the bridge

April 26, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
Do Lord
I Stand Amazed
Great Are You Lord
Jesus Built This Church on Love

SCRIPTURE
John 10:1-10 NRSVUE

SPECIAL MUSIC
He's Always Been Faithful
Laura Morris and Charleene Holmes

MESSAGE
I Just Wanna Be a Sheep
Pastor Nathan Decker

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 26, 2026 - 8:30 AM

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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Father, Spirit, Jesus
All the People Said Amen
Great Are You Lord
Trust in God

SPECIAL MUSIC

He's Always Been Faithful
Laura Morris and Charleene Holmes

SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-10 NRSVUE

MESSAGE

I Just Wanna Be a Sheep
Pastor Nathan Decker

April 26, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting

Prelude ***A Mighty Fortress*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Jeff Marlin, Liturgist

Leader: We gather together in the presence of our Shepherd God,
People: who calls us each by name,
Leader: who restores our souls,
People: who leads us in the way of righteousness,
Leader: and whose goodness and love never stops pursuing us.
People: This is the God we have come to worship!

* Opening Prayer[2]

Shepherd, Gate, Provider and Protector: Thank you that you do not drive us like cattle, but you lead us by name. Give us ears that are finely tuned to your frequency. In a world of competing voices, help us to discern your voice. Instill in us refusal to follow the voice of a hireling, but instead, instinctively to recognize the tone of your grace and the direction of your Spirit. Forgive us for seeking our identity in our achievements, our status, or the opinions of others. Remind us that our true identity is found in being know by you. Disciple us to be "good sheep" – not following the call of fear, but the song of love. Give us the humility to follow even when the path looks narrow. Soften our hearts so that we remain within the protection of your fold, and impart to us a spirit of unity with the "other sheep" you are calling, that we may truly become one flock under the Great Shepherd, Amen.

* Hymn No. 419 ***I Am Thine, O Lord***
* 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 ***He's Always Been Faithful*** Chancel Choir

Why We Give
Offertory ***Be Thou My Vision*** Organist

* 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. 128	***He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought***	*Stanzas 1 & 3*
Scripture	***John 10:1-10***	NRSVUE
Sermon	***I Just Wanna Be a Sheep***	Rev. Nathan Decker
Graduate Recognition Poem	***If*** *by Rudyard Kipling*	
* Hymn No. 381	***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us***	*Stanzas 1-3*

* Benediction
* Choral Amen

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

[1]https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/worship-resourches-for-may-15-2011.html
[2]https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2026/03/30/sheep-prayer-based-on-john-10/

<u>Altar Flowers</u> are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Gary & Kay Williams' 46th wedding anniversary (April 5).

Calendar

April 26, 2026– May 3, 2026

Today: Sunday, April 26

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

Monday: April 27

6:30 PM Boy Scouts- 226

Tuesday: April 28

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

Wednesday: April 29

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
6:30 AM Crew- 206
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday: April 30

10:00 AM The Hurried Gospel Of Mark- 221
1:30 PM Prayer Shawl- Parlor
6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study- Annex
7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226

Friday: May 1

Saturday: May 2

7:00 AM Running for HIS Glory- Church Parking Lot
10:00 AM Quilting Guild- 226

Next Sunday: May 3

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
12:00 PM Emmaus Pot-Luck Lunch- Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM Pint with a Pastor-Three Leg Run
3:00 PM Picnic in the Park- Goyne Park
4:00 PM Youth Group- Annex

<u>Worship Next Sunday</u>

May 3, 2026 Forgiveness for the Oppressed and the Oppressor Acts 7:51-60 NCB

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 be available today at 9:00 AM in Room 105.

High School Graduate Recognition: Today, we recognize the 2026 High School Graduates.

- Jordon Bailey – Thomas Dale High School
- Rebecca Barker - Thomas Dale High School
- Rachael Barlow – Thomas Dale High School
- Ethan Decker – Thomas Dale High School
- Kayla Dodd – Matoaca High School
- Kimberly McFarland – Thomas Dale High School
- Zak McNelley – Liberty University On-Line High School
- Brendan Munchel – Matoaca High School
- William Strickler – Colonial Heights High School
- Angelina Villalobos – Thomas Dale High School

College Graduate Recognition: Today, we recognize the 2026 College Graduate.

- Savannah Talley – James Madison University

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, (804) 748-6006, to apply.

Picnic in the Park: Sunday, May 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 below:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva

Handbell Choir Concert: Sunday, May 17, 3:00 PM at Trinity UMC. Featuring the bell choirs from both Chester UMC and Trinity UMC. Invite your friends and neighbors to hear this beautiful, free concert featuring a wide array of musical styles! All are welcome!

Keep In Prayer: Wade Scruton; Rose Childress; Tammy Outlaw; 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; 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 19, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…91
9:45 AM, Bridge 67
11:00 AM, Traditions.....131
Online.....41
Total……...330

VSU Choir Concert (in-person & online)…131

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, April 26, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Andy Steck and McDuff 🐾	
	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:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Morgan Hall	

Altar Flowers: Consider providing flowers for the Altar. We have many dates still 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 / email the Church Office (748-6006), 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).

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.
POCs: 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. Please 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.

Leading Our Worship Sunday, May 3, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Mike Thompson, Betsy Zalumas, and Brody 🐾
	9:45	Stephanie Decker
	11:00	Pam Kasky, Marian Perkinson
Ushers:	**8:30**	Tommy Wright*, Ron Dombrowski *Head Usher
	9:45	Scott Pugh*, Kim Young
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Bob Kutz, Geoff LeSueur, Patrick Mims, Scott Pugh
Communion:	**8:30**	Evan Moody, Donna DiRoma, Lilly Freiin von Ketelhodt
	9:45	Cornelia DeWitt
	11:00	Steve Osborne, Claudia Nagy, Penn Schultz
Donut Disciple:		Laura Hougland
Nursery:		Carla Adams

Emmaus Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, May 3, CUMC Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 11:00 AM Traditions Worship Service. If you have ever participated in an Emmaus Walk, please join us for a potluck luncheon with fellow participants. We would like to organize 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

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.

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

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.

CUMC Preschool Graduates: The CUMC Preschool would like to congratulate our preschool graduates. We are so proud of our 29 students that will be starting Kindergarten this fall. You all have bright futures ahead!

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

Thank you for giving so generously to Walk 4 Water Chester. Because of your generosity, hope is closer. So far, we have raised $3,500 toward our $13,500 goal. It's a meaningful start but we're not there yet. Please consider donating to help fund construction of a well to provide clean, safe water for the residents of Kasaya East. Use the QR Code to make your donation today. Thank you for your support,

The Hurried Gospel of Mark: Meets Thursdays, through May 7, 10:00 AM, Room 221. Led by Pastor Nathan. POC: Pastor Nathan, nathandecker@chesterumc.org

Pint with a Pastor: Sundays, 3:00 PM at Three Leg Run. Ever had a question about faith you were afraid to ask? POC: Pastor Nathan nathandecker@chesterumc.org

Church On The Sidelines - 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

CUMC's Good Samaritan Fund is used to help individuals and families facing temporary financial hardship. Assistance may include help with utilities or rent for those who are actively working to improve their situation. This fund is intended for short-term needs, not ongoing support. Applicants must complete a detailed application explaining their circumstances and the steps they are taking to reach stability. Once assistance is received, individuals are not eligible to reapply for two years. Please consider donating to the Samaritan Fund to help people in need during a difficult time. Make checks payable to CUMC and write *Samaritan Fund* in the memo.

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Children's Sunday School, Kidz Zone: 9:45 AM. Pre-K (Room 107); K-2 (Room 204) Grades 3-5 (Room 206). Come join our Kidz Zone Ministry.
POC: Whitney Graham, preschool@chesterumc.org

Adult Small Group Bible Study: 9:45 AM, Room 213 "Our Pad". All adults are welcome. POC: Jeff Marlin jeff.marlinabd@gmail.com

Fresh Start Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Room 221, at the top of the old stairway. Join the Fresh Start Sunday School Class in study, fellowship, and service. All are welcome. 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. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome.
POCs: Sonja Seward (804) 543-3036; Andrew Brummette (678) 409-3683; and Brion Seward 1bseward@comcast.net.

Journey Sunday School Class: 9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet, Join by 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.
POC: Laura Hamm, Laura.hamm83@yahoo.com

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

Youth Group: Grades 6th-12th, 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

Bridge Builders- Jail Ministry- 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). Maureen Coker, mcoker2003@comcast.net

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

Grief Recovery Group: Wednesdays, 2:00 PM, Room 213. A Christ-centered program for those who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Go to GriefShare.org, then click "*Find A Group"*, and message Keith Mottley, keith.mottley@comcast.net or Sandy Sims, sandygeosims@hotmail.com

ESL Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM. Click on this link: https://sites.google.com/view/cumcenglishclasses POC: Rebecca Hodell, rhodell7@gmail.com

Youth Bible Study: Wednesdays, 5:45 PM- 7:00 PM, Trinity UMC.

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

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 great food and 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

Young Adult Bible Study, Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Annex. Ages 19-30. Dinner provided. POC: Evan Moody, youthleaders@chesterumc.org

Women's Christian Book Club: 1st Thursdays of *odd months*, 6:30 PM, CUMC Annex. POC: Jennifer Brame jrbrooksieee@gmail.com

United Methodist Men: For men who are seeking to give and receive fellowship, mentorship, and service to Church and community. POC: Brion Seward 1bseward@comcast.com

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

Trinity United Methodist Church and
Chester United Methodist Church

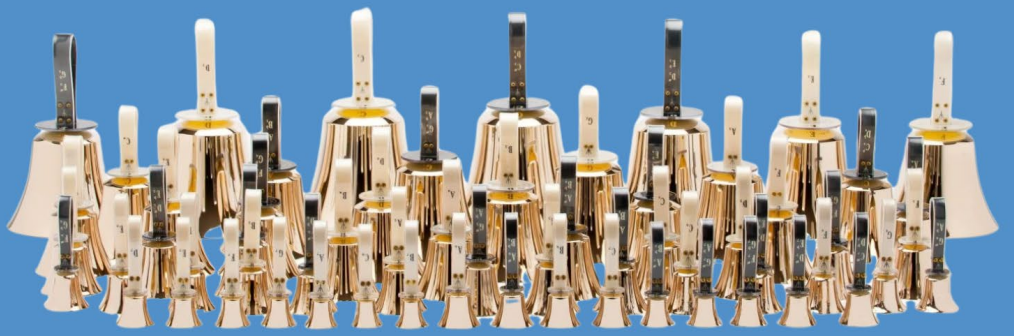
present

Chester Rings!

Sunday, May 17

3:00 PM

6600 Greenyard Road, Chester, VA 23831



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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
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PRESCHOOL@CHESTERUMC.ORG