5; Pasta Roni and Rice-a-Roni are $1 each. We can also use help with canned pasta, ramen noodles and tuna (5 oz. cans). Donations may be left in the Mission Closet in the backpack bin. As always, we appreciate your support for this vital ministry.
POCs: Carolyn Landis and Karen Comer kgcomer@verizon.net

2026 Youth Guatemala Mission Trip Fundraising:
Over 30 youth and their families will be traveling to Guatemala in June 2026 to complete medical missions, construction projects, and VBS camps for children. Our goal is to raise $64,000 to fund the trip with airfare included. POC: Emily Smith Smith.family21@outlook.com

- **Paint Party / Youth Fundraiser:** Chester UMC Youth invite you to a Paint Party fundraiser for their Guatemala mission trip. *Sunday,* ***January 25, 2:30 - 4:30 PM*** in the Fellowship Hall. Only $35 per person. Light refreshments will be served. No special skills needed! RSVP by Sunday, January 18.
  Sign up using this link: https://tinyurl.com/2s3dcd7z
- **Look Into Your Employer!** For example, did you know if you are an HCA Employee you could donate through *YourCause* and HCA will match up to $500. Consider looking into your employer opportunities and see if this is an option. The Hope 4 Kids Tax ID is 47-1686704, please enter Chester UMC Guatemala June 2026 Mission in the memo and reach out to Emily Smith at (804) 721-2168 so she can notify Hope 4 Kids about this special gift!
- **Donate Directly to the Church!** Use this **QR code** to donate directly or place your donation in the offering plate. Please note this in the memo area of your check or envelope.

Chester Chums: Did you know that 68 new members joined our church last year? Chester Chums is a CUMC ministry to welcome new members, to help acclimate them to the church, and to help get them involved in activities at the church. Current members who choose to become a Chester Chum are paired with new members to serve as their "sponsors". Sign up in the pew pad today. For more information contact Joan Osborne at josbor61@gmail.com / 540-270-4251.

UMW Salad Luncheon—Change of Date: Sunday, January 25**,** immediately following the 11:00 AM Worship. Women of the Church are invited to a luncheon meeting of the United Methodist Women. Our speaker will be Eileen Steck, who will bring McDuff the therapy dog. She'll tell us his story, what their plans are and how we can help. Bring a salad or dessert to share. Call Susan Petrey, 804-938-5396, to learn more about UMW, our two participating fellowships, and how you can become involved.

Super Bowl Sunday Soup Luncheon: Mark your calendars! Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 12:00 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall. Join us for good food and fellowship. Proceeds will go to the United Methodist Women's mission projects. The whole congregation is invited to join us for a delicious soup luncheon immediately following 11:00 PM worship. The menu includes a variety of heartwarming homemade soups, corn muffins, desserts and beverages. The cost at the door is $10 per person or quart to take home. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

Valentine Cards For Veterans: Deadline is Monday, February 9. Consider writing a thoughtful note to honor our Veterans. Please do not sign your last name and leave the envelopes unsealed. Address the envelopes with gratitude such as "Loyal Veteran", "Beloved Hero", "Brave American", etc. Drop cards off in the Sharing Bin outside or in the Mission Closet. You can pick up blank Valentine cards from the Church Office to fill out. Thank you for sending love and appreciation to our Veterans. POC: Karen Cole

Lenten Lunch Series: Wednesdays, February 25- April 1, 12:00 PM, Bermuda Hundred UMC. Bermuda Hundred UMC invites Chester UMC to share in its Lenten Luncheon series of worship during Lent. There will be a brief worship with hymns and a message, then a light lunch**.**

ESL Snacks and Snack Hosts Needed: Consider donating snacks and/or sign up to serve our ESL guests on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Sign up for one evening or for multiple dates. For more information please contact Natalie Galarza at familygalarza05@gmail.com

Graduate Prayer Shawls: If you have a child graduating in Spring 2026, please let us know as soon as possible. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is already preparing to create beautiful, custom-made shawls in each graduate's school colors. These handmade gifts are a meaningful way to celebrate your child's accomplishments and wrap them in the love and prayers of our church family. To ensure your graduate receives a shawl, please email the Church Office at office@chesterumc.org with your child's name and high school. Don't miss out on this unique offering!

Zelle Giving: Zelle is a great way to send your donations to the church. Find Zelle in the mobile banking app of your bank. You must have a smartphone to use Zelle. Our e-mail address is finance@chesterumc.org**.** Simply select the Zelle payment option on your bank's app, input our e-mail address above or scan this QR Code. POC: Julie Jones, Financial Administrator,finance@chesterumc.org

Saving Grace: Sundays, February 8 through March 22, 9:30 AM, Room 216. This is a series of seven classes to help you manage your money. There is no cost for the class. There is no question that money is a day-to-day issue in all our lives. If you add up the hours we spend making it, spending it, worrying about it, fighting over it, trying to protect it, and trying to manage it, you would find that we spend a lot of our waking hours focused on money. It is a big issue that affects most aspects of our lives. Please sign up in the Pew Pad today or call the Church Office at 804-748-6006 to register

Children's Valentine Party /Parent Date Night: Saturday, February 14, 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM. Chester UMC Children's Ministry will host an evening for parents to drop off their children and enjoy a special date night. Dinner, games, and a dance party! For headcount and child/ adult ratio safety this event is sign up only- No last-minute drop ins. Reserve ahead of time by emailing Whitney Graham at preschool@chesterumc.org.

Jail Ministry: Since March 2023**,** members of Bridge Builders visit men incarcerated at the Chesterfield County Jail for drug and alcohol-related offenses, where we facilitate a book study for the men participating in HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively) program. CUMC is making an impact on our community! How can you help? Provide monetary donations (Jail Ministry in memo) used for study books, stamps and cards. Become a volunteer and submit paperwork for access into the jail. Pray for the men in the Harp program and those CUMC members going into the jail. POC: Maureen Coker mcoker2003@comcast.net

End-Of-Year Giving Statements will be sent out the end of next week. Thank you for your faithful generosity throughout the year. POC: Julie Jones finance@chesterumc.org

Altar Flowers: Please consider providing flowers for the Sanctuary Altar. Dates available ~ February 1, 22; March 1, 15, 22; April 19, 26; May 31; June 7, 28; July 5, 19, 26; August 16, 30; September 6, 20, 27; October 18, 25; November 29; December 6. Sign up in the pew pad activity sheet and fill out the flower form located under the flower chart on the wall across from the Church Office. You will need to make arrangements with your preferred florist. Thank you for making the Sanctuary more beautiful.

Vacation Bible School: Mark your calendars and register to volunteer with us!
This year's VBS is scheduled for June 22-26, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM. Use this link:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BA5AD2AA0FFCF8-61636511-vbsvolunteers