the bridge

May 31, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
A New Name in Glory
I Feel Like Traveling On
Sweeter as the Days Go By
Jesus Built This Church on Love

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 28:16-20 CEB
Matthew 25:31-46 CEB

SPECIAL MUSIC
Goodness of God
Stacey Ferrer

MESSAGE
The Mission of the Church
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, Vicki Hankins
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

May 31, 2026 - 8:30 AM

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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Today is the Day
I Refuse
Know A Name
I Will Follow

SPECIAL MUSIC

Goodness of God
Stacey Ferrer

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20 CEB
Matthew 25:31-46 CEB

MESSAGE

The Mission of the Church
Pastor Nathan Decker

May 31, 2026 | **A Service of Worship and Praise** | **11:00 AM**

Trinity Sunday

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude ***Joyful, Joyful*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Evan Moody, Liturgist

Leader: Because of the darkness,
People: We can see the Light.
Leader: Because of the doubting,
People: We begin to believe.
Leader: Because of the pain and suffering,
People: We become Your hands.
Leader: Because of the injustice and broken systems,
People: We rise up with voice.
Leader: Because of Your selfless life and sacrifice,
People: We can overcome sin and death.
Leader: Because of who You are,
People: We know who we can be.
Leader: Because of what You've done,
People: We can be free.

* Opening Prayer[2]

O God, you pour out your spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with burning zeal and steady minds we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

* Hymn No. 569 ***We've a Story to Tell to the Nations***

* 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 ***For the Least of These*** Chancel Choir

Why We Give
Offertory ***Goodness of God*** Stacey Ferrer

* 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. 584	***Lord, You Give the Great Commission***	*Stanzas 1, 2, & 4*
Scripture	***Matthew 28:16-20*** ***Matthew 25:31-46***	CEB
Sermon	***The Mission of the Church***	Rev. Nathan Decker

Commissioning of the Guatemala Team

* Hymn No. 571 ***Go, Make of All Disciples***
* Benediction
* Choral Amen

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

[1] https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2015/04/02/because-call-to-worship-for-second-sunday-of-easter-2015/
[2] Worship & Song Resources, pg. 26, #52

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Bonnie & Dave Anderson's 55th wedding anniversary.

Calendar
May 31, 2026– June 7, 2026

Today: Sunday, May 31

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

Monday: June 1

6:00 PM Jean Craig Fellowship- Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Boy Scouts- 226

Tuesday: June 2

10:30 AM Joy Singers- Music Suite
2:00 PM Stephen Ministers- 226
6:30 PM Junior Girl Scouts- 116
7:00 PM SPRC Meeting- 213

Wednesday: June 3

10:00 AM Visitation Team- 205
5:45 PM Handbells- Music Suite
6:30 PM Crew- 206
7:00 PM Chancel Choir- Music Suite

Thursday: June 4

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl- Parlor
6:30 PM Women's Christian Book Club Social- Three Leg Run

Friday: June 5

Saturday: June 6

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

Next Sunday: June 7

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
11:50 AM Gather & Graze Lunch- Welcome Center
2:00 PM Choir Tour Home Concert- Sanctuary

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.

Nursery Volunteer Needed: July 5, 8:15 AM-12:00 PM. Must be an adult. Partial or full shift needed. Contact the Church Office if you can help, please. (804) 748-6006

Gather & Graze: Join us Sunday, June 7, immediately following the 11:00 AM Traditions worship & communion service. Try something new and stay awhile! Stop by the Welcome Center for *Gather & Graze*, a welcoming time to visit with others and enjoy a complimentary light lunch and a time of fellowship. POCs: Beth Stewart and Gail King

Choir Tour 2026: The Chancel Choir is hitting the road this month sharing the Gospel in song! Join us for our ***home concert on Sunday, June 7, at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary***. Spread the word to friends and family who might be along our concert path and encourage them to attend our concerts. (See insert for a complete list of dates and locations.)

Emmaus Gathering: The CUMC Emmaus community is in the process of reorganizing. There will be a potluck lunch on Sunday, June 14, following the 11:00 worship service in the Davis Fellowship Hall. All who have participated in the Walk to Emmaus are invited and encouraged to attend. We will enjoy lunch and fellowship followed by a reorganizational meeting. A sign-up sheet for potluck dishes will be sent out via email. Sign up for what you wish to bring to lunch to share with the group. We hope there will be support for reorganizing this ministry at CUMC. POC: Marg Kutz, 804-305-6100.

Vacation Bible School: June 22–26; 9:00 AM–12:00 PM for children preschool through 5th grade! This year's theme is ***JUST LIKE ME!*** *Adult and youth volunteers are needed and appreciated.* Youth are encouraged to help with Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd–3rd grade, music, snacks, and morning registration. A Youth VBS meeting will be held June 19, 4:00 PM. On June 19 at 5:00 PM there will be a VBS decorating party. Use the QR code to register your child and/or sign up to volunteer. Children will explore the story of the Bible through crafts, music, dance, science, recreation, and snacks, while rotating through stations with trusted volunteers and youth staff alongside peers their age.
POC: Whitney Graham, preschool@chesterumc.org

Visit Our Newly Redesigned Website to learn more about worship, children & family ministries, Sunday school, small groups, missions, events, and all that's happening at Chester UMC! **chesterumc.org** To find the Sunday bulletins click on the word ***NEWS*** at the top of the webpage. Then click the red button that says, ***Jump to the Latest Newsletter & Bulletins***.

Keep In Prayer: Geoffrey Waugh; Lisa Dabney; The family of Merlin Mitchell; The family of John Wilson; Eric Jessee; Pamela Harmison; Michael Stinnett; Wade Scruton; Rose Childress; Cindy Webb; Jennifer Dyson; Abby Honn; Sandy Cullather; Joshua Devericks; Doris Hancock; Monty Nunery; Bobbie Morrissette; Jim Watkins; Dorothy Gonzalez; Linda Nabors; Victoria Harrington; Pat Baake; Laney Marshall Phillips; Walt Stone; Bruce Nugent; Sharon Buchanan; Linda Willingham; Susan May; Eliza Furr; Cynthia Corley; Bruce Highley; Dick & Lynn Weis; Ann Stuart; Bert Watson; Jo Kiser; Ella Hilton; Erika Hilton; Cathy Epps; 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* Newsletter**– Submit items to assistant@chesterumc.org no later than the 3rd Wednesday of January**,** March, ***May, July, September, and November.

Our Presence on Sunday, May 24, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…103
9:45 AM, Bridge 42
11:00 AM, Traditions.....135
Online.....44
Total……...……324

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, May 31, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Gina & Patrick Dobbs	
	9:45	Brenda & Jesse Stacy	
	11:00	Linda Large, Donna Nunery	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	*Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy*, Jesse Stacy	
	11:00	Gordon Morris*, Geoff LeSueur, Bob Kutz, Tommy Petrey, Sandy Sims	
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Come From Away Musical Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 PM, at Virginia Repertory Theatre. Tickets are $70 (rows K, L & M, center orchestra). Joshua Wortham has reserved a block of tickets and is arranging van transportation/carpooling (loading up at church at 5:45 PM). Fill out this form to reserve tickets: https://forms.gle/cYyBzVDQQyJmTzCP6. Make checks payable to Joshua Wortham or Venmo @Joshua-Wortham. "*Come From Away"* is a Tony Award-winning musical based on the true story of 7,000 airline passengers stranded in Gander, Newfoundland, following the 9/11 attacks. The show follows local residents who welcomed, fed, and housed the "come from aways" (strangers), transforming a global tragedy into a powerful, heartwarming story of community, kindness, and resilience. POC: Josh Wortham, music@chesterumc.org

Bridge Builders Ministry is asking for help in supporting the Men's HARP program with toiletries for the men leaving jail and for those coming into the jail until their commissary accounts are started. Items needed are deodorant, soap, body wash and shampoo. Leave your donations in the Mission Closet in the labeled bin. Thank you for supporting this Ministry! POC: Maureen Coker, mcoker2003@comcast.net

Cards for Veterans: As we approach the United States' 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, a time to reflect on patriotism, faith, freedom, and unity, we invite you to honor our veterans by writing a heartfelt card of appreciation. Please submit all cards to the Missions Closet or the sharing bin outside the Welcome Center, no later than June 28. Please sign the cards with first name only and do not seal the cards. Thank you for recognizing those who have served. POC: Karen Cole

Leading Our Worship Sunday, June 7, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Mike Thompson, Betsy Zalumas, and Brody 🐾	
	9:45	Brenda & Jesse Stacy	
	11:00	Linda Large, Will Schmidt	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Gordon Morris*, Ron Dombrowski	*Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy*, Pat Stanfield	
	11:00	Will Herrmann*, Harold Crowder, Mike Kelley, Bob Kutz, Tommy Petrey	
Communion:	**8:30**	Stan Hargraves, Steve Osborne, Wendell & Carolyn Landis	
	9:45	Marg Kutz, Paul Marretti	
	11:00	Mike Browder, Josh Wortham, Claudia Nagy, Beth Stewart	
Donut Disciple:		Laura Hougland	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

The VBS planning team is asking for donations of craft items, decorations, and specific snacks for VBS. Please consider donating selected items that can be found using the QR code or link below. We appreciate your generosity and couldn't do this without your support!
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/N9627MN8TESX?ref_=wl_share

SUMMER TOUR 2026

CHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHANCEL CHOIR

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 @ 2 PM - HOME CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 @ 7 PM
SPRING HILL UMC, LILLINGTON, NC

THURSDAY, JUNE 11 @ 6 PM
GRACE UMC, WILMINGTON, NC

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 @ 6 PM
THE BRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN, LELAND, NC

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 @ 6 PM
PITTSBORO UMC, PITTSBORO, NC

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 @ 10:30 AM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NC

MONDAY, JUNE 15 @ 7 PM
THE GROVE UMC, RADFORD, VA

A

Altar Flowers: We have many dates still available for you to provide flowers- June 28; July 19, 26; August 30; September 6, 20, 27; October 25; November 29. Write your name on the flower chart by the Church Office and fill out one of the forms below the chart. Call or email the Church Office to let us know. You will need to make arrangements with your preferred florist. (River's Bend Florist will waive the delivery fee).

A Place of Miracles thanks you for your donations. They are asking for kitchen supplies, serving utensils, bath towels, and summer clothing. Place donations in the mission closet. POC: Diane Merryman, 804-586-4189, dianemerryman@gmail.com

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. POC: 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.

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 check 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

Stephen Ministry is pleased to announce that three of our Stephen Ministers have completed their training to become Stephen Leaders. Stephen Leaders are different from Stephen Ministers. Stephen Leaders provide ongoing leadership for the congregation's Stephen Ministry while Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by their Stephen Leaders to offer care to people who are in difficult circumstances. Stephen Leaders are responsible for referrals, educating the congregation about Stephen Ministry, overseeing the supervision groups, training the Stephen Ministers, and coordinating the unique work of the Stephen Leaders. The new Stephen Leaders are Lynn Crump, Sandy Simms, and Andy Steck. They join the other Stephen Leaders: Steve Osborne, Beth Van Den Berg, and Marg Kutz. When you see the new Stephen Leaders, thank them for giving the hours of training required and for expanding this ministry.
POC: Marg Kutz, (804) 305-6100 margkutz72@gmail.com

Summer Camp Opportunities: Did you know there are some awesome opportunities for children and youth to attend summer camps affiliated with the United Methodist Church? Click the links to explore camps in different geographical areas of Virginia.
Bay: https://www.ootbay.org/summer-camp-options/
River: https://www.westviewonthejames.org/
Mountains: https://www.altamons.org/

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. POC: Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396.

- **The Jean Craig Fellowship**: Meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, Room 205. *On June 1st at 6:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall we will picnic together, assemble hygiene kits for UMCOR, and prepare cards for Veterans.* POC: Susan Petrey (804) 938-5396.

- **The Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship**: *Will resume meeting in the fall.* Meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 10:30 AM, Room 226. POC: Martha Miles, (804) 748-5476.

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, Youth House 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.
Grades 6-12. POC: Evan Moody, youthleaders@chesterumc.org

Youth Group: Grades 6th-12th, 4:00 PM -5:30 PM, Youth House. Meets weekly for fun, fellowship and outreach. Snacks are provided. On summer break beginning May 24.
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 new session will begin Aug 5-Oct 28. 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 *Currently on summer break.* POC: Rebecca Hodell, rhodell7@gmail.com

Youth Bible Study: Wednesdays, 5:45 PM- 7:00 PM, Trinity UMC. *On summer break.*

Wacky Wednesdays: Wednesdays, 6:15 PM-7:15 PM, Trinity UMC. On summer break.

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

Women's Christian Book Club: 1st Thursdays of *odd months*, 6:30 PM, CUMC Youth House. 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