April/May2026

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

The Chimes

A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church

WALK 4 WATER CHESTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

CHECK-IN 12:30 | WALK 1:00

THREE LEG RUN BREWERY | 4418 W HUNDRED RD

Help families in a remote village in Uganda who do not have safe, clean water to drink.

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

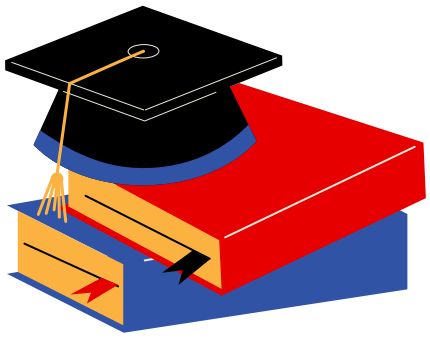
https://support.h4ki.org/event/2026-walk-4-water-chester-va/e749657

Scan QR code or click link to learn more about Walk 4 Water, sign up to participate, or offer financial support.

Graduate Recognition

Sunday, April 26

If you're graduating from high school, trade school, college - any sort of graduation - we want to recognize and celebrate YOU! Please contact the church office ASAP at (804) 748-6006 / office@chesterumc.org.



Music Notes

As we continue our journey through Lent, don't miss our Good Friday concert on April 3 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. We are pleased to welcome the Franke Family featuring Natalie on cello, Chris on violin, and their daughter Jenna will be singing, with yours truly at the piano. Chris is the assistant principal violinist for the Presidents' Own Marine Band! This will be a STUNNING concert of worship and time of reflection on the cross.

Then, you do NOT WANT TO MISS the Virginia State University Concert Choir on Sunday, April 19, at 2:30 PM! This will be a choir concert unlike anything you've ever experienced at CUMC! Encourage everyone in the community to attend and support these gifted young voices! A free-will offering will be received

Georgia Rogers Farmer will be in concert at St. Thomas Episcopal as part of their arts series on Saturday, April 18, at 7:00 PM. More info: https://www.stthomasrichmond.org/mary-whittle-concert-series

Handbell Concert - Sunday, May 17, 3:00 PM at Trinity UMC Chesterfield. The bell choirs from Chester UMC and Trinity UMC are teaming up for a humDINGER of a concert! Don't miss it!

"Sing"-cerely,

Joshua Wortham, Minister of Music
music@chesterumc.org

Easter Worship Sunday, April 5

6:30 AM Sunrise Service, Annex Lawn, followed by breakfast at St. John's fellowship hall
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship, Davis Fellowship Hall
9:45 AM The Bridge Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 AM Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Communion at 6:30 AM service only Easter Sunday. Communion at all three services Sunday, April 12.

Preschool

Chester UMC preschool is currently enrolling for fall 2026. We are a half day, faith-based preschool operating from September through May. We offer classes for 2.5 years up to Junior Kindergarten. Email today for more information or to schedule a tour.

Whitney Graham, Preschool Director

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

Children's Ministry

Our Children's Ministry team recently lent a helping hand at the Chesterfield Food Bank. The children were eager to help out and got to see firsthand how volunteering shapes our community. Saturday, April 4, our ministry will host its very first Resurrection Walk, a walk through Holy Week with interactive stations that allow participants to experience Jesus's week leading up to the crucifixion. We will celebrate spring at our Popsicles at the Park event Sunday, May 3rd. Come join us for popsicles, prayer and play! Keep an eye out for more information and events coming soon!

Whitney Graham, Children's Ministry Lead

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

Youth and Family Ministry

Hello church! Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our Youth Ministry. It's been an incredible opportunity, especially over the past few months, to see God work within the lives of our youth and those who surround this ministry. In particular, I saw our youth put their faith into with our Sole Hope fundraiser. In February, they helped prepare hoagies for supporters, with all funds going towards purchasing and delivering shoe-making kits. Just a few weeks ago, our youth used these kits to make shoes from donated denim for children in Uganda who are at risk of parasitic fleas.

We've been dedicated to studying the Word these past few months and particularly, stories of Christ's ministry on earth as we prepare for Easter. In addition to these gospel lessons, the youth have been learning a considerable amount about their denomination in Youth Sunday School. By use of a Methodist history and doctrine curriculum, they've been well acquainted with the teachings of John Wesley and company, as well as learning what it means to be a United Methodist in the world today.

Apart from this, our youth have been staying busy with special events, such as our Super Bowl party, Youth Olympics, and Boy Scout Sunday, in which a few of our youth participated in leading worship. Looking forward, we are preparing for Youth Sunday, in which our ministry will have the opportunity to lead the traditional worship service. This'll be an incredible opportunity for our youth to add their own personal style to worship and display their ever-growing faith.

Additionally, our youth and volunteers have been working diligently collecting funds for their Guatemala mission trip. Most recently, they held a painting night and a community yard sale as a final fundraiser for the mission. We are incredibly blessed to have such a loving community of support for our youth as they continue to walk in the ways of Christ.

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

Some upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

- April 12 Confirmation Sunday, Walk 4 Water
- April 19 Youth Sunday (Traditions)
- April 26 Graduate Recognition (all worship services), Flying Squirrels game
- May 2 Busch Gardens with Trinity UMC and Bermuda Hundred UMC
- May 10 End of Year Party

Chester UMC was recently presented an award in recognition of "exemplary partnership and service to the Chesterfield Community Services Board and for your dedication and commitment to our shared mission." Chester UMC supports People First RVA in partnership with the Chesterfield Community Services Board, as well as our Friendship and Christmas Sharing Tree ministries.

Pastor Nathan Decker was also recognized as a 2025 Influentials Project Recipient of Distinction for his "generosity of spirit, dedication to others, and commitment to making a difference" in our community.

Congratulations Pastor Nathan, and to our entire congregation for making an impact in our community!

Guatemala Mission Trip

A group of 15 Chester UMC youth and 14 adult chaperones will travel to Guatemala for a mission trip June 4-12. They will assist with construction projects, medical outreach, and leading VBS. They'll also assemble and distribute water filters to those in a rural area without access to clean, safe drinking water. A cultural night, where they'll learn about local customs and culture, will round out their mission trip.

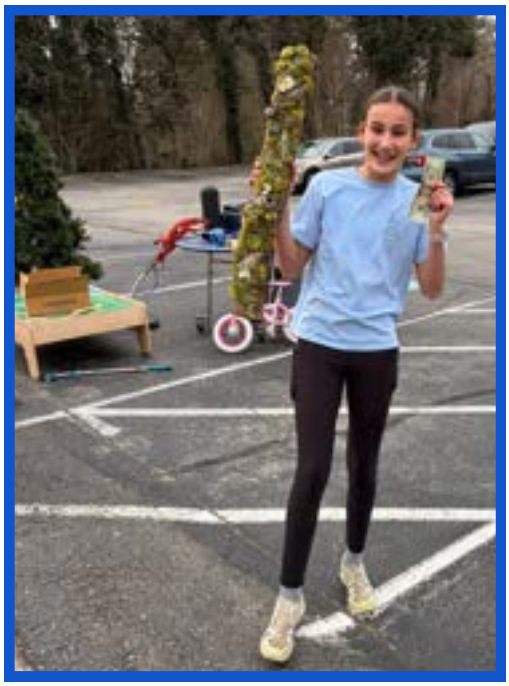
Cole Irving and Ethan Decker were recently asked to share their thoughts about the upcoming trip. Ethan expressed that he's really looking forward to "learning about the culture and showing love to God's people," and Cole shared that he's "excited to play soccer with the kids in Guatemala." When asked about what he anticipates gaining in the process of serving others, Ethan replied, "Experience and relief that others can feel loved." As for a message to the congregation, Cole said he'd "like to thank the congregation for all of their donations and support throughout our fundraisers."

The Youth wrapped up their series of fundraisers with a massive yard sale March 14. Thanks to generous donations from our congregation and the support of all who shopped, the yard sale raised over $2700! The team is now very close to reaching their fundraising goal, and will gratefully accept donations until **April 19**. If you'd like to donate toward their expenses, please note "Youth Mission Trip" on your check, or use this link https://h4ki.managedmissions.com/mytrip/chesterunitedmethodistchurch or QR code. After April 19, there may be opportunities to donate supplies, and of course, your prayers for a safe and successful mission trip will be greatly appreciated.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity, check out the Chester UMC Youth's Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/chester.umc_youth/
They're doing a fantastic job of entertaining and educating about their upcoming trip!

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

The Guatemala Mission Trip Team, shown here at their luncheon fundraiser last fall. They've been working to make this trip possible since March, 2025.



Caroline Morgan helping out with the yard sale.

UMCOR Kits for Conference

Hygiene kit items are due to the Missions Closet by Sunday, April 5. Members of the Jean Craig Fellowship will assemble kits and deliver them to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The kits are distributed to victims of disasters such as major flooding or tornadoes. Thank you for your generous support of this outreach!

POC: Susan Petrey (804) 938-5396.

Stephen Ministry Musings

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY

Written by a man who received care from a Stephen Minister in Steinbach, Manitoba

Fourteen months ago, I was at a point where I needed someone to talk to about the struggles in my life. My pastor recommended I consider meeting with a Stephen Minister - another man trained as a caregiver who would walk with me during this difficult time. Trusting someone with personal information about my life was something I feared at first, but my pastor reassured me that everything was confidential, so I agreed to give it a try. I'm so glad I did!

Soon after meeting my Stephen Minister, I quickly sensed I could trust him. Part of that trust came from knowing he was trained to help people through their problems. He made me feel comfortable by not prying for information, but instead just letting me share what was on my mind. Any questions he did ask fit our conversation appropriately. Probably the best thing he did for me was not judging me for my past decisions; rather, he was there to help me move forward.

I think another significant trust-building factor was being able to talk with someone who was not in my regular circle of friends. My friends certainly continued to have a very important place in my life, but I also needed someone who could see me objectively. That helped make it easier to share personal parts of my life. Also, knowing my Stephen Minister would be there for me "next week" (we usually met for an hour each week) gave me confidence. I see now how much I needed regular encouragement as I rode the roller coaster of emotions that came during this period of instability in my life.

I really appreciated our time together. Our weekly visits were more than just meeting to talk. They also helped keep me accountable between times, to carry through with the changes I said I wanted to make. My Stephen Minister often went out of his way to help me in my struggle.

My life experience during the 10 months I met with my Stephen Minister was not always one of progress. It took courage for me to honestly share when I had my failures and setbacks too. Even then, my Stephen Minister was there for me. He encouraged me not to give up, but to pick up and keep going forward.

My Stephen Minister walked with me through a really dark part of my life, pointing me to the truth and love that is in Christ. I thank God for him - he didn't try to solve all my problems, but lovingly, as a Christian brother, walked along with me through this valley in my life.

Stephen Ministers care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, and many other life difficulties. 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. Snack donations are appreciated even if you're not able to stay and serve.

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

Also, we're seeking a new ESL Snack Coordinator for next year. If you feel called to help out with this important ministry, or just want to learn more about what's involved, please contact Natalie Galarza at familygalarza5@gmail.com

Membership

We welcome **Laura Hamm**, who joined Chester UMC Sunday, February 15.
We are excited to welcome several more new members on New Member Sunday, April 12.

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. 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 to join us. 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. 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

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

Other Small Groups (Continued)

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. Next luncheon dates are Thursday, April 16, at Bella Italia, and Thursday, May 21, location TBD. RSVP needed Monday prior to luncheon. 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, Annex. Next meeting is May 7, and book is *Her Message in a Bottle* by Stacy Brooks. POC: Jennifer Brame jrbrooksieee@gmail.com.

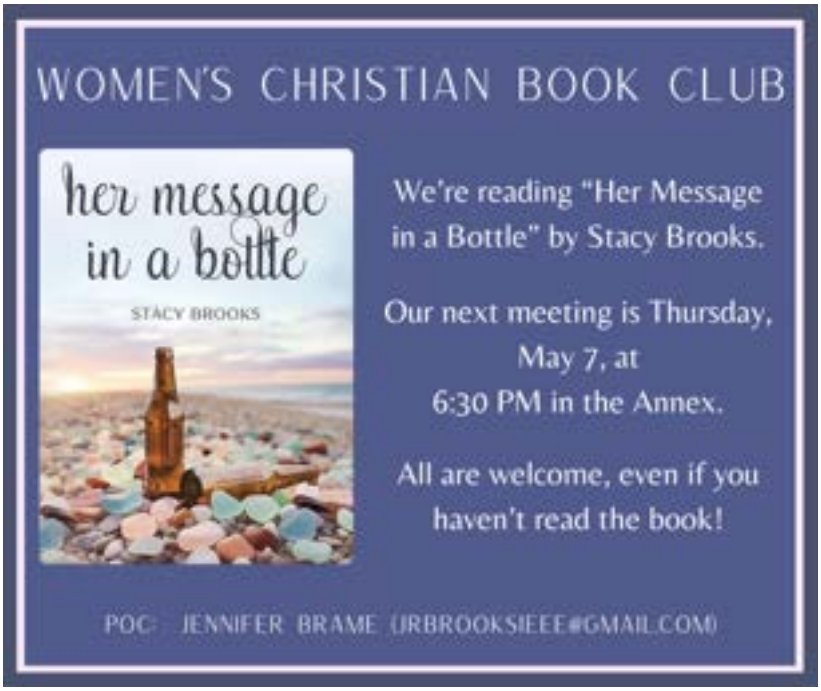
Young Adult Bible Study Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Annex. Ages 19-30. Dinner provided.
POC: Bonnie Cauthorn, 804-337-8823, bcauthorn@outlook.com

Fresh Start Sunday School Class

NEW TO CUMC? LOOKING FOR A SMALL GROUP? JOIN THE FRESH START SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IN STUDY, FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

We've just begun a new study Sunday, March 29, and welcome all to join us. We're reading "Why Did Jesus have to Die?" by Adam Hamilton. Here's how this powerful book is described on Amazon.com: *Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way. What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live?*

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



Exciting news for the **Women's Christian Book Club**...at our May meeting we'll be joined by the author for book discussion!

Jennifer Brame can purchase the book on your behalf for a slightly reduced price. Please email her for details. If you prefer to order from Amazon, here's the link: https://a.co/d/030nj5FZ

Women's Christian Book Club meets the first Thursday of odd months for book discussion and fellowship. On the first Thursday of even months, we meet at Three Leg Run for social time.

We welcome all women to join us!

Questions: Jennifer Brame jrbrooksieee@gmail.com

UMVIM Mission Trip

In 2025, Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina. causing extensive flooding. Many homes were washed away, flooded, or damaged in other ways such as being hit by falling trees. The hurricane brought devastating loss across the mountains of Western North Carolina and to the people of the Western North Carolina conference.

Sunday, April 19, a team of seven will be commissioned as missionaries during the 8:30 AM (Fresh start) service and then depart for Jefferson, NC, about 30 miles north of Boone, for a week-long mission of repair and clean up.

Monday morning we'll meet the coordinator and receive our assignment, then get right to work. Wednesday evening, we will be guests at the host church's Community Dinner Fellowship, where we will meet more of the Jefferson Community. Thursday evening we'll receive a debrief from the coordinator and share our experiences. Our trip will conclude Friday, April 24.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is a grassroots movement of United Methodists who seek to put their "Christian Love in Action." Since the 1970s, UMVIM has offered a framework through which disciples can engage in short-term mission locally, nationally, and globally. Volunteers are lay and clergy, young and old, with differing abilities and vocations, from all walks of life. The first objective of UMVIM is to take the Love of Christ to the people who are living in a chaotic, destroyed life and let them know that the Lord has not forgotten them and that He still loves them, even in the midst of destruction. The secondary goal is to get those who have experienced tragedy back into their homes as soon as possible.

You can help by:

- praying for the team, for our safe travels as well as while we are on the worksites; making a monetary donation. Make you contribution to Chester UMC and note "Boone Mission Trip." These donations go to the host church and to the Disaster Relief of the Boone area to purchase supplies for future teams. And thirdly you can continue to pray for the team and the people who have suffered from Hurricane Helene in areas beyond Boone, N.C.

To learn more about UMVIM, please visit their website at https://umvim.org/

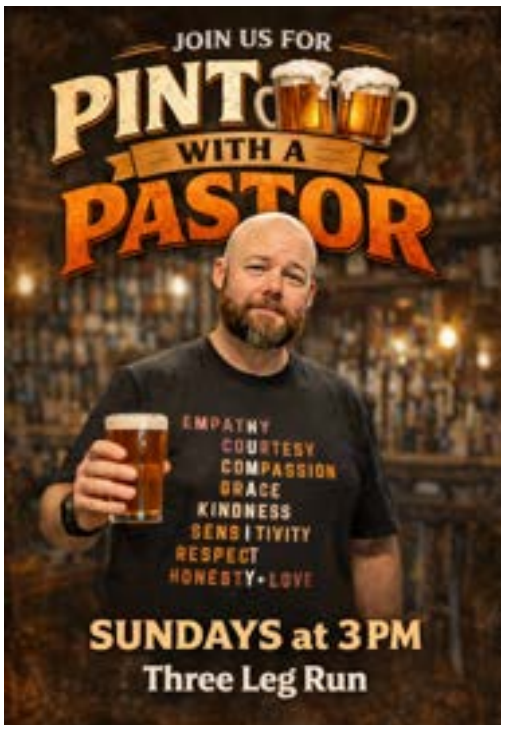
Thank you for your support.

Keith Mottley, team leader

New Small Groups

The Hurried Gospel of Mark
Thursdays, April 9-May 7
10:00 AM, Room 221

All are invited to join this new study, led by Pastor Nathan Decker.



Got questions about faith, spirituality, or religion? Come join Pastor Nathan Decker for conversation Sundays at 3 PM at Three Leg Run. This group is open to all adults, and you are encouraged to invite a friend.

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, April 6*, 7:00 PM, Room 205, to assemble Birthday Cake Kits for our CUMC Food Pantry. We will meet *Monday, May 4*, 7:00 PM, Room 205, to assemble hygiene kits for UMCOR. Call Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396, for details.
- **The Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet *Thursday, April 19*, and *Thursday, May 14*, 10:30 AM, Room 226. Call Martha Miles, (804) 748-5476, for details.
- **Craft Show**, previously scheduled for April 11, has been canceled.

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

Memorials

In Memory of Hunter Beazley, Jr.
Don and Pat Pospahala
E. Kay Smith
Don and Will Schmidt
Joe and Barbara Rollins
Lorraine Buck
Don and Ann Miles
Mike and Geneva Harris
Richard and Bonnie Cauthorn
Roger and Betty Stone
Sam and Anne West
Wayne and Ginny Virag

In Memory of Bennie Wilkinson
Dave and Donna Diroma
Don and Will Schmidt
Marshall Henry, III
Victoria F. Pope

In Memory of Jim Shelburne
Don and Pat Pospahala
Don and Will Schmidt
Emory and Linda Large – Backpack and Rest Stop
Richard and Vicki Bowers
Skip and Pam Buyalos - Music

In Memory of Laurie Fields
Jean Welch - Preschool

New Outreach at CUMC!

We're so excited to share the news of a new ministry in partnership with First Touch Sports: **Church on the Sidelines**. We'll provide support, services, and advocacy for 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.

Scan the QR code or use this link to volunteer:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BmNVEtapnCAo0oTydhzsZhqDNAy1h6Y_ug54vJXnuI4/edit?usp=sharing

Emmaus Gatherings

If you've ever participated in an Emmaus Walk, you're invited to a **potluck luncheon Sunday, May 3**, immediately following Traditions worship. We'll gather in the fellowship hall for lunch and a time of sharing our experiences from our weekend and how it continues to impact our lives.

We also want to start sending pilgrims to future walks. If we do this as teams, it will lesson the responsibilities for an individual. Chester UMC has many new Christians who would greatly benefit from an Emmaus experience.

Please contact Rev. Dr. Margaret Kutz with any questions, (804) 305-6100.

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.

For questions about the Walk or Encounter, please contact Claudia Nagy, (804) 712-7733.

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 February and March we visited with Tracey Wright about the Community College system and Diversity and Inclusivity; we had a personal sewing lesson from Sarah Mundell Buchanan, learning how to sew on a button, hem a pair of pants, and more; finally, after all the ice and snow, we visited the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to see the Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz GIANTS exhibit; Evan Moody led us in a Foosball Tournament; and we assembled Hygiene Kits for UMCOR and Birthday Cake Kits for our CUMC Food Pantry. We finished out March with an Easter Egg Hunt and a Fishing Trip.

Rest Stop has been a vital ministry here at Chester UMC for several years, but since all of our active participants are graduating seniors, we do not anticipate continuing next year. Please keep these young adults in your prayers as they leave high school and embark on their next steps.

Enjoying spending time together at the Annex: Terri Dombrowski, Dawn Ward, Lisa Stanfield, Maureen Coker, Angie, Elliott, Rebecca, Jordan, and Susan Petrey. Evan Moody, not pictured, also assists with Rest Stop Ministry.

Thank You Notes

From Bill Comer:
I would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, visits, cards, calls and good wishes during the recovery from my recent surgery. It is a blessing to have such a caring and loving church family and such wonderful friends.

From Lori Bond and Dee Fisher, Girl Scout Leaders:
You have opened your doors and hearts to us for years! You have warmly welcomed us, supported and encouraged us, and helped us grow. Our Troops and Service Unit thrive because of your loving generosity. Thank you for sharing your church with us on Girl Scout Sunday and for making our Shoe Drive a success. We Love You!

From Emily Smith and the Youth Mission Trip to Guatemala Team:
Thank you so much to everyone at Chester UMC who has helped us prepare for our mission trip in June. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and support, and we sincerely appreciate it!

Backpack Ministry

It's hard to believe, but the school year is almost over! YOU have helped us feed children over the weekends for this entire time and we are so grateful and appreciative. Your financial support and the gifts of food have enabled us to send food home for 60 children. With only April and May to go we continue to watch the sales and keep our room stocked. Thank you for helping in this ministry as we love and impact our community. We also thank the Jean Craig Fellowship for delivering these bags of food each week.

Carolyn Landis & Karen Comer

Vickie Bowers is one of many faithful volunteers who helps ensure children with food insecurity have enough to eat during the weekends.

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

Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 6
10 AM - 3 PM
Davis Fellowship Hall

In February, we registered 38 people and collected 36 donations. We also had seven first-time donors. What a great day!

As a special thanks from the American Red Cross, May donors will receive a $20 Amazon gift card.

For a donation appointment, scan the QR code or click this link:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva

Cards for Veterans

Thank you to all who signed Easter cards for Veterans at Sitter & Barfoot and the Richmond VA Medical Center.

This year we will not deliver cards on Memorial Day, however, we plan to deliver the biggest bunch of cards ever for Independence Day. Sharing love and encouragement with Veterans is a wonderful way to celebrate our 250th birthday!

It's not too early to start signing cards, homemade or store-bought. Please only sign your first name and do not seal the envelope. Deliver cards to the Sharing Bin (outside the Welcome Center) or to the Missions Closet.

Thank you!

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

April Birthdays

April 1
Elaine Biedler
Ben Lashley
Carol Ray

April 3
Don Clark
Amy Tirrell
Jake Zimmerman

April 4
Shayna Barnes
Tyler Dougherty
Courtney Farrell
Patrick Rhea
Reed Willingham

April 5
Andrew Biedler
Anna Chitwood
Stephanie Decker
Amy Gray
Anne Henderson
Carla Hoffmann
Debbie Lewis
Zachary Lewis

April 6
Adam Aslan
Kathy Baker
Lara Howe
Tyler O'Brien
Daniel Spadaccia

April 7
Audrey Farrell
Roberta McCotter
Reid Miller
Caroline Rutledge

April 8
Gavin Carraway
Janet Farmer
Olivia Johnson
Andrew Meuller
Jaime Wisegarver
Lauren Wood

April 9
Kathleen Hermann
Brandon Lewis
Savanna Schaffer
Evan Slaasted
Lisa Zoller

April 10
Karen Cole
Scott Hofmann
Chris Hulbert

April 10 (cont'd)
Elizabeth Porter
Kathryn Smith
Ayden Vargas
William Waterson

April 11
Megan Carson
Merlin Mitchell
R.D. Nixon
Ryan Patton
Donald Tipton

April 12
Lisa Irving
Carter Keffer
Maddox Moore
Billy Vaughn

April 13
Jackson Angle
Stephen Kirtley
Ben Patton
Anna Thomas
Ray Trevillian

April 14
Ashley Beckner
Ian Drewry
Kris Spadaccia

April 15
Justin Blankenbecler
Clarence Curtis III
Maggie Davis
Don Farr
Jeremy Goodman
Rakell Houston
Ryan Moore
Donna Nunery
Jude Squires

April 16
Teresa Blaylock
William Coghill
Penny McCulloch
Matthew McHugh
Kelly Woodard

April 17
Aaron Anderson
Ruth Copa
Greg Pennington
Rosa Van de Wiel

April 18
Anne McQueen
Cassidy Roy
Anna Thysell

April 19
Kate Comer
June Hopkins
Walt Stone

April 20
Mark Bradley
Mitchell Kessinger
Carol Koon
Ann Roper

April 21
Adam Daugherty
Kathy Goyne
Jeff Harmon
Aidan Kessinger
John McCormack
Donna Michaelis
Scott Moody

April 22
Sandra Cherny
Jonathan Hayes
John Woods

April 23
Bella Brummette
Catherine Castleberry
Bob Davis
Bryan Manuel
Tam Moody

April 24
Sue Coleman
Liz Denby
Ileen Helm
Bob Huffman
Dennis Lipscomb
Michael Meuller
John D. Phillips

April 25
Ava Gray
L.A. Ruffin III
Jennifer Smith

April 26
John Edward Ezell
Natalie Farrell
Queen Giles
Hailey Houston
Phyllis Knaack
Julia Sharpe
Ashley Watson

April 27
Ava Brummette
Ben Comer
Erin McClinton

April 27 (cont'd)
Harper Norman
Elyse Snow
Meghan Stewart-Morgan
Parker Stone
Melinda Talley

April 28
Scott Akom
Gypsy Cook
Miranda Grave
David Mann

April 29
Charleene Holmes
Don Sexton
Sarah Walls
Terri Watson
Steve Yuoconis

April 30
Beth Comer
Brad Lenz
Ruth Lucy
Stacey Partin
Erin Roberts
Liz Sarver
Austin Voros

May Birthdays

May 1
Janet Bradley
David Davis
Timothy Ellis
Clara Gestwick
Regan Miller
Evan Moody
Jack Swofford

May 2
Robert Bradford
Aubrey Gibson
Katie Lewis
Carter McCants
Rita Stewart

May 3
Matthew James
Rev. Margaret Kutz
Vivian Wilkes

May 4
Vickie Andrews
Tucker Biedler
Patrick Coker
Robert Crowell, Jr.
Deborah Hetrick
Dennis Janderwski
Matthew Jenkins
Emory Large
Abby Miller
Willie Orton
Nancy Parker
Diana Smith
Phil Strange

May 5
Dean Bodenhorn
Nick Ford
Brandon Hawkins
Mari Hayes
Grant Hutchins
Frank Jones
Chong McKnight
Lisa Munchel
Matthew Parisi
Lauren Vaughan
Lauren Wells
Amanda Yerby

May 6
Sarah Dovel
Maeve Smith
Hilah Stiles
Barbara Yandle

May 7
Fran Barnes
Allison Faucette
Ashley Faucette
Draden Gaffney

May 7 (cont'd)
Sawyer Gaffney
Nicholas Goodman
Morgan Hall
David Spadaccia
Amy Trietiak

May 8
Brandon Gestwick
Debbie Riney
Luka Seal

May 9
Michelle Cantaral
Addie Fuller
Phillip Glass
Mallory Hall
George Heyer
Scarlett Heyer
Abigail Martin
Bobbie Morrissette

May 10
Abigail Bradford
Todd Cassell
James Davis
Grace Dho
Rod Martinko
Dorothy Nugent
Lydia Snyder

May 11
Carson Davis
Lisa Hammersley

May 12
Yvonne Avery
Dorothy Gonzalez
Ronan Ireland
Laura Watson

May 13
Keith Boyd
David Kirtley
Troy Potvin

May 14
David Coker
Joan Gilpin
Debra Gruschow
Jason Hall
Mindy Kelley
Brooke Kiebler
Carey Parisi
Peyton Radford
Ray Smith
Isabella Solaimani
Brandon Williamson

May 15
Angelina Bartlett
Anabel Bittenbender
Lloyd Bradshaw, Jr.
Annie Lamas
Lauren Townsend
Pat Wood

May 16
Zachary Jacka
Jacob LeSeur
Sunshine Powell
Ashley Willis

May 17
Rachel Bowman
Doug Helm, Sr.

May 18
Zachary Harbert
Lisa Harmon
Dorothy Heyer
Becky York

May 19
Samantha Hetrick
Damon Honn
Jack Price
Elizabeth Waldrop
David Webb

May 20
Ella Gray
Paige Irving
Camille Keffer
John Walls III

May 21
Ehle Abicht
Jordan Chapin
Connor Jernigan
Ethan Mick
Blair Rodgers
Theodore Sizemore

May 22
James Asbury, Jr.
Diane Coghill
Blakely James
Terri Moody
Wanda Reese
Robert Vilak, Jr.

May 23
Amy Chitwood
Ron Dombrowski
Bobby Henderson
Richard Parisi
Robert Simmons, Jr.

May 24
Richard Beazley, Jr.
Martha Floyd
Paige Smith

May 25
Donna Elbon
Daniel Morrison
Robert Napolitano III
Brian Radford
Richard Shoff

May 26
Danny Baylor
Jeff Gaffney
Stan Hargraves
Joshua Hetrick
Sue Latta
Isaac Phillips
Jamie Strawn II
Charles Williams

May 27
Harper Arntson
Rachel Betz
Rachel Dishman
Edwin Hoffmann
Robert Lowder
Melissa Rasnick

May 28
Logan Fields
Jennifer Honn
Robert Napolitano
Ron Patterson
Raegan Wisniewski

May 29
Janet Tipton
Jennifer Winn

May 30
Kaylee Fogleman
Emily Galarza
Barbara Giegerich
Erika Haskins
Benjamin Hetrick
Amy Perdue
Will Schmidt
Pat Stanfield

May 31
Jack Akom
Michael Blankenbecler
Jennifer Brame
Kathleen Kessinger
Charlotte Taylor
Peyton Taylor

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, April 6, and Monday, May 25.**

Articles for ***The Chimes*** may be submitted to assistant@chesterumc.org.
The deadline for submission to the June/July edition is Wednesday, May 20.

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.