



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

CHARLTON CHURCH

A United Methodist Community

Sunday, November 30, 2025

LOVE BOLDLY. SERVE JOYFULLY. LEAD COURAGEOUSLY.

VISION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We continue to light a Candle of Peace,
praying for people around the world
who live in the midst of violence, war, and unrest.

* Standing, as able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Miguel Arenas

TIME OF CENTERING

*** CAROL**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (#196)

Charles Wesley | Rowland H. Prichard

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

(continued on next page)

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*** UNISON PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, we await Your coming. We wait filled with hope, knowing Your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating Your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait with joy, bubbling us in expectation of Your birth. We wait embracing Your love; may we reach out to share it with our neighbors. Lord, we wait, come soon and fill us with Your life. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Light Has Come"

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

TIME OF PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, blessed be Your name.
Your reign and Your will shall be our life's work.
Provide for our needs and pardon our sins.
And lead us and guide us in Your holy ways.
For Yours is the glory for ever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

† SHARING OF THE PEACE and RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

MESSAGE

Pastor Miguel

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.

Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, Your presence with us.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Bless the tithes and gifts we offer today, that they may bring hope to those in our community and around the world who are living in darkness.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward using the center aisle,
and return using the side aisles.*

*You are invited to bring your offerings
and place them in the manger bed provided
as you come forward to receive the sacrament.*

† **CAROL**

"Once in Royal David's City" (#250)

Cecil Frances Alexander | Henry J. Gauntlett

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

† **BENEDICTION and RESPONSE**

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord



CHARLTON CHURCH: *Where Faith Meets Life*

WELCOME

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!

PROUD TO BE UMC

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.

CONNECT WITH US

Be sure to fill out your Connection Card today and place it in the offering plate. This is the best way for our members and friends to stay connected with the ministry and mission of Charlton Church.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

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. KIDs Club, for children age 3 thru grade 5, meets during the 9:00 am discipleship hour.

SHARING IS NOT ALWAYS CARING

We have learned much through the pandemic and should do our best not to get complacent in our actions! Please remember to observe social distancing whenever possible. If you do not feel well, please stay home. If you have health concerns, there is a designated area at the rear of the sanctuary in the parlor, where you can be seated for our worship service. Please reserve this area for persons with health concerns. Thank you for your cooperation as we care for one another.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE AT CHARLTON

Sun, Nov 30	9:00 am	Discipleship Hour
	10:00 am	Charlton Worship Service
Mon, Dec 1	6:30 pm	Leadership Council
Tue, Dec 2	8a-5p	Lifeline Screening
Wed, Dec 3	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast at Perkins
	10:00 am	Latte and Laughter
	4:00 pm	Giving Grace Distribution
Thu, Dec 4	12:00 pm	Christmas at Noon Concert
Fri, Dec 5	6:00 pm	Kid's Night Out
Sat, Dec 6	10:00 am	Christmas Cookie Exchange
	4:00 pm	Spaghetti Dinner

WORSHIP INFO

SERMON SERIES

Today we begin our Advent journey with a new sermon series entitled "Journey to the Manger".

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Envelopes are again available on the bulletin table, for you to place your orders for Christmas poinsettias. Orders are due in the office Tuesday.

GROWTH INFO

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is taking a break during Advent and will resume in January.

MISSION INFO

GIVING GRACE COLLECTION

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

MISSION OFFERING

The mission offering for December supports Michael and Grace Al-Zoughbi, missionaries in the Middle East.

FELLOWSHIP INFO

FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

There will be NO Fellowship Thursday events during the month of December. In its place, we invite you to join us for our "Christmas at Noon" concert series. Each week, a short 30 to 40 minute Christmas concert will be presented in the sanctuary. You're then invited to join us in the gym for a bowl of soup and fellowship.

December 4 – Christmas with harpist Louis Lynch

December 11 – Christmas with the Trumpet and Organ

December 18 – Christmas Decades with Jeannette Keezel

** Please note the last two concerts swapped dates.*

COOKIES, COOKIES and MORE COOKIES

Bring a baked batch of your favorite cookie (or cookies) to the church by 10 am on Saturday, December 6, to create variety trays to take home and also to provide to our homebound members.

Linglestown Civic Association is looking for donation of cookies for their tree lighting on Sunday, December 7. Donations can be dropped off at Linglestown Fire House, 5831 Linglestown Road after 3pm on Sunday.

A STEWARSHIP NOTE

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us."

Luke 1:78

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising gift-son, John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the skeptic.

When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he didn't believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully serving God; clearly he was a sincere believer. He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something "too good to be true," the skeptic in Zechariah comes out and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad.

This Christmas let us be about giving to the world in ways that are too good to be true. Let the skeptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and John. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true!

This week, we encourage you to give the gift of hope. Our Shares of Ministry reach people in our community and around the world who live in the midst of food insecurity, violence, natural disasters, and have no access to healthcare and basic necessities that most of us take for granted. Our gifts bring hope to them in difficult days.

GIVE
HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

Last Week's Prayer Requests

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Bill Kepler, Annamarie Engle, Darlene Larson, Tim Walker, Linda;

ONGOING:

John Arnold, Carol Brown, Larry and Tina Caines, Dot Dunkle, Joy Morris, Cheryl Rhodes, Sig Sunday;

WEEK 2:

Sue Ebert, Amanda Eshenour, Wayne Jacobs, Dave Sites, Carl, Louis, family of Jim Fair;

WEEK 3:

Mark and Cheryl Pribanich, Nikki, Matt and Addilyn Jane Trimble, Eva, Fran, Gail, Sharon;

WEEK 4:

Kitty Cassell, Kelly Imler, Alex.

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.
- The people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine
- The leaders of all nations, that peace may be our common goal

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



***“The prayer of the righteous
is powerful and effective.”***

James 5:16

Stewardship Report for November 23, 2025

Worship Attendance: 81

General Fund:	\$	3,905.83
Facility Maintenance:	\$	67.40
Missions:	\$	296.00
Noise Offering:	\$	106.00
Egg Sales	\$	146.00



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

3. TEXT 2 GIVE

Text your gift to 844-952-2041. For detailed information, go to www.CharltonChurch.org/text

CHARLTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Call OR Text: 717-545-2000

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

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