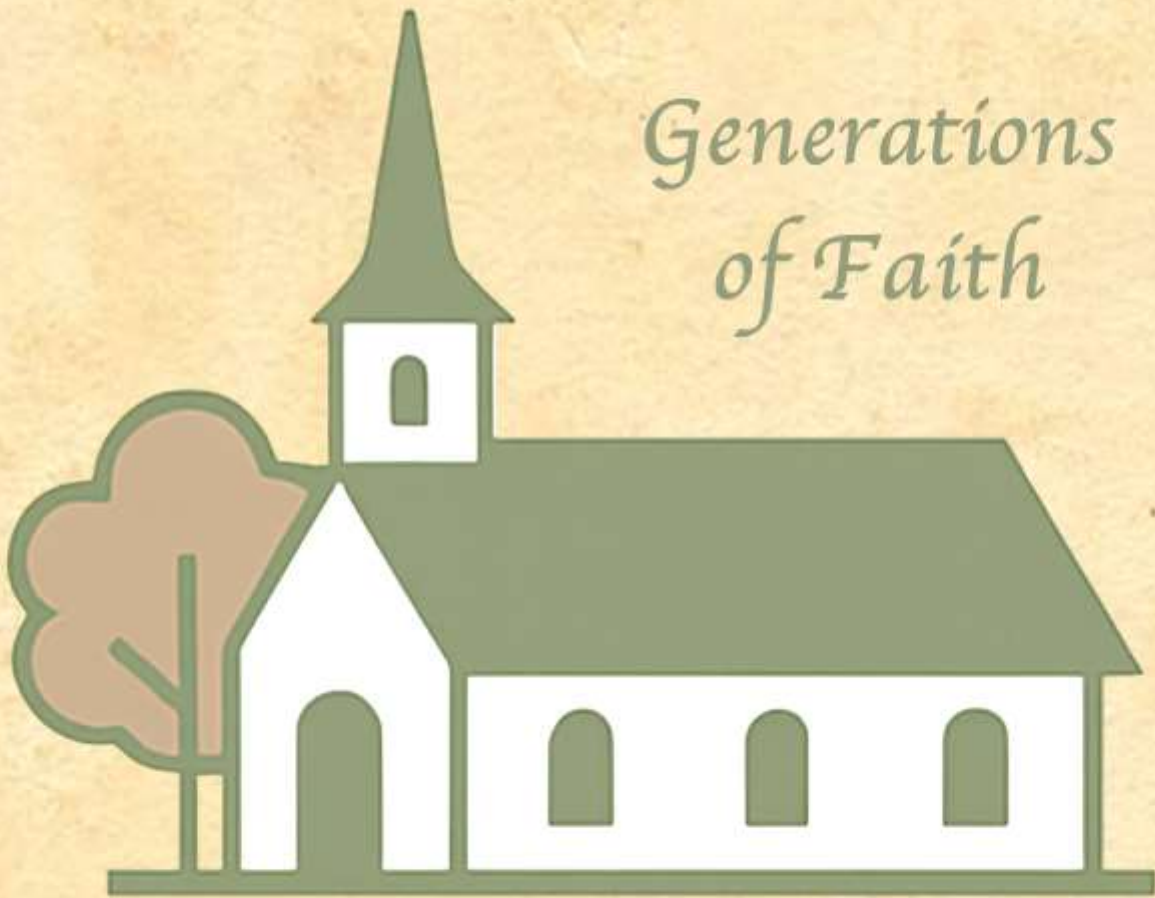


CHARLTON SUMMER 2026 CHIMES

*Generations
of Faith*



220

1806 - 2026

A Message from the Pastor ...

Where Faith Meets Life: 220 Years and Counting

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

— Hebrews 13:8



When you walk through the doors of Charlton Church, there is a weight in the air. Not the heavy kind, but a gentle sense that you are stepping into a story much bigger than yourself. It is true that we have a more modern building than the Little White Church, but history still lingers. For 220 years, metaphorically speaking, these pews have held generations of hopes, doubts, prayers, and laughter. Every prayer request, every hymn sung off-key, every whispered amen is part of a living tapestry that stretches back to a time before any of us were born.

It's easy to get sentimental about an anniversary like this. Two centuries and two more decades. Think about that. Empires have risen and fallen in less time. The world outside has changed in ways our founders couldn't have imagined: wars and peace, new inventions, the rise of the internet, and the ways people connect and drift apart. And yet, here we are, still gathering, still singing, still hoping for something greater, still a place where faith meets life.

Every community that lasts this long has its pastors and leaders. From Leonard Crum, who became the first-class leader in 1806, to the present day, 2026, many pastors and leaders have been part of Charlton's history. As your pastor, I have felt honored to be woven into the recent chapters of our story. Even as this is my last written article for Charlton Chimes, it has been a blessing to journey with you, as your minister, over almost six years, and to have contributed my own small grain of sand during this time in my pastoral ministry.

But anniversaries aren't just for looking back. If there is one thing we have learned from 220 years, it is that history is not merely a trophy to polish. It's a promise — that what came before can help us keep going. Hebrews 13:8 says, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* That's the anchor. Our founders clung to it, and so do we, even as the world lurches forward.

We're not here just to reminisce about the "good old days." The stories matter — the faith that built these walls, the love that healed wounds, the courage that stood up to injustice. But those stories only matter if they call us forward. Our journey as a church isn't finished. History gives us roots, but faith keeps us moving. We're called to be a blessing to the next generation, to keep meeting life where it's hardest, to keep opening our doors to the lost, the lonely, the seekers.

So, our story is still being written. The faithful journey continues, not because of any one pastor or even a whole congregation, but because Christ is still here — steady, unchanging, inviting us forward.

May we honor our past by trusting God with our future. May we continue to be the place where faith meets life.

In His service,
Rev. Miguel H. Arenas
 Pastor

CHARLTON BLESSING

**Dear Lord, bless us, take and use us;
 strengthen us with power from above.
 Guide each footstep of our journey;
 grant us grace to walk the path of love.**

*Lyrics by Marcy Miller, written in loving memory
 of longtime Charlton Choir member Marlyn Hoover*



The Charlton Chimes
 IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor 2-3
- Worship in June 4
- 220th Anniversary 5-7
- 220th Celebration 8-9
- Summer Highlights 10-11
- Summer Collection Items 12
- Monthly Missions 13
- Fellowship Events 14
- Student Ministries 15
- Council Highlights 16
- Stewardship Reflection 17
- A Year of Preschool 18
- Church Family News 19
- Contact Information Back Cover

+ WORSHIP IN JUNE +



Sundays, June 7 and June 14

Change is a sacred and challenging moment in the life of a congregation. Seasons shift, callings unfold, and familiar patterns give way to new beginnings. Yet at the heart of every transition stands the same truth: God is faithful. On his last two Sundays at Charlton, Pastor Miguel invites us to center our hearts not on what is ending, but on the God who remains—steadfast, present, and trustworthy across every chapter of our shared life.

“Faithful Then, Faithful Now” looks back with gratitude, naming how God has moved among us in the past—through moments of joy and struggle, growth and perseverance. These stories are not merely memories; they are testimonies that shape our faith. Remembering God’s faithfulness grounds us, reminding us that we did not arrive here by chance, but by grace.

At the same time, this series speaks honestly to the present moment. God is faithful now meeting us in uncertainty, guiding us through transition, and holding both congregation and pastor in love. And as we look ahead, we do so with hope rather than fear. God will be faithful in what comes next.

Sunday, June 21

On this Father’s Day, our worship will help us reflect on how our relationships with our own fathers may have affected our relationship with our heavenly Father.

Sunday, June 28

Join us as we worship through a very special Festival of Hymns. We will hear **the stories behind some of the church’s most popular hymns, which help us to better understand the message of the lyrics.**

Michon from Eclipse Ministry will be with us to share her testimony of what has called her to the work of feeding the homeless in Harrisburg.

Recent issues of The Charlton Chimes, highlighted how Leonard Crum and our spiritual ancestors planted a church and how they gathered on a farm, then in a schoolhouse and eventually built a church on our present site today.

And now, the story continues ...

Due to housing and population trends in Lower Paxton Township, it became evident that the facilities of the Little White Church were not sufficient. On May 1, 1955 groundbreaking was held for the building of the present sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Dedication services were held on February 12, with over 400 people in attendance. The Little White Church was used for worship services for the last time on Sunday evening, April 15.

For a few Sundays, folding chairs were used in the new sanctuary. New pews and chancel furniture were installed and on Sunday, May 6, the congregation worshipped in the new sanctuary with new furnishings for the first time.

Fellowship Hall was used for Sunday School classes for the children and youth. There was also a kitchen which was used for many things such as Easter egg making and congregational dinners. The first floor also contained a pastor's study.

The new building and it's furnishings cost approximately \$65,000.

1956 was an exciting year for Charlton as it also celebrated it's 150th anniversary. Many events were held during the year. Among them was a memorial service held in Crums Cemetery honoring the founders of the church. Many of the 60 persons attending had relatives buried in the cemetery.

In 1965, the carpet was installed in the sanctuary and a new stained glass window was installed over the altar. The window holds special significance. The symbols represent our heritage and Christian faith. One pane was dedicated by the parents of a former pastor, Paul Gottshalk to their children. A second pane was in memory of Richard E. Fink who was killed in Vietnam.

The education wing was built in 1968. It included Sunday School rooms, an office suite, a nursery, a choir room and a parlor. Additional parking facilities were now available. This is also the year that the Little White Church was demolished.

The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church merged in 1968, which formally birthed what is now known as Charlton United Methodist Church.





Dr. Charles Heister Smith, M.D.

9 August 1851 – 30 August 1921

Linglestown, Pennsylvania

Dr. Charles Heister Smith was a respected physician, civic leader, and community advocate whose influence helped shape the Linglestown area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In 1875, he married Laura Emma Unger, and together they raised three daughters: Sarah, Grace, and Hannah. Two who lived to adulthood.

Education and Early Life

Dr. Smith attended local public schools before continuing his education at Dickinson Seminary in Williamsport and later at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his medical degree.

He was the son of Dr. William C. Smith, M.D., and Hannah Ann Care. Following his graduation, Dr. Smith practiced medicine alongside his father in Linglestown.

Public Service and Community Leadership

Beyond medicine, Dr. Smith devoted much of his life to public service and civic improvement.

- Served as a Dauphin County Commissioner after being elected in 1894, completing six years in office.
- Played a leading role in the development of the Dauphin County Prison.
- Helped organize and promote the Blue Mountain Street Railway. (Trolley)
- Later served as president of the Blue Mountain Street Railway Company until 1906. Served as a trustee afterwards.
- Served as a member of the local School Board.
- Was an active member of the Church of God and served as Sunday School superintendent.
- Instrumental in extending telephone service to Linglestown.
- Actively involved in local real estate and development projects, including establishing Charlton (now Paxtonia).
- Donated much of the land needed for the state highway adjoining his farm (likely Old Jonestown Road today).
- Dr. Smith participated in several fraternal and civic organizations, including Dauphin County Medical Society, Linglestown Lodge of Odd Fellows, Junior Order of American Mechanics, and Patriotic Order Sons of America.

Dr. Smith was also remembered for supporting the erection of a monument on Blue Mountain honoring two escaped slaves who had once lived there.





How “Charlton” Got Its Name

Dr. Charles “Charlie” Smith is credited with naming the Charlton trolley stop.

Historical accounts note that Dr. Smith was instrumental in bringing trolley service from Harrisburg to Linglestown.

According to local history, Dr. Smith envisioned ambitious improvements for the region, including plans for a spa resort and a manmade lake on Blue Mountain.

His father, Dr. William Smith, was also known for his curiosity and innovation. He reportedly conducted “electrical experiments” and spoke publicly about the future possibilities of electricity long before such ideas became common.

A 1906 history of Dauphin County records that Dr. and Mrs. Charles Smith rode on the first trolley car from Harrisburg to Linglestown, accompanied by invited guests and railway officials. A banquet was

later held at the Smith home to celebrate the achievement. Residents of Linglestown and the surrounding townships were said to be grateful for the investment and improved transportation.

At the time, local roads were often muddy and difficult to travel, making trolley service an important advancement for the community.

While research into the exact origins of the Charlton name continues, many believe the stop was named to honor Dr. Charles “Charlie” Smith and his efforts to bring modern transportation and development to the area.

Legacy

Dr. Charles Heister Smith left a lasting mark on Linglestown through his medical practice, civic leadership, transportation initiatives, and dedication to community life. His story reflects the spirit of local leadership and progress that shaped Dauphin County in the early 1900s.

220th CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



Getting ready for worship.



Marjorie Martin and Marleen Steele lead the Call to Worship.



Debbie Livingston shares our joys and concerns.



Pastor Miguel leads the communion prayer.



The choir ladies do their best to sing in German.



Worship draws to a close with the Charlton Blessing.



The children collect and pray over the noise offering.



Former Pastor Dann Caldwell offers the benediction.



The altar furniture from the 'Little White Church' was front and center.

220th CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



Marjorie Martin shares the stories of Charlton women whose recipes were made for our celebration dessert. Over 70 people shared the meal and memories with one another.



Charlton members accompany the 'Little White Church' in the Memorial Day parade.



TWO HUNDRED TWENTY YEARS AGO

A Celebration Hymn by Charles J. Kaufmann

**The Holy Spirit fell in fire,
an ancient holy flame,
to call a people to the Lord,
to praise His saving name.**

**Two hundred twenty years ago,
that same celestial fire,
awoke a spark in Leonard Crum,
and woke a heart's desire.**

**Upon his humble farmland soil,
the faithful gathered near,
to feel the rushing, mighty wind
and cast away their fear.**

**From fields of grain to schoolhouse walls,
the growing flock was led,
in Brown's old schoolhouse they would meet,
by holy manna fed.**

**Then Pentecostal winds blew strong
and raised a house of grace:
the l'il white church with steeple bell
became a holy place.**

**Through changing years and shifting tides,
the faithful kept the vow,
and built this sacred sanctuary
where the faithful worship now.**

**So Charlton Church has found its heart,
empowered from above,
to serve the local neighborhood
and spread Christ's healing love.**

**Two hundred twenty years of grace,
a Pentecostal flame!
We lift our voice as Charlton Church
to praise the Savior's name!**

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS A



SUNDAE SUNDAYS

Join us for some yum
at the Soda Jerk
in Hummelstown

June 14

July 12

August 9

6:00 pm



PB&J TIME

Help us assemble
PB&J sandwiches
for the homeless in Harrisburg

**First Sunday
of the Month**

9:00 am in the kitchen



INDOOR PICNIC

Bring a side dish
or dessert to share!
Main dish will be provided.

Sunday, August 30

11:15 am



AT CHARLTON CHURCH



ACTS OF KINDNESS DAYS

Let's be honest, our world could use a lot more kindness in it. And while we should do our best to be kind every day, we encourage our entire church family ... whether your 8 or 80 ... to spend a day each month this summer being especially mindful of others and performing Acts of Kindness wherever you are.

Over the coming weeks, we will use our Connection Card to collect act of kindness ideas and will publish them in the weekly bulletin.

Let's do our best to make our world a little bit kinder!

Wednesday, June 24

Wednesday, July 15

Wednesday, August 19

*Praise
God
from
Whom
all
blessings
flow!*

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!

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL PAXTONIA ELEMENTARY

This summer, we're going to do something new to support our local elementary school located down the street from Charlton Church. Teachers and staff often find themselves purchasing items needed in the classrooms that aren't provided by the school district.

We recently contacted the school office and asked if they could think of two things that we could donate that would be helpful ... and their instant reply was absolutely!

So over the next few months, we're encouraging our Charlton family to start collecting boxes of tissues and Clorox wipes. Let's bless our local school staff!

Together, we are the heart and hands
of Christ in our community!

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

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.someonetotellitto.org

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.



KID'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, June 5 @ 6pm
Friday, August 14 @ 6pm



PENNY CARNIVAL

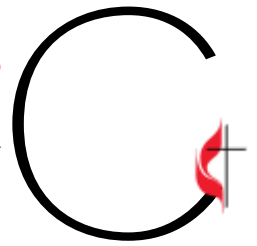
Friday, July 24 @ 6pm



YOUTH COSMIC BOWLING

Friday, July 31 @ 9pm

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



A new feature of our seasonal newsletter will be an update highlighting the work of our Leadership Council. If you have any questions, or would like something specific covered, please contact the church office.

UNITED METHODIST VISION

The Council has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue around the new vision of The United Methodist Church, which is “Love Boldly. Serve Joyfully. Lead Courageously.” Much of the conversation is to discover what these phrases envision and to reflect on how Charlton Church can live out this new vision in our community.

FACILITY USAGE

Most of our church family is aware of “The Soup Guy” who rents our kitchen for his small business during the week. You may also be aware of Little Star Chinese School who uses our space on Saturdays during the school year to teach the Chinese language and culture. But there are couple of other groups that the Council would like to update you about.

WB Music Therapy is a small business that rents a room that provides music therapy to individuals of varying ages to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs.

Harrisburg for Christ Arabic Fellowship meets at Charlton on Saturday evenings for worship and discipleship classes. Their youth group also meets at Charlton during the week.

Harrisburg Performing Arts Center, previously known as Youth For Christ, will be using our lower level weekdays during the summer for their performance and STEM camps.

AWAITING NEWS OF OUR NEW PASTOR

Like you, the Leadership Council is awaiting information about our new pastor. This is the time of year that our bishop and his cabinet are finalizing appointments for the coming year. It is a very complex task as they discern the needs of the 600+ churches that comprise the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church, especially since the number of pastors retiring far exceeds the amount of new pastors being ordained.

As we await the news of our upcoming appointment, we encourage you to keep Charlton Church in your prayers. While the Leadership Council is also anxious to learn of our new appointment, we faithfully trust that God is in the midst of all the decisions being made. The Council will provide an update as soon as the information is received.

Cultivating the Summer Soil: A Reflection on Stewardship



Summer has a way of shifting our rhythm. The early mornings arrive with a sudden burst of golden light, the air warms, and the earth seems to exhale in full bloom. It is a season of abundance, visible in everything from the backyard garden to the crowded neighborhood parks. Yet, in the life of the church, summer is often viewed with a bit of anxiety. Pews thin out as families travel, routines dissolve into weekend getaways, and the steady hum of community life can feel like it is pausing for breath.

But what if we looked at summer not as a time of spiritual absence, but as a deep, masterfully designed season of stewardship?

Stewardship is often narrowed down to a single moment—the act of dropping an envelope into the offering plate or setting up a recurring monthly transaction. In reality, stewardship is the holistic way we manage everything God has entrusted to us: our time, our unique talents, our material resources, and the very creation we walk upon. Summer offers a unique lens through which to view this responsibility. It is a classroom taught by the natural world.

Consider the gardener. The vibrant tomatoes and deep green zucchini of midsummer do not appear by accident. They are the result of intentional stewardship that began months ago in the quiet, cold dirt of spring. Even now, the late-basking crops require daily attention—watering before the heat of the day scorches the earth, weeding to ensure the roots have room to breathe, and pruning the vines so the plant's energy goes where it matters most.

Our spiritual lives and our commitment to our church community require the same seasonal attentiveness. When we travel, we carry our identity as stewards with us. A summer stewardship of **time** might mean pausing during a mountain hike or a morning at the beach to offer a prayer of gratitude, recognizing the Creator in the expanse of the horizon. It means actively seeking out moments of rest, acknowledging that keeping the Sabbath is an act of trust—believing that the world can spin without our striving for a few moments, because God is ultimately in control.

A summer stewardship of **treasure** means remembering that the mission of the church doesn't take a vacation. The community outreach programs, the care for the vulnerable, the upkeep of our sacred spaces, and the preparation for the coming autumn all rely on a steady, faithful stream of generosity, even when we are miles away. Consistent giving during these months is the structural woodwork that keeps our shared home secure.

Finally, summer calls us to a stewardship of **presence**. When we are here, we bring our full selves to the table. We greet the visitor who stepped through our doors looking for a spiritual harbor on a warm Sunday morning. We share the fruits of our joy with one another.

This season, let us not let our faith drift with the summer breeze. Instead, let us dig our roots deeper into the soil of gratitude, tending to the gifts we have been given, and ensuring that our church remains a place of vibrant, life-giving growth all year long.

CHARLTON PRESCHOOL





Thank you ver much for all your thoughts, prayers and cards following my recent surgery and recovery. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and support. A sincere thank you to Pastor Miguel for his visits, texts, prayers and encouraging words. I am very grateful that I am able to be back to church and worship with all of you again. Thanks so much.

Michael Baker

Thank you to all my Charlton Church friends who sent such beautiful sympathy cards on the passing of my brother, Jack. I truly appreciate your words of caring and friendship during this time of deep sadness for me and my family.

Janet Beasom and family

IN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of our congregation is extended to the family of Janet Cunningham, who died on February 25, 2026.

The sympathy of our congregation is extended to the family of Bernadette Kreiser, who died on March 22, 2026.

The sympathy of our congregation is extended to the family of Carol Brown, who died on April 17, 2026.

The sympathy of our congregation is extended to the family of D. June Rohrbach, who died on April 21, 2026.

I want to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. I know they have helped me, and will help me in this new life I am now in. God has been very good to both June and me. Thank you also for the gift certificate. It is greatly appreciated. Hope to see you all soon.

Wally Rohrbach

I appreciate all the cards and well wishes I received. Thank you.

Sandy Bovard

Thank you for the card and prayers for a quick recovery. I'm so grateful!

Gillian Glorioso

CHARLTON CHURCH

A United Methodist Community

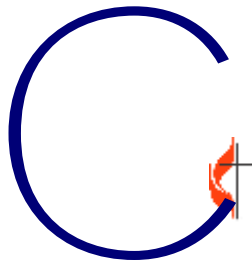
Where Faith Meets Life



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

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Wendy Criste

Childcare Attendant

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Meg Mader, Marcy Miller (chairperson), Marjorie Martin, Rick Pritchard,
Tom Schreiber, Heidi Stalonis, 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