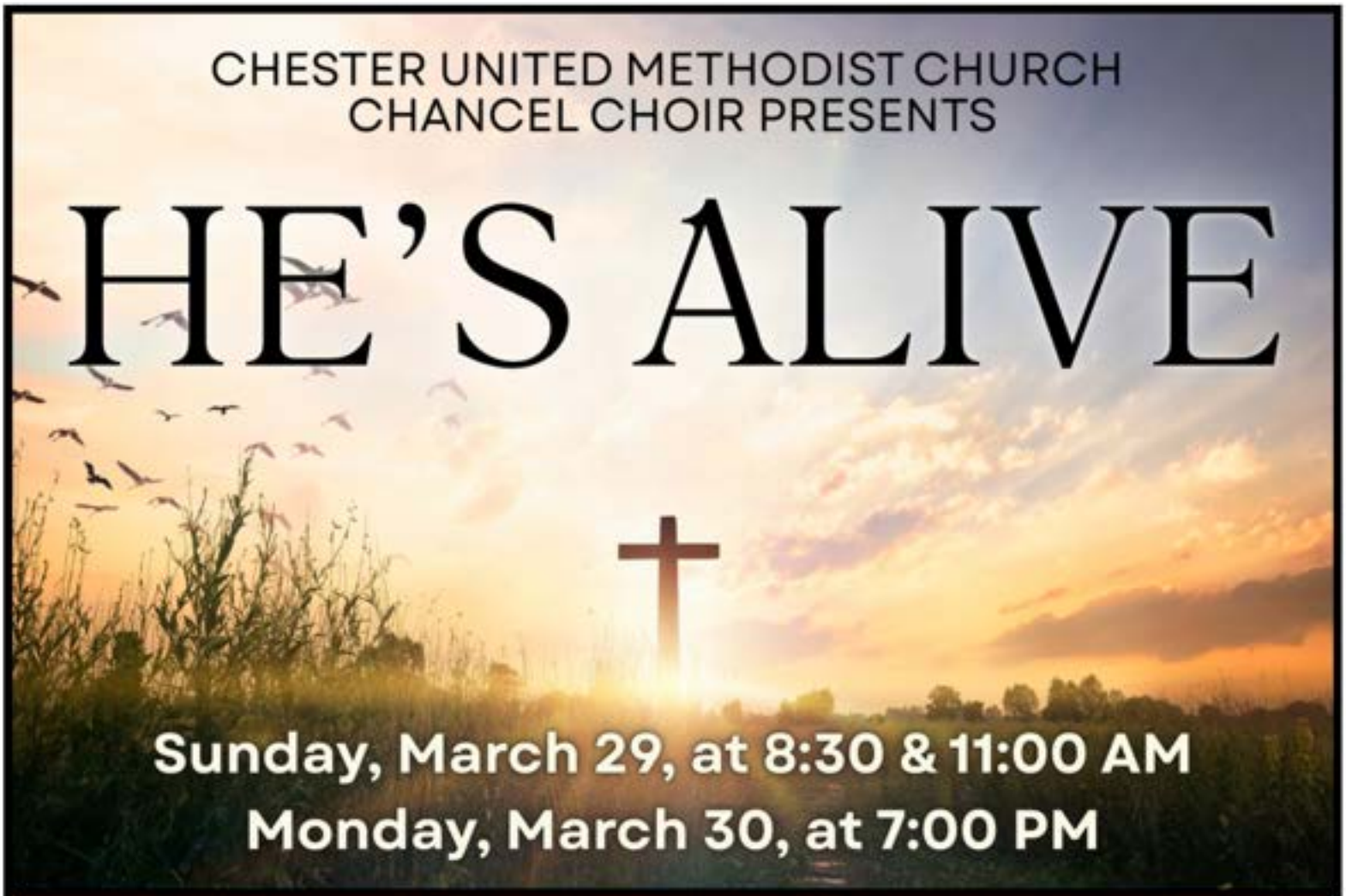
February/March 2026

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

The Chimes

A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church



LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Wednesdays at 12:00 PM
February 25 - April 1

Bermuda Hundred UMC
2025 Florence Ave, Chester, VA

Brief worship with hymns and a message followed by a light lunch. Please join us!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Fresh Start Contemporary Worship
Davis Fellowship Hall 8:30 AM

The Bridge Southern Gospel Worship
Sanctuary 9:45 AM

Traditions Traditional Worship
Sanctuary 11:00 AM

Music Notes

Rehearsals for our Easter cantata have begun, but it's not too late to join the choir this season! We practice on Wednesday nights at 7 PM. Singers of all skill levels are invited. We'll be preparing a cantata entitled "**He's Alive**" which I crafted, featuring a moving variety of anthems that tell the Easter story. "He's Alive" will be presented on **Sunday, March 29, at 8:30 and 11 AM, and Monday, March 30, at 7 PM.**

Our handbells are being refurbished this winter for the first time in more than 50 years! This will restore and preserve our bells and they will return in even better shape than before! Would you be willing to donate toward this project? Make a check payable to CUMC (Memo: Bells). The refurbishment costs just over $6,000. A portion of this expense has been covered by memorial funds, given in memory of Lynn McHugh. The newly revitalized bells will be played in worship on Sunday, February 22, at 9:45 and 11:00 AM! A little history...the first two octaves of bells were purchased in 1974 and the group was directed by Annie McClelland, mother of Lynn McHugh. The Handbell Choir performed publicly for the first time in worship on December 22, 1974, playing "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

Choir Concert - **Thursday, March 5, 7:00 PM**. The Chamber Choir of Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tennessee is returning to Chester! Please mark your calendars as they WOWED us when they last came in 2024. All are welcome for this exciting program!

Here are some exciting programs coming up you may be interested in attending!

**The Friendship and Music of Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline* February 5-8 - starring Shannon Brown and Jenny Fralin, at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, with Joshua Wortham on piano, directed by Amy Perdue. Tickets: https://cacga.na.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/18590

**An Evening with Susan Sanford* February 27-28 - starring Susan Sanford, at Swift Creek Mill Theater, with Joshua Wortham on piano. Tickets: https://www.swiftcreekmill.com/cabaret-nights

**Karen Carpenter Tribute* March 15 (2 performances) - starring Shannon Brown, at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen Ballroom, David Clatterbuck on keys. Tickets: https://cacga.na.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/18605
(seating is general admission, the earlier you arrive, the better your choice of seats)

"Sing"-cerely,

Joshua Wortham, Minister of Music
music@chesterumc.org

Youth and Family Ministry

"Hello church! Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for our Youth Ministry. It's been a blessing to see God working in our youths' lives in lessons and fellowship, particularly last December. As we were in the season of Advent, we followed a curriculum centered around the importance of Christ's birth and His eventual return. In the midst of this, we also had our annual youth lock-in event complete with bowling, hide and seek, and a parent's night out event at Trinity UMC. We also celebrated Christmas with a party and gift exchange before heading into the break.

As we ventured into the new year, our youth have been working on an exciting mission: Sole Hope. This will allow our youth the opportunity to collect denim and stitch together shoes for those in need in Uganda. Our youth raised funds through a hoagie sale, which will aid in purchasing materials and shipping the shoes to the organization in Africa. It's been incredible seeing our youth live out their faith in this project and beyond.

In light of missions, our youth have been staying busy raising funds for their trip to Guatemala. They recently held a skate night and look forward to hosting a paint party February 22. Their first yard sale was such a success, they're planning another one for March 14.

In the midst of mission preparation, our youth have also been receiving a great knowledge of the Word and UMC history in our Sunday and Wednesday Bible studies. We are blessed to have volunteers in this aspect of our ministry with a passion to help strengthen the faith and wisdom of our youth.

Evan Moody, MS and HS Youth Ministry Lead
youthleaders@chesterumc.org

Preschool

CUMC Preschool is now registering for Fall 2026! We are a half day, Christian preschool for ages 2.5 years up to Junior Kindergarten. Register now to beat the wait lists! Email to schedule a tour or join us at our Open House **Saturday, March 7, 10 AM-2 PM**. The Open House will feature a scavenger hunt, self-guided tours, crafts, and sensory tables for your children to enjoy. This is also a great opportunity to meet our staff and learn more about our curriculum.

Whitney Graham, Preschool Director

preschool@chesterumc.org / (804) 748-2275

Children's Ministry

It may be cold outside, but we're already planning an amazing week of Vacation Bible School this summer! Please use the QR code/link below to register your child and/or sign up to volunteer.

Whitney Graham, Children's Ministry Lead

preschool@chesterumc.org / (804) 748-2275

Link to register and/or volunteer:
https://vbsmate.com/events/Chesterumc/31470

Valentines for Veterans

Let's bless Veterans at Richmond VA Medical Center and Sitter & Barfoot Care Center with Valentine's Day cards! Cards can be handmade or store-bought, and should be delivered to the marked box in the Missions Closet or in the Sharing Bin (outside the Welcome Center) by Monday, February 9. Consider adding an encouraging note to honor the Veteran's service or sharing a verse of Scripture. Please sign only your first name, and do not seal the envelope. Thank you!

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Followed by a Contemporary
Ash Wednesday Service

Tuesday, February 17

6:30 PM, Davis Fellowship Hall

Traditional Ash Wednesday worship will be held Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM, at Bermuda Hundred UMC (2025 Florence Ave, Chester).

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Palm Sunday, March 29	8:30 AM Easter Concert No Bridge Worship at 9:45 AM 11:00 AM Easter Concert
Monday, March 20	7 PM Easter Concert
Holy Thursday, April 2	7 PM Holy Thursday Worship, Trinity UMC (6600 Greenyard RD)
Good Friday, April 3	7 PM Good Friday Worship with songs and Scripture, Chester UMC
Easter Sunday, April 5	6:30 AM Sunrise Service with St. John's Episcopal, Annex Lawn 8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship, Fellowship Hall 9:45 AM The Bridge Worship, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

UMCOR Kits for Conference

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) operates two relief depots, one in Salt Lake City and the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. For the past several years, Chester UMC and the UMW have collected materials for hygiene kits to be sent to Sager Brown. The hygiene kits are kept at the depot for distribution when a 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 the inventory of hygiene kits. Therefore, our goal for this year's June 17-20 Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference in Harrisonburg is **100 hygiene kits**. The entire congregation is invited to support this effort by donating items.

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 ASAP but no later than 12:00 PM Sunday, April 5. Call Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396, for more information.

Guatemala Mission Trip

A group of Chester UMC youth and chaperones are so excited to be going on a mission trip to Guatemala in 2026. We'll assist with medical missions and construction projects, and host VBS camps for children. Please consider helping us reach our fundraising goal of $64,000, which will cover expenses including airfare.

Painting Party has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2-4 PM in the fellowship hall. Cost is $35, and no special skills are needed to enjoy this fun afternoon. RSVP here https://tinyurl.com/2s3dcd7z by Sunday, February 15.

Yard Sale Saturday, March 14, 8 AM-12 PM in the fellowship hall. We will NOT be selling clothing this time, except for coats and shoes in good condition. Donations for the sale will be gratefully accepted March 9-12 during office hours (8:30 AM-2:00 PM) and all day Friday, March 13. Please contact Emily Smith, (804) 721-2168, with any questions about the yard sale.

If you'd like to make a direct donation to help fund our 2026 mission trip to Guatemala, please use this ink or qr code. Thank you for your support!

https://h4ki.managedmissions.com/mytrip/chesterunitedmethodistchurch

Point of Contact: Emily Smith Smith.family21@outlook.com

Saturday, March 14, 8 AM-12 PM

Please bring donations to the church during office hours (8:30 AM-2:00 PM) Monday, March 9 - Thursday, March 12, or all day Friday, March 13.

Clothing will NOT be sold at this yard sale, however, donations of shoes and coats are appreciated.

Thank you for supporting the youth mission trip!

Stephen Ministry Musings

By Beth VanDenBerg

On Communion Sundays, you may notice that the Stephen Ministers are wearing a blue stole when praying for you. Blue is the color associated with Stephen Ministry. There are various theories about the "ancestry" of the stole. Possibly, it could originate from the tallit, the Jewish prayer mantle which the Rabbi wears when administering prayers. Another theory suggests that the stole originated from a type of liturgical napkin known as an orarium. Thus, it is connected to the napkin used by Jesus when washing the feet of His disciples, and is a fitting symbol of the yoke of Christ, the yoke of service. We Stephen Ministers are wearing it to represent both our service to God's people and the offering of prayers.

Beginning on March 1, paper prayer request forms will be located in the red pew pad rather than in the bulletin. If you'd like to request a prayer on paper, write your request on the form, fold it, and place it in the offering plate. After the service, the ushers will give the forms to the Stephen Ministers. The forms are also designed so that they can be mailed to the church, where they will be given to the Stephen Ministers.

If you or someone you know might benefit from speaking with a Stephen Minister, please contact Steve Osborne (sosbor60@gmail.com / 407-921-0227) or Pastor Nathan (nathandecker@chesterumc.org / 804-898-1258).

ESL Snacks

We provide snacks for our English as a Second Language (ESL) students, many of whom come to class straight from work. If you'd like to help by donating food or hosting on a Tuesday or Thursday evening, please use this link:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Y1yK3tlpqO_LsD2A9MwklMVUWzm7B3lRI5VYw_wsCOY/edit?usp=sharing

POC: Natalie Galarza at familygalarza5@gmail.com

Sunday Small Groups

Kidz Zone Children's Sunday School: 9:45 AM. Rm 107 (Pre-K), Rm. 206 (Grades 1-5). POC: Evan Moody youthleaders@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, Continuing thru March 8-*When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold S. Cushner. The respected rabbi explains how to find comfort and strength in the face of tragedy and the challenges of life, and how to understand God's role in recovery. All are welcome to join us in study, fellowship, and service. POC: Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396.

Friendship Ministry Class: 10:40 AM, Room 116, for adults who are developmentally challenged. POC: Mari and Dan Hayes, JLMinNaples@msn.com

The Gathering Small Group: 9:45 AM, Room 205. Join with other young families for a time of study and fellowship. We're reading through the entire Bible with the help of *Bible Recap.* POC: Brion & Sonja Seward 1bseward@comcast.net, Andrew Brummette.

Journey Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet, Video link: https://meet.google.com/ptm-pieh-vve. POCs: Carolyn Landis landisfamily05@gmail.com and Eric Hougland ehougland88@gmail.com

Seekers Sunday School Class: 9:40 AM, Room 226. All adults are welcome. Join us as we study, "Disciple Fast Track - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study - The Old Testament". In this 12-week study of the Old Testament, participants will have the opportunity to take a spiritual gifts assessment and determine meaningful ways they can serve and live out their discipleship commitment. POC: Laura Hamm Laura.hamm83@yahoo.com

Middle & High School Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Annex Loft. Grades 6-12.
POC: Evan Moody youthleaders@chesterumc.org

Youth Group: Grades 6-12, 4:00 PM -5:30 PM, Youth House (Annex). Meets weekly for fun, fellowship, and outreach. POC: Evan Moody youthleaders@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 Mondays, 2:00 PM, Community Room at Chester Village Senior Apartments (11701 Chester Village Drive).

Bridge Builders Jail Ministry: Acceptance is the Answer. Meets every other Monday, 3:40 PM at the Chesterfield County Jail. Help us as we build relationships with the men of HARP (Helping Addicts Recovery Progressively). POC: Maureen Coker, mcoker2003@comcast.net

Joy Singers: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Music Suite. For our retired folks. This group sings for local nursing home residents and community groups. POC: Joshua Wortham music@chesterumc.org

Grief Recovery Group: Tuesdays, 2:00 PM, Room 213. New session begins Wednesday, March 4. A Christ-centered program for those who have lost a loved one within the past two years. $20 book fee. Scholarships available. Go to GriefShare.org, then click "Find A Group" and message Keith Mottley. POCs: Keith Mottley keith.mottley@comcast.net and Sandy Sims sandygeosims@hotmail.com

English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM. Website: https://sites.google.com/view/cumcenglishclasses. POC: Rebecca Hodell rhodell7@gmail.com

Youth Bible Study: Wednesdays, 5:45 PM- 7:00 PM, Trinity UMC. POC: Evan Moody youthleaders@chesterumc.org

Kidz Zone Wacky Wednesdays: Wednesdays, 5:45 PM-7:00 PM, Trinity UMC

Chancel Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Singers of all skill levels are welcome to join. POC: Joshua Wortham music@chesterumc.org

Other Small Groups (Continued)

Handbells: Wednesdays, 5:45 PM, Sanctuary. For Adults. POC: Joshua Wortham music@chesterumc.org

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study: Thursdays, 7:30 AM, at Grants Coffee Company (11884 Chester Village Drive). POC: Gordon Morris gordo15458@aim.com

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: 3rd Thursdays, 11:30 AM. Join us each month at a local restaurant for good food and great conversation. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Group: Thursdays, 1:30 PM, Parlor. All are invited to join! We can provide yarn and will happily teach you how to knit or crochet. POCs: Beverly Trevillian (804) 337-2367, and Betty Stone (804) 914-0433, wva_lady@verizon.net

United Methodist Men: For men who are seeking fellowship, mentorship, service to our church and community, and to study The Word of God with other men. POC: Brion Seward 1bseward@comcast.com

Women's Christian Book Club: 1st Thursdays of odd months, 6:30 PM, CUMC Parlor. Next meeting is March 5, and our book is *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. POC: Jennifer Brame jrbrooksieee@gmail.com.

Young Adult Bible Study Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Annex. Ages 19-30. Dinner provided.
POC: Bonnie Cauthorn, 804-337-8823, bcauthorn@outlook.com

Backpack Ministry

Thank you for helping us fill bags of food for the children at Curtis and Wells to take home each weekend. If you are like me, you have never really experienced hunger or the inability to have food readily available. The children we serve at these schools are food insecure. There is no guarantee that there will be food in their pantry at home. Your financial support and donations of food keep our backpack shelves full each week. A $35.00 donation feeds one child for a month of weekends. Or, if you prefer to shop yourself, please refer to this list list of items we use.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, please feel free to contact Carolyn Landis or myself. It takes all of us to make this work and we appreciate your support of this vital ministry.

Carolyn Landis & Karen Comer

Backpack Ministry Requested Donations
Single Serve Packaging When Applicable

Oatmeal
Pop Tarts
Cereal
Cereal/Fruit Bars
Rice-a-Roni
Soup
Ramen Noodles
Macaroni and Cheese
Tuna or Chicken Helper
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Spam
Canned Spaghetti or Ravioli
Vienna Sausages
Crackers and Cheese
Peanut Butter Crackers
Fruit/Applesauce Cups
Pretzels, Nuts, Chips, and Muffins

Saving Grace

Sundays, 9:30 AM in Room 216

There's 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. This seven class series on financial wellbeing will help you create healthy relationships with your money and possessions, as well as manage your personal finances.

Saving Grace classes begin *Sunday, **February 8**, and continue through Sunday, March 22*, with no cost to participate. Please call the church office at (804) 648-6006 to sign up.

Visitation Ministry

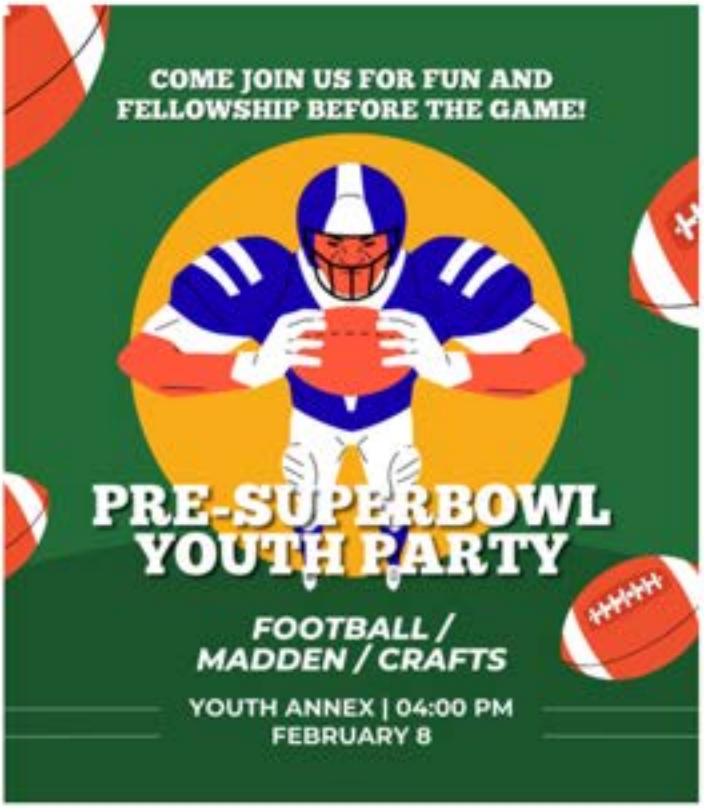
Teams of two visit church members and family members who are experiencing illness, loss of a loved one, isolation, or lack of mobility to come to church. There are usually seven visitation teams, but right now we are down to five, and we are looking for new volunteers to join us. In addition to our visits, the entire team meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10 AM.

Current team members who make visits are Martha Miles, Nancy Carrouth, Bonnie Hopson, Penny McCulloch, Carolyn Maxwell, Linda Large, Janie Zimon, Will Schmidt, Joan Osborne, Sharon Robertson, Steve Osborne, and Don Schmidt. Karen Comer prepares the visitation schedule. 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, (804) 796-2910, or Will Schmidt, (804) 931-3660.

Do you have a little time to spare and a lot of love to share? Consider joining the Visitation Ministry!

If you can't stay for lunch, quarts of homemade soup will be available "to go" for $10.



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 Monday, February 2, and Monday, March 2, 7:00 PM, Room 205. Call Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396, for details.
- **The Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet Thursday, February 12, and Thursday, March 12, 10:30 AM, Room 226. Call Martha Miles, (804) 748-5476, for details.
- **Salad Luncheon** Women of the Church are invited to a luncheon meeting of the UMW Sunday, March 22, immediately following 11:00 AM worship. Our speaker will Maureen Coker and friends, who will share about the Bridge Builders Jail Ministry. Come learn about their plans for the future 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.

Cookie Tins Needed! The UMW Christmas Cookie Sale earned $1300, which will be donated to missions such as the Food Pantry, United Methodist Family Services/Shineforth, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Thank you to all who purchased and donated homemade cookies. Please wash and donate any cookie tins you don't need to the designated bin in the Missions Closet.

Memorials

In Memory of Lyn McHugh
Gary and LuAnne Brubaker - Music

In Memory of Susan Henry
Anne Mann

In Memory of Ruth DeVore
Wayne and Ginny Virag

In Memory of Laura Fields
Martha Miles
Stanley and Norma Spencer

In Memory of Becky Leonard
Marshall Henry, III

In Memory of Boonie Anderson
Charles Northcott
Robert and Miranda Newell

In Memory of Hunter Beazley, Jr.
Ralph and M. C. Jones
Claude Slaughter
Chester and Martha Buchanan
Jeff and Linda Marlin
Tim and Beth Stewart
Richard and Vicki Bowers
Darlene Kennedy - Bereavement
Mary Phillips
Susan Matthews
Chip and Farnsworth
Phyllis and Gene Poats
Donna and Whit Kennedy
Emory and Linda Large – Backpack and Rest Stop
Betty Labin
Marshall Henry, III
Harold Crowder
Jefferson and Elizabeth Wells

Membership

WELCOME WELCOME

Mette Shultz joined Chester UMC December 7, 2025.

Emmaus Gatherings

For those who at any time in your lives have attended a Walk to Emmaus, monthly gatherings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month at Hopewell Methodist Church, 6200 Courthouse RD, Chesterfield, VA 23832. We meet at 6:00 PM for a covered-dish fellowship followed by worship and communion.

The next **Women's Walk** will be held April 23-26, 2026, at Chanco on the James, 394 Floods Drive, Spring Grove, VA 23881. This is a 3-day overnight stay.

The next **Face to Face Encounter** will be October 16-17 and October 23-24, 2026. Face to Face is a daytime Walk.

POC: Claudia Nagy, (804) 712-7733.

Blood Drive

Wednesday, February 4
10 AM - 3 PM
Davis Fellowship Hall

Link to donate:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva

Thank you to all who have donated in the past! During the December blood drive, 30 donations were collected. In 2025, 6 blood drives were held at Chester UMC, yielding 163 donations. These impacted up to 326 patients in need. Donating blood is a wonderful way to IMPACT our community and LOVE our neighbors!

As a special thanks from the American Red Cross, Donors will receive a $20 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice.

Rest Stop

REST STOP is a Chester UMC after school program designed to provide rest and encouragement to at-risk youth from Thomas Dale High School.

In December and January we shopped for our Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother child; packed and delivered Christmas gift bags to our CUMC residents at the Crossings; took a Tacky Light Tour around Chesterfield; had a homemade pancake and bacon dinner; watched the film *Stand By Me* and talked about long-time friendships and looking out for each other; enjoyed a visit from Georgia Smith from Chesterfield County Police who talked to us about personal safety, avoiding fraud, and safe driving; and enjoyed a trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to see the Giants collection from Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys.

Our regular undertakings include snacks, conversation, homework, tutoring, games, outdoor activities and dinner. 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.

Thank You Notes

Dear Chester United Methodist Church,
I wanted to reach out and send a heartfelt thank you for your continued support of CCHASM. Your faithful generosity has been a lifeline, allowing us to meet the demand from area residents in need. We are truly blessed to have you as a partner in our mission.
Blessings, Shelley Martin (CCHASM CEO)

Dear Chester United Methodist Church,
On behalf of the Central Virginia VA Health Care System patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of calendars and cards. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again. Thank you for your continued support.
Sincerely, Thessalonia Higgs, Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, Richmond VA Medical Center

Bridge Builders Ministry

Since March 2023, members of Bridge Builders visit men who are incarcerated at the Chesterfield County Jail for drug and alcohol-related offenses. Every other Monday we go to the jail and facilitate a book study for these men, who are participating in HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively). We pray with them and for them, and we send letters of encouragement.

Gordon Morris regularly visits the jail, and he recently shared this testimony:

I have been volunteering with our HARP jail ministry team for a little over a year now. I was discerning where God might be calling me to serve and one Sunday Matthew 25:36 was part of the scripture reading. In the bulletin that Sunday was a blurb about the jail ministry. God definitely got my attention, and I'm so grateful I listened! Getting to know these men, their struggles, past hurts, and joys has been such a blessing for me! It has changed my perspective so much. Now when I see the prayer chain with these men's requests I have faces to go with those names-the connection is so personal now. These men are truly grateful when we go to see them. It humbles me because I don't feel like I'm doing much, but to them it means so much to know people love them and are praying for them. It is hands down one of my favorite ministry experiences!

Please consider supporting this impactful ministry in one of the following ways: provide monetary donations (memo "Jail Ministry") for study books, stamps, and cards; become a volunteer and submit paperwork for access into the jail; or pray for the men in the Harp program. Thank you.

POC: Maureen Coker mcoker2003@comcast.net

I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.
Matthew 25:36

Samaritan Fund

What happens when our neighbors in need show up at Chester UMC looking for help? Historically, we have maintained a specific fund to help with emergency situations, however, the need in our community has been so great that the Samaritan Fund is empty.

In a typical week, we receive multiple requests for financial assistance, most often for rent or utilities. When funds are available, the person requesting help is invited to fill out an application. Any payments from the Samaritan Fund are made directly to the utility company or landlord, and a recipient may not be considered for financial assistance again for a period of 2 years.

Here's an example of how we were able to bless a neighbor in need not long ago: A Senior Citizen was injured in a fall, causing her to incur medical expenses and lose income from her part-time job. She was quite resourceful and had worked hard to ensure her obligations were met, but still fell short on the current month's rent. Her modest balance due was paid by the Samaritan Fund, and she was so grateful that she could focus on healing instead of worrying about losing her apartment. What a wonderful feeling it was to ease this sweet woman's burden, all because of the generosity of this congregation!

Please prayerfully consider helping to replenish the Samaritan Fund so that we may continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our neighbors. (Designate "Samaritan Fund" on your check or envelope.) Thank you!

Painting Party!

Sunday, February 22, 2-4 PM

Davis Fellowship Hall

Come join the fun and help our youth raise funds for their mission trip to Guatemala! No painting skills are required.

Cost is $35. RSVP by Sunday, February 15

Link to sign up:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfdlpzs675TMPSBugyje9UITBWxc2noC7Zu6TCL-mWwN6-ZMw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Save the Date!

April 11, 2026

CHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12132 Percival Street, Chester, Va.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

9 am - 3 pm

Free Admission!

Quality handmade goods from CUMC crafters and many more. Pick up a few Mother's Day gifts while you browse.

If you craft and are interested in obtaining a space, or know someone else who might be interested, call Katey Petrey McCarney,
(804) 402-0084 or see www.chesterumc.org.

GriefShare®

Grief Share is a Christ-centered grief recovery group for those who have lost a loved one in the past two years. A new session begins **Wednesday, March 4, at 2 PM in Room 213**. There is a $20 book fee, and scholarships are available. To learn more or to register, please message Keith Mottley and visit https://www.griefshare.org/ and click the button to find an in-person group. POCs: Keith Mottley, keith.mottley@comcast.net, and Sandy Sims, sandygeosims@hotmail.com.

Chester UMC Staff

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: Morgan Hall and Carla Adams
MS and HS Youth Ministry: Evan Moody youthleaders@chesterumc.org

February Birthdays

February 1
Erika Hilton
Cathy Staples

February 2
Vann Hall
Tonya Harris
Gabe Higgins

February 3
Stede Barnes
Katie Blevins
Blake Miles
Brenda Stacy

February 4
Beth Duke
Bob Kutz
Lilian Lashley
Kenzie McHugh
Charles Morgan

February 5
Kerrie Browder
Lindsay Kennedy

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 9
Doug Riney

February 10
Marian Garrett
Bridget Mauro
Beth Powell

February 11
Monta Anthony
Phillip Arnold
Stephen Arnold
Keith Dunnavant
Alex Giffin
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
Kathy Martin

February 15
Suzanne Anderson
Roy Dunnavant
Deepak Thomas
Tommy Wright

February 16
Heath Anderson
Mallory Lenz
Emilia Levin
Ritu Lijewski
Rob Tankard III

February 17
Julia Bowman
Faye Cormier
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
Katherine O'Connell
Lauren Slaasted
Betty Stone

February 20
Phillip Arnold
George Avery, Jr.
Terrie Mason

February 21
Scott Brubaker
Madison Clark
Ann Johnson
Sydni Kilbourne
Joan Osborne

February 22
LaVerne Cole
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.

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 Degraba
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

If your birthday was missed, please contact the church office office@chesterumc.org.

March Birthdays

March 1
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
Charles Parker III

March 4
Sarah Bowers
Lea Brooks
Camden Chatham
Dave Deck
Courtney Engelking
Andrew Krukiel
Steve Shultz

March 5
Joel Crawford
Jim Hobson
Madelyn Jackson

March 6
Sandy Burch
Jason Compton
Patrick Dobbs
Aiden Freed
Bruce Nugent
Chelsea Waldrop

March 7
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
Debbie Phillips
Jacob Riney
Linda Willingham
Bonnie Wray

March 11
Stacey Broga
Ellis Chatham
Lional Dunnavant
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
Jay Martin
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
Judy White

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

March 27
Samantha Garcia
Debbie Howard
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
Jesse Stacy

Chester United Methodist Church
12132 Percival Street
Chester, VA 23831

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. The office will be closed **Monday, February 16** in observance of Presidents' Day.

Articles for ***The Chimes*** may be submitted to assistant@chesterumc.org.
The deadline for submission to the April/May edition is Wednesday, March 18.

CHESTER UMC ONLINE RESOURCES

Website: 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/blV9Tv to subscribe. **YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC **Prayer Chain Email:** Submit your name and email address to office@chesterumc.org with "Prayer Chain" in the subject line to subscribe.

Texting Ministry: Text "Connect" to (804) 979-2922

Call the Church Office, (804) 748-6006, for more information.