



Chester Bethel UMC

August 16, 2026

9:30 AM

Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:

Organist: Carmella Lynch
Bell Choir Director: Pam Manocchio
Preacher: Rev. Kelly Conner
Special Music: Laura Putman Crail
Greeter: Rich Kuc
Usher: Dora Greer
Worship Leader: Rich Kuc

Prayer Joys and Concerns:

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

Sam (H); Carmen Staino (H); Jay (O); Ed West (H); Nicole; David D. (H); Dom D.(H); Millie Burke (H); Janet Canavan (H); Keith Saulsbury (H); Steve Schellberg (H); Donna (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Bill Hazel (H); Linda Lyons (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Kim Nally; Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex



2619 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810
302-475-3549 <http://www.chesterbethel.org>
Service Live-Streamed on Facebook

Office Admin, Beth Burnam: Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9 AM – 1 PM;
secretarychesterbethel@gmail.com

Reverend Kelly Conner
revkellyconner@gmail.com / Cell: 302-249-6157

August 16, 2026
12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

Announcements

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: **My adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.**

Leader: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

People: **though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.**

Leader: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

People: **to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,

All: **and I will offer in the Lord's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

*OPENING HYMN – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” UMH #452

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.¹

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

- You are cordially invited to help celebrate the birthday of Nancy Walker, 95 years young! August 29, 2-6 PM at 2535 Veterans Drive.
It's a surprise! No gifts please.
- The parking lot will be repaved the week of August 31-Sept. 4. We'll send more detailed info when we have it.
- Please contribute NEW underwear for men, women, and children. This includes briefs, T-shirts, bras, shower shoes, and socks. Donations may be placed in the foyer baskets.
- Online church donation links are here and online.

Dates To Remember

Aug 19 – SPRC meeting at 3:30 pm

Aug 23-29 – Pastor on vacation

Aug 30 – Joint worship & Fellowship at Mt Lebanon 11:30

Sept. 9 – Thrift Shop re-opens

Sept. 9 – Single Board mtg @ 6 pm

Sept 15,17 – Fall Bible Study begins Tues evenings and Thursday Mornings

Sept 20 – Missions Meeting after church

¹ The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred text, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, that our hearts may be taught to love it, and that our wills may be strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.²

OLD TESTAMENT READING Numbers 13:25-14:10
NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 12:6-17

SERMON “Uncharted”: Caleb and the Hebrew Spies

SPECIAL MUSIC

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “” UMH #

BLESSING OVER OUR STUDENTS³

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy One, bless and protect these students as they begin another academic year. Keep them encouraged and full of hope. Surround them with godly influences and opportunities. Fill them with discernment, that they may remain focused and disciplined. Grant these students the mind of Christ: that they may grow in your wisdom and truth; that they may serve with both power and compassion; and that they may carry your light throughout their campuses. Thank you for these students, and for providing resources for them to continue their education. Thank you for those family members, friends, teachers, and coaches who have mentored and supported them in their journeys. Thank you for creating us with the capacity to think, speak, discover, and reason. We rejoice in these good gifts from you and give you the honor and glory for them. Receive our thanks and extend your blessing over them in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

BLESSING OVER OUR TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS⁴

Leader: Romans 12 tells us, “We have gifts that differ according

² Adapted from:
https://www.valleypresct.org/uploads/8/0/1/6/80162/prayers_for_illumination.pdf.

³ Adapted from original “Blessing College Students as They Leave for School” by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, copyright 2012. Used with permission.

⁴ Written by Pastor Kelly.

to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter,
in exhortation;

People: **the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the**

to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter,
in exhortation;

People: **the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the
compassionate, in cheerfulness.”**

Leader: Dear Lord, you have imbued upon these individuals the
gift of teaching and leading in our schools.

People: **Thank you for these teachers, who give so much of
themselves.**

Leader: You equip them to take on new challenges this year and to
instruct the children and youth of our community.

People: **Thank you for these teachers, with whom we entrust
the future of our world.**

Leader: We ask that you bless them, make your face to shine upon
them, and provide them with the courage, endurance, and
love to teach this year in a special way.

All: **We will continue to pray for them, that they may know
the peace and resilience of God and the depth of our
appreciation. Amen.**

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures
here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts;*

*praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy
Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*CLOSING HYMN – “In Christ There is No East or West”

UMH #548

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

** Rising in body or in spirit*

Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544

Online Giving:

