

# CHARLTON

SUMMER  
2025

# CHIMES

*The  
Power  
of  
Prayer*

# A Church of Prayer

In 2022, Charlton transitioned to a new model of organizational structure with a Leadership Council replacing the former Administrative Council, Trustees, and Staff-Parish Relations Committee. The primary purpose of the transition was to allow the new Leadership Council to have a more holistic approach to guiding the mission and ministry of Charlton Church.

Over the past several months, the Council has been engaging in a dialogue as they discern what God is calling the Charlton congregation to do in our community right now, as well as where God may be leading us into the future.

As those conversations began, it became evident that the starting point for any discernment should be rooted in prayer. And, as those conversations continued, one question began to be raised over and over again:

## ***What does it mean for Charlton to be a “church of prayer”?***

This newsletter is the first step in discovering what the answer to that question might be.

Over the coming months, it is likely that you’ll be hearing a lot about prayer, and you may begin to see some changes in how we can incorporate prayer more intentionally into the life of our church.

As our journey continues, the Leadership Council highly encourages you to keep them in your prayers. Pray that God will guide and direct their conversations as they strive to ensure that Charlton Church continues to be a place ‘Where Faith Meets Life’.



## **The Charlton Chimes**

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# A Message from the Pastor ...

*"Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."*

Mother Teresa



In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it is easy to overlook a practice that can transform our hearts, strengthen our spirits, and open doors to divine possibilities. Prayer is often viewed as the domain of pastors and spiritual leaders; but the fact is that prayer is a ministry that belongs to every member of the church. It is a vital thread that weaves us together as a community and connects us to the divine.

Prayer is not merely a ritual; prayer is a conversation with God, a lifeline that brings comfort and guidance. When we pray, we engage in a relationship with our Creator, inviting Him into our lives and seeking His wisdom in our decisions. As pastor, theologian, and author Edward McKendree Bounds stated, ***"Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power."*** Each time we kneel - *physically or spiritually*- in prayer, we hold this key, opening doors to blessings, healing, and peace that we may never have thought possible.

The act of prayer is essential for several reasons. First, it nurtures our spiritual growth and deepens our relationship with God. Through prayer, we express our gratitude, seek forgiveness, and align our desires with His will. Second, prayer fosters a sense of community. When we unite in prayer, we encourage one another, share burdens, and celebrate the joys of life together. The church is not just a building; it is a family of believers standing strong in faith, and prayer strengthens that bond.

Moreover, prayer is a source of hope and strength in times of trouble. Life inevitably presents challenges—loss, illness, and uncertainty. In these moments, prayer acts as a reminder that we are not alone. We can cast our anxieties onto God, trusting Him to provide the comfort and guidance we need.

As we reflect on the importance of prayer, let us remember the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: ***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*** This scripture serves as an invitation for all of us to engage in prayer continuously, acknowledging that it is not limited to specific times, places, or even people. It is a call to ALL. This is one of the reasons why you have heard lay people praying more in our worship services, as a way to encourage that we are all called to pray, we are all called to communicate with God.

As it was mentioned before, prayer is a call to all of us—pastors, congregants, and beyond. Let us take up this divine invitation and embrace prayer as both a personal and communal practice. Together, let us unlock the doors to God's blessings and draw closer to Him through the power of prayer.

~ Pastor Miguel



## Snapshot of the Early Church

Join us as we continue to discover the origins of our faith and the power of the gospel to change lives and transform societies. The stories from the book of Acts inspire us to live out our faith more boldly and to spread the love and truth of Jesus Christ to the corners of our own world.

### Sunday, June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

**“Not Without Controversy”** — Acts 16:16-34

The owners of a slave-girl who used her powers to tell fortunes **threw Paul and Silas into jail for “healing” her and,** consequently, ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family. Make no mistake, not everyone will be delighted to hear the good news.

### Sunday, June 8 – Pentecost

**“On Fire!”** — Acts 2:1-21

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now surrounded by signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages in their midst, the people were amazed and **astonished at Jesus’ promise coming true.** Be **“On Fire”** and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

### Sunday, June 15 – Trinity Sunday

**“Three in One”** — John 14:8-17; 25-27

The good news of the gospel is that, in knowing Jesus Christ, we have come **to know God. In hearing the teachings of Jesus we have heard of God’s love for us because Jesus is “in the Father and the Father is in me.”** Jesus declared to his disciples and to us that the Spirit of truth would be with us forever. The Advocate would help us to hear the words of Jesus even though he has gone to the Father.



## Summer Wisdom from the Psalms

A sermon series that explores the rich and timeless teachings of Psalms.

*“In season and out of season, generation after generation, faithful women and men turn to the Psalms as a most helpful resource for conversation with God about things that matter most ... Psalms express both sides of the conversation of faith, both God speaking to us and us addressing God.”*

~ Walter Brueggeman

As we embark on these warmer months filled with sunshine and longer days, it's the perfect time to dive deep into the Psalms, a treasure trove of divine poetry that offers us profound insights and guidance.

"Summer Wisdom from the Psalms" is a sermon series that explores a selection of Psalms that provide us with wisdom on living a life that glorifies God, navigating the trials we face, and embracing the joy of His creation. Each Psalm we study will act as a spiritual lens through which we can view our experiences, learn from them, and grow in our faith.

The Psalms, with their heartfelt expressions of faith, doubt, hope, and sorrow, capture the essence of human experience. They teach us how to voice our own emotions and circumstances in prayer, making them an essential tool for our spiritual journey.

Join us each week as we uncover the timeless wisdom embodied in these ancient songs. Whether facing challenges, seeking peace, or simply wanting to deepen your relationship with God, the Psalms offer a rich source of comfort and counsel.

Let's embrace this opportunity to reflect, rejoice, and renew our spirits through the enduring wisdom of the Psalms. Together, we will discover how these sacred hymns can influence our everyday lives and bring us closer to God during this season of warmth and light.



Sunday, June 22 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

**“Enduring Faith” — Psalm 42**

Psalm 42 is a potent reminder that even in the depths of despair and longing, one can find an unshakeable trust in God. This psalm is a testament to our human capacity for enduring faith and the sustaining power of God's divine love, regardless of the trials we face.

Sunday, June 29 – Third Sunday after Pentecost.

**“Sustaining Power” — Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20**

Psalm 77 beautifully illustrates the emotional journey from feeling desolate and abandoned to finding solace in God's mighty deeds.

**The psalmist’s ability to shift focus from his distress to God's miracles serves as a powerful testament to the sustaining power of faith during trials, reminding us that God’s love and power are ever-present, even during times of hardship.**

Sunday, July 6 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**“God Blesses America” — Psalm 30**

**On this weekend when we celebrate our country’s freedom,** we will look at Psalm 30 and reflect on how it inspires faith, patience, and constant thanksgiving, no matter our circumstance. This will be a special service of music and prayer as we come before God as individuals and as a congregation to offer our worship and praise for the many blessings we enjoy as Americans.

Sunday, July 13 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

**“Hymns of our Faith”**

Hymns, no matter how old they may be, are simply modern day psalms. As we **continue our series ‘Summer Wisdom from the Psalms’.** we will reflect on many of the stories behind your favorite hymns to better understand how they connect our everyday life with God’s holy Word.





Sunday, July 20 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**“Strength in Divine Trust” — Psalm 52**

Psalm 52 serves as a vivid reminder of the temporary nature of worldly power and the enduring strength found in God's love. It calls us to reflect on our actions and words, imploring us to trust in God's righteousness and unfailing love rather than placing our faith in wealth or wickedness.

Sunday, July 27 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.

**“The Harmony of God's Love and Justice” — Psalm 85**

Psalm 85 invites us to recall God's past mercies, pray for His forgiveness and guidance, and anticipate His promised peace with eager faith. It beautifully illustrates the harmony of God's love and justice, leading us to meditate on the attributes of God and encouraging us to trust in His timing and His unfailing love.



### Exhortations for Endurance

The book of Hebrews offers profound exhortations for endurance, serving as a crucial guide for believers navigating the complexities of faith. This letter, thought to be written to a group of early Christians facing persecution and trials, emphasizes the paramount importance of perseverance in their spiritual journey.

The author encourages the church to fix their eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, illustrating how His endurance through suffering serves as a model for their own lives.

This central theme underscores the idea that the path of faith is not devoid of challenges; rather, it is a journey marked by trials that can deepen one's relationship with God.

We will reflect on key themes such as faith, endurance, and the assurance of God's promises, seeking to apply these lessons in practical ways that foster spiritual growth and community support. As we journey through this powerful book, let us open our hearts to the transformative word of God, allowing it to convict, guide, and inspire us to live lives worthy of His calling.

Sunday, August 10 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**“Seeking a Homeland”** — Hebrews 11:1-1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in **God’s promise allowed them to face an unknown future** and receive God's promise. As followers of Christ, we are strangers in a strange land. How can our hearts lead us to our true home?



Sunday, August 17 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**“Leaning on a Great Cloud”** — Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. A long list of biblical heroes provides examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the **trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus,** the perfect model of faithful endurance. Our ancestors and all who have come before have paved the way for us. How can their example spur us onward?

Sunday, August 24 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

**“Unshaken”** — Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses from the Old Testament, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear, only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited. How do we identify the essentials of our life? How do we separate the temporary from the eternal?

Sunday, August 31 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**“Known by our Love”** — Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the **conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God’s love toward us in Jesus Christ.** We are called by Christ to be known by our love. How can we allow love to define our relationships?





## When We Breathe Together

*A Blessing for Pentecost Day*

by Jan Richardson

This is the blessing  
we cannot speak by ourselves.

This is the blessing  
we cannot summon by our own devices,  
cannot shape to our purpose,  
cannot bend to our will.

This is the blessing  
that comes when we leave behind our aloneness,  
when we gather together,  
when we turn toward one another.

This is the blessing  
that blazes among us when we speak  
the words strange to our ears  
when we finally listen into the chaos  
when we breathe together at last.

*“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*




Acts 2: 1-4, NRSV

**We sometimes take it for granted, this Feast of Pentecost. We know about the upper room, the tongues of fire, the preaching, the conversions of many ... but we are sometimes so familiar with the story that we don't recognize how incredible it is!**

**Pentecost (Greek for “fiftieth”) has its roots in the Jewish Festival of Weeks, the fifty day celebration following Passover. The disciples gathered in the upper room were observing the Festival of Weeks when the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a great wind, with tongues of fire.**

**The story tells us that “devout Jews from every nation under heaven” had gathered in Jerusalem for the feast; yet when the disciples came out of the upper room “speaking in tongues,” everyone could understand them.**

**Back in Genesis 11:1-9, when the Tower of Babel was being constructed, there was a “confusion of tongues” and people were no longer able to understand one another. With the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the confusion is reversed—and people are once again able to communicate with one another. The people were amazed that they could understand each other who normally spoke different languages.**



In many ways the fire of Pentecost is similar to the image of God's refining and purifying fire that can be found throughout the Old Testament. As the Holy Spirit descended upon those early followers of Christ, God's refining and purifying power gave birth to the new church.

Let it be so for Charlton Church! The family of faith known as Charlton has been faithfully following where God has led for generations. And through the years, God has led us in many different directions. And while some may think we are facing uncertain and difficult days, others have a sense of great hope, feeling that God is once again using his refining and purifying power to build us up to do even greater things for his kingdom.

**Let it be so for Charlton Church! Bring on the Pentecost fire!**

## Come, O Holy Spirit

by John Henry Newman

Come, O Holy Spirit.

Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,  
come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,  
come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness,  
come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,  
come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,  
come as Holy Life and dwell in us.

Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,  
until we are set free from the service of ourselves,  
to be Your servants to the world. Amen.



# DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY WITH THE PASTOR

Pastor Miguel invites you to join him and dig deeper into our sermon series. This is a time of study and discussion. These Bible studies are held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am.

*The relaxed schedule of the summer months is a great opportunity for you to consider joining one of our classes that gather during the Discipleship Hour!*

## KIDS CLUB

All children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to be part of our **KIDS Club** each Sunday morning. They meet on the lower level for lessons, activities, games and crafts.

## FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP CLASS

The **Faith & Fellowship** Class likes to share, explore and deepen their faith through Biblical study. All ages are welcome but they are mostly a 60+ group. They are a very social class with many opportunities for fellowship, both on Sundays at church and outside gatherings. The class meets on the upper level in room 15, which is the classroom directly across from the nursery.

## FOUNDATION AND JOY CLASS

The **Foundation Class** and **JOY Class** meet together. The class is comprised of persons age 60 and above, though persons of all ages are invited to join them for their time of study and discussion. The class meets in room 14 on the main level.

## JOURNEY CLASS

The **Journey Class** explores topics of interest in culture and discusses them from a Christian perspective. The class is proud of the diversity expressed within the class, as they are comprised of persons from young adult to retired, with both progressive and conservative viewpoints. They meet in the conference room, which is adjacent to the church office on the main level.

## THE GATHERING

The **Gathering** is for people of all ages, from young adults to those young-at-heart. It is primarily comprised of parents with young children, coming together in an informal and relaxed atmosphere to share their spiritual journey with one another. The group meets in the parlor.

# SUMMER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

## **GOD'S HANDS @ WORK — First and Fourth Tuesdays at 1:00 pm**

All persons who enjoy crocheting or knitting (or are interested in learning) are invited to join our fellowship in the church lobby as we enjoy some conversation as we make our individual projects.

## **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.

## **LOW IMPACT EXERCISE — Monday and Wednesday thru Friday at 10:30 am**

It's important to keep moving ... especially for seniors who no longer are as active as they once were. Come out and share some fellowship with some Charlton friends while participating in one of our low impact exercise sessions. Chair Yoga is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Strength and Balance sessions are held on Thursday. Be sure to check the church calendar, due to vacation days.

## **FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS**

### **CHARLTON FAMILY TABLE — First Thursday of the Month at 12:00 pm**

Everyone (and anyone) is invited to join us for a light lunch on the first Thursday of the month. This is a great time to connect with your church family, get caught up on what's happening in each other's lives and share a laugh or two with one another. Many of our church family live alone, and they love having opportunities to share a meal with someone. So, come out and bring a smile to their face!

### **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.

# SUMMER COLLECTIONS

Please place your donations in the shopping carts located in the church lobby.

## BAGGED RICE

Our Giving Grace program continues to serve approximately 85 families per month. In addition to the basic household items, we would like to provide our families with rice, which is a pantry staple for the community that we serve. We will continue to collect one or two pound bags of rice for our families. The two pound bags are preferable.

## PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

Many of the families we serve have children that will no longer be getting their breakfast and lunch at school during the summer. To assist them, we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly to distribute as part of Giving Grace and Helping Hands program during the summer months. This means we will need around 100 jars of both peanut butter and jelly each month!

## INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACK ITEMS

Our annual Hospitality Baskets have been such a big hit over the past few years that we're going to do it a little differently this summer. We will expand our distribution list as we pray and support local organizations, such as our first responders, during the summer months.

We will collect items such as individually wrapped snack crackers, cookies, nuts, chips and popcorn, candies or gum. These items will be used to create hospitality baskets.

Throughout the summer, you will find a specific organization listed on the prayer page of the weekly bulletin. We will pray for those persons each week, and will then deliver one of our hospitality baskets to them, letting them know that they are in our prayers. If you have someone you would like to deliver one of these baskets to, please contact the church office.



## MONTHLY MISSIONS of CHARLTON CHURCH

Charlton Church has always had a heart for missions, with a long history of supporting programs and missionaries in our local community and around the world.

You can support these missions through the Mission Envelopes and through the Noise Offering, which is collected on the fourth Sunday of the month. You can also use the envelopes in the pews; simply mark it as 'Monthly Mission'.

Here are the monthly missions for the summer season:

### JUNE — FLOW and VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Our June mission offerings are split between two worthy organizations in our local community.

FLOW, "For the Love Of Women", is an organization in Harrisburg whose mission is to eliminate menstrual inequity by providing free menstrual hygiene products to those in need.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program, also based in Harrisburg, strives to reduce the trauma of a crime by empowering and assisting crime victims, witnesses and significant others in reconstructing their lives through advocacy, support, information and referrals.

### JULY — The Center for Spiritual Formation

The Center provides a wide variety of retreats for clergy and lay persons both online and at their retreat center located in Millerstown, PA. For more information, visit their website at [www.centerformation.org](http://www.centerformation.org)

### AUGUST — Someone To Tell It To

Someone To Tell It To cultivates meaningful relationships through compassionate listening and trains others to do the same. If you're called to be a compassionate listener, visit their website at [www.someonetotellitito.org](http://www.someonetotellitito.org)

# A Testimony of Prayer

I am here to tell you - Prayer changes everything. Church has always been a part of my life and throughout my life I have often said to someone, "I will pray for you"! But it wasn't until the COVID epidemic that I came to know the incredible power and comfort of prayer. Not just a quick "praying for you" or a hasty "I need help God" but a deep commitment to engage in continual prayer with the Holy Trinity so that I could live in the constant presence of God.

It started when COVID changed my office location to home. I know that for many COVID was a devastating experience that had profoundly negative effects on their lives. For me, it was the quite opposite – it gave me the chance to make that commitment to prayer that had been on my "to-do list" for a long time. You see, I had almost an hour's commute from my home to my desk and it had grown to be quite tiresome. When I started working from home, I took the opportunity to commit to getting up at the same time (5 am) in the morning but using that time to pray. (as a side note, I am retired now but still get up at 5am to pray) I set up a special place in my home to relax and to read the Bible. Now don't get me wrong, when I say special, it was just a comfortable place on my sofa where I could keep my Bible and my other readings handy, I had a warm comforter, and I could snuggle with my dog. I started by reading two devotionals every morning. I also found that having a printed prayer list right in the front of my Bible made me more aware of who I wanted to pray for. And, as they say, the rest is history.



Every day I began to ask God to direct me and to use me to be a blessing to someone on that day! Here are just a few of the things that God put on my heart to embrace in my life:

1. I have little cues throughout my home that remind me to pray – A "Bee Kind" sign in my bathroom to remind me to...well, be kind, a painted rock with the colors of the Ukraine flag that remind me to pray for peace throughout the entire world, a "Stress Less, Pray More" sign that directs my thoughts away from stress and towards the peace that praying offers.
2. I do not have a dishwasher at home, and doing the dishes used to be a drudge for me. But now, when I am doing the dishes, I pray for the desires of my heart, something that is very dear to the Lord. Right now, I am praying for Charlton Church – that God will bless our congregation and direct our worship and fellowship for His Glory – that God will show us the way He wants our congregation to move into the future and how He wants us to choose to love each other.

3. I don't take the phrase "Thank You Jesus" lightly. It is continually on my lips. I have been known to shout it out quite loudly in the service waiting area of Bobby Rahal when I prayed that an unexpected repair would be affordable and it ended up being covered by the warranty at no cost. Yes, Thank You Jesus!
4. I incorporate prayer into my everyday routine. When I stand on my deck on a star-lit evening, after I finish my workout at the gym, when I really need to feel God's presence during a stressful time, when I need to forgive someone who has hurt me greatly and forgiveness is the last thing I really want to do, and even on rainy, dreary days when I am thankful to be able to relax at home and watch British murder mysteries. I say thank you, I pray for guidance, I pray for strength, I ask for comfort, I ask for help. And best of all, God always shows me how he has answered my prayers, even if it might not be what I expected or even wanted. He opens my eyes and shows me how to be content with His answers and how to be grateful for the many blessings He gives just to me. I feel like His beloved.
5. My home seems to be on the flight path for Life Lion, the critical care helicopter used by Penn State Medical Center. Whenever they fly over, whenever I hear sirens, a police car or an ambulance, I stop immediately and pray. I pray for the victim(s), I pray for their families, I pray for the police and for the EMS workers and I pray also for my son who is a Paramedic in Texas. These sirens serve as a reminder to ask God to be with everyone involved in the trauma.
6. After reading my devotionals every morning, I ask God to give me a takeaway (which sometimes includes memorizing Scripture). Something to focus on each day as I journey through life. Interestingly today's devotional was about how the joyful practice of praying continually can keep God alive in my heart. It also reminded me to let God's Love flow through me to others in both my words and my actions. I learn something new every day by paying close attention to these reminders.
7. Most of all, I find that my prayers have become less of a grocery list of things I need from God and more a time to feel His presence and to live at peace and to be content with the world and with my life.



Praying continually is the most hopeful change a person can make in their life. Make the commitment today to pray without ceasing and discover a whole new level of God's love and grace for your life.

In His Love, Marcy Miller



## UNITED METHODIST BISHOPS SET NEW VISION FOR DENOMINATION

The Council of Bishops, in conjunction with the Connectional Table, is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new vision statement for The United Methodist Church. This vision reflects the Church's deep commitment to embodying God's dream for the world.

The vision states: 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.

This vision statement complements the Church's longstanding mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:1-20: "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The vision encourages United Methodists to embody the following principles:

- **Love Boldly:** Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life. This is inspired by Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34-35.
- **Serve Joyfully:** With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy. This is inspired by Psalm 100:1, Nehemiah 8:10, John 13:14-15 and 1 Peter 4:10
- **Lead Courageously:** Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation. This is inspired by Joshua 1:9 and Ephesians 6:10

"This new vision is not simply a statement or a plan, it is a catalyst for transformation," said Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, President of the Council of Bishops. "It is a vision that will help the Church embrace the opportunities before us, to follow where God is leading us, and to more fully engage in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table will work with General Agencies to create resources that inspire and equip disciples, leaders, and congregations to live into this vision.

## UNITED METHODIST BISHOPS WELCOME POPE LEO XIV UPON HIS ELECTION

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church extends its warmest congratulations to Pope Leo XIV (Robert Francis Prevost) on his election as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

"We are inspired by Pope Leo XIV's vision for a missionary church that builds bridges and dialogue, with open arms," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone, president of the Council of Bishops. "His commitment to humility, being close to the people, and seeking ways to embody the gospel message among all people resonates deeply with our values as United Methodists."

• The Council of Bishops looks forward to our continued relationship with the Catholic Church in different parts of the world, being bearers of God's love, justice, and faithfulness to all, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

As Pope Leo XIV embarks on his papacy ministry, the Council of Bishops offers prayer for him, seeking God's guidance and blessing. We pray for wisdom, strength, spiritual insight, and courage as he leads the Catholic Church in these difficult times. May his leadership continue to be marked by humility, compassion, and a deep commitment to serving all people.

*For more information about our bishops, or to read their press releases, visit [www.unitedmethodistbishops.org](http://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org)*

Their website is an excellent resource to learn more about what is happening within the United Methodist Church around the world.

For additional resources, be sure to visit

**[www.UMC.org](http://www.UMC.org)**

# Voices of the Congregation

As the Leadership Council entered into a dialogue about Charlton Church, its mission and ministry, and a vision for the future, they also started sharing their stories with one another based on a couple of questions. It was then decided to share these questions with the entire congregation and get their responses as well. In this edition of the newsletter, we're highlighting two questions ... What brought you to Charlton? and What is a strength of Charlton Church?

## ***What brought you to Charlton?***

My family moved to this area in 1947. My mom was United Brethren; Charlton was an EUB church and was near where we lived. My mom became very involved and I was then "born" here.

*Marleen Steele*

In August of 1932, I was carried into the "Little White Church" by my mother which began my wonderful journey at Charlton Church.

*Mary Hoover*

I went to a CHUM luncheon with a cousin who came with the group from the insurance company.

*Vonnie Cooper*

My mom brought me when Rev. Gutshall was the pastor. I was a brownie and girl scout here.

*Cindy Killinger*

I came with the guy I was dating, who is now my husband.

*Sharon Snyder*

My fiancé and I were looking for a church to attend and a pastor to marry us. We liked Charlton as we had visited many times since my sister's family were members.

*Heidi Stanalonis*


We brought our children to VBS and never left.

*Anonymous*

Midst the struggle of trying to have a child, we were also looking for a new church. A neighbor invited us and soon thereafter found out that we were pregnant. We knew God brought us here.

*Debbie Livingston*





Charlton was a United Methodist congregation (whose teachings I align with) that was close by that was welcoming and had great music.

*Anonymous*

My parents started bringing me 87 years ago.

*George Zimmerman*

I had recently moved to the area and was looking for someplace to worship on Christmas Eve. Everyone was so friendly that I came back after the new year.

*Anonymous*

The neighbors invited my husband and I to attend.

*Meg Mader*

We moved to the area when I was 9 years old. We lived a block from the church.

*Joan Bolton*

My mom brought us as children.

*Alice Enterline*

My family started coming to Charlton when we moved to the area as it was close to our home.

*Marjorie Martin*

We were unhappy with the church we were attending and when we moved to this area we decided to try Charlton Church; we were welcomed with open arms, especially by Mary and Marlyn Hoover.

*Jan Stoner*

We were looking for a church with a strong children's program and some of our family was attending here.

*George and Judy McMillen*

Though baptized Lutheran, I was raised Methodist, and Charlton was close to where we moved.

*Carol Schleig*

I was feeling disconnected at my home church; my mother-in-law told me her friend loved Charlton, so I eventually came to visit Charlton and decided to stay.

*Leanie Hunt*

I'm not really sure because I was quite young. My friends probably invited me to come along to Sunday School.

*Dottie Dunkle*

# Voices of the Congregation (continued)



## ***What is a strength of Charlton Church?***

We are the heart and hands of Jesus. He got it right ... now we need to!

*Marcy Miller*

The size of our congregation allows us to be 'family', where we get to know each other as we worship and serve together.

*Vonnie Cooper*

Large inner core of good, caring, Spirit-filled people.

*Anonymous*

Friendly congregation, good location, open to the community, creative worship, preschool with a good reputation.

*Marleen Steele*

Everything Charlton offers ... spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially.

*Anonymous*

Outreach is a strength of our church.

*Jan Stoner*

Mission, outreach, friendliness, and sense of family.

*Anonymous*

The diversity of traditions incorporated into worship, including both traditional and contemporary music.

*Anonymous*

Creativity of our services, good Bible study, Giving Grace and Helping Hands, facility available to community.

*Leanie Hunt*

Charlton's strength is welcoming people.

*Anonymous*

Sincere hearts, serving hands, and living each day for Jesus by our daily walk.

*Mary Hoover*

Our congregation who cares for each other and comes through with help or funds when needed.

*Anonymous*

Outreach and opportunities for spiritual growth.

*Marjorie Martin*

Charlton is a family that responds to needs whenever they arise.

*Anonymous*

Vacation Bible School 2025

# Swimming with Jesus

July 6 thru 10 — from 6 to 8 pm

Register online at [www.CharltonChurch.org/vbs](http://www.CharltonChurch.org/vbs)

## Almost - Back - to - School BOWLING PARTY

Saturday, August 16 @ 3 pm

[www.CharltonChurch.org/kids](http://www.CharltonChurch.org/kids)



As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, our Leadership Council have been talking about prayer. One of the Council members recently asked me two questions: What is your prayer life like? ... and ... Do you have an 'answered prayers' story?

I'd like to share with you what I told him that day.

I used to struggle with having a 'disciplined' prayer life. Though I often prayed, I seemed stuck in a rut. My spiritual director suggested that I look for a form of prayer that might resonate well with me.

We have often shared information on 'The Prayer of Examen' as part of our Lenten Lifestyle feature in the Charlton Chimes. We do that because it has become a very important part of my life. I've been able to adapt this prayer to the rhythm of my life in a way that it has become quite transformative.

To best explain this, I'll start with the end of my day. One of the last things I do before going to sleep is to do a 'review' of my day. I start this time of prayer and reflection by asking God to open my mind and heart so that I could see the presence of God in my life, and then I ask myself a few questions:

- Where did I experience the movement of God today?
- What were those moments that I found life giving ... or life-draining?
- What interactions did I have with others that was either positive or negative?

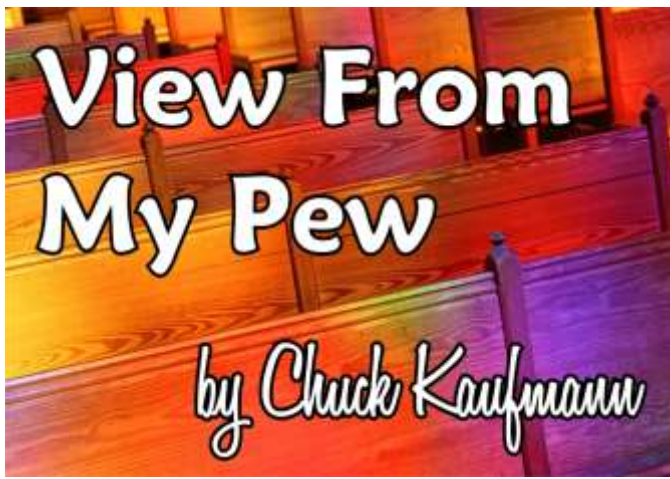
I can then end this time of prayer giving thanks to God for those times I could sense his presence working around me. Giving thanks for my many blessings, especially those I take for granted. This is also a time to ask forgiveness for those times I failed to do the right thing.

I'll be honest that there are times that I fall asleep before I finish my prayer. I used to feel guilty about that, until one day a friend who is a priest said to me, "Well, I'd rather fall asleep thinking about the presence and work of God in my life rather than fall asleep thinking about my 'to do' list or what I want to watch on television". That really resonated with me.

The next part of my "Examen" prayer comes in the morning. I once again begin by asking God to open my mind and heart to sense where the Spirit is leading. I then recall the things I thought of the previous evening and ask myself some new questions.

- How can I repeat those times that I felt the presence of God at work in my life?
- What do I need to change about today to make it better than yesterday?
- Who do I need to 'check in' with today?

As I mentioned earlier, having these 'touchpoints' as part of my prayer life have been quite transformative for me in many ways. Most importantly, it has greatly improved my ability to be disciplined in my prayer life.



When asked if I had an ‘answered prayer’ story, the first one that comes to mind is one that I’m sure I’ve shared before.

This was many years ago when the children of Charlton were about to present a musical based on the story of David and Goliath.

The kids entered the sanctuary while singing and got on the stage. The young boy playing the part of David was the Swangren’s grandson. When he got on stage and looked out at everyone in the audience, his eyes immediately filled with tears.

I grabbed his hand and took him out one of the side doors where he proceeded to burst into tears. I asked him if he would like to pray with me. He did. We prayed that God would give him a sense of peace and allow him to offer his best.

I wasn’t sure what would happen, but the tears stopped immediately. It happened so quickly that it took me by surprise.

He was then able to get on stage and offer nothing less than his very best. Bravo!

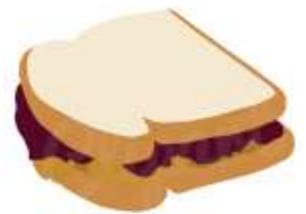
## *What One Person Can Do ...*

In November of 2020, Michon Zalewski decided she needed to do something to help the homeless of Harrisburg. So she bought a bag of hamburgers, got into her Mitsubishi Eclipse, and headed downtown to hand out the burgers.

That simple act of kindness has grown into a ministry that feeds about 80 persons every Sunday. “The Eclipse Project” operates out of the kitchen at Bethany Church of the Nazarene in Linglestown, where she oversees the preparation of each meal with food donated from individuals and businesses.

But it doesn’t stop there.

On the first Sunday of each month, Marjorie Martin coordinates an assembly line at Charlton Church,



where 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are made. These are then taken to Bethany Church for Michon to deliver as an added extra with her weekly meal.

If you would like to be part of Charlton’s effort to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, please contact Marjorie Martin or contact the church office.

It's impossible to believe, but the Charlton Preschool year has already come to an end. Commencement programs were held for both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old classes the week before Memorial Day. Parents, grandparents, and friends came out to see the children sing some songs and share what they learned this past year.



The Preschool School Board would like to thank each of you who supported the various fundraisers that were held this past year. And special thanks is given to those faithful Charlton members who support the Preschool with a monthly donation. These gifts allow the preschool to provide scholarships to families who are experiencing difficult times.

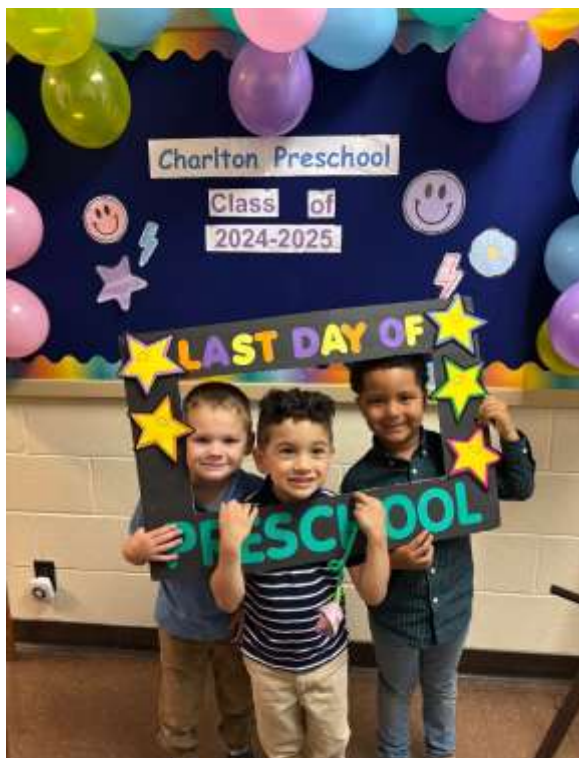
The School Board is also very pleased and excited to announce that Lauren Creznic, our lead teacher, has also now assumed the duties as Preschool Administrator. Lauren loves God and children, so this is the perfect job for her. The board is confident that Lauren will ensure that Charlton Preschool maintains the level of excellence that the Preschool has been known for these past forty years.



Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is still open. If you know someone who has a 3-year-old or a 4-year-old and is need of a morning preschool program, be sure to tell them to visit the school's webpage at [www.CharltonPreschool.com](http://www.CharltonPreschool.com).

Our staff is looking forward to their summer break, and are excited about what lies ahead for Charlton Preschool in the fall as they continue to provide educational opportunities for the children of our community.

The Charlton Preschool Board  
Pastor Miguel Arenas, chairperson







## IN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the church family is extended to the family of Lillian Frances (Fran) Mummert, who passed away on February 13, 2025.

## CONGRATS

Congratulations to Kathy Hoover upon the birth of her great grandson, Weston, on January 17, 2025.

Congratulations to Alice and Steve Enterline upon the birth of their granddaughter, Anya Dorothy, on March 30, 2025.

Congratulations to Sue and Bob Kelly upon the birth of their granddaughter, Rory Joan, on December 24, 2024.

There are never enough thanks to go around! We'd like to take this time to thank some people for some of the extra effort they have been putting in these last few months:

- To the 25+ volunteers who came every week to make our Easter eggs, those who did behind-the-scenes work like Lauren Steele Murphy and Don Mease, and those who sold the eggs.
- To Scott Pribanich, for playing the trumpet for our Easter worship celebrations.
- To those individuals who care for our grounds quietly and without most people even noticing.
- To Kay Lengle and John Skrabak for their many, many hours (often from sunrise to past sunset) caring for our landscaping.
- To the volunteers (cooks, bakers, and workers) who helped Charlton host the annual spring meeting of Christian Churches United. This includes Bette Baker, Martha Brown, Marianne Eagle, Alice Enterline, Darlene Furlong, Kathy Hoover, Leanie Hunt, Sue Kelly, Debbie Livingston, Mark Malone, Marjorie Martin, Judy McMillen, Marcy Miller, Allison Pribanich, Scott Pribanich, Sue Shultz, Jan Stoner, Leoniece Swangren, and Sue Town. This proves the adage 'it takes a village'!
- To Jim Eagle, Mark Malone, and Tom Schreiber for hanging our new banner/sign on Mountain Road.
- To the members of our choir, who graciously give of their talents and time week after week.



Dear members of God's Hands at Work,

We just wanted you to know that your donation of homemade blankets matters. Because of you, moms are able to confidently use these blankets to care for their children. Thank you for being a part of their stories. We appreciate you and all that you mean to our ministry.

Patient advocate, Morning Star Pregnancy Services

Whenever I think of you,  
I give God thanks.

Philippians 1:3

# CHARLTON CHURCH

A United Methodist Community

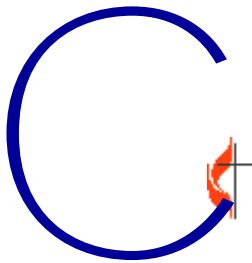
*Where Faith Meets Life*

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



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**Sommer Garber-Storm**

*Custodian*

**Debra Hughes**

*Childcare Attendant*

**Wendy Criste**

*Childcare Attendant*

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**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Bette Baker, Martha Brown, Harry Derby, Kay Lengle, Carrie Livingston,  
Meg Mader, Marcy Miller (chairperson), Marjorie Martin, 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](http://www.Facebook.com/charltonchurch)