the bridge

June 21, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
Boundless Love
Can He, Could He, Would He?
There Is a Name I Love to Hear
Mighty to Save

SCRIPTURE
Jeremiah 20:7-13
NRSV, Anglicized Version

SPECIAL MUSIC
Give Me Jesus
Joshua Wortham

MESSAGE
The Cost of Discipleship
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
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Office Manager: Michelle Couvillion ..... office@chesterumc.org
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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 21, 2026 - 8:30 AM

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

WORSHIP MUSIC

Everlasting God
Build Your Kingdom Here
Trust in God
Mighty to Save

SPECIAL MUSIC

Give Me Jesus
Joshua Wortham

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 20:7-13

MESSAGE

The Cost of Discipleship
Rev. Nathan Decker

June 21, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude ***Immortal, Invisible*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Tom McHugh, Liturgist

Leader: The world cries out for cheap grace – the grace we bestow on ourselves. Forgiveness without repentance, baptism without discipleship, communion without confession.

People: But we are called to costly grace. It is costly because it costs a person the entirety of their life, and it is grace because it gives us the only true life.

Leader: Jesus did not promise us the applause of the culture. "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

People: Lord, give us courage to share. When the truth is unpopular, let our voices remain steady. When the world demands our compromise, let our faith remain firm.

Leader: Do not confuse the Gospel with the passing whims of our age. To deny Christ in order to please the crowd is to gain the world but lose our very souls.

People: We will not be ashamed of the Gospel. For we know that suffering is the badge of true discipleship. The cross is not the end of the story, but the beginning of true freedom.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us out of comfortable hiding places and into the brilliant, demanding light of His truth.

People: We worship you, Christ Jesus! Give us the strength to follow You, to proclaim You, and to love the world enough to tell it the gospel. Amen.

* Opening Prayer[1]

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back evil's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

* Hymn No. 57 ***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** *Stanzas 1-5, & 7*

* 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 ***Complete*** Chancel Choir

Why We Give
Offertory ***Give Me Jesus*** Joshua Wortham

* 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. 526 ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

Scripture ***Jeremiah 20:7-13*** NRSV

Sermon ***The Cost of Discipleship*** Rev. Nathan Decker

* Hymn No. 664 ***Sent Forth by God's Blessing***
* Benediction
* Postlude

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

[1] https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2026/05/28/call-to-worship-the-cost-of-the-gospel/
[2] Worship and Song Supplement, #54, page 26

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Tommy and Susan Petrey on their 53rd wedding anniversary.

Calendar
June 21, 2026– June 28, 2026

Today: Sunday, June 21-
Happy Father's Day

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship- Sanctuary
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

Monday: June 22
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
6:30 PM Boy Scouts- 226

Tuesday: June 23
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School

Wednesday: June 24
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
12:00 PM Church Bulletin Deadline
5:45 PM Handbell Choir
6:30 PM Crew- 206
7:00 PM Chancel Choir- Music Suite

Thursday: June 25
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry- Parlor

Friday: June 26
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School

Saturday: June 27
7:00 AM Running for HIS Glory- CUMC Parking Lot

Next Sunday: June 28
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 Luncheon to Welcome Mel Fleischer- DFH

<u>Sunday Worship Schedule</u>

June 28 Equipped with Everything Good Hebrews 13:20-21

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.

Book Signing: *TODAY* at 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 story of Clarie Settlemire, a pastor, professor, and pioneer.

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 a blessed farewell. We invite everyone to bring cards and notes of encouragement as we send them off with our prayers, gratitude, and best wishes.

Welcome Luncheon for Pastor Melanie Fleischer: Next Sunday, June 28, 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we welcome our new Associate Pastor, Melanie Fleischer. Chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share as we gather for delicious food, fellowship, and a warm welcome. All are invited!

A Special Charge Conference has been called for *Tuesday, June 30, at 7:00 PM*, via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the compensation report for the new Associate Pastor, Melanie Fleischer, effective July 1, 2026. This will be the only business transacted during this special session. *Zoom link:*
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88227262362?pwd=90mAA271xeyLZnOpwka2nsHCwkqqMm.1

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, July 1, 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM, CUMC Fellowship Hall. When donors come to give, they'll be offered an iconic Red Cross, Looney Tunes T-shirt, while supplies last. Schedule your blood donation by scanning the QR code or use the link below:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=chesterumcva

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.

Keep In Prayer: Dawn York; Audrey Comer; Barbara Dance; Lisa Dabney; 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 14, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…92
9:45 AM, Bridge 51
11:00 AM, Traditions.....104
Online.....57
Total……...304

Leading Our Worship Today, 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 Osborne, Don Schmidt	
Donut Disciples:		Laurie & Chip Cobb	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Cards for Veterans: Deadline is Sunday, June 28. 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. Remember to sign the cards with first name only and leave the cards unsealed. Thank you for recognizing those who have served. POC: Karen Cole

Chester Chums: Chester Chums is a CUMC ministry to welcome new members, to help acclimate them to the church, and to help get them involved in activities at the church. Current members who choose to become a Chester Chum are paired with new members to serve as their "sponsors". Please consider becoming a Chester Chum.
For more information contact Joan Osborne at josbor61@gmail.com, (540) 270-4251.

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. Please make your own arrangements with your preferred florist. (River's Bend Florist will waive the delivery fee).

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

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

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, June 28, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Andy Steck & McDuff 🐾	
	9:45	Stephanie Decker	
	11:00	Marian Perkinson	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	*Head Usher
	9:45	Jim Watkins*, Scott Pugh	
	11:00	Gary Willimas*, Janis Hargrave, Marshall Henry, Doug Riney, Kay Williams	
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
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 in Room 213. Deepen your faith, grow in understanding of Scripture, and enjoy fellowship together. POC: Nathan Decker nathandecker@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 Lynn Crump at lynncrumppla@gmail.com.

- Testimony from a person who received the care of a Stephen Minister: "After the death of my mom, I needed someone who would listen, even to the same stories over and over, and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her." If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister, contact Sandy Sims at sandygeosims@hotmail.com .

Message From Evan Moody! Hi, church! I'm excited to announce I will be continuing my education journey this fall at the School of Theology at Boston University. Here, I will pursue a Master of Divinity degree with the hope of one day becoming an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. Thank you all for your support of me and my calling throughout this past year, and I'm blessed to attend an institution that shares many of the same wonderful values as Chester UMC. All glory be to God and Go Terriers!
- Evan Moody

Rebuilding From Hurricane Helene: Attention anyone who is interested in going to Asheville, N.C. to provide Hurricane Helene relief September 27 through October 3, 2026. Hurricane Helene (2024) hit Western North Caroline causing extensive flooding. Many homes were washed away, flooded and or damaged in other ways such as falling trees which brought devastating loss across the mountains of Western North Carolina and the people of the Western North Carolina conference. There will be an Informational Meeting on Sunday, July 19 at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited if you want to be on the team, or if you just want information about the upcoming trip. There will two Team Meetings; August 16 and September 20 at 2:00 PM in Room 226. Please consider being on the team.
For more information see Keith Mottley or email him at: keith.mottley@comcast.net.

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

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

A Place of Miracles/Clothes Closet: Summer clothing and shoes, personal hygiene items, and towels are needed. Please, no professional/ dress clothing. Drop your donations off in the bin in the Church Missions Closet.
POC: Diane Merryman, 804-586-4189 dianemerryman@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School: (*REGISTRATION IS FULL*) We still need volunteers! June 22–26; 9:00 AM–12:00 PM. Youth are encouraged to help. Use the QR code to register as a volunteer.
POC: Debbie Phillips at phillipis07@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. POC: Susan Petrey, (804) 938-5396.

- **The Jean Craig Fellowship**: Meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, Room 205. *Next Meeting: Monday, July 6, 6:00 PM- Field trip to Shalom Farms*. 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.

Feed More Food Distribution: Friday, July 17, 9:30AM-12:30 PM at Greenleigh Community Center. This is a positive way to impact our community. We're seeking ten volunteers to assist with this event. If you are new to mission work, or a veteran of this event, this is a great way to serve your community and build relationships! Visit the link to register to volunteer. POC: Eric Hougland, (804) 212-7857, ehougland88@gmail.com.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ACAF2CAAF5C16-64455508-july#/

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