the bridge

July 19, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
I'll Fly Away
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
All My Boast Is in Jesus
Awesome is the Lord Most High

SPECIAL MUSIC
That Will Be Glory
The Water Is Wide
Jack Price, trumpet

SCRIPTURE
Genesis 28:10-19a CEB

MESSAGE
Finding the House of God While on the Run
Rev. Nathan Decker

CUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers ..... All Disciples of the Congregation
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Associate Pastor & Youth Ministry: Mel Fleischer ..... pastormel@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music: Joshua Wortham ..... music@chesterumc.org
Children's Ministry & Preschool Director: Whitney Graham ..... preschool@chesterumc.org
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Nursery Specialists ..... Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins

Chester United Methodist Church

***Embrace – Love – Impact* * A Community in Christ**

12132 Percival Street, Chester, Virginia 23831 * Church: (804) 748-6006

www.chesterumc.org * *A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

FRESH START SERVICE

July 19, 2026 - 8:30 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC

House of the Lord
This Is Our God
Good, Good Father
Offering
Awesome is the Lord Most High

SPECIAL MUSIC

That Will Be Glory
The Water Is Wide
Jack Price, trumpet

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-19a CEB

MESSAGE

Finding the House of God While on the Run
Rev. Nathan Decker

Get 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.

July 19, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Prelude ***Victory in Jesus*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Penn Shultz, Liturgist

Leader: God created all living things. God created humans in God's image, and God said that God's creation was good!

People: So, we, too, believe that people of all ages, shapes, and abilities were created in the image of God.

Leader: God called leaders like Jacob who limped from a hip injury and Moses who had a speech disability to lead God's people!

People: So, we, too, welcome pastors and leaders with disabilities alongside pastors and leaders without disabilities.

Leader: The Psalms celebrate that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and that God has loved us since before our birth!

People: So, we, too celebrate each child, with and without disabilities, as a unique and wonderfully made gift from God.

Leader: Jesus welcomed children and said that His followers were to come to God like children!

People: So, we, too, are to be open and childlike in our praise of God and love of neighbor.

Leader: Jesus reached out to people with mental and physical disabilities and helped them be welcomed members of their communities!

People: So, we, too, welcome all people into our congregations, worship, and fellowship.

Leader: Paul taught that the Church needs people of all gifts and abilities in order to be the whole Body of Christ!

People: So, we, too, look for the gifts that each of us brings to the church and our communities, and we help each person find ways to serve God.

Leader: Paul preached and spread the gospel throughout much of the known world despite his poor vision and thorn in the flesh that kept him humble!

People: So, we, too, are witnesses for God, offering our whole selves without excuses.

Leader: Only God our Creator, Savior, and Spirit is perfect!

People: We are all human, called, not to be perfect, but only to do our best as loving followers of Jesus who help build God's reign on earth and bring hope and justice for all.

* Opening Prayer

Lord of all nations, you hold this fragile world securely in your hands; at the same time you are so personal as to live within each believer through your Spirit. Meet with us this day. Help us to see you in the faces of our siblings, to hear you in the words of Holy Scripture and to be nourished by you at your table. Convince us of your presence as we worship so that we may be inspired to live our lives for your glory and offer your love to all. Through Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn No. 98 ***To God Be the Glory***

* Affirmation of Faith

* 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 ***That Will Be Glory*** Jack Price

Reception of New Members

Why We Give

Offertory ***The Water Is Wide*** Jack Price

* 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

Scripture ***Psalm 139*** UMH #854

Hymn No. 334 ***Sweet, Sweet Spirit***

Scripture ***Genesis 28:10-19a*** CEB

Sermon ***Finding the House of God While on the Run*** Rev. Nathan Decker

* Hymn No. 328 ***Surely the Presence***

* Benediction

* Postlude

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

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a_Eo4FsqPUTwicdfLrS09oGEAGxwLF2J/view

[2] Worship and Song Resources, pg. 30, No. 66, Constance Cherry

Calendar
July 19, 2026– July 26, 2026

Today: Sunday, July 19

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 Birthday Celebration for 90 Plus- Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM North Carolina Mission Trip Meeting- Fellowship Hall

Monday: July 20

6:00 PM Jean Craig- Shalom Farms
6:30 PM Boy Scouts- Annex

Tuesday: July 21

Wednesday: July 2

12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
6:30 PM Crew- 206

Thursday: July 23

10:00 AM The Book of Romans Bible Study- 205
1:30 PM Prayer Shawl-Parlor
6:30 PM Young Adults Bible Study-Youth House

Friday: July 24

Saturday: July 25

Next Sunday: July 26

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 Reunion Lunch- Fellowship Hall
12:00 PM New Member Reception- Welcome Center
12:00 PM Youth Ice Cream Event- Youth House Lawn

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 26	8:30 AM	Mary for the Many	Luke 1:46-55 CEB
	9:45 AM & 11:00 AM	Mother Mary Singing	Luke 1:46-55 CEB

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Steve & Penn Shultz's 48th Wedding Anniversary.

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.

New Membership: Please join us in extending a warm Christian welcome to our newest church members! Today, we celebrate **Sherla Hendricks-Howard** and **Casandra Howard** as they unite with our church family through the transfer of membership from another denomination and the reaffirmation of their faith**.** We are pleased to welcome them into our congregation.

Cake and Ice Cream Birthday Celebration: *Today*, July 19, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Come join us in celebrating the birthdays of church members who are age 90 and above. Everyone is invited to enjoy a sweet birthday treat.

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? There will be an informational meeting ***Today,*** Sunday, July 19 at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be two team meetings; August 16 and September 20 at 2:00 PM in Room 226. For more information contact Keith Mottley: keith.mottley@comcast.net.

New Member Sunday: *Sunday, July 26,* during worship. There will be a reception in the Welcome Center immediately following the 11:00 AM Traditions Worship. Please join us for refreshments while warmly welcoming our newest church members.
POC: Joan Osborne, josbor61@gmail.com

CUMC Emmaus Reunion Group Lunch: Sunday, July 26, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall.
If you have participated in the Walk to Emmaus anywhere, you are welcome to join us. Lunch is provided. We look forward to sharing food, faith and fellowship. We will discuss plans for of our Emmaus Reunion Group. POC: Don Schmidt, wahoodon45@gmail.com

Youth Ice Cream Sundae Social! Sunday, July 26, 12:00 PM on the Youth House Lawn. Youth are encouraged to come 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

Rise Against Hunger: Sunday, August 30, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Join the movement by signing up to volunteer. Volunteers are needed for set-up, meal packaging, and clean-up. Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. Visit the link to volunteer.
https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e803210

Keep In Prayer: The family of Horace Dean Downs, Sr.; Bill Chapin; April Cibula; Charlia Holmes; 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, July 12, 2026
8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…92
9:45 AM, Bridge 42
11:00 AM, Traditions.....128
Online.....59
Total……...321

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, July 19, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Andy & Eileen Steck	
	9:45	Jessie & Brenda Stacy	
	11:00	Pam Kasky, Jim Rhodes	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Will Herrmann*, Ron Dombrowski	*Head Usher
	9:45	Jim Watkins*, Beth Stewart	
	11:00	Herb McCulloch*, Janis Hargrave, Bob Kutz, Jeff Marlin, Joan Osborne	
Donut Disciple:		Laura Hougland	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Bible Study: Join Pastor Nathan for a study of the Book of Romans! This Bible study meets Thursdays at 10:00 AM, now through August 20 in Room 205. Deepen your faith, grow in understanding of Scripture, and enjoy fellowship together.
POC: Nathan Decker nathandecker@chesterumc.org

National Night Out: Tuesday, August 4, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at Bermuda Hundred UMC. There will be bounce houses, free hot dogs and Kona Ice, visits from McGruff the Crime Dog, the Enon VFD's classic fire truck, dunk tank, games, crafts, and more! Bring the fa

The Chesterfield Police Department is looking for volunteers to dress as McGruff the Crime Dog (taller youth and adults) for National Night Out on *Tuesday, August 4, 4:00 PM- 9:30 PM.* Volunteers will ride with a police officer to meet members of the community. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Nathan or the Church Office at (804) 748-6006 or office@chesterumc.org**.**

Chester Chums is a 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. Contact Joan Osborne at josbor61@gmail.com.

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 (must be 18 or older) and Collect and Scan Tickets -Youth are welcome to participate. A mandatory training session will be held on Sunday, August 23 at 3:30 PM at the Fairgrounds. A T-Shirt will be given to those who **sign up by *Sunday, July 26.*** Provide your shirt size when signing up. Use the QR code or link to register. POC: Stacey Ferrer, (804) 300-0033, ssfva@comcast.net.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D44A5A72BA75-64645760-chesterfield

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, July 26, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Joan Osborne	
	9:45	Steve Davies	
	11:00	Sharon Buchanan, Mary Musslewhite	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Bill Comer	*Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy, Kim Young	
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Jeff LeSueur, Patrick Mims, Don Schmidt, Kay Williams	
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Lay Servant Academy: Looking for a way to grow in your faith and deepen your discipleship? Pastor Nathan encourages anyone interested to consider the Virginia Conference's online Lay Servant Academy. These courses are designed to equip God's people for ministry and are open to both new and experienced lay servants. The primary Academy will be held August 14–15 and offers courses including the Basic Course, Spiritual Gifts, Loving People and Planet, Connectional Living and Giving, Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century, Millennial Narrative, and CLM Orientation. Additional courses begin in early August, including Exploring a Culture of Care for a Caring Congregation and Called to Preach. Be sure to register early, as some classes begin before August 14. POC: Pastor Nathan, pastornathan@chesterumc.org
For more information visit https://vaumc.org/laity-district-and-conference-training/

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 Ministers Needed: Fall Training Scheduled. Chester United Methodist Church will be offering training for new Stephen Ministers. These twenty sessions will be held mid-fall to Thanksgiving, then January-February. The dates and times will be tailored to your schedule as possible. Stephen Minister training is an engaging, energizing experience that features a mixture of presentation, video, group discussion, skill practice, and spiritual growth activities. Since 1975, more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been equipped by this training to provide care to millions of people. This is what one Stephen Minister said about the training: *"God gave me a heart for other people. Stephen Minister training gave me the skills I needed to minister to people and bring God's love into their lives during a time of deep need."* The Stephen Ministry program at Chester UMC is in need of more Stephen Ministers. If you would like to talk to somebody about participating, please contact Lynn Crump at lynncrumppla@gmail.com or Andy Steck at coop1kate@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunity: C.C. Wells Elementary, is looking for volunteers to paint the teachers' lounge. They are also looking for a couch and side table for the lounge. If you can help, please contact Summer Lannan at Wells Elementary (804) 768-6265.

Altar Flowers: We still have many dates still available for you to provide Altar lowers.
July 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 arrangements with your preferred florist. River's Bend Florist will waive the delivery fee

Happy Birthday - Age 90 and Above

Peggy Bishop
Edward Boroch
Ruth Boyd
Audrey Comer
Ruth Copa
Penny Creed
Barbara Dance
Buck Dance
Johnnie Davis
Joyce Freed
Ivey Gilliam
Laura Godsey
John Hancock, Jr.
Doug Helm
Ileen Helm
Diane Higgins
Ella Hilton
Ann Jeter
Jo Kiser
Ruth Lucy
Trudy Masden
Betty Martinko
Bobbie Morrissette
Karmy Noblitt
Bill Nabors
Dorothy Nugent
Myra Simmons
Jane Spain
Jan Spohn
Vann Stanfield
Dollie Stone
Hisako Wheeler
Ruby Williams
Harley Young

Give a Dog a Job 5K: Canine Companion 5K run/walk: Saturday, October 10. This family and dog run/walk supports Canine Companions, (www.canine.org), a non-profit that provides service dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities, at no cost to them. Our very own Andy, Eileen, & McDuff Steck will be there this year working the donut and water table. Use this link to register today. Pass this information on to friends and family. https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/TBD/GiveaDogaJob5krunwalk

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. The next N*ew Member Sunday* is July 26. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com, (540) 270-4251.

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. Dinner Provided. *On summer break.*

Wacky Wednesdays: Wednesdays, 6:15 PM-7:15 PM, Trinity UMC. Middle School: Grades 6-8. Dinner Provided. *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. 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