the bridge

August 30, 2026 - 9:45 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
Where Could I Go?
Soon and Very Soon
Peace Like A River
Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil
There Is A Name I Love to Hear

SPECIAL MUSIC
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
Jen Fournelle, flute

SCRIPTURE
Romans 12:9-21 NRSVUE

MESSAGE
Goodness is Stronger than Evil
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
Children's Ministry & Preschool Director: Whitney Graham ..... preschool@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

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 30, 2026 - 8:30 AM

WORSHIP MUSIC
Everyday
All the People Said Amen
You Never Let Go
Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil
Unstoppable God

SPECIAL MUSIC
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
Jen Fournelle, flute

SCRIPTURE
Romans 12:9-21 NRSVUE

MESSAGE
Goodness is Stronger than Evil
Rev. Nathan Decker

August 30, 2026 **A Service of Worship and Praise** **11:00 AM**
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting
Prelude ***Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart*** Organist

* Call to Worship[1] Penn Shultz, Liturgist

Leader: When the world hates,
People: we are called to love.
Leader: When the world rejects the poor,
People: we are called to walk with them.
Leader: When the world does evil,
People: we are called to do good.
Leader: We will not be conformed to the world's pattern,
People but transformed by God's call to what is good, and acceptable, and perfect.
Leader: Let us worship.
People Amen.

* Opening Prayer[2]

Holy God, make our love genuine. Help us to hate evil and hold fast to what is good. Help us to honor others above ourselves, live in harmony, and avoid pride. Give us grace to bless those who hurt us, to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep. Fill us with a deep desire to serve you, keeping us joyful in hope, patient in trouble, and faithful in prayer. Give us generous hearts to share with those in need. Amen.

* Hymn No. 371 ***I Stand Amazed in the Presence*** *Stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 5*
* 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 ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*** Jen Fournelle, flute

Children's Message Whitney Graham

Why We Give
Offertory ***I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*** Jen Fournelle
* 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. 408 ***Gift of Love***

Scripture ***Romans 12:9-21*** NIV

Sermon ***They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*** Pastor Mel Fleischer

* Hymn ***They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love***
* Benediction
* Postlude

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

[1] https://outoftheearth.wordpress.com/2018/08/10/call-to-worship-and-benediction-nonconformity-romans-12/
[2] Various sources.

Providing Altar Flowers: Help beautify the Sanctuary while honoring God. Dates available: ***Sept 6, 20, 27; Nov 29***. Sign up on the flower chart outside the Church Office and complete one of the forms found by the chart. You can also email the Church Office, office@chesterumc.org.

Calendar
August 30, 2026– September 6, 2026

Today: Sunday, August 30

8:15 AM Nursery until 12:00 PM
8:30 AM Fresh Start Worship- DFH
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 Rise Against Hunger- Fellowship Hall
4:00 PM Youth Pool Party

Monday: August 31

2:30 PM Bridge Builders- 116
6:30 PM Boy Scouts- DFH

Tuesday: September 1

6:30 PM Jr. Girl Scouts- 116
7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226

Wednesday: September 2

10:00 AM Visitation Team- 205
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
2:00 PM Grief Share-213
4:00 PM Latino Connect- Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM WOW- 205
5:45 PM Handbell Choir
6:30 PM Crew- 206
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday: September 3

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl- Parlor
5:00 PM Preschool Back-to-School Night
6:30 PM Women's Christian Book Club- Parlor
7:00 PM ESL- 205, 214, 221, 226

Friday: September 4

Saturday: September 5

10:00 AM Quilting Guild- 226

Next Sunday: September 6

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 Gather & Graze- Welcome Center
1:30 PM Key Club- 116
4:00 PM Youth Group- Youth House

- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day holiday.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, September 6: "An Inner Life in God's Presence", Psalm 103:1-13 NRSVUE

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.

Fresh Start Worship: Join us as we celebrate the commissioning of our Stephen Leaders as they continue this special ministry of care and compassion.

Rise Against Hunger: *Volunteer TODAY*, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Join us in fighting hunger and food insecurity worldwide. Volunteers are needed for meal packaging, and clean-up.

Chesterfield County Fair: Volunteers still needed now until Saturday, September 5. It's not too late to sign up. This is a fun opportunity to raise money for the Church. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D44A5A72BA75-64645760-chesterfield
POC: Stacey Ferrer, (804) 300-0033, ssfva@comcast.net.

Kid's 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.

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.
POCs: Susan Petrey (Picnic), 938-5396 and
Whitney Graham (Carnival) preschool@chesterumc.org

Joshua's Album Release Concert: Sunday, September 20, 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Come hear hymns and sacred songs to soothe the soul and then pick up your copy of Joshua's new album, "This Is My Story," available on CD and streaming. All are welcome!

County Fair Volunteer Shirts: If you signed up to volunteer in time to receive a complimentary CUMC volunteer t-shirt, your shirt is ready for pickup at the Church Office. Thank you for volunteering and for serving our community!

Dinner for Six/Eight: Couples and singles gather once a month for dinner in a host's home, September–November (and sometimes December) and January–May. The host provides the meat and beverages, while others bring an appetizer (optional), bread, salad, vegetables, or dessert. Groups of six and up to eight will enjoy dinner together once a month. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow churchgoers! You do not have to be a CUMC member to participate. ***If you're interested or have questions, email or call Mary Musselwhite***. Let her know if you're willing to host. POC: Mary Musselwhite (804-330-0014), softshl1@gmail.com

Keep In Prayer: Sam Clawser; The family of Jeffery Fuller; Victoria Harrington; Dawn York; Wesley Yandle; Cathy Epps; Bill Chapin; April Cibula; Billy Hopson; Cindy Webb; Emory & Linda Large; Audrey Comer; Barbara Dance; Lisa Dabney; Jennifer Dyson; Eliza Furr; Kaitlyn Tidman; 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 23, 2026

8:30 AM, Fresh Start.....…106
9:45 AM, Bridge 61
11:00 AM, Traditions.....155
Online.....64
Total……...386

Leading Our Worship Today, Sunday, August 30, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Bill & Karen Comer	
	9:45	Stephanie Decker	
	11:00	Jim Rhodes	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Gordon Morris*, Ron Dombrowski	*Head Usher
	9:45	Brenda Stacy*, Kim Young	
	11:00	Beth Stewart*, Marshall Henry, Bob Kutz, Jonny Phillips, Tommy Petrey	
Donut Disciples:		Chip & Laurie Cobb	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Turn Your RMD into a Charitable Gift If you are eligible to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA, please consider making your tithes and charitable gifts directly from your IRA to the church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). When eligible, giving directly from your IRA can satisfy all or part of your RMD while potentially reducing your taxable income. Please consult your financial or tax advisor and ask your IRA custodian to send the contribution directly to the church. It's a wonderful way to support our ministry while making your giving more tax efficient. For more information, contact Julie Jones, Finance Administrator at finance@chesterumc.org.

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

WOW: (Worship on Wednesday) Children's Church, Preschool through 5th Grade. Join us on the first Wednesday of each month, 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM in 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

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

Leading Our Worship Next Sunday, September 6, 2026

Greeters:	**8:30**	Bill & Karen Comer	
	9:45	Jesse & Brenda Stacy	
	11:00	Linda Large, Will Schmidt	
Ushers:	**8:30**	Wendell Landis*, Ron Dombrowski	*Head Usher
	9:45	Beth Stewart*, Kim Young	
	11:00	Herb McCulloch*, Janis Hargrave, Mike Kelley, Patrick Mims, Tommy Petrey	
Communion:	**8:30**	Andy & Eileen Steck	
	9:45	Paul Marretti	
	11:00	Sharon Boroch, Wanda Reese	
Donut Disciples:		Andy & Eileen Steck	
Nursery:		Carla Adams, Vicki Hankins	

Become A Stephen Minister: Stephen Minister training teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others. The 20 training sessions will begin in the fall and end in February. To help accommodate your schedule the training will work around fulltime working folks via hours/day and virtual/hybrid. 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.

Chesterfest: Saturday, September 26, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, 11804 Centre Street. CUMC will be sharing a booth 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 include your size in the comments section of the sign-up form. Use this link to sign up. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4FAAA72AA4FD0-64646771-chesterfest#/

Backpack Ministry: School has begun and we are again operating our Backpack Ministry. Last year we averaged 58 children per week. We need canned chicken, peanut butter, Pop Tarts, Rice-a-Roni, Spam, and Tuna Helper. Please think of us when you are shopping and pick up a few of these items. Place them in the Missions Closet in the bin labeled Backpack. Financial gifts are always welcome! Thank you for your continuous generosity and support.
POCs: Carolyn Landis landisfamily05@gmail.com and Karen Comer kgcomer@verizon.net

Bridge Builders Ministry is asking for help supporting the Men's HARP program with new toiletries for the men leaving jail and for those coming into the jail until their commissary accounts are started. Items needed are new 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

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**: Meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 10:30 AM, Room 226. POC: Martha Miles, (804) 748-5476.

Chester UMC

PICNIC

and Kids' Carnival

Sunday, September 13, 12 PM

Fried chicken and drinks provided.
Please bring a lawn chair and a
side dish or dessert to share.
Indoor seating available.

Parenting in the Digital Age: Sunday, September 27, 4:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. 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. Discuss actionable strategies to help your kids grow up healthy, balanced, and safe. POC: Pastor Nathan, nathandecker@chesterumc.org

Sunday, September 27

4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Join Pastor Nathan for a judgement-free conversation about helping our children grow up safe, well-balanced, and healthy.

Album Release Concert

*Sunday, September 20 * 3:00 PM*

Chester United Methodist Church

www.chesterumc.org * 12132 Percival St. Chester, VA 23831

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. *On break until Sept. 6.* 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 until 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. We are working through the book, *"Disciples 2 Fast Track", (*New Testament - Luke and Acts).
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.
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. Participant workbook is $25. 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 are welcome. Dinner will be provided.

Youth Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:15 PM-7:15 PM, Trinity UMC. Middle School- Grades 6-8. Dinner will be provided.

WOW: Kid's Ministry: 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Room 205. Preschool- 5th Grade. Light dinner provided. Please 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 good food and great 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