the bridge

July 5, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
A New Name in Glory
Bigger Than Any Mountain
Peace Like a River
Loving God, Loving Each Other

SPECIAL MUSIC
Jamaal Stiles

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 10:26-42 NIV

MESSAGE
Hospitality of the Cup
Rev. Nathan Decker

CUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers ..... All Disciples of the Congregation
Lead Pastor: Nathan Decker ..... nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor: Mel Fleischer ..... pastormel@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music: Joshua Wortham ..... music@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: Mel Fleischer ..... pastormel@chesterumc.org
Preschool Director: Whitney Graham ..... preschool@chesterumc.org

Stay Connected!
Join our Text Ministry to receive updates on events, small groups, ministry opportunities, and more. Simply scan the QR code or text **CONNECT** to **(804) 979-2922** to stay connected with our church family!

Give with Zelle: Donate quickly and securely through your bank's Zelle app. Send your gift to **finance@chesterumc.org** or scan the QR code. Questions? Contact Julie Jones, Financial Administrator, at **finance@chesterumc.org**.
POC: Julie Jones, Financial Administrator, finance@chesterumc.org

FRESH START SERVICE

July 5, 2026 - 8:30 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
Today is the Day
Let God Arise
I Speak Jesus
I Will Follow
Blessed Be Your Name

SPECIAL MUSIC
Jamaal Stiles

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 10:26-42 NIV

MESSAGE
Hospitality of the Cup
Rev. Nathan Decker

July 5, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude ***A Time for Joy*** Handbells

* Service of Installation

Leader: Friends, today we welcome Pastor Melanie Fleischer. Through prayerful discernment Bishop Sue has sent her to serve, lead, and love in Christ as our Associate Pastor. Mel, you have been called by God and sent by the Church to live among us as an example of the Word, to preach and teach the Word in mercy and grace, and to offer the Word at Table, at Font, in Mission and in Service. You are sent to love, lead, and with us make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Mel: I have been called and sent, and with God's grace and help I will love, lead, and with you make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Leader: Friends in Christ, let us celebrate this new beginning!

People: God is with us. God is with you. You will pray for us – We will pray for you. You will be with us in joy and in grief. We will be with you in celebration and sorrow. You will give your gifts to God among us. We will share God's blessings to us with you. Together we will serve and witness to Christ's Kingdom in our community and to our neighbors.

Leader: Preach the Word
Baptize new Disciples
and offer Christ constantly
as you Lead us to be Servants of all
in Mission in our Community.

People: Shepherd us as our Pastor.

Mel: This yoke is laid upon me; I take it willingly.

All: Lord, bless the ministries of our church. Live among us as your Living Word. Preach your Word through our words and actions. Give us grace to share with one another and the world as we seek to be Disciples who make Disciples in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

* Hymn No. 369 ***Blessed Assurance***

Why We Give

Offertory Jamaal Stiles

* 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. 432	***Jesu, Jesu***	*Stanzas 1-3 & 5*
Scripture	***Matthew 10:26-42***	NIV
Sermon	***A Cup of Hospitality***	Rev. Nathan Decker

Holy Communion

* Hymn No. 581 ***Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service***
* Benediction
* Postlude

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

[1] https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2015/05/21/celebration-of-a-new-appointment-2015/

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of America's 250th anniversary by Tim & Beth Stewart.

Chester United Methodist Church
A Community in Christ
Embrace - Love - Impact
12132 Percival Street, Chester, Virginia 23831 * Church: (804) 748-6006
Web Site: www.chesterumc.org * *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

Calendar
July 5, 2026– July 12, 2026

Today: Sunday, July 5

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- Welcome Center
2:00 PM Patriotic Concert "In God We Trust"- Sanctuary

Monday: July 6

Church Office Closed for the Independence Day Holiday
6:30 PM Boy Scouts- 226
~~7:00 PM Jean Craig~~ CANCELLED

Tuesday: July 7

2:00 PM Stephen Ministers- 226
6:30 PM Jr Girl Scouts- 116

Wednesday: July 8

12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline

Thursday: July 9

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry- Parlor

Friday: July 10

Saturday: July 11

10:00 AM Quilting Guild- Annex

Next Sunday: July 12

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

Sunday Worship Schedule

July 12	Good Dirt	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	Finding the House of God while on the Run	Genesis 28:10-19a CEB and Psalm 139 UMH at Traditions

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.

During Communion, the Stephen Ministers will be at the back of the congregation during Fresh Start and at the front, behind the altar rail during the Bridge and Traditions. You are welcome to go to them after you receive communion to have them pray with you. If you prefer, there are prayer request forms in the pew pads to write down your prayer requests and place them in the plate during the offering collections. Stephen Ministers will pray for you in confidence after the service. The forms are designed to be mailed to the church. Mailed prayer requests will be confidentially given to the Stephen Ministry for prayer.

Gather & Graze: TODAY! Following the 11:00 AM Traditions Worship Service. Stay a while and enjoy a complimentary light lunch and fellowship in the Welcome Center.

In God We Trust - Featuring the Joy Singers: *TODAY* at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary. 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.

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

Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game: Saturday, August 8, 7:05 PM. The Church is having an outing at a Flying Squirrels Game. We have reserved a block of 50 tickets at the third base side dugout area. Tickets, $20, are open to church members and their family. Must RSVP ***no later than Monday, July 6***. Contact Brion Seward, 1bseward@comcast.net , (804) 943-1406.

VBS News: Vacation Bible School was a wonderful week of faith, fun, and friends! We are so thankful for everyone's contributions. Whether you volunteered your time and talent, donated supplies, or prayed for those participating, your efforts were appreciated. Thank you!

A Special Thank You to Pam and Skip Buyalos for placing flags around the church, and to everyone who shared cards for the Veterans. Thanks to our children and youth for their wonderful handmade cards. Your kindness made this tribute truly meaningful. -Karen Cole

Name Tag Reminder: Help Pastor Mel Fleischer learn everyone's names. Please remember to wear your church name tag to worship each Sunday. If you need a name tag, let the office know. Email the office at office@chesterumc.org.

Keep In Prayer: Billy Hopson; Rick Poole; Bentley Cobb; Cindy Webb; Emory Large; Dawn York; Audrey Comer; Barbara Dance; Lisa Dabney; Michael Stinnett; Cindy Webb; Jennifer Dyson; Abby Honn; Joshua Devericks; Monty Nunery; Bobbie Morrissette; Dorothy Gonzalez; Linda Nabors; Pat Baake; Walt Stone; Sharon Buchanan; Linda Willingham; Bruce Highley; Mary Tyree; 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 28, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…78
9:45 AM, Bridge 67
11:00 AM, Traditions.....137
Online.....64
Total……...346

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, July 5, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Mike Thompson & Betsy Zalumas	
	9:45	Stephanie Decker	
	11:00	Martha Miles, Marian Perkinson	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Tommy Wright*, Tracey Wright	*Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy*, Pat Stanfield	
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Tommy Petrey, Scott Pugh, Doug Riney, Sandy Sims	
Communion	**8:30**	Melanie Fleischer, Bill & Karen Comer	
	9:45	Melanie Fleischer, Debbie Hubley	
	11:00	Melanie Fleischer, Tracey Kellam, Jeff Marlin	
Donut Disciples:		Chip & Laurie Cobb	
Nursery:		Vicki Hankins, Tracy DeLuca	

Cake and Ice Cream Social for 90 Plus Birthdays: Sunday, July 19, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Come join us in celebrating all the birthdays of church members who are age 90 and above. Everyone is invited to enjoy a sweet birthday treat.

Young Adults Game Night: Thursday, July 16, 6:30 PM, Youth House (Annex). Calling all young adults age 18 – 30. Spend time getting to know Pastor Mel over games, dinner, and conversation. POC: Pastor Mel Fleischer pastormel@chesterumc.org

Youth Ice Cream Sundae Social! Saturday, July 25, 12:00 PM on the Youth House Lawn (Annex Lawn). Youth, come hang out and get to know Pastor Mel during the Ice Cream Sundae Social. Enjoy delicious ice cream, fun conversation, and a chance to learn more about Pastor Mel. We hope to see you there!
POC: Pastor Mel pastormel@chesterumc.org

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, (540) 270-4251.

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.

A Place of Miracles: Thank you for all your donations. They need personal hygiene items, summer clothing, kitchen utensils. Place donations in the bin in the Church Missions closet. POC: Diane Merryman, (804) 586-4189 dianemerryman@gmail.com

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, July 12, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Bill & Karen Comer	
	9:45	Steve Davies	
	11:00	Linda Large, Will Schmidt	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	*Head Usher
	9:45	Scott Pugh*, Kim Young	
	11:00	Gordon Morris*, Bob & Jane Huffman, Larry Koon, Geoff LeSueur	
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Chesterfield County Fair: Friday, August 28 - Saturday, September 5. Let's share God's love and grace with our community! This is a great fundraising opportunity because CUMC will be financially compensated for our volunteer hours. Volunteer positions: *Ticket Sales* - Sell tickets for fair entry- must be 18 years or older. *Collect and Scan Tickets*- Youth are welcome to participate with collection and scanning of tickets. A mandatory training session will be held on *Sunday, August 23 at 3:30 PM* at the Fairgrounds. A complimentary T-Shirt will be offered to those who sign up by *Sunday, July 26.* Please provide your shirt size during registration. If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Ferrer at (804) 300-0033 or ssfva@comcast.net. Use the QR code or this link to register. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D44A5A72BA75-64645760-chesterfield

Christmas In July: We're celebrating Christmas in July by collecting food items for our food pantry. Donations of non-perishable food items are appreciated, and we especially need peanut butter, breakfast cereal, canned chili, canned chicken and tuna, canned beef stew, and soup. We cannot accept any expired items. Financial contributions (memo: Christmas in July) are also gratefully accepted and will be divided between the CUMC food pantry and the Rise Against Hunger campaign in August. Thank you for impacting our community and loving our neighbors!

Rebuilding From Hurricane Helene: Are you interested in going to Asheville, N.C. to provide Hurricane Helene relief on September 27 through October 3, 2026? Hurricane Helene (2024) hit Western North Caroline causing extensive flooding and damage. 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 be two team meetings; August 16 and September 20 at 2:00 PM in Room 226. Please consider being on the team. For more information contact 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

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. ***Meeting Cancelled: Monday, July 6, 6:00 PM- Field trip to Shalom Farms*. Trip has been cancelled due to the extreme heat.**
  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.

Stephen Ministry: There are people in our congregation and community who could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister. We have Stephen Ministers who are trained and are ready to assist people. If you could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Lynn Crump at lynncrumppla@gmail.com or Andy Steck at andyei10twitchell@gmail.com.

- Testimony from a person who received the care of a Stephen Minister: "I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—she'll just be there without trying to fix me or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening."

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.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Thursday, July 16, 11:30 AM at Kristin's Kitchen. RSVP to Joan no later than Monday, July 13. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com

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: Pastor Mel Fleischer, pastormel@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: Pastor Mel Fleischer, pastormel@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

Young Adult Bible Study: Thursdays, 6:30 PM, Youth House (Annex). Age 18-30. Dinner provided. POC: Pastor Mel, pastormel@chesterumc.org

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