the bridge

June 14, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
I Saw the Light
Are You Washed in the Blood?
How Great Is Our God
Do Lord

SCRIPTURE
John 15:1-8 CEB

SPECIAL MUSIC
You Are My All in All
Jen Fournelle, flute
Emily Leighty, piano

MESSAGE
The Nature of the Church
Rev. 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

June 14, 2026 - 8:30 AM

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

WORSHIP MUSIC

My Savior Lives
Glory to God Forever
How Great Is Our God
Great Are You, Lord
Blessed Be Your Name

SPECIAL MUSIC

You Are My All in All
Jen Fournelle, flute
Emily Leighty, piano

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8 CEB

MESSAGE

The Nature of the Church
Rev Nathan Decker

June 14, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Third Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude ***Ode to Our Country*** Jean Wallace, Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Jeff Marlin, Liturgist

Leader: You are the Gardner who plants us. You dug deep into the soil.
People: And brought a vine out of Egypt.
Leader: As a Master gardener, you cleared the ground, planted us deep in faith and tradition.
People: Our roots nourished by your love and grace.
Leader: Mountains were covered by our shade.
People: We sent branches out to every nation.
Leader: Today, we stand weary.
People: Burned by fire. Flooded by tears. Devoured by despair.
Leader: Revive us, O Lord. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.
People: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

* Opening Prayer[1]

Jesus, Carpenter of our hearts, you who nail our sin and cut away our pride: Rehab our meeting today. Level our thoughts in Your Kingdom. Square the Mission into our agenda so that you again stand out as the cornerstone, for our church is falling apart. We sink in sands of disrespect, and we are tearing each other apart with crow-bar words. Measure us among your people again through the carpenter's son, Jesus. Amen.

* Hymn No. 694 ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

* 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.

Special Music ***You Are My All in All*** Jen Fournelle, Flute
Emily Leighty, Piano

Why We Give
Offertory Jean Wallace, 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. 314	***In the Garden***	
Scripture	***John 15:1-8***	CEB
Sermon	***The Nature of the Church***	Rev. Nathan Decker
* Hymn No. 557	***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***	
* Benediction		
* Postlude		

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

[1] https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2017/10/02/call-to-worship-based-on-psalm-80/
[2] https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2015/02/23/prayer-for-our-church-carpenter-image/

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all who are serving in Guatemala along with those that helped them get there, by Sherri and Donnie Snelson.

Calendar
June 14, 2026– June 21, 2026

Today: Sunday, June 14

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 Luncheon-Fellowship Hall

Monday: June 15

6:30 PM Boy Scouts- 226

Tuesday: June 16

11:00 AM Memorial Service for Merlin Mitchell

Wednesday: June 17

12:00 PM Church Bulletin Deadline
6:30 PM Crew-206
6:30 PM Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall

Thursday: June 18

11:30 AM Women's Fellowship Luncheon-Carini's
1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry-Parlor

Friday: June 19

4:00 PM Youth VBS Volunteer Meeting-Sanctuary
5:00 PM VBS Decorating Party

Saturday: June 20

7:00 AM Running for HIS Glory-CUMC Parking Lot
7:30 PM Young Adult Movie Night- Youth House

Next Sunday: June 21

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 Marg Kutz Book Signing-Welcome Center

<u>Sunday Worship Schedule</u>

June 21 The Cost of Discipleship Jeremiah 20:7-13

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, is 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

Emmaus Gathering: The CUMC Emmaus community is in the process of reorganizing. There will be a potluck lunch ***TODAY, in the Fellowship Hall,*** following the 11:00 AM worship service. All who have participated in a Walk to Emmaus are invited and encouraged to attend.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Thursday, June 18, 11:30 AM, Carini's Italian Restaurant. Please RSVP to Joan Osborne no later than Monday, June 15.
POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com

Book Signing: Sunday, June 21, 12:00 PM, Rev. Dr. Marg Kutz will sign copies of her new book *Clarie* in the Welcome Center. This work of historical fiction shares the remarkable story of Clarie Settlemire, a pastor, professor, and pioneer who wouldn't stop until she played full court in a world that tried to keep her on the sidelines. Visit the link to purchase *Claire* on Amazon.
https://us.list-manage.com/9SZTivVtL8X?e=9e40dbbfec&c2id=03a1e3a7d1b56a867fda792e10e8bd1e
POC: Marg Kutz margkutz72@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School: ***REGISTRATION IS FULL.*** We still need volunteers!
June 22–26; 9:00 AM–12:00 PM for children preschool through 5th grade! Both *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, and at 5:00 PM there will be a VBS decorating party. Use the QR code to volunteer.
POC: Whitney Graham, preschool@chesterumc.org

Let's Honor Steve Osborne and Evan Moody: Join us during worship on Sunday, June 28 as we celebrate Steve Osborne's and Evan Moody's service to CUMC and wish them well in their new endeavors. We invite everyone to bring cards and notes of encouragement as we send them off with our prayers, gratitude, and best wishes.

Keep In Prayer: Audrey Comer; Barbara Dance; The CCPD and all impacted by the recent incident; Lisa Dabney; The family of Merlin Mitchell; Pamela Harmison; Michael Stinnett; Cindy Webb; Jennifer Dyson; Abby Honn; Sandy Cullather; Joshua Devericks; Doris Hancock; Monty Nunery; Bobbie Morrissette; Jim Watkins; Dorothy Gonzalez; Linda Nabors; Pat Baake; Walt Stone; Bruce Nugent; Sharon Buchanan; Linda Willingham; Bruce Highley; Dick & Lynn Weis; 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: https://www.facebook.com/share/18Xuixg6DR/?mibextid=wwXIfr
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC.
Prayer Chain Email: to subscribe or to submit a prayer request, email 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, June 7, 2026
8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…88
9:45 AM, Bridge 54
11:00 AM, Traditions.....149
Online.....66
Total……...……344

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, June 14, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Gina & Patrick Dobbs	
	9:45	Cathy Epps	
	11:00	Pam Kasky, Martha Miles	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Ron Dombrowski	*Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy*, Jesse Stacy	
	11:00	Herb McCulloch*, Geoff LeSueur, Jonny Phillips, Don Schmidt, Jennifer Winn	
Donut Disciple:		Laura Hougland	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

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

In God We Trust - Featuring the Joy Singers:
Sunday, July 5, 2:00 PM. Join us as we celebrate America's 250th birthday with a concert of freedom and faith in the Sanctuary. This program will stir your soul and have you beaming with pride. The Joy Singers are joined by Jack Price (trumpet) and Marissa Resmini (violin), with solos by Tom McHugh, Jackie Farley, Craig Seal, Sharon Robertson, and Joshua Wortham.

Leading Our Worship Sunday, June 21, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Bill & Karen Comer	
	9:45	Cyndi LeSueur	
	11:00	Jim Rhodes, Sharon Buchanan	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Tracey Wright*, Tommy Wright	*Head Usher
	9:45	Beth Stewart*, Kim Young	
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Jeff Marlin, Patrick Mims, Joan & Steve Osborne	
Donut Disciples:		Laurie & Chip Cobb	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

New Bible Study: Join Pastor Nathan for a study of the Book of Romans! This six-week Bible study meets Thursdays at 10:00 AM, July 9 through August 20. Deepen your faith, grow in understanding of Scripture, and enjoy fellowship together. POC: Nathan Decker nathandecker@chesterumc.org

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 generous support!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/N9627MN8TESX?ref_=wl_share

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

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 Lynn Crump at lynncrumppla@gmail.com.

- Testimony from a person who received the care of a Stephen Minister:
  "I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through."

Interested in Joining Chester UMC? We warmly welcome you to join our Church family! If you would like to learn more about Church membership, please contact our Membership Coordinator, Joan Oborne. She will be delighted to help you take the next steps to membership. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com

Altar Flowers: We have many dates still available for you to provide flowers- July 19, 26; August 30; September 6, 20, 27; 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).

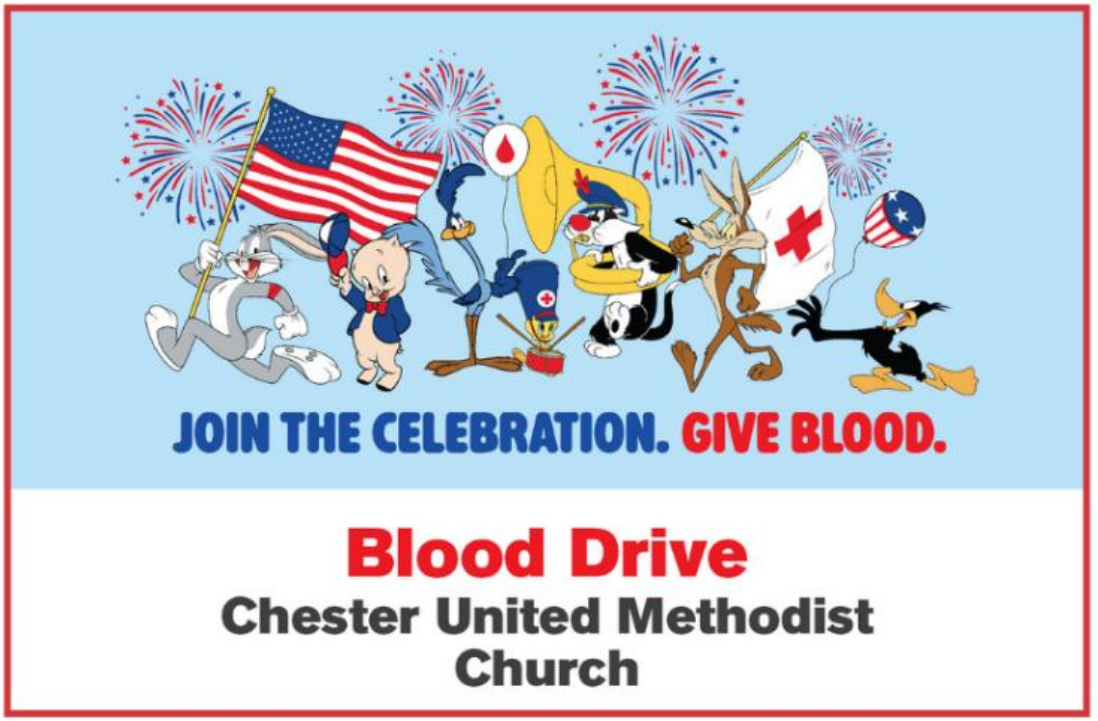
Good Samaritan Fund is used to help individuals and families facing temporary financial hardship. Assistance may include help with utilities or rent for those who are actively working to improve their situation. This fund is intended for short-term needs, not ongoing support. Applicants must complete 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.

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***.

Welcome Luncheon: As we prepare to welcome Pastor Mel Fleischer, we invite anyone who would like to extend a warm greeting to contribute a gift card to a local restaurant. Gift cards may be dropped off at the church office or brought to the welcoming potluck luncheon on June 28. Thank you for helping us make Pastor Mel feel at home at CUMC.

Young Adults Ministry, Movie Night:
Saturday, June 20, 7:30 PM at the Youth House (Annex). For young adults aged 18-30. Please invite a friend and join us!
POC: Evan Moody
youthleaders@chesterumc.org

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, July 1, 10:00 AM -3:00 PM, CUMC Fellowship Hall. Schedule your donation by scanning the QR code or use the link below: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva



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.*
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