

CHARLTON CHIMES

FALL
2025

come to
ON CHURCH

August 24, 2025



THE MINISTRY OF
CLAITY

~ COVER STORY ~

Do you know what a 'portmanteau' is?
A portmanteau blends parts of two words
to create a new word.

During the Susquehanna Annual
Conference held this past May, our new
bishop, Héctor Burgos-Núñez, coined a
new word for the work of the church.

Claity.

'Claity' is central to the effectiveness of any church, because it
refers to the unity of spirit when clergy and laity work together.

Claity.

As you read through this issue of The Chimes, you'll see that it is
not a report of what the pastor has done or will be doing in the
coming months. This newsletter is filled with information about
the mission and ministry of our church ... the work that the pastor
and laity ... the **claity** ... will be engaging in together as we strive
to be the hearts, hands, and voice of Jesus in our community.

"The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard is beautiful poetry that
describes the work that the church's **claity** are called to:

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'til we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

May this be the prayer of our **claity** as we work together.



Charlton Chimes

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A Message from the Pastor ...

Doing Things Out of Your Comfort Zone

Stepping outside our comfort zone may seem intimidating, but it is a part of our growth and spiritual development process. The Bible is full of examples of individuals who were called to embark on journeys that challenged their comfort and stretched their faith. These are reminders that God works out of the discomfort of our existence, compelling us to trust Him in the unfamiliar, in the unknown.

For example, Moses. When God called him through the burning bush, Moses hesitated, saying he did not have experience speaking to Pharaoh (Exodus 3:10-12). God's response was simple: *"I will be with you."* Moses, like us, felt unprepared and fearful about assuming the task God had set for him. Although he was reluctant at first, he eventually obeyed and led the Israelites out of Egypt, becoming a crucial figure in biblical history. Moses did not just step outside of his comfort zone; he leaped into a world of miracles, divine revelations, and monumental challenges that transformed a nation.

In the New Testament, we find similar stories, such as the one about Peter, who went from being an ordinary fisherman to a disciple. In Matthew 14:22-33, Peter walks on water to reach Jesus in the midst of a storm. He was bold at first, but when the wind blew past him, he became scared and started sinking. Jesus rescued him and said, *"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"* This is the tension between the call to step out in faith and the fear with which that step is often taken.

Peter's experience reminds us that even though stepping out of our comfort zones can be scary, it is in our times of weakness that we get to witness God's provision and power in action. Stepping out in risk for faith's sake generally leads to times of enormous growth." I recall participating in a community service activity that took me far out of my day-to-day routine and comfort zone. Initially, I was apprehensive about communicating with others who were different from me, fearing that I might offend them or misunderstand their needs. But once I stepped out of my comfort zone, I appreciated learning from them and listening to what they had to say.

My heart was melted, and I realized that God was using this as a tool to teach me compassion, empathy, and the value of community. Throughout scripture, we can see that stepping outside our comfort zone is not just for our own benefit; it is about advancing God's plan in our lives and serving others. In Isaiah 6:8, the prophet hears God calling him, *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"* Isaiah responds, *"Here am I. Send me!"*

Stepping out of our comfort zones is a journey of faith. It may be challenging, but it often leads to unexpected blessings and deeper relationships with God and others. Whether it's sharing our faith, volunteering, or simply being present for someone in need, each step taken in faith is a step towards realizing the potential that God has given us. Considering the lives of Moses, Peter, and Isaiah, we are challenged to respond to God's call with faith and courage. Let us step out of our comfort zone and discover what the Lord has for us. We'll be surprised!



Pastor Miguel

IMAGES

Lessons from the Potter, the Shepherd, the Unjust Manager, and the Poor

Our September sermon series explores profound biblical images that illuminate God's character and the call to live out our faith in a complex world. Each week, we will explore a different image, drawing connections between these ancient symbols and their relevance to our lives today.

May this series inspire us to embrace our roles as clay in the hands of the potter, caring shepherds in our communities, wise stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, and advocates for the poor. Let us open our hearts to the profound lessons that these images hold for us and be transformed in the process.

Sunday, September 7 – The Potter

Jeremiah 18:1-11. The prophet Jeremiah continued to preach and prophesy the word of the Lord as he watched the Kings of Judah lead the kingdom to its downfall. God sent Jeremiah to watch a potter at work and learned that Judah was in the hands of God just as the clay was in the hands of the potter. How does the image of “The Potter” speak to your life?

Sunday, September 14 – The Shepherd

Luke 15:1-10. Jesus told a parable about a shepherd who had one hundred sheep. When one of the sheep got lost, the shepherd searched until he found it. Every sheep was important to the shepherd. A second parable says that a woman turned the house upside down for one small coin. How does the image of “The Shepherd” speak to your life?



Sunday, September 21 – The Unjust Manager

Luke 16:1-13. Jesus tells a parable about a manager who defrauds his employer in an attempt to receive security from the people who benefit from his dishonest acts. After the parable, Jesus tells his followers to use money in ways that will ensure their own eternal security. How does the image of “The Unjust Manager” speak to your life?

Sunday, September 28 – The Poor and the Rich

Luke 16:19-31. This odd parable is unique to Luke. It warns readers that the messenger of God will come to them in the form of a poor in their path (Lazarus in the parable). If they ignore them, as did the rich man, there will come a time when they will recognize their error, but it will be too late. How do the images of the poor and the rich speak to your life?



WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

Thanksgiving is not just a holiday; it's a vital posture of the Christian life. As we journey through the themes of gratitude revealed in scripture, we will explore how being thankful transforms our hearts, deepens our faith, and strengthens our community. The intention of this sermon series is to encourage each of us to cultivate a practice of thankfulness, recognizing God's presence in our lives regardless of our circumstances. We will draw from the lectionary readings that remind us of God's faithfulness and call us to respond with gratitude and service.

In the midst of life's challenges and uncertainties, the call to give thanks resonates profoundly within our faith journey. This sermon series, "With a Grateful Heart," serves as a reminder of the importance of gratitude, not just as a seasonal sentiment, but as a foundational aspect of our relationship with God and others.

Each week, we will explore different aspects of gratitude through the lens of Scripture, highlighting how thankfulness can transform our hearts and actions. From recognizing God's provision in our lives to expressing gratitude for His enduring promises, we will delve into the rich tapestry of thanksgiving woven throughout the biblical narrative.

As we gather in community, particularly on special occasions such as World Communion Sunday and Laity Sunday, or Thanksgiving Sunday, we are reminded that our gratitude is not only personal but communal. The act of giving thanks invites us to celebrate the diverse expressions of God's grace present in our lives and the lives of those around us, fostering a spirit of unity and love. Together, we will examine how Thanksgiving can serve as a powerful witness to the world, proclaiming the goodness of God even in challenging times.

Join us on this journey of reflection and action as we learn to cultivate a lifestyle of gratitude that honors God, blesses others, and enriches our own faith lives. Each sermon will encourage us to find ways in our daily lives to express thanks, even when circumstances may challenge our ability to do so. Let us embark on this journey together, opening our hearts to the transformative power of gratitude.

Sunday, October 5 – Grateful Hearts in Troubling Times

Lamentations 3:19-26. On this World Communion Sunday, we focus on the profound themes of hope and renewal amidst despair. Through the context of communal suffering, we learn that even in our darkest moments, there is always a reason to give thanks for God's unwavering faithfulness. We will reflect on how gratitude can sustain us through trials, strengthening our unity as we gather at the table with believers worldwide, celebrating our shared faith and God's grace.



Sunday, October 12 – Thankful for God's Presence

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7. In today's sermon, we see where the Israelites are encouraged to seek the welfare of the city in which they find themselves. Amidst exile and uncertainty, they are called to gratitude and purpose. This message challenges us to give thanks for God's presence in our lives, even when we feel out of place. We will focus on how a thankful heart can lead to fruitful living, impacting not only our circumstances but also the community around us.

Sunday, October 19 – Empowered to Serve with Gratitude

Jeremiah 31:27-34. On this Laity Sunday, as we celebrate the call of all believers to serve, we will reflect on how God promises a new covenant, writing His law on our hearts — a gift that ought to inspire our gratitude. We will discuss how we can express our thanks through service and witness, empowering laity to take an active role in their faith communities. Gratitude becomes a motivation for action, leading us to make a difference in the world.

Sunday, October 26 – Reformation of the Heart

Joel 2:23-32. On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the ongoing work of God in reforming our lives and practices. Joel's prophecy speaks of restoration and renewal, pointing us to the gratitude we owe for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon all flesh. This sermon will urge us to reflect on how the spirit of reformation calls us to give thanks for God's continuous work in our lives, allowing us to be bold in sharing our faith and living out our calling as reformers in the world.

Sunday, November 2 – Thankful for Our Heritage of Faith

Revelation 7:9-17. On All Saints' Sunday, we will honor those who have gone before us. This passage invites us to give thanks for the faithful witnesses of our past. As we remember the saints, we will consider how their lives inspire us to live with gratitude and purpose. This sermon will encourage us to embody the legacy of faith that they have passed down, recognizing that we are part of a larger narrative of grace.

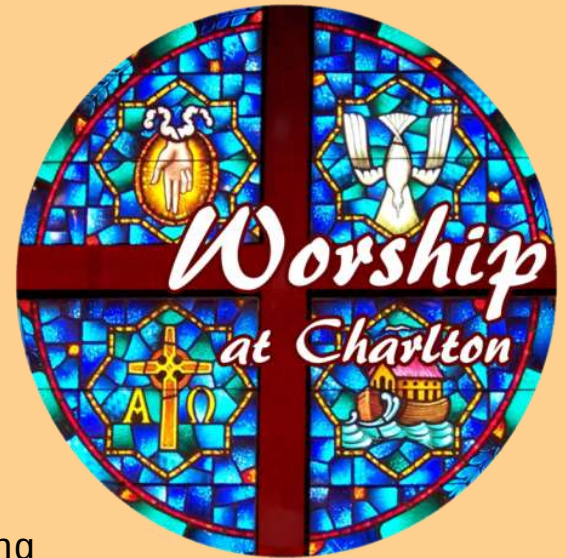


Sunday, November 9 –

Thankfulness in the Midst of Suffering

Job 19:23-27a. In this sermon, we will delve into Job's profound expressions of faith and hope. Despite his immense suffering, Job holds onto his faith and gives thanks for the assurance of redemption.

This message will encourage us to find reasons for thanksgiving even in our pain, emphasizing that God is present in our anguish and is working for our good.



Sunday, November 16 – A New Creation: Living in Thankfulness

Isaiah 65:17-25. Today, we explore Isaiah's vision of a new creation, which paints a picture of joy and fulfillment. As we anticipate the new heavens and new earth, we will reflect on how this promise calls us to a life of gratitude. We will discuss how living in thankfulness transforms our perspective, enabling us to participate in God's redemptive work in the world, reflecting His love and grace in our lives.

Sunday, November 23 – Give Thanks to the King

Colossians 1:11-20. As we approach the final Sunday of the liturgical year, we will reflect on the reign of Christ. We celebrate Christ's sovereignty over all creation.

This sermon will focus on the centrality of gratitude in recognizing Christ as Lord. We will reflect on His work in our lives and the world, encouraging us to live in a way that honors His reign through acts of thanksgiving and service to others.

NOTE: A new sermon series will begin on Sunday, November 30, as it is the first Sunday of Advent.

World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. They chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity.



“The term ‘Holy Communion’ invites us to focus on the holiness of our communion with God and one another,” states This Holy Mystery, The United Methodist Church’s official statement on the sacrament.

Today, The United Methodist Church celebrates World Communion Sunday with congregations all over the globe on the first Sunday of October. Followers of Jesus Christ in large churches and small, on farms and in cities, in ornate buildings and under tents, gather to receive the bread and cup of Holy Communion.

Prayers and songs will be offered in virtually every language spoken around the world.

Clergy will dress traditionally, formally, and casually.

Some will receive cubes of bread. Some will tear from a common loaf. Some will receive a wafer.

Some will drink from a common chalice. Some will dip a piece of bread into the cup. Some will have individual glasses.

Some will use wine; some juice. Some will offer both.

Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Be sure to join us for a very special service of Holy Communion at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 5. We will be joined by members of the Nepali and Egyptian churches who meet at Charlton Church for their worship services.

Everyone is then invited to join us for a covered-dish luncheon after the worship service in the multi-purpose room. Bring a dish to share that reflects your cultural heritage. Let the office know what you will be bringing in advance, so that we can make a name card for your dish so that people know what they are eating!

THE DISCIPLESHIP HOUR

The term 'Sunday School' evokes memories of small children singing fun songs and learning some of the most iconic Bible stories. But there is much more to Sunday School than that! At Charlton Church, we have 4 groups specifically designed to meet the spiritual needs of adults of all ages. Whether you are just beginning to raise a family, getting ready to send your kids off to college, navigating major life changes like a divorce, preparing to learn what the life of an 'empty nester' is all about, discovering that you have no free time in retirement, experiencing the loss of your loved ones, or finding yourself unable to do the things you used to do ... there is an adult class where you can find fellowship, support, and spiritual nurture. If one of these groups is of interest to you, please reach out to their contact person.

The **Faith & Fellowship Class** share, explore and deepen their faith through Biblical study. All ages are welcome but are mostly a 60+ group. The class meets on the upper level in room 15, directly across from the nursery. Class contacts are Gloria Chmiola and Harry Derby.



The **Joy and Foundation Classes** meet together in room 14 for a time of study and discussion centered on scripture and other spiritual formation writings. While primarily comprised of persons 50+, everyone is welcome. Class contacts are Deb Livingston and Paul Swangren.



The **Journey Class** explores topics of interest in culture, discussing them from a Christian perspective, enriched by both progressive and conservative viewpoints. They meet in the conference room next to the office. Class contacts are Marjorie Martin and Marcy Miller.



The **Gathering** is Charlton's young adult class, although people young-at-heart are invited to join. The group shares their life experiences and discuss how their faith informs their daily living. They meet in the church parlor. Class contacts are Carrie Livingston and Chuck Kaufmann.

fall small groups

LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER

BIBLE STUDY WITH THE PASTOR

Pastor Miguel invites you to join him Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am to 'dive deeper' into the weekly sermon topic as part of the weekly Bible Study. These gatherings, held in the church parlor, are a time of discussion and sharing. Invite a friend to join you!

LATTE AND LAUGHTER

Something different and special is being planned for our Fall Latte and Laughter! Be sure to read all the details so you don't miss a thing! We are planning the DVD-based book study "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver. We've talked a little about these two wonderful sisters before; so we thought we would take a closer look at these two different sisters, what we can learn from them, and how they relate to us in today's world.

The study consists of a book (optional), study guide, and DVD which we will watch together to facilitate our discussion time. For those who love to read and dig deeper, the book will give you that! For those who do NOT care to read or have the time to do so, you will still glean much from the DVD and study guide and our fellowship and discussion time together, so PLEASE join us! It will be up to you how much you want to dig into the study. The cost of the Study Guide is \$7.50 + tax per person and the book is about \$9.00.

The 6-week study will be held on September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22, November 12, and December 3. We will meet from 10 to 11:30 am. Don't worry if you can't make all the dates, please come when you are able. We hope you will plan to join us! Please let us know on your Sunday morning Connection Card if you plan to join us. If you have not pre-ordered the book or study guide from the church office, you can purchase them on Amazon.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hoover (717-793-7593) or Debbie Livingston (717-798-4171).

LOVE BOLDLY. SERVE JOYFULLY.

As reported in the last newsletter, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have journeyed together in prayerful collaboration, seeking God's wisdom and discerning a hope-filled vision for this unfolding era in The United Methodist Church, which led to the adoption of a new vision for The United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.



LOVE BOLDLY:

We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. [Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35]



SERVE JOYFULLY:

With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. [Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10]



LEAD COURAGEOUSLY:

Following Jesus' example, we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. [Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10]

In this new season, God is calling United Methodists to embody this vision as we:

- ♦ Grow and form disciples
- ♦ Develop Christ-like leaders
- ♦ Stand in solidarity with the poor and the most vulnerable
- ♦ Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation

This renewed vision is more than words—it is an invitation to embrace joy and hope as we live God's mission. It also provides us with a clear, Christ-centered framework for missional unity and collaboration across our worldwide connection.

BOLDLY. LEAD COURAGEOUSLY.

As we lean into this new vision for our denomination, here are two ways you can begin making this vision a part of your life.

PRAY:

Dedicate time to pray and fast for a movement of Holy Spirit in your church as The United Methodist Church embarks on this new season of mission and ministry.

DISCERN:

Spend some time reflecting and praying on the following themes and questions:

LOVE BOLDLY

- ◇ What does it mean for me to love more boldly? What keeps me from loving others more boldly?
- ◇ In what ways could Charlton Church express the love of God more boldly in our community?

SERVE JOYFULLY

- ◇ How can I serve God more joyfully? How do I resist finding the joy in serving God?
- ◇ What would it mean for Charlton Church to serve God more joyfully in our community?

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

- ◇ What would it mean for me to be courageously leading at this time of my life?
- ◇ What are ways that Charlton Church could lead more courageously in our community?

The Charlton Leadership Council has begun a series of discussions on what this new vision means for Charlton Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they ask some hard questions and discern how Charlton Church can live into this new and exciting vision for The United Methodist Church.

This article is based on the Local Church Reference Guide provided by ResourceUMC.

"Where Faith

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHURCH MOTTO

FALL MISSION OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER

Family Promise

These monies support our work as a partner with Family Promise, as we host homeless families in our church four times a year.

OCTOBER

Charlton Benevolent Fund

These monies allow our church family to assist individuals and families in need of financial assistance, often in emergency circumstances.

NOVEMBER

Christmas Blessing

These monies allow our church family to bless individuals and families who are facing challenges during the Christmas season.



There are 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 \$10 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, November 9.

in Meets Life"

BECOMES A HEART FOR MISSIONS



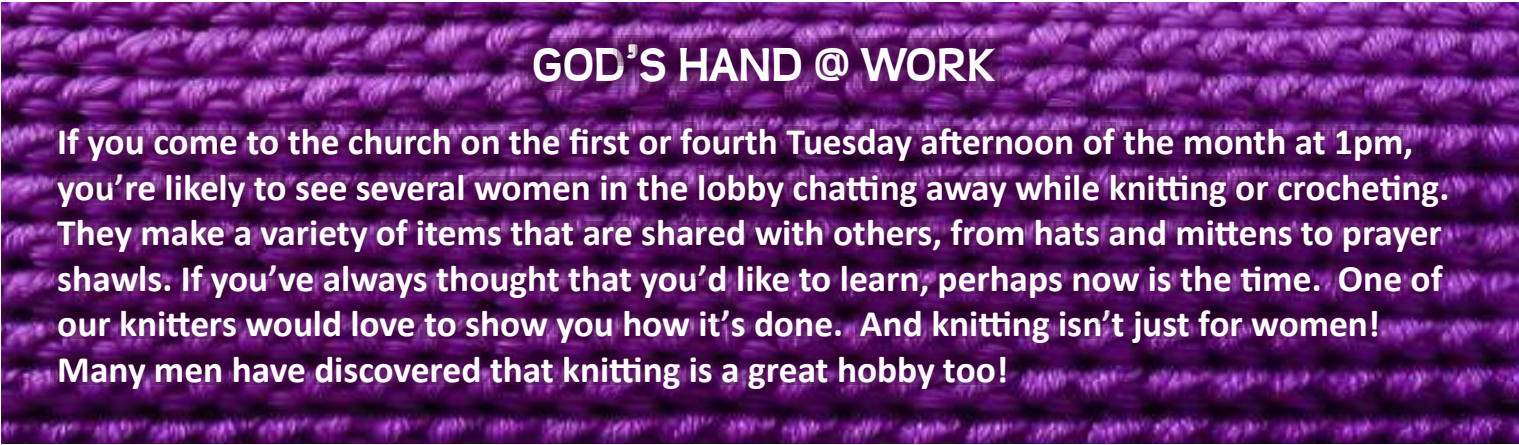
HARVEST HOME "PACK-A-PANTRY-BAG"

Once again, we are asking our congregation to Pack-a-Pantry-Bag each month leading up to our Harvest Home celebration on Sunday, November 23. We want to provide our Giving Grace families with a bag of items to help stock their pantry. You can bring your pantry bags whenever you fill them, or you can bring them all on November 23.

The following is the list of items to place in your Pantry Bag:

2 lb. bag of rice, 1 lb. elbow macaroni, 4 lb. bag of sugar, 26 oz. canister of iodized salt, 3 oz. tin of black pepper, 28 oz. can of tomato sauce, 24 oz. bottle of vegetable oil

We're asking that you fill a Pantry Bag each month during September, October and November. If you'd rather make a donation, we can fill a bag for \$20.



GOD'S HAND @ WORK

If you come to the church on the first or fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month at 1pm, you're likely to see several women in the lobby chatting away while knitting or crocheting. They make a variety of items that are shared with others, from hats and mittens to prayer shawls. If you've always thought that you'd like to learn, perhaps now is the time. One of our knitters would love to show you how it's done. And knitting isn't just for women! Many men have discovered that knitting is a great hobby too!

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Take a few moments and consider the picture to your right. Imagine that you are out there in the woods taking a walk. If needed, close your eyes and consider the sights and sounds of what it would like to be part of that scenery. Once you have taken some time to do so, please read on.

+ + +

Richard Alpert is an American spiritual teacher, academic and clinical psychologist who now goes by the name Ram Dass. Consider these words he has written:



When you go into the woods and you look at trees, you see all these different trees... and some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens and some of them are – whatever. And you look at the tree, and you just – allow it. You appreciate it. You see why it is the way it is, you sort of understand that it didn't get enough light, and so it turned that way, and you don't get all emotional about it, you just allow it. You appreciate the tree.

The minute you get near humans, you lose all that, and you're constantly saying, "You're too this," or "I'm too this," and that judging mind comes in. And so I practice turning people into trees, which means appreciating them just the way they are.

There is great wisdom in these thoughts. What would it be like if we kept these words of Ram Dass in mind? As we work with one another and reach out to our community, can we begin to see each other as trees ... and appreciate one another just the way we are?

As we head into the fall season, let us be acutely aware of every time we have to share God's love and compassion with every person we encounter. From the moment we rise in the morning to the time we lay our head back down at night, we have many opportunities to be the heart and hands of God to those around us, whether they be someone we know well or someone we've never met before.

Let us pray that God will give us the wisdom to accept one another and to learn to appreciate our differences as well as our similarities.

FALL FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST — Wednesdays at 7:00 am

All men are invited to join us for breakfast and fellowship each week at the Perkin's Restaurant on Linglestown Road, off I-81 Exit 77.

FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

CHARLTON FAMILY TABLE

First Thursday of the Month at 12:00 pm

What's the best part of a holiday meal? Is it the food, or is it sitting around the table with family and sharing your lives with one another? Join us each month for a gathering of the Charlton family as we sit around the table sharing a meal and fellowship with one another.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LUNCHEONS

Second Thursday of the Month at 12:00 pm

The Women's Luncheon rotates location each month, so please sign up on the Connection Card. The Men's Luncheon meets at JoJo's Restaurant on Allentown Boulevard.

HOT TOPIX DINNER DISCUSSION

Third Thursday of the Month at 6:00 pm

Join us each month as we share a meal together and share our thoughts on how the news of the day intersects with our faith journey.

MEET 'n' EAT LUNCHEON

Fourth Thursday of the Month at 12:00 pm

Sign up on your Connection Card or call the church office to RSVP for this monthly fellowship luncheon at a local restaurant.

Charlton UMC and Partner Churches present the

MISSION CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

All Proceeds Benefit

Family Promise

Friday, October 3, 2025
1:30 PM

Rich Valley Golf Course
Mechanicsburg, PA

\$90 Individual ~ \$360 Foursome

Special thanks to our
Champion of Promise Sponsor
**LATINO
CONNECTION
FOUNDATION**



Registration begins at 12:30 PM + Shotgun start at 1:30 PM + Skills Competitions + Awards and Prizes

To register online, please use the QR code to the left or visit www.CharltonChurch.org/golf
For more information or to register by phone, please call 717-545-2000

Family Promise by the Numbers

While Charlton is most familiar with the shelter assistance network, of which we are a part, Family Promise also offers several other programs to assist families experiencing homelessness. Here are some numbers from the past year that may help you gain a better understanding of the work they do.

181 families
served

17 families
avoided
eviction

130 persons
housed

73 budget
classes

34 persons
found jobs

34 persons
received
counseling

Help us make Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches

to assist the Eclipse Project as they feed the homeless of Harrisburg

Sunday, September 7
after worship

Sunday, October 5
after worship

Sunday, November 2
at 9:30 am



Spaghetti Dinner

**Saturday,
September 6**

**Saturday,
October 4**

4 to 6 pm



NOVEMBER: Please note there is NO spaghetti dinner in November due to the Craft Show.

DECEMBER: Please note that the SCOUTS are holding their Spaghetti Dinner on December 6.



BLESSING OF THE PETS - Sunday, October 5 at 6:00 pm



The people at Someone To Tell It To know how important it is for people to make connections with one another. Join us for an evening of fun and games as we play "Cozy. Juicy. Real."

Friday, October 17 at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, October 26
4:00 pm**

**A joint venture of
Charlton Student Ministries
and Charlton Scouts**



Christmas Craft Show

Saturday, November 8
9 am to 2 pm



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, wreaths, canned jams and jellies, natural soap, and much more!

The Charlton Café will be serving lunch and beverages throughout the day, and delicious homemade baked goods will be available for purchase.

The show includes an area with Christmas-themed clothing.
We are currently accepting gently used Christmas clothing from church members!

We need your help!

Be sure to check the weekly bulletin to learn how you can help with this year's event.

Bakers will be needed to make items for the bake sale.

Volunteers will also be needed to help set up, assist in the kitchen, run errands, etc.

You can also help by telling your friends and family so they come to the show!



Christmas Eggs

Charlton's Easter Eggs are so popular, that we've decided to make them for Christmas. This year, we will be making 2 favorite varieties ... peanut butter and coconut eggs.

Monday, October 20 at 9:00 am
Monday, November 17 at 9:00 am



OCTOBER IS STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

Let's give thanks
to our staff!



CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 16 @ 2:00 pm

Calvary UMC on Locust Lane

Join with sister UM churches
as we worship together and then
hold our annual business meeting



Thank you to everyone who donated snack items for our hospitality baskets. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to distribute 15 baskets to local first responders and other service providers to let them know that our church family prays for them.



Late Fall is a very special time of the year as people begin planning for all the holiday celebrations. But those days can get very busy and hectic. Perhaps it's time to return to the real meaning of those celebrations and turn our holidays into holy days. While this might seem 'cute' or a good idea at first, it may not be as easy as it seems. It requires a willingness to reorganize one's priorities and may also involve making some sacrifices in your life. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal how you might spend your time in a way that truly honors the meaning of those holy days.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

As United Methodists, we vow to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

OUR PRAYERS

Charlton is blessed with many individuals who continually pray for the mission and ministry of Charlton Church, as well as for our leadership, staff, members, and our weekly prayer requests lifted in worship.

OUR PRESENCE

Charlton is blessed with many individuals who give graciously of their personal time, always available to be of assistance wherever and whenever it is needed for the good of our church and our community.

OUR SERVICE

Charlton is blessed with many individuals who are talented and skilled in a wide variety of ways, willing to serve God through the mission and ministries both at our church and in the greater community where God leads.

OUR GIFTS

Charlton is blessed with many individuals who faithfully support the mission and ministry of our church through their financial giving.

2025 has been a difficult year so far. As usual, there was a deficit in giving during the first quarter of the year due to high utility bills. Typically, we are usually able to rebound from that during the second quarter. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do that this year. While we are able to pay our monthly bills, we have not been able to make any payments on our Shares of Ministry, which is our obligation to our denomination.

The Leadership Council is closely monitoring our finances, and is working on a financial plan to be shared this fall. In the meantime, we would like to highlight the 3 ways that you can make your donations.

PLATE GIVING

Use your envelopes
and place your tithes and gifts
in the offering plate on Sunday.

ONLINE GIVING

Set up automated giving
on our church website,
www.CharltonChurch.org/give

TEXT GIVING

Simply text your amount
to 844-952-2041
For more details, go to
www.CharltonChurch.org/text

OUR WITNESS

Charlton is blessed with many individuals of all ages who are eager and unashamed to use their lives as a witness of God's love, forgiveness, and grace as they go about their daily lives. In many instances, their actions speak louder than words as they act as the hands, heart, and voice of Jesus in the world today.

Several weeks ago when our worship focused on Psalm 23, two people came to me after worship to share their appreciation. The first person said “The song the choir sang was awesome. I couldn’t help but clapping and had to stop myself from giving a standing ovation!” And the second person said, “I really enjoyed the choir’s song so much. It really touched my heart and brought a tear to my eye.” Two persons, same experience, different responses.



This has been something I’ve often been asked about in my 38 years of church ministry: to applaud or not applaud. It is important to recognize that people have different ways of responding and conveying their emotions, and it’s never our intent to stop people from being able to fully express themselves as part of our worship services.

When asked about this at a recent meeting, I shared that it’s important to remember there is a difference between worship and performance. When the choir sings during a worship service, it’s not a performance. However, if the choir offers a concert, that would be a performance. How we respond to each of these settings can be different from one another.

We do not typically applaud acts of worship. We do not applaud when the pastor prays. We do not applaud when the scripture is read. We do not applaud when the pastor preaches a sermon. In the same manner, we should not applaud the choir when they sing an anthem. Take note that I just used the phrase “applaud the choir”, for that is the key to this issue.

What we should encourage is making space for people to respond when the Spirit is stirring their heart during a time of worship. And music often does that. Music is often a catalyst for the movement of the Holy Spirit during a time of worship.

Earlier this year, I attended a conference in Atlanta with 500 other church leaders from across the country. The first formal experience scheduled was a worship service. As the host welcomed and greeted everyone, he was excited about the great worship services that were planned throughout our days together, as they had invited a group of highly talented speakers, instrumentalists, singers, visual artists, poets, and dancers.

And before the worship began, the host invited people to find alternative ways to express themselves during the worship services other than applause. As he explained, applause can be an authentic response from one person’s heart, but it can also inhibit another person who may need to respond in silence. The host encouraged people who needed to respond to the Spirit moving within them to raise their hand in praise ... or to use the American Sign Language movement for the word ‘applause’, which is to raise your hands and shake them in their air ... or to simply try snapping their fingers which provides a softer, yet still audible, response of affirmation.

I must admit that I really enjoyed this last suggestion. The snapping of fingers created a truly holy moment, whether it was when the speaker made a really inspiring comment, or the poet shared a deeply moving piece, or the musicians led either a peaceful song that touched the heart or a rousing number that brought people to their feet. This is something we may want to try at Charlton Church. The next time the Spirit moves you in worship, whether in response to an inspiring comment from the pastor or a song from the choir or soloist, try snapping your fingers to express your praise to God!



***It's time to refresh, renew and rebrand our Student Ministries at Charlton Church!
Be sure to check out all the updates and announcements in the weekly bulletins.***



***KidVenture, students 4 years old thru 4th grade, will meet downstairs on Sundays.
Kids Night Out will continue to run on the first Friday of the month.***



C.H.A.O.S., students in 5th thru 12 grade, will meet in the gym on Sundays.

Just as you are receiving this issue of the newsletter, the little ones at Charlton Preschool are preparing to start another year.

Lauren Creznic (preschool administrator and lead teacher) and Heather Brumgard (teacher) have both been hard at work getting their rooms ready for the classes to resume on Tuesday, September 2.



The Charlton Preschool School Board would like to take a moment to thank those of you who make a donation to the preschool on a monthly basis. This allows us to keep our tuition as affordable as possible.

The Charlton Leadership Council would also like to share an update that may be of interest to you. Historically, the pastor of Charlton Church has also served as the chairperson of the Preschool Board. A change in the preschool constitution now allows for a Charlton member to serve as chairperson of the board, and the pastor will continue to remain a member of the board. While the preschool board nominates a new chairperson, that position is elected by the Charlton Leadership Council. At their last meeting, Charlton's Leadership Council elected Marjorie Martin, a former preschool director, to be the board first non-pastoral chairperson.

We encourage the entire Charlton family to keep the entire preschool in your prayers ... the school board, staff, students and families. May God continue to bless this program to be an important ministry to our community.



In the Kitchen with Chuck Kaufmann

Chuck's newest go-to side dish is easy and delicious.

Simply cut a head of cauliflower into florets, toss them on a baking pan, drizzle with olive oil, salt and pepper, and roast at 425° for 20 to 25 minutes until slightly browned.

While roasting the cauliflower, saute small button or sliced mushrooms with some chopped onion and garlic in butter until soft. Add any seasonings you prefer, perhaps a bit of cayenne! Make sure there is plenty of butter, then toss the cauliflower into the mushrooms, Yum!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers sent for my 102 year celebration. The flowers lasted 3 weeks and were my prettiest gift. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness, birthday cards from several members, and loving support.

God Bless You, Carolyn Swartz and Ann Lloyd

Thank you so much for your greeting and singing Happy Birthday to me for my 99th birthday. Though I don't get out much, it is great to worship with you each week online.

God Bless You All, Irene Kaufmann

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Jeff's sister was a great mentor and blessing to our whole family. She is greatly missed.

Love, Jeff and Robin Garber

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc. is honored to receive your generous donation of \$150 for veteran assistance collected at your July 4th picnic. With support like this, we have been able to help over 19,000 veterans. Thank you for the very generous donation and for honoring our brave soldiers.

Most sincerely, Helen Sajer, President

Through the baby bottle blessing campaign, we are excited to report that Charlton UMC generously raised \$321.53 to support Morning Star's no-cost services. Your donations provide women with medical services, pregnancy education, baby supplies and parenting classes. Thank you for your continued, unwavering support for life!

God Bless, Michelle Lorenz, Executive Director

Lord God, I thank you for my church. While some may think of a building with stained glass windows, I'm thanking You for the hearts and lives of people who have become my family. I praise You for taking such a diverse group of individuals and weaving us together into a beautiful tapestry. May our love for one another always rise above any differences or disagreements, and may Your Spirit strengthen our resolve to serve You all our days. Amen.



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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Nursery Attendant

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bette Baker, Martha Brown, Harry Derby, Kay Lenge, Carrie Livingston, Meg Mader, Marjorie Martin, Marcy Miller (chairperson), Rick Pritchard, Tom Schreiber, Heidi Stanalonis, Marleen Steele

Want to keep up-to-date on what's happening at Charlton Church?

Be sure to 'like' our page at www.Facebook.com/charltonchurch