



# **CHARLTON CHURCH**

A United Methodist Community

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Ascension Sunday

# LOVE BOLDLY. SERVE JOYFULLY. LEAD COURAGEOUSLY.

VISION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

---

† Standing, as able.

## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Once Jesus lived a human life  
limited to a particular time and place;  
now he is present wherever people turn to him.

#### **Praise to the ascended Christ!**

Once only those who met Jesus face-to-face knew him;  
now his divine love extends throughout the world.

#### **Praise to the ascended Christ!**

Jesus has taken his place of authority  
and has been crowned Lord of all.

#### **Praise to the ascended Christ!**

### † HYMN

"All Hail the Power" (#154, vs. 1, 2, 4, 6)

Edward Perronet | Oliver Holden

All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.

## † **UNISON PRAYER**

God of possibilities, just as Jesus called the first disciples out of familiar patterns and long-held expectations, so help us to move beyond the way things are to the future You envision. Just as the disciples were commissioned to carry the gospel beyond comfortable boundaries, so enable Your church to transcend all that keeps us from following where Your Spirit leads. Give us the strength, courage, and wisdom we need to let go of what was and embrace what will be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **† SHARING OF THE PEACE and RESPONSE**

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **TIME OF PRAYER**

## **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

THE INVITATION and OFFERTORY

### **† THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **† THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessing God of Presence, even as Christ ascended,  
You did not leave us alone. While he was blessing  
them, You were preparing us to carry the story  
forward, to be Your witnesses, to live in hope and  
power. In this sacred act of giving, we return a portion  
of what You have entrusted to us. May these gifts be  
a blessing to others, as Christ has been to us. Clothe  
us with courage. Remind us that Your Spirit goes with  
us. And send us, renewed and ready, to be Your  
church in the world. Amen.

† **HYMN**

“O Christ, When You Ascended”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette | sung to ‘The Day of Resurrection’

O Christ, when you ascended,  
You took Your rightful throne;  
Your time on earth had ended —  
yet we weren't left alone.  
You reign o'er earth and heaven;  
Your Spirit guides our way.  
Your prayers uphold Your people;  
You lead your church each day.

We look at earthly rulers  
and see what they command:  
We note their years of power,  
the borders of their land.  
Yet, Lord, You are not bounded  
by things like time and space;  
Your reign is never-ending,  
You rule in every place.

We're tempted. Lord, to leave You  
in stories nicely told;  
Sometimes we don't believe You  
and say Your ways are old.  
Sometimes we feel so lonely  
and live in doubt and fear —  
but Your ascension means, Lord,  
You're present with us here.

It's often quite a challenge to follow in Your Way;  
we're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.  
Sometimes we give You Sundays —  
an hour, maybe two —  
But Your ascension means, Lord,  
all life belongs to You.

One day, O Lord, we'll know You,  
as we are fully known;  
One day this world of sinners  
will bow before Your throne.  
One day, God's whole creation  
will sing and praise Your name;  
on earth as now in heaven,  
we'll celebrate Your reign.

## MESSAGE

Pastor Miguel

Stories That Matter  
*Living the Sequel*

## † HYMN

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" (#569)

H. Ernest Nichol

We've a story to tell to the nations,  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

### REFRAIN

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword.

We've a message to give to the nations,  
that the Lord who reigneth above  
hath sent us his Son to save us,  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love.

We've a Savior to show to the nations,  
who the path of sorrow hath trod,  
that all of the world's great peoples  
might come to the truth of God,  
might come to the truth of God.

## † **BENEDICTION**

## † **RESPONSE**

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.

“Charlton Blessing”



## WELCOME TO CHARLTON CHURCH

We're glad that you are with us for worship today. Whatever your circumstances, no matter where you've been or what's happened in your life, you are welcome here!

Charlton Church is a family of faith that values the diversity of thought that is an intrinsic part of The United Methodist Church. You can read our full statement on our website, at [www.charltonchurch.org/umc](http://www.charltonchurch.org/umc).

Charlton Church is a 'Safe Sanctuary', with procedures in place for the safety of all children and youth. A nursery is available during the worship service and is located at the end of the hallway opposite the sanctuary.

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE AT CHARLTON

Sun, May 17	9:00 am	Discipleship Hour
	10:00 am	Charlton Worship Service
Mon, May 18	10:30 am	Chair Yoga
Tue, May 19	10:00 am	Last Bible Study w/Pastor Miguel
Wed, May 20	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast at Perkins
	10:30 am	Chair Yoga
Thu, May 21	10:30 am	Cardio/Strength Class
	10:00 am	Preschool year end celebration
	6:00 pm	Hot Topix Dinner
Friday, May 22	10:00 am	Chair Yoga
	10:00 am	Preschool year end celebration
Sun, May 24	9:00 am	Discipleship Hour
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	220th Celebration Luncheon

## **UPCOMING SCHEDULE AT CHARLTON**

### **ARENAS FAREWELL**

While the pastor's last day with us will be Sunday, June 14, we will have a time of celebration and appreciation, with a luncheon after worship on Sunday, June 7. More info will be available in coming weeks.

## **WORSHIP INFO**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated next Sunday as we celebrate Charlton's 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **PULPIT FLOWERS**

The flowers at the pulpit are in honor of Paul and Leoniece Swangren's anniversary today.

## **GROWTH INFO**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

This Tuesday will be the last Bible Study with Pastor Miguel. Everyone is invited to join us at 10:00 am in the parlor.

## **MISSION INFO**

### **GIVING GRACE COLLECTION**

We are collecting dish soap for our monthly outreach distribution. We continue to collect 2 lb. bags of rice.

### **MISSION OFFERING**

The mission offering for May supports our World Vision children: Dieulene in Haiti and Narek in Armenia. Noise offering will be collected next Sunday.

## FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Several Charlton members have been asking Leadership Council members who our new pastor will be. The fact is that we have not received that information.

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.

Our Conference Superintendent (formerly known as the District Superintendent) met with Charlton's Leadership Council in February for a discussion about the needs of Charlton Church and how the appointment process works.

Here are some of the facts we have learned:

- Over the past 3 years, the Susquehanna Conference had 82 pastors retire. In that same time period, only 7 pastors were ordained.
- There are fewer ordained pastors than there are those who serve as local licensed lay pastors or those who serve as pastors during their course of study.
- Many retired pastors are taking part-time appointments to assist during this shortage of pastors.
- Many churches like experiencing a decrease in attendance and giving are transitioning to part-time pastors, who are often retired or student pastors.

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.

# CHARLTON PRAYER REQUESTS

## WEEK 1:

Ashley Albright, Gary Markel and Margi;

## WEEK 2:

Bill Kepler, George Zimmerman, Ellen Ball, Sandy Bovard, Diane Halke, Phil Robb, Chris Rushoe, Pat Rushoe, John 'Van' Tingley, family of Connie Shuff;

## WEEK 3:

Yvonne Pritchard, Sharon Snyder/Eric Miller, Sierra and family, Luke;

## WEEK 4:

Rohrbach family at the passing of June;

## WEEK 1:

Family and friends of Carol Brown, Kathy Killinger, Debbie Livingston, Dante Parks, Susette Lally, family of Derek;

## ONGOING:

Larry and Tina Caines, Dot Dunkle, Joy Morris, Cheryl Rhodes.

## WE CONTINUALLY PRAY FOR:

- Charlton Church, staff, and Leadership Council
- The United Methodist Church
- Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez
- Superintendent Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver
- Our World Vision families:  
    Dieulene in Haiti and Narek in Armenia.
- All peoples affected by war and unrest
- The leaders of all nations, that peace may be c

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO USE OUR FACILITY:

- Charlton Preschool
- The SoupGuy, Adam and Nina Weaver
- Little Star Chinese School
- WB Music Therapy
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Sports and exercise groups



## Stewardship Report for May 10, 2026

Worship Attendance: 86

General Fund: \$ 8,146.52

Facility Maintenance: \$ 246.44

Missions: \$ 89.48



THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO GIVE AT CHARLTON CHURCH

### 1. SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING

If you would like a statement at the end of the year, use your church envelopes or use the "My Offering" envelopes in the pews.

### 2. GIVE ONLINE

Online giving ensures that your offerings are made ... even when you can't make it to church. Go to [www.CharltonChurch.org/give](http://www.CharltonChurch.org/give)

### 3. TEXT 2 GIVE

Text your gift to 844-952-2041. For detailed information, go to [www.CharltonChurch.org/text](http://www.CharltonChurch.org/text)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

## CHARLTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



5920 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112

Call OR Text: 717-545-2000

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 10am to 2pm

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

Rev. Miguel H. Arenas  
*Pastor*

[pastormiguel@charltonchurch.org](mailto:pastormiguel@charltonchurch.org)  
Cell: 717-250-1012

Charles J. Kaufmann  
*Director of Worship and Administration*

[chuck@charltonchurch.org](mailto:chuck@charltonchurch.org)  
Cell: 717-343-7975

Marianne Eagle  
*Office Administrator*

[office@charltonchurch.org](mailto:office@charltonchurch.org)  
Cell: 717-329-6300

Sarah Tingley  
*Student Ministries Coordinator*

[sarah@charltonchurch.org](mailto:sarah@charltonchurch.org)  
Cell: 610-585-7022