the bridge

August 9, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
A New Name in Glory
Can He, Could He, Would He?
Amazing Grace/Peaceful, Easy Feeling
Love Lifted Me

SCRIPTURE
Exodus 3:1-10 NRSVUE

SPECIAL MUSIC
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Joshua Wortham

MESSAGE
God Always Makes the First Move
Rev. Nathan Decker

CUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Ministers ..... All Disciples of the Congregation
Lead Pastor: Nathan Decker ..... nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor & Youth Ministry: Mel Fleischer ..... pastormel@chesterumc.org
Minister of Music: Joshua Wortham ..... music@chesterumc.org
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Financial Administrator: Julie Jones ..... finance@chesterumc.org
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*

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.

FRESH START SERVICE
August 9, 2026 - 8:30 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
Today is the Day
Let God Arise
Here I Am to Worship
I Speak Jesus
This is Amazing Grace

SPECIAL MUSIC
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Joshua Wortham

SCRIPTURE
Exodus 3:1-10 NRSVUE

MESSAGE
God Always Makes the First Move
Rev. Nathan Decker

August 9, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting
Prelude ***O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Jeff Marlin, Liturgist
Leader: We are saved by God's grace.
People: We must have faith.
Leader: This salvation is God's gift.
People: We did not have it, nor did we earn it.
Leader: We are God's accomplishment.
People: Jesus wants to do good things through us!
Leader: These good things are God's plan for the way that we live our lives.

* Opening Prayer[2]
Guide our feet, Lord. Show us the light of grace when we would judge others too harshly. Warm our hearts with the glow of your love when we would spew icy words of spite. Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day. Shine brightly on us today, Lord, until we reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.

* Hymn No. 61 ***Come, Thou Almighty King***
* Affirmation of Faith No. 887
* 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.

Reception of New Members

Children's Message Whitney Graham

Why We Give
Offertory ***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** Pianist
* 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. 364	***Because He Lives***	
	Scripture	***Exodus 3:1-10***	NRSVUE
	Sermon	***God Always Makes the First Move***	Rev. Nathan Decker
*	Hymn No. 378	***Amazing Grace***	*Stanzas 1-4, & 6*
*	Benediction		
*	Postlude		

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

[1] https://worshipswake.wordpress.com/2020/11/09/ephesians-2-call-to-worship/

[2] Africana Worship Book, pg. 84

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Donnie and Sherri Snelson in honor of the teachers, parents, and children preparing for the new school year. We pray for God's blessings on our teachers with wisdom and patience, our parents with strength and guidance, and our students with kind hearts and eager minds.

Calendar
August 9, 2026– August 16, 2026

Today: Sunday, August 9

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
4:00 PM	ESL Planning-205

Monday: August 10

11:30 AM	Village Book Club- 226
6:30 PM	Boy Scouts- Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Stephen Ministers- 226

Tuesday: August 11

5:00 PM	National Night Out- Bermuda Hundred UMC

Wednesday: August 12

12:00 PM	Bulletin Deadline
2:00 PM	Greif Share-213

Thursday: August 13

10:00 AM	The Book of Romans Bible Study- 226
1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl- Parlor
6:30 PM	Young Adult Bible Study- Youth House (Annex)
7:00 PM	Finance Meeting- 116

Friday: August 14

Saturday: August 15

Next Sunday: August 16

8:15 AM	Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM	Fresh Start Worship- Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM	Lemonade/ School Supply Drive- Welcome Center
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	Stephen Leaders- Parlor
2:00 PM	NC Mission Trip Meeting- 226

Sunday Worship Schedule

August 16

8:30/ 11:00	Not My Will, but Thine	Exodus 3:1-10 The Message
9:45	I Won't Give Up	Romans 11:1-2a, Romans 11:29-32 NIV

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 not be in today. Please keep Cindy in your prayers as she is experiencing health concerns.

New Members: Let's extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Lindsey & Stephanie Tucker. Today Lindsey and Stephanie will be baptized and make a profession of their faith.

Chesterfield County Fair: Friday, August 28 - Saturday, September 5. Share God's love and grace with our community! This is a great fundraising opportunity for the Church. Volunteer positions: Ticket Sales, (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. Use this link or the QR code to sign up to volunteer.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D44A5A72BA75-64645760-chesterfield
POC: Stacey Ferrer, (804) 300-0033, ssfva@comcast.net.

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 this link to volunteer. https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e803210

School Supplies Drive for CC Wells/ Children's Ministry Lemonade Stand:
Sunday, August 16, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Join us in the Welcome Center after each worship service. Grab a refreshing lemonade and help by donating new school supplies. Monetary donations may be made by cash, check or Zelle to CUMC, memo: school supplies.
Visit the link to see requested school supply items.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ksbGRPGbZJnHKA3qAllQu-xBK-WpVLnT4unkGkULSTA/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.3uow27f0ikv5
POC: Whitney Graham preschool@chesterumc.org

Teachers' Pancake Breakfast at C.C. Wells Elementary: Friday, August 21, 8:00 AM, at C.C. Wells Cafeteria. Let's celebrate the teachers before the start of the new school year. We are asking for donations of K-Cups and energy drinks such as Celsius and Align drinks. We are also in need of volunteers to help cook and serve a pancake breakfast as a way of showing our appreciation for the dedicated teachers and staff. Donations may be dropped off at the Church. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Nathan at nathandecker@chesterumc.org. Thank you for helping us make a warm and welcoming start to the school year!

Blessing Of The Backpacks: Sunday, August 23, during worship. Join us as we pray over our students, teachers, and school employees as they begin the new school year. Bring your backpack or work bag to worship for a special back-to-school blessing.
POC: Whitney Graham, preschool@chesterumc.org

Keep In Prayer: Michael Williams; Wesley Yandle; Cathy Epps; Bill Chapin; April Cibula; Billy Hopson; Rick Poole; Bentley Cobb; Cindy Webb; Emory Large; Dawn York; Audrey Comer; Barbara Dance; Lisa Dabney; Michael Stinnett; Jennifer Dyson; Joshua Devericks; Monty Nunery; Dorothy Nugent; Bobbie Morrissette; Linda Nabors; Walt Stone; Sharon Buchanan; 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, August 2, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…86
9:45 AM, Bridge 59
11:00 AM, Traditions.....143
Online.....60
Total……...348

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, August 9, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Joan Osborne	
	9:45	Stephanie Decker	
	11:00	Martha Miles, Marian Perkinson	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Tracey Wright*, Tommy Wright	*Head Usher
	9:45	Jim Watkins*, Brenda Stacy	
	11:00	Gary Williams*, Larry Koon, Scott Pugh, Sandy Sims, Kay Williams	
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

National Night Out Rescheduled: Tuesday, August 11, 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM, Bermuda Hundred United Methodist Church. Bring the whole family out for a fun night of food, games, dunk tank, crafts, McGruff, and so much more. Meet your neighbors and local officials.

Providing Altar Flowers: Help beautify the Sanctuary while honoring God. Dates available: *Aug 30; Sept 6, 20, 27; Nov 29*. Sign up on the flower chart outside the office and complete one of the forms under the chart.

Interested in Joining Chester UMC? We warmly invite you to join our Church Family. If you would like to learn more about membership, please contact our Membership Coordinator, Joan Oborne. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com, (540) 270-4251.

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.

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

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Will meet Thursday, August 20, 11:30 AM, Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant, Colonial Heights. RSVP no later than Monday, August 17 to Joan Osborne. POC: Joan Osborne josbor61@gmail.com

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, August 16, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Mike Thompson & Betsy Zalumas, & Brody
	9:45	Steve Davies
	11:00	Betty Labin, Will Schmidt
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Ron Dombrowski *Head Usher
	9:45	Herb McCulloch*, Pat Stanfield
	11:00	Herb McCulloch* Harold Crowder, Mike Kelley, Patrick Mims, Joan Osborne
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins

Emmaus Reunion Group Lunch: Sunday, August 23, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall.
If you have participated in the Walk to Emmaus anywhere, you are welcome to join us.
Lunch will be provided. We look forward to sharing food, faith and fellowship.
Please contact Don Schmidt for details and more information at wahoodon45@gmail.com.

WOW: Worship on Wednesdays: Children's Church, Preschool through 5th Grade. Join us *starting in September,* on the first Wednesday of each month, 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM, Room 205. Get creative and messy with crafts, science, and sensory, while learning a bible lesson and meeting new friends. A light dinner will be provided. Please RSVP. Parents may drop off or stay.
POC: Whitney Graham, (804) 691-0383, preschool@chesterumc.org

Kid's Koinonia Communion Class: Wednesday, September 2, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Room 205. Children Preschool through 5th Grade. Learn how God loves us through bread, juice and Jesus. Children will have an opportunity to help serve communion during worship on October 4. Contact Whitney Graham for more information at preschool@chesterumc.org.

Pridefest: Saturday, September 12, 12:00 PM -8:00 PM, Midtown Green in Richmond. As we continue embracing diversity, we are excited to return to the Virginia Pridefest to share Christ's love and a message of inclusion. We'll partner with other local United Methodist Churches as we connect with our community and offer a warm, affirming presence. There will be opportunities to volunteer and participate. More details will be shared soon.
POC: Joshua Wortham, music@chesterumc.org

Chester UMC Annual Picnic & Children's Carnival: Sunday, September 13, 12:00 PM. All are invited. Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring your lawn chair and a side dish or dessert to share. Indoor seating will be available in the Fellowship Hall.
POC: Susan Petrey (Picnic) and Whitney Graham (Carnival) preschool@chesterumc.org

Chesterfest: Saturday, September 26, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, 11804 Centre Street. CUMC will be sharing a booth at Chesterfest with Bermuda Hundred UMC and Trinity UMC as part of the UMCs of Chester partnership. We're looking for three CUMC volunteers to help welcome visitors and offer hospitality at our booth. (One volunteer needed for each of the three shifts.) When you sign up, please let us know if you already have a "UMCs of Chester" T-shirt from last year. If you need a shirt, please include your size in the comments section of the sign-up form. Use this link to sign up as a volunteer.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4FAAA72AA4FD0-64646771-chesterfest#/

United Methodism 101 Class: Sundays, September 27 through October 18, 12:00 PM, Room 205. Join Pastor Mel for a crash course on the United Methodist Church history, traditions, and theology. All are welcome! POC: Pastor Mel, pastormel@chesterumc.org

Parenting in the Digital Age: Sunday, September 27, 4:00 PM, Pastor Nathan will lead a conversation on "Parenting in the Digital Age", for parents with children of all ages. From managing daily screen time to navigating the world of Artificial Intelligence, parenting today looks completely different than it did just a few years ago. Join us for a supportive community conversation for parents and guardians. Together, we'll explore practical ways to protect your child's cognitive development, No judgment. Just honest talk and actionable strategies to help your kids grow up healthy, balanced, and safe.
POC: Pastor Nathan, nathandecker@chesterumc.org

Bridge Builders Ministry is asking for help 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. Please leave your donations in the Mission Closet. Thank you for your support. POC: Maureen Coker, mcoker2003@comcast.net

Stephen Ministers Needed: The Stephen Ministry program is in need of more Stephen Ministers. Stephen Minister training teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others. The twenty training sessions will begin in the fall, take a break for the holidays, resume in the new year, and end in February. To help accommodate your schedule the training will work around fulltime working folks via hours/day and virtual/hybrid. This is what one Stephen Minister said about the training: "Stephen Minister training taught me not just how to be a caregiver, but how to live life in a new way; being Christ to other people." If you would like to talk to somebody about participating, please contact Lynn Crump lynncrumppla@gmail.com or Andy Steck at coop1kate@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. 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. *Currently on summer break.* 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. *On Break August 16 through September 6.*
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 6^{th}-12^{th}, 4:00 PM -5:30 PM, Youth House. Meets weekly for fun, fellowship and outreach. Snacks are provided.
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. Helping the men of HARP. 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 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 POC: Rebecca Hodell, rhodell7@gmail.com

Wacky Wednesdays: Wednesdays, 5:45 PM- 7:00 PM, Trinity UMC. Children of all ages. Dinner Provided. *Starts back on September 2.*

Youth Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:15 PM-7:15 PM, Trinity UMC. Middle School- Grades 6-8. Dinner Provided. *Starts back on September 2.*

WOW: Kid's Ministry: 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Room 205. Preschool- 5th Grade. Light dinner provided. RSVP to Whitney Graham, (804) 691-0383, preschool@chesterumc.org.

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: Meets every other Thursday, 6:30 PM, Youth House. Age 18-30. Contact Pastor Mel for dates and details. 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