the bridge

April 19, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
I'll Fly Away
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Revive Us Again
Take My Life

SCRIPTURE
1 Peter 1:13-25 NIV

SPECIAL MUSIC
Cole Irving

MESSAGE
Be Holy, Because I Am Holy
Evan Moody

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

April 19, 2026 - 8:30 AM

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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Sing, Sing, Sing
Today is the Day
Unstoppable God
Take My Life

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cole Irving

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:13-25 NIV

MESSAGE

Be Holy, Because I Am Holy
Evan Moody

April 19, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Second Sunday after Easter

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting — Cole Irving

Prelude — ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*** — Organist
Acolytes: Zak McNelley, Lexi Bailey

* Call to Worship[1] — Ethan Decker, Liturgist

Leader: We see light, hope, and joy;
People: We bring heart, soul, mind, and body!
Leader: We share blessings and fears;
People: We bring faith and doubt.
All: With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God.

* Hymn No. 261 ***Lord of the Dance***

* Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who created us and knows us by name. We believe in Jesus Christ, who walks beside us, understands our struggles and calls us to follow Him. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us strength, courage, and creativity to change the world. We are not just the church of tomorrow; we are the church of today. We are loved, we are chosen, and we are called to shine God's light. With God's help, we will live as examples in speech, conduct, faith, love, and purity. Amen.

* 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.

Holy Baptism

Special Music — ***I Am a C*** — Youth

Why We Give — Andrew Mueller
Offertory — Cole Irving

* 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 — Ethan Decker

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. 334 — ***Sweet, Sweet Spirit***

Scripture — ***1 Peter 1:13-25*** — NIV

Skit — Ethan Decker, Cole Irving

Sermon — ***Be Holy, Because I Am Holy*** — Evan Moody

* Hymn No. 395 — ***Take Time To Be Holy***
* Benediction
* Postlude

---

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

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

Altar Flowers are given by Sarah Bowers, to the glory of God and in memory of her grandparents, John & Jo Ann Effland and Richard & Elaine Bowers.

Calendar

April 19, 2026– April 26, 2026

Today: Sunday, April 19

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship- 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
2:30 PM Virginia State University Concert- Sanctuary
4:00 PM Youth Group- Annex

Monday: April 20

2:00 PM Bridge Builders-116
6:30 PM Boy Scouts- 226

Tuesday: April 21

10:30 AM Joy Singers- Music Suite
3:00 PM Rest Stop- Annex
7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226

Wednesday: April 22

2:00 PM Grief Share-213
5:45 PM Handbell Choir
5:45 PM Wacky Wed.- Trinity
6:15 PM Youth Bible Study- Trinity UMC
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday: April 23

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl- Parlor
6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study- Annex
7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226, Fellowship Hall

Friday: April 24

Saturday: April 25

7:00 AM Running for HIS Glory- Church Parking Lot
2:00 PM Choir Tea- Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday: April 26

Graduate Sunday

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship- 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
3:00 PM Pint with a Pastor-Three Leg Run
4:00 PM Youth Group- Annex

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, Cindy Webb will not be available today. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Mission Trip: Please keep the Mission Trip volunteers traveling to Boone, NC, to help restore and rebuild after Hurricane Helene in your thoughts and prayers this week. Pray for their safety, strength, and resilience, as well as for everyone involved in the recovery efforts.

Please Welcome into Christian Fellowship Our Newest Member:

- ***Lindsay Brown*** (11:00 AM)

Let's Celebrate the Baptisms of:

- ***Georgina Garrett,*** daughter of Christiana Garrett. (9:45 AM)
- ***Ella Brown & Luna Brown,*** daughters of David & Lindsay Brown (11:00 AM)

VSU Concert Choir in Concert TODAY, 2:30 PM. Join us for this incredible experience! You won't want to miss this thrilling concert! All are welcome! A free-will offering will be received.

Nursery Worker Needed: We have an opening for a paid nursery worker for Sunday mornings during worship services, from 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM. Applicant must be an adult and able to lift small children. Background check required. Contact nathandecker@chesterumc.org to apply.

The Hurried Gospel of Mark: Meets Thursdays, through May 7, 10:00 AM, Room 221. *Will not meet on Thursday, April 23.* POC: Pastor Nathan, nathandecker@chesterumc.org

Picnic in the Park: Sunday, May 3, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Goyne Park. Join Chester UMC Children's Ministry for a fun day of play, prayer, and popsicles. Bring a picnic to enjoy, play games with us on the field, or join the kids on the playground. We will bring the fun and the popsicles. RSVP Whitney Graham at (804) 691-0383.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 AM -3:00 PM, CUMC Fellowship Hall. Give blood and receive a $20 eGift Card. If you are an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Schedule your donation by scanning the QR code or use the link: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva

Chester UMC Preschool Enrollment for Fall 2026: Now accepting enrollment for half-day, Christian-based preschool, for ages 2.5 up to Junior Kindergarten. Call Whitney Graham today to schedule a preschool tour. POC: Whitney Graham, (804) 748-2275, preschool@chesterumc.org

Keep In Prayer: Oscar Ortega; Cindy Webb; Jennifer Dyson; Abby Honn; Sandy Cullather; Joshua Devericks; Doris Hancock; Bobbie Morrissette; Jim Watkins; Dorothy Gonzalez; Linda Nabors; Victoria Harrington; Pat Baake; Laney Marshall Phillips; Reed Willingham; Walt Stone; Monty Nunery; Bruce Nugent; Sharon Buchanan; Linda Willingham; Susan May; Eliza Furr; Cynthia Corley; Wayne Scruton; Dick & Lynn Weis; Bruce Highley; Becky York; Ann Stuart; Bert Watson; Jo Kiser; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Susan Young; Harold Worcester; Lynda Richardson; Summer Lannan; Brooke & Mary Ann Hamilton

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, April 12, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…112
9:45 AM, Bridge 48
11:00 AM, Traditions.....130
Online.....47
Total……...337

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, April 19, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Gina & Patrick Dobbs	
	9:45	Brenda & Jesse Stacy	
	11:00	Linda Large, Marian Perkinson	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Tracey* & Tommy Wright	*Head Usher
	9:45	Beth Stewart*, Kim Young	
	11:00	Gordon Morris*, Joan & Steve Osborne, Doug Riney, Sandy Sims	
Donut Disciples:		Chip & Laurie Cobb	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Morgan Hall	

Altar Flowers: Consider providing flowers for the Altar. We have many dates available- June 7, 28; July 5, 19, 26; August 16, 30; September 6, 20, 27; October 18, 25, November 29. Write your name on the flower chart near the Church Office and fill out one of the flower forms below the chart. Return the form to the Church Office. Or you can call the Church Office (748-6006) or email office@chesterumc.org to reserve a date. You will need to make arrangements with your preferred florist. (River's Bend Florist will waive the delivery fee). Thank you for making the Sanctuary more beautiful.

Backpack: We are almost through another school year; just the remainder of April and May to go! Your support for this ministry has been amazing, and we are so appreciative of every dollar donation and each item given. This has been a long-term ministry that has grown over the years and without your support it would never have been so successful. The children at C.C. Wells and C.E. Curtis Elementary Schools have been blessed by your generosity. We like to include something "special" at the end of the school year so we are asking for donations of pudding cups. They may be left in the backpack bin in the Missions Closet. Thank you.
POC: Carolyn Landis and Karen Comer kgcomer@verizon.net

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 pray for the men in the HARP program and those CUMC members volunteering at the jail.
POC: Maureen Coker, mcoker2003@comcast.net

Rest Stop is a Chester UMC after school program designed to provide rest and encouragement to at-risk youth from Thomas Dale High School. Call Susan to sign up to provide a meal. Contact Rest Stop Team Leader, Susan Petrey, at (804) 938-5396, for more information.

Pint with a Pastor: Sundays, 3:00 PM, Three Leg Run. Ever had a question about faith you were afraid to ask? ***Will not meet on Sunday, April 19.***
POC: Pastor Nathan nathandecker@chesterumc.org

Leading Our Worship Sunday, April 26, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Andy and McDuff Steck
	9:45	Stephanie Decker
	11:00	Sharon Larew, Jim Rhodes
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer *Head Usher
	9:45	Beth Stewart*, Scott Pugh
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Marshall Henry, Larry Koon, Don Schmidt, Kay Williams
Donut Disciples:		Eileen and Andy Steck
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Morgan Hall

New Outreach at Chester UMC! We're partnering with First Touch Sports to begin a new ministry, Church on the Sidelines. We'll provide support, services, and advocacy to families involved in the youth soccer organization by:

- Offering a welcoming presence and consistent support at games.
- Providing snacks and water for players.
- Sharing information about programs and services the church offers, as well as those offered in the community.
- Practicing intentional listening to fully understand family needs and challenges.

For more information, please contact Evan Moody, youthleaders@chesterumc.org

Stephen Ministry: There are people in our congregation and community who could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister. We have trained Stephen Ministers ready to walk alongside these people. If you are someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Steve Osborne, sosbor60@gmail.com.

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**: Meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, Room 205. Next meeting will be Monday, May 4, 7:00 PM. We will assemble hygiene kits for UMCOR. POC: Susan Petrey (804) 938-5396.
- **The Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship**: Meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 10:30 AM, Room 226. Next meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 10:30 AM. POC: Martha Miles, (804) 748-5476.

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

Monthly Emmaus Gathering: For those who attended Walk to Emmaus gatherings at any time in their lives. Held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Hopewell Methodist Church, Chesterfield. Meet at 6:00 PM for a covered dish fellowship, followed at 6:30 PM with worship and communion. The next Face-to-Face encounter is October 16-17 & October 23-24**.** Face-to-Face is a daytime walk. POC: Claudia Nagy at (804) 712-7733.

Emmaus Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, May 3, CUMC Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 11:00 AM Traditions Worship Service. If you've participated in an Emmaus Walk, please join us for a potluck luncheon with fellow participants. It will be fun to share our experiences from our weekend and how it continues to impact us. We want teams to start sending pilgrims to future walks to lessen the responsibilities for an individual.
POCs: Rev. Dr. Marg Kutz margkutz72@gmail.com and Claudia Nagy. dgramy@yahoo.com

A Place of Miracles: Thank you for your donations. We need towels, deodorant (new) and personal hygiene items. Place donations in the Church Missions closet.
POC: Diane Merryman, (804) 586-4189 dianemerryman@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School: June 22-26, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM. For children preschool age through 5th grade. Volunteers are needed and appreciated! Please use this QR code to register as a volunteer and/or to register your child to attend VBS.
POC: Whitney Graham, preschool@chesterumc.org

PICNIC
in The Park

CHESTER UMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FOR A FUN DAY OF PLAY, PRAYER AND POPSICLES! BRING A PICNIC TO ENJOY, PLAY GAMES IN THE FIELD WITH US, OR JOIN THE KIDS ON THE PLAYGROUND! WE WILL BRING THE FUN AND POPSICLES!

SUNDAY
3
MAY

GOYNE PARK
AT 3 PM - 5 PM
BESIDE ECOFF ELEMENTRY

RSVP TO WHITNEY GRAHAM - 804-691-0383

Welcome Melanie Fleischer, New Associate Pastor

Melanie Fleischer is a rising fourth and final-level MDIV/MACE dual degree student at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Mel graduated from Randolph Macon College in January of 2023 as an A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholar. She has served in youth and children's ministry for the last three years at Welborne UMC in the West End. She is particularly passionate about Christian Education and making faith formation inclusive to all individuals- no matter their age or ability. Mel spends her free time re-watching Gilmore Girls, reading books, and drinking Starbucks refreshers. Outside of church, you will find Mel in a thrift store or a public library. Attached is a photo of her winning an award for excellence in Christian Education at the Seminary.

Save The Date: Sunday, June 28, immediately following the 11:00 AM Traditions Worship Service. Join us for a covered dish luncheon to welcome Melanie Fleischer as the new Associate Pastor of Chester United Methodist Church. Chicken will be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share. All are welcome.

Chester UMC
Preschool
ENROLLING FOR FALL 2026
ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT FOR HALF DAY, CHRISTIAN BASED PRESCHOOL FOR AGES 2.5 UP TO JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN!
CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR
804-748-2275
PRESCHOOL@CHESTERUMC.ORG