

# CHARLTON FALL 2021 CHIMES

*Give  
Thanks*



# A Message from the Pastor ...

## Be Grateful At All Times

*"Give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thanking God for the favors he does is always easy when the favor we have prayed for is immense. That is when after moments of anguish or difficulty, we say thank you, thank you, God! But we must also thank him for the little things that seem insignificant or those that we consider normal because we "assume" that everyone has them.

How much it cost us to be thankful to God in difficult moments? It is antagonistic for many to give thanks for something that brought sadness, concern, and anguish. But as Christians, we are called to be grateful, not only in good times; but also in those that are not so.

Having been in the hospital with pneumonia caused by COVID-19, it was a challenging moment; not only for me, but also for my wife and two children, my family in Chile, my friends, and for you, my congregation. This time of sickness allowed me to reflect and meditate on how the protective hand of God is always present in our life. And when we most need that caress of God, He touches our cheek with his love and reveals his will.

There are no words in my heart that can express my gratitude for you, Charlton Church. Thank you for your cards of encouragement and speedy recovery, for your phone calls, and for providing delicious meals for my family on those difficult days. But, above all, thank you for your prayers. These prayers were extended in many places, in many churches, and in many personal and group prayers. How can I not be grateful that God brought me back to life and continues to fill me with blessings?

You may not have experienced something as severe as this. Or you may have experienced something worse; but even in these challenging moments, God invites us to be thankful at all times.



The apostle Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica and gives them three significant indications in his letter (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). He says; “always be joyful, pray without ceasing, and be thankful in everything.” How have we practiced these three indications personally and as a church?

In this last part of our liturgical year, we want to dedicate it to “being thankful” before beginning the Advent and Christmas seasons. Our focus will be that simple but powerful word, “Thanks.”

What is it that makes us grateful right now? God has protected us during this time of the pandemic. God has allowed us to meet and worship, online and in person. God has allowed us to continue working for his church despite the challenges we have had. It is true, many things have changed and will probably continue to change. But if this pandemic has brought us something, they are new opportunities. We just need to look at these challenges with gratitude and ask God to open our spiritual eyes to see the blessings. And to see those blessings, we need to let God guide us with his Holy Spirit.

In this time of gratitude, when as part of this season, we will be celebrating one of the most extraordinary gratitude events in our country - Thanksgiving. Let us remember that we shouldn't thank God on the fourth Thursday of November. It should be a constant exercise. God blesses us daily, so let us be thankful daily. Do the exercise right now, and think about what God blessed you today. Let the gratitude of your heart be an offering to God. Amen.



## The Charlton Chimes

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# WORSHIP SERVICES

Pastor Miguel recently convened a gathering of the chairpersons of each committee and church staff to read and discuss the book “The Post Quarantine Church”. The main premise of the book was to encourage churches to resist going back to “things as normal” and to take this opportunity to review and process all that we do to ensure we are doing our best. Coming out of our pandemic/quarantine experience is the perfect opportunity to change things from “the way we’ve always done them” to “the way we should do them”.

One of the main topics of the recent discussion was the worship services at Charlton. Like many other churches, the pandemic has affected our worship attendance. Although we anticipated that this would happen, we never anticipated that the pandemic experience would last this long.

Three important questions remain unanswered: 1.) How long will the pandemic continue? 2.) Is the wearing of masks and social distancing our ‘new normal’? 3.) Will worship attendance ever return to pre-2020 statistics?

As church leadership considered these questions, there was a lot of discussion about transitioning to one Sunday morning worship service. Although many members have their ‘preferred’ time, most people have loved our joint summer services. This is something that we may want to seriously consider in the months ahead. However, since we are still very mindful of social distancing, it was decided to continue with two Sunday morning services at this time.

However, while we often receive positive comments about our services, we must be honest that there is a palpable difference between our two services.

The bottom line is that we simply cannot provide the SAME experience at both services. There are elements of worship, such as the prayers and songs that support the theme of the day, that are the basis of a worship service. But it is often the “extra” elements that truly make worship special, such as the participation of a choir, instrumentalists, drama vignettes, special guests, etc. And it is increasingly difficult to have these resources at both services.

Therefore, when our staff work to create a meaningful worship service, they often settle for what we are able to present at both services. They have shared that they often choose not to do what they feel they should, and opt to do what can be done for both services.

# SERVICE UPDATE

After much discussion, the Administrative Council of Charlton Church has decided to make the following changes to our Sunday morning worship schedule effective September 12, 2021.

It is the hope of our pastor, the Administrative Council, and the staff of Charlton Church that this new Sunday morning schedule will allow us to offer two distinct meaningful worship experiences that will be a blessing to our church family and community.

## **9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

This service will be a celebration of praise and worship with a full liturgy. The choir will participate in this service, helping to lead the congregational singing, which will be a blend of traditional hymns, contemporary classics and newer hymns currently being written.

After the pastor shares a children's message, the children will be excused to attend KIDs Club, our children's Sunday School, which will now be held during this 9:00 am service.

Adult Sunday School groups can each choose whether they would prefer to meet prior to or after the 9:00 am service. It is important to note there are no time restrictions. For example, if the members of a class choose to attend the 9:00 am service, their class could meet at 10:15 am and last as long as they wished. There would be no expectation that a class end in time for the 11:00 am service.

With the time change to 9:00 am, the weekly choir rehearsal will now be held Sunday mornings at 8:00 am. This will allow for our young mothers to have their children in the nursery during rehearsal and service, and will allow those who work evenings to be part of our choral program. This Sunday morning rehearsal may also be an attractive option to other church members who could not make a mid-week commitment.

## **11:00 AM PRAYER SERVICE**

This will be a more intimate and prayer-oriented service. While it may include some of the same prayers and hymns from the first service, this service would have its own order of worship, which would have a more reflective and prayerful atmosphere. Because this service has a small attendance, care would be taken to choose songs that are well known and easier to sing. Special music will be offered at this service. The pastor will offer the morning message as usual.



END OF SUMMER  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE  
Sunday, September 5, 2021

9:30 am

Bring a lawn chair or stay in your car!



NEW SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Effective Sunday, September 12, 2021

9:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE

A Celebration of Praise and Worship

11:00 am PRAYER SERVICE

An Intimate and Reflective Service

# COVID UPDATE



Charlton's Administrative Council has updated our COVID Courtesies and Guidelines.

All church and community groups can now resume meeting in the church facility, with the understanding that we will follow the guidelines of our state department of health and the Center for Disease Control, which may result in the closing of the building at any time.

We will also observe the guidelines of the Central Dauphin School District for any events that involve the children of our church and community.

Masks are no longer required for those who have been fully vaccinated while in the church building. Persons who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to wear masks.

If any person feels more comfortable wearing a mask while inside the church for a worship service or other program, we strongly encourage you to do so. No one should ever feel uncomfortable if they choose to wear a mask.

The back pews of the sanctuary are reserved for those persons who wish to keep their masks on during the worship service. Please note that ALL PERSONS sitting in those designated pews are required to keep their masks on. It is important to remember that those who choose to sit in this section are doing so with the understanding that others sitting in that section will be keeping their masks on as well.

We ask that people observe social distancing.

All church and community groups should strictly enforce social distancing in every way possible. For example, do not sit more than 6 persons at a round table or 2 persons on either side of a long table. Be sure an area is designated for those who wish to remain wearing masks.

Let us each do our best to keep one another safe and healthy ... not only during this pandemic, but also during any cold or flu season. Following John Wesley's instruction to "Do No Harm", the world will witness that we are Christians by the love and concern we show for one another.

# SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL: A Fresh Start with God

There is something about back-to-school that makes everyone feel like a new beginning. For students who drop grades from previous semesters, becoming an "A" student feels like a possibility once again. Getting new school supplies is fun (for kids at least), and that new box of pencils, markers, and notebooks feels like starting with a clean slate. A new window opens to the world, and everything seems possible.

Back-to-school can also ignite these feelings in adults - it's almost like a mini new year! Parents think about how they will be more involved in school and perhaps church. Adult students start new semesters and get a little closer to that grade or goal they have always dreamed of. Older adults enjoy reliving memories as they watch children go through this rite of passage.

The back-to-school season is also a time of refocusing the church, bringing people together to begin new spiritual disciplines. Christian educators create registration lists for classes that fit the context of the congregation and create hospitable environments for the Holy Spirit to flourish. Teachers prepare by study and prayer for the work that awaits them.

But what does it mean to start over? This means having new opportunities. For some, it will be to start something completely new. For others, it will be to renew what they have and see the new options given.

Back-to-school is much more than just a series of four sermons at the beginning of the school year. It is meditating on the many opportunities that God gives us and knowing how to take advantage of them. God knows us, knows our rising and our lying down. So ... what do you need to be ready for this new school year? As students, we are called to return to our work of learning, giving our best, and getting good grades. You may say that you are no longer in school because God has blessed you with years, but still, there is much to learn. We **learn to be born, we learn to live, we learn to die. Let's learn again to be an active disciple of Jesus and bless our church and community. Let's go back to school, to the class of Jesus, the Great Teacher of our lives.**





Sunday, September 5, 2021 — Psalm 145:13-21  
Backpack Blessings: Taking God with You

Starting a new year can be exciting but also stressful. Imagine what it is like for a child to enter his first day of classes at a new school. Or maybe a student entering his first day of college. What does it mean to start over?

God gives us all the chance to begin again, no matter who you are or what you have done. It is never too late to receive God's forgiveness and start over. When times seem complicated, the psalmist affirms that God sustains and lifts us up.

Sunday, September 12, 2021 — Psalm 139  
Fitting In or Becoming Fit: Self-Acceptance

A new student in the class will always look for ways to find his place. This will mean looking for new friends, meeting the teacher, and recognizing the new environment. It is not always an easy path, and self-esteem can be affected if we don't have confidence in who we are.

God, who knows everything about us, distributed gifts that will be used in the future to meet the needs of humanity and creation. When self-esteem declines or peer pressure makes us want to conform, we deny both the needs of the word and the gifts of God. God didn't make us fit in. God made us differently and creatively to make a difference.

Sunday, September 19, 2021 — Psalm 121  
When the Lead Breaks: Dealing with Disappointment

We frequently start with high hopes except when we are frustrated by things that get in the way. For example, a child whose grades turn out lower than expected, or an adult who has not obtained a promotion he had hoped for, or someone caught off guard by a terrifying prognosis. We all face disappointment, fear, and rejection. When these times come, where and to whom will we turn?

This Psalm speaks of disappointment. Yet God is present to help us. With God and a Christian community, a person can overcome life's difficulties and get ahead, despite difficulties. Where does our help come from?



Sunday, September 26, 2021 — Lamentations 3:23-33  
Each Day a New Beginning: Learning How to Begin Again

A life of faith is based on call and response. God's grace is the call, and human acceptance is the response. But it doesn't stop there. Call and response repeatedly happens in life. So do new starts! By now, school is underway, and routines are established. The first tests have come and gone, and with them, a reality check. Goals can be difficult to reach! The gifts and graces given to each of us do not reduce the obstacles that get in the way. However, obstacles can help us refine gifts if we persevere in faith and hope in Christ.

The book of Lamentations reminds us that we begin each day with a blank slate. God's mercies are as new as the morning dew. Mindfulness of that gift can help us establish a rhythm of hope and perseverance in our own lives as well as in the community.

## OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

### NORMAL OR WHOLE?

#### *A Post-Pandemic Question for the Church*

After years of living outside my native country, I had the opportunity to return to Chile. More than a few years had passed, and the reality of the country and the cities I visited were different. Many of the buildings in the town no longer existed; the place where I used to walk was now a mega supermarket, parking lots and lots of people. Even my friends had changed. Many of them, like myself, had married; they had family and their interests were different. Not only had we aged over time, but our priorities were different. It was almost impossible to go back in time; to what used to be "normal" in our childhood life.

*"The biggest problem with the 'back to normal' approach is that the world has changed significantly."* says Thom Rainer in his book *"The Post Quarantine Church."* It is a book that has been read by the pastor, staff and leadership of Charlton as a way to understand what has happened during this time of the pandemic. The changes have not only been in the secular life, in our jobs, in our family routines, but also in church life, and we have noticed all those changes.

Do we really want to go back to normal when it is no longer the same? Although we do the exercise of doing it; there will always be missing pieces because we must recognize that it is no longer the same. Rainer says, *"not only will there be significant differences,*



but it will also likely take some time before we even begin to understand what the new era will look like." Who among us can firmly say that we understand what this new age is bringing into our lives as a congregation? The only clear thing in all this is that God is giving us a unique opportunity. Opportunities do not happen by themselves. We must look for them. Many times something that seems so negative can turn into an opportunity. But for this to happen, we need to keep our vision in the mission with faith.

**"Normal or Whole?" is a series of five sermons that invites us to reflect on this new opportunity that God is offering us.** It is not an easy road, and no one has said that being a Christian is. It is about finding wholeness in Christ. It is a time for us to evaluate ourselves as a church; to assess our church programs, the use of our building facilities, our pre-pandemic routine, and recognize that this time is not the same. The challenges that God gives us are different in this new reality, because Christ offers us an abundant life, which goes beyond what is "normal" but to be "whole."



Sunday, October 3, 2021 — Luke 24: 13-35  
Opening Eyes to Wholeness

Recognizing that we do things by tradition and by custom is not easy. Human beings are said to be "creatures of habits." Although there is nothing wrong with being creatures of habit, it is not always the best option. We believe that what we call "normal" is the best option. But if we always stayed in the same place, we would give room to the "status quo," and we would not let new opportunities knock on our door.

The disciples, who were on their way to Emmaus, were defeated. Their Master Jesus had died, and although there were rumors that he might be alive, this was not enough to avoid feeling great pain. The teacher would no longer be with them: preaching from a boat, multiplying the loaves and fishes, healing the sick, or performing miracles. Those three years of normality looked fuzzy. It is not until Jesus shares bread with them, in a simple and spontaneous meal, that they discover the new opportunity that Jesus is offering them. Now, it is not Jesus who will preach; but they. Jesus makes them whole, giving them a new perspective on their lives as disciples. What is this unknown that Jesus can do in us in this post-pandemic time? How can Jesus make us whole amid our new challenges as a church?

Sunday, October 10, 2021 — Ruth 1:1-18

## Decisions That Bring Wholeness

Making decisions in our life is not always easy. Some of these decisions involve feelings; love for what remains and uncertainty for what is to come. Even so, changing the usual routine for something new will usually bring difficulties at the start. It is not easy to adapt to the new life, and less when you depend on others.

Naomi was used to being left behind. She was old and tired. That is why she urged Ruth to return to normality, return to the town of her ancestry, and return to the routine of her previous life. But Ruth shows that going back is not always the best decision. She takes a step of faith accompanying her mother-in-law, trusting that this new journey and the God she has accepted will accompany them. What does it mean to look at the future as a whole?

Sunday, October 17, 2021 — 2 Samuel 6: 12-16

## Moving and Dancing Along with God

As human beings, we usually follow certain routines that help us lead a more organized life. But what happens when instead of doing something healthy and enriching, this activity becomes "routine"? There is a big difference between an activity done as routine and an activity that becomes routine. What in the beginning was a new and innovative way in our life. Over time becomes something mechanical and without little meaning.

King David danced as if no one was watching, with pure joy! After many years of being the king, following established patterns, wars, pain, and sin, David let his past slip away to move to the beat of the music. He moved, made music, danced, cried, and cheered. David lives the moment God gives him, and he lives it in motion; knowing that this movement gives him a wholeness of life. How are we, as a church, moving and dancing to the beat of God?



Sunday, October 24, 2021 — Matthew 6: 25-34  
Leaving our Anxiety for the Wholeness of God

Worry has been our constant companion, even as we go through crisis mode. We care about everything; what I should eat, what should I wear? We are always busy and burdened by time, schedule, calendar. Have we known freedom? Perhaps there is freedom in being basic, in the simplicity of life. If God knows our needs, why do we care?

Jesus exhorts his disciples and the crowd that follows him to put their lives in God's hands. Why bother with something that God is in control of? As a church that walks with Jesus, what is it that keeps us awake and anxious? Is it not that we are losing the simplicity of being a Christian that makes us whole by doing so?



Sunday, October 31, 2021 — Matthew 22:34-40  
**God's Love Makes Us Whole**

What if finding meaning in our lives and in the church was not based on our past or where we have been, but on our experiences and expressions of love? We have the wholeness thru God as a consequence of his great love for humanity. Therefore, the result of our actions is the fruit of that divine love. We leave the past behind to face the wholeness of a present that urges us to a future.

Jesus is confronted by the doctors of the law about the great commandment in the law. Jesus responds by understanding the law but giving them a lesson: love is the foundation of every life change and wholeness.

## NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

### BE THANKFUL

*Between the Human and Divine Blessings*

Gratitude is the result of a heart full of blessings, and we can see that daily. God gave us this beautiful land where many were born, grow, develop, and die. There is no human being who has not experienced the gratitude of creation. This can be experienced when we are in the middle of a forest and we hear the chirping of the birds. We smell the plants and flowers or simply the wonder of seeing a small

animal running between the leaves of the trees. What can we say about being on the shore of the ocean, seeing its magnificence, feeling the sea breeze and the salty taste of the water between our lips? God made everything, and He made it perfect, and it was created for us. So why not be thankful and show our gratitude to God for His infinite goodness and mercy.

November is a month of gratitude, and we know and remember it when we sit around the table on the fourth Thursday of this month. At that Thanksgiving meal, we thank God and recognize our many blessings, especially for the food we eat. Gratitude for being among loved ones, gratitude for life, gratitude for work, gratitude for many, and many more things that we often take for granted. We are so used to these blessings that we don't realize they come from God.

*"Be Grateful: Between the Human and Divine Blessings"* is a series of three sermons that invite us to give thanks in multiple ways. We give thanks from our humanity to the divinity of God through Jesus Christ.

First, *"Be Thankful"* on All Saint's Sunday to remember those who came before us. Those who were part of our life and who are not physically with us today. Many of them were mourned, and their departure brought us pain; but just as it brought us those emotions, it also brings us gratitude for what they meant to us. Thanks be to God!

Second, *"Be Thankful"* for all that God provides, from the least to the most essential things in our lives. Not just for the material things but also for those who make us grow spiritually. Thanks be to God!

Third, *"Be Thankful"* is to give honor to Jesus – *"The Alpha and Omega, The Beginning and End."* Who redeems us and offers us a new life. Thanks be to God.

Let's get ready for November and make it be more than just turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce, among many other things. Let's thank God because despite 2021, a year of so many challenges in a pandemic season, we can still look ahead and say: *"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Sunday, November 7, 2021 — Revelation 7: 9-17

For Those Before Us

Seeing death as a blessing of life seems to us to be challenging to understand in our western society. First, our culture is not a culture that sees death as part of life; but rather as a loss. But we forget that death is simply the opportunity to be with God, face to face for the Christian.

John writes from his exile on the island of Patmos. He has already written seven letters to the seven churches, five of which had significant troubles and tribulations. However, John has a vision that represents all those who enjoy the triumphant life in Christ.

That is why John invites us to remember in gratitude for life this triumphant church, which is made up of those who were faithful to Christ in their earthly life, and that today we thank for their lives.



Sunday, November 14, 2021 — 1 Thessalonians 5:18  
For God's Blessings

This Sunday is a day of celebration for the blessings provided by God. Like the stars in the sky, blessings cannot be counted. Perhaps only we could stop and exercise seeing how God has manifested in our lives during the day.

The apostle Paul writes this letter to the Thessalonians. Among the final instructions are these, God wants us to always be joyful and grateful, thanking God in all situations. This is equally difficult when we go through difficult situations. Still, we know that if God allowed us to always have a purpose for our life, we would be better children of God after a trial because we would appreciate God's mercies and blessings even in difficult times.

Sunday, November 21, 2021 — Revelation 1: 4b-8  
Christ the King Sunday

Have you ever wondered what you would do with your life without the presence of Jesus Christ in it? Today we celebrate what is known as "Christ the King." This celebration reminds us that our Lord Jesus Christ is King of the Universe. For the Christian church, it is the closing of the liturgical year, where we, as a church, meditate on His word, ministry, and life.

Talking about Jesus in our lives, not only as King of the Universe, but also as King of our lives, is a reason for gratitude. Let the King of kings and Lord of lords be exalted! Amen!

As we've discussed prior to the pandemic, the future of The United Methodist Church is unknown, as we struggle to find a way to move forward in the midst of disagreements on issues of sexuality and gender. I find this to be a paradox, because our church has never been "of one mind" on many issues over the last 50 years.

From my perspective ... and I repeat, from my perspective ... this is what I have always loved about The United Methodist Church. As a person once told me, "We are the UNITED Methodist Church, not the UNIFIED Methodist Church." I have always appreciated that we were a denomination that allowed ... perhaps even encouraged ... people to remain faithful to their convictions, understanding that there can be many ways to interpret the holy scriptures.

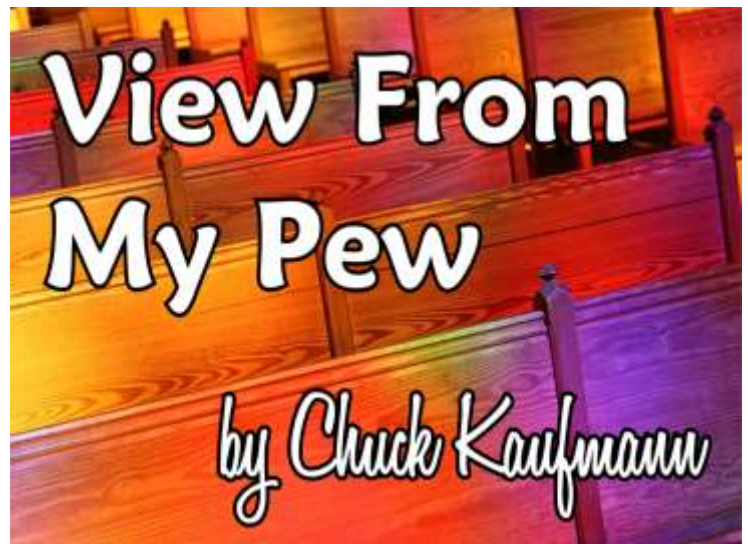
I was reminded of this over the past week as I reflected on comments I've heard from some great people of faith as they shared their thoughts about holy communion.

In my 35 years of church ministry, I have worked with United Methodist pastors who vastly disagree on how often communion should be served. They include the following:

- One pastor thought every Sunday.
- One pastor thought once a month, on the first Sunday of the month.
- One pastor thought 4 times a year, and that doing so more often makes it less meaningful.

What do you think? How often should we celebrate communion? I'm thinking probably a majority of you would most likely choose once a month.

While there is no commandment "thou shalt celebrate communion ...", there are some scriptures that would support the idea that the sacrament should be part of every gathering.



There are certainly not any verses to support having communion once a month or a few times a year.

In addition to the frequency of communion, there are other areas of disagreement, such as:

- How old should a child be before they can receive communion? Some pastors wait until a child is confirmed, while others allow younger children to fully participate in the sacrament.
- Must the elements be in the form of bread and juice or wine? One of the most memorable communion services I've ever participated in was at a rally held in an apple orchard in upstate New York. The presiding bishop used apples and fresh-pressed cider from the orchard as the communion elements as he talked about offering what we have to Jesus, just like the boy who offered his lunch.
- Must you consume both the bread and the juice/wine? There is a form of communion called "Of One Kind", in which only the bread is offered, and the juice/wine is only taken by the pastor presiding. As a church musician, I feel that I completely and fully participate in communion, even if I don't actually consume the bread or juice.



So what's the point of this reflection?

For me, it is an example of how there are many important issues that we United Methodists have very different understandings about ... but we respect one another's perspective and don't let our differences stop us from worshipping and serving God together.

Now, don't get me wrong. There are certainly some topics that I personally have a "draw a line in the sand" perspective about. And, on these issues, I may feel that I am right and you are wrong ... just as surely as some of you may feel that you are right and I am wrong. BUT ... that doesn't mean I feel we cannot worship together, or serve together, or be part of the same church family because of our difference of opinion.

I recently heard a pastor say to another pastor: "Sure, you just want us to work together so that you can change my mind." Hmmm. If anyone would say that to me, I would simply reply: "Sure, but not any more than you want to change my mind. So let's just work together and let God do the convicting of who is right and who is wrong."

It is my hope and prayer that as United Methodists, and more importantly as followers of Jesus, we can learn how to be united in mission and ministry even when we're not of the same mind.

I don't know about you ... but I would love to read a 'behind the scenes' tell-all-book written by Jesus himself about how he took a group of men who were extremely different from one another and had vastly different opinions about everything they did ... and turned them into a group of disciples who followed their teacher's instructions that changed the world.

Now THAT would be a best-seller for sure!

# Christmas Craft Show



Saturday, November 13

9am to 1pm

Get ready for Christmas at our Craft Show, featuring a wide variety of vendors and crafters offering their wares such as homemade jewelry, bags, home décor, and much more!

The Charlton Café will have a variety of breakfast and lunch food, beverages, and delicious homemade baked goods available for purchase.

# Be sure to join your Charlton family for **FELLOWSHIP THURSDAY**

We strongly encourage everyone to follow protocols to keep healthy and safe at all times.



Be sure to maintain social distancing and observe masking guidelines as suggested.

Check the Sunday bulletin for details on each of our weekly fellowship gatherings.

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

**COFFEE**  
with the  
**PASTOR** @9am

SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

LADIES'   
**LUNCH** @12pm  
 MEN'S

*"For where  
two or three are gathered  
in my name,  
I am there  
among them."*

Matthew 18:20

**HOT**  
**TOPIX** @6pm  
DINNER DISCUSSION

**MEET**  
**'n'EAT**  
LUNCHEON @12pm

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

## KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP KID's CLUB

KIDs Club is moving! Beginning Sunday, September 12th, KIDs Club will now be held during the new 9:00 am Worship Service. Start in the sanctuary with your families; then go to KIDs Club after the pastor's children's message. Parents may pick up their kids when the worship service has concluded.

Please note that our Student Ministries will be following guidelines adopted by Central Dauphin School District, which is currently mandatory masking for all children and youth, as well as the adults working with them.



Kid's Night Out is resuming this fall! Be sure to check out the weekly bulletin for up-to-date information for dates. If you have any questions, contact Sarah Tingley.

### Did somebody say Ice Cream?

All YOUTH in grades 6 thru 12 are invited to join Pastor Miguel and Sarah Tingley to see who can build the tallest ice cream Sunday!

We will then spend some time talking, because we want to hear from YOU about what you would like to do for youth group over the coming year.

While this meeting is for youth, Sarah will be contacting your parents within the next week to find out what days or times of day are best for you to meet sometime during the month of September.

So ... until we meet ... start thinking about what things you would like to do as a youth group in the months to come.



# CHARLTON CHURCH HAS

## **GIVING GRACE and HELPING HANDS are GOING STRONG!**

While the pandemic continues, our Giving Grace and Helping Hands programs are operating as a drive-thru.

- The Giving Grace volunteers gather to organize and prepare the bags of household items for families and senior citizens that are in need.
- The Helping Hands volunteers gather to fill bags with food items to prepare a meal at home.
- A third group of volunteers gather on the first Wednesday of the month to distribute those bags to our clients when they pull up in the church parking lot.

If you would like to help with this effort, please contact the church office.

## **FALL MISSION OFFERINGS**

### **SEPTEMBER**

#### **Arenas Scholarship**

The SPRC and Ministry Council have recommended that Charlton identify one of our monthly missions to raise funds to assist our pastor as he works towards his doctoral degree.

### **OCTOBER**

#### **Charlton Benevolent Fund**

We often become aware of individuals going through a difficult time and who are in need of financial assistance.

Our Benevolent Fund helps our pastor as he walks alongside these persons in their time of need.

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **Christmas Blessing**

The Christmas season is often challenging for individuals and families who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Our Christmas Blessing allows Charlton Church to bless them by sharing our church's generosity.

# S A FOR MISSIONS



This year, you have two options to participate in Operation Christmas Child:

- 1.) You can pick up a shoebox at the OCC Center in the church lobby, pack it with the suggested items listed on the flier and return it to the church with the \$9 mailing fee.
- 2.) Like last year, you can donate \$25 to have a box filled on your behalf at the OCC warehouse. Simply mark your gift "OCC".

Packed boxes or donations need to be turned in to the church office by Sunday, October 24.

## Charlton sponsors World Vision Children

Did you know that Pastor Miguel was once one of the children sponsored through the World Vision program? He shared his experience of how his life was richly blessed by a family in Denmark who sponsored him. Charlton Church now sponsors two children: Dieulene in Haiti and Narek in Armenia. To learn more about them, visit the bulletin board located outside the church office, where you will also find information on how you can send a card or small gift to them, and how to help our church as we continue sponsoring these children throughout the year.



The new school year is almost here!

After a year apart, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Creznic will be reuniting to teach the Terrific Turtles.

Mrs. Ponicsan and Ms. Horvath will team up to teach the Fantastic Frogs and Darling Ducks.



Our fall activities will keep us busy learning about each other and celebrating fall traditions. Special activities include Apple Day, Fall Parties, PJ Day and a Thanksgiving Celebration. Parents of older children will have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher in November to learn more about kindergarten preparation.



Our Fall Themes are:

September — God Made Me

October — God's Protection

November — Always Give Thanks



Reminders to consider:

- To maintain school safety, the Preschool wing is locked during school hours 8:45-11:45 Monday through Friday.
- Families are utilizing a car drop off system again this year. Please avoid parking alongside the church curb during drop off and pick up, from 8:45 am to 9:15 pm, and then again from 11:15 am to noon. We appreciate your cooperation.

Please keep preschool families and staff in your prayers as we begin our next adventure.

Don't forget to get your grocery gift cards at church, which benefit the preschool. They will once again be available on Sunday mornings starting in September, and are also available during the week during office hours. This is an easy way to support the preschool, since everyone is doing a lot of eating while stuck at home!



# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## IN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the church congregation is extended to the family of Douglas Wilson, who passed away on June 30, 2021.



Whenever I think of you,  
I give God thanks.

Philippians 1:3



***Thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Drive in July. We were able to deliver 105 cans of tuna, 47 cans of chicken and 49 jars of peanut butter to a local food bank.***

Thank you so much for my birthday cards. They gave me so much joy. My love and prayers reach out to each of you. God's blessing and love to each of you also.

Jean Huff

Thank you for the graduation gift and your continued support throughout my life!

Madison VonNeida

Thank you so much to all the people of Charlton Church for all of the support over the years! Also, thank you so much for the gift card and the hand-knitted blanket! I go to Starbucks almost every morning before work so the gift card really helped!

Kyle Strange

## Staff Appreciation Month

Our staff has been working especially hard during our pandemic experience.

During the month of October, we encourage you

to write a note of thanks to our staff members; a basket will be available on the credenza outside the sanctuary. Let them know you appreciate them and are keeping them in your prayers. If you want to go an extra mile, consider surprising them with a snack in the office at some point during the month.



**Charlton's Senior Group  
meets on the Third Tuesday  
at Noon for lunch!**

*Please park in the JONESTOWN ROAD parking lot,  
whenever we gather for lunch.*

# CHARLTON CHURCH

A United Methodist Community

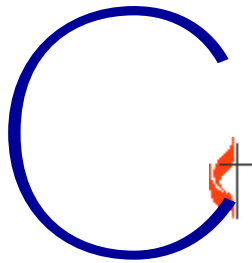
*Where Faith Meets Life*

**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the Transformation of the World**



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**Sommer Garber**

*Custodian*

**Debra Hughes**

*Nursery Attendant*

**Wendy Criste**

*Nursery Attendant*

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**Martha Brown**

*Administrative Council chairperson*

**Scott Pribanich**

*Ministry Council chairperson*

**Marcy Miller**

*Trustee chairperson*

**Heidi Stanalonis**

*Finance chairperson*

**Caroline Allen**

*SPRC chairperson*

Want to keep up-to-date on what's happening at Charlton Church?  
Be sure to 'like' our page at [www.Facebook.com/charltonchurch](http://www.Facebook.com/charltonchurch)