



Back to School with Jesus

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Stewardship Sunday

We often know the difference between wise and foolish people. “Those other people are the fools,” we say to ourselves. This might be the moment to do a self-check when it comes to our faith. Do we think our faith never needs renewal, never needs to be stretched; never needs to be challenged? If so, we might be surprised to learn our faith is running on “empty,” and we don’t even know it.

November 12, 2023

10:15 am

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—November 12, 2023— Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Stewardship Sunday

You are invited to stand when indicated by an asterisk and speak the words in bold if able.

PRELUDE: Thy Word.....Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, arr. Peggy Bettcher

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. - Psalm 199:105

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN: Keep Awake, Be Always Ready.....112

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are well aware of the darkness that pervades life.

And we also know that Jesus Christ came into the world to shine light in the darkness.

Each one of us is a bearer of that Christ light.

There is no place that light cannot shine.

We are the ones with the task of bringing the Christ light into every corner of our lives and communities.

We gather to worship because we believe the light cannot be overcome by darkness!

*CONFESSION

Gracious God, faith is not something we can simply borrow from others. It is up to each one of us to nurture our faith, practice our faith, and ask that our faith be renewed. No one can do this for us. Forgive us, God, for the times we have depended upon others to represent our faith for us; for the times we have forfeited our responsibilities, hoping others will pick up the pieces; for the moments when we have stayed quietly in the background, waiting for someone else to speak and we did not. Restore in us, ever-sustaining God, an active, growing, learning, curious, and vibrant faith. Lead us in the paths of right living and right serving, and save us from resignation, withdrawal, and apathy. We pray for your wisdom and renewing power. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

As painful as it is to look at ourselves with open eyes and open hearts, we also realize there is a better way to live, a more centered life, one that has been set free from unnecessary burdens.

We are grateful for God's forgiveness, wisdom, and a new beginning. **Thanks be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE: I Come With Joy

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and free,

The life of Je - sus to re-call, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13 From The Message

“God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

“In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bridegroom’s here! Go out and greet him!’

“The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’

“They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’

“They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

“Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’

“He answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’

“So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

ANTHEM: This Little Light of Mine.....African American spiritual, arr. Mark Patterson

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it...

Shine, shine, shine.

Shine, shine, shine.

Take this little light.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

I’m gonna let it shine ‘til Jesus comes. I’m gonna let it shine.

Shine ‘til Jesus comes, I’m gonna let it shine.

Shine ‘til Jesus comes, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, oh, let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, oh, let it...

Shine, shine, shine.

Shine, shine, shine.

Take this little light and let it shine!

-African American spiritual

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SERMON: "Running on Empty"Rev. Dale Davis

ANTHEM: Keep Your Lamps!.....African American Spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children don't get weary,
children don't get weary,
children don't get weary,
'till your work is done.*

*Christian journey soon be over,
Christian journey soon be over,
Christian journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.*

-African American spiritual

JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYERS, AND SUNG RESPONSE: Grant Us Wisdom To Perceive You

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a - wak - ened to re - ceive you,
minds a - lert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

***INVITATION TO OFFERING, AND SUNG RESPONSE: Praise God, the Giver and the Gift**

Praise God, the Gi-ver and the Gift. Hands, hearts, and voi-ces now up-lift:
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise, praise the Breath of glad sur-prise, free-ing our spir-its, op'n-ing eyes.
Three in One-ness, love com-mun-ing,
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN: Arise, Your Light Is Come.....164**
Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Keep Awake, Be Always Ready.....Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Following worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship in Assembly Hall.

Worship Leaders

Dale Davis, Preacher
Andrew Paulson, Organist
Susan Fitzpatrick, Liturgist
Abbie Lampe, Children's Message

United Ringers
Children's Choir
Chancel Choir

Copyright Information

All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709.

I Come with Joy

Text: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994, © 1971, Hope Publishing Company

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, Southern Harmony, 1835, arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977, © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You

Text: Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Music: QUEM PASTORES, German carol, 14th century; Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Praise God, the Giver and the Gift

Text: Brian Wren, 1989, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1632

November 12, 2023

- The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully, if your little one needs a break. No volunteers will be on duty, so a parent, grandparent, or responsible adult must stay with their child.
- Today's worship available later online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website or YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa](https://www.youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa)
- Please ask a Hospitality Team member for an audio device if you are having difficulty hearing the service.
- CD's of this morning's service are available by contacting the church office.
- Reminder: The wheelchairs and first aid kit are stored in the "First Aid Closet" in the narthex (the door is clearly labeled). The automatic external defibrillator (AED) is located in the church Library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary.

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Spec. 4 Mark Methlie, U.S. Army, Ft. Dix, NJ; First Lieutenant Thomas W. Beggs, U.S. Army Infantry, 1970-71, Vietnam, Bronze Star; Jen Gilbert; Sarah Hogan; AGC Gerry Linderman, U.S. Navy Reserved-Retired, 1961-92, Vietnam; Bonnie & Walt Weber

Elder of the Morning: Anne Kinsey

CD Technician: Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry: Lisa Thim

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Umbrella Ministry: Marcia Stacy

Chancel Flowers

In memory of their parents Anna & Dante Roman from Carol Ann Ferrero and Donna Lynn Ruder



Volunteer Opportunity

As reported in the November Enlightener, the Church Council endorsed supporting the Wrapping Presence organization (www.wrappingpresence.org) with volunteers to serve the residents at The Harborview Rehab & Care Center Lansdale in the distribution of holiday gifts so that the residents have gifts to give to their close ones. Wrapping Presence is looking for 20 Wrapping Buddies to assist the residents in selecting gifts (provided by Wrapping Presence) and wrapping them so that they have gifts to give when their close ones visit during the holidays.

The event will take place on Thursday 14th December from 1:00-4:00 pm and there is a website for sign-ups at <https://bit.ly/WP-NHS> (please ignore the ads on the sign-up site, scroll down to the 14 December event to provide your information and then click the button at the bottom to confirm your choice). Wrapping Presence will provide experienced volunteers to guide St. John's volunteers in assisting the residents. Some volunteers will have the opportunity to interact with the residents and help them select gifts (information on who they are selecting gifts for will be provided) while others, skilled in wrapping, will wrap presents and attach gift cards. The gifts will be placed in decorated gift bags (a WNL activity will be planned for bag decorating) for the residents to bring back to their rooms.

Please contact Bill Cagney for more information or assistance in signing up:

215.385.2882 (text)

215.641.4930 (home)

Billcagney@verizon.net

This Week at St. John's

If you would like more information, please contact the church office 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Nov	12	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Stewardship Sunday Veterans Sunday Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Enlightener due date, Stewardship Meeting
Nov	13	Mon	7:15 pm	In-Person Council Meeting
Nov	14	Tue	9:00 am 12:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Men's Breakfast AGO Recital – Doppelflöte - Vincent M. Ryan and Melissa Freilich, Advent Lutheran, Harleysville Girl Scouts AA
Nov	15	Wed	5:00-7:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Children's Music, Music Room Adult Education, Library United Ringers Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Chancel Choir and Friends, Sanctuary
Nov	17	Fri	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chess Montessori School Curriculum Night
Nov	19	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Prayer Shawl Sunday Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2023	\$7,788.46
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2023	\$865.00
A Look at the Week of October 29, 2023	
Attendance: 10:15 am, October 29	125
Attendance: 5:30 pm, November 1	22
Offering For Current Income	\$4,682.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$739.50
A Look at the Week of November 5, 2023	
Attendance: 10:15 am, November 5	118
Attendance: 5:30 pm, November 8	30
Offering For Current Income	\$5,665.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$664.50

To give online through our secure platform, visit
<https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>

Scan here for online giving



St. John's United Church of Christ

500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 Office: 215.855.5489 email: office@st-johns-ucc.org

If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff

or visit our website at <http://www.st-johns-ucc.org>

Rev. Dale Davis, M. Div., Interim Senior Pastor	Rev. Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor
Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music	Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth
Lisa Delp, Church Admin.	Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor
	Bill Bergey, Custodian
	Liz Rivett, Council President

Announcements

Investing in Our Future

It isn't too late to return your completed Covenant cards. Extra cards are available from a Hospitality Team member this morning. Please complete both the financial information and your answers to the two questions. A larger response from the congregation will make the Covenant Campaign more meaningful. Help make that so by participating! Covenant cards will be dedicated during this morning's worship service.



Love Gift Sunday, December 3

As with most helping agencies today, there is an effort to afford those who are providing for their families the dignity to both choose their own gifts and wrap them. Urban Promise has requested we no longer wrap gifts; Old First UCC has also made the same request. Furthermore, as Pastor Addie has pointed out in the past, it just isn't culturally sensitive to use the phrase "White Gift." It isn't a sensitive way of communicating who we are and what we are about in this day and age. We realize the tradition of "White Gift Sunday" means something special to members. However, given that we should not be wrapping gifts at all, we will instead celebrate "Love Gift Sunday" on December 3. Wish lists from both agencies below:

URBAN PROMISE – Christmas Promise Store Toy Drive

Special Gifts

**Bikes
Scooters**

Gift Cards:
Walmart, Target, Amazon,
Gamestop, Sephora, Footlocker

Ages: 5-10
Most Popular: Legos, Squishmallows, Slime, Science Kits, Play-Doh
Figurines: Disney, Marvel, Pokemon, & Dolls Of Color
Sports: Balls, Gloves, Equipment
Arts & Crafts: Art & Science Sets
Other: Nerf Toys, RC Cars
Clothing: Pajamas, Hats & Gloves

Ages: 11-16
Most Popular: Headphones, Wireless Speakers, LED Light Strip
Personal Care: Lotions & Scrubs
Accessories: Jewelry, Wallets, Bags
Arts & Crafts: Sketch Book & Art Set
Other: Workout Equipment, Portable Chargers, Ring Light
Clothing: Hoodies, Jackets & Sport's Apparel

Not Local?
Scan for Amazon Wishlist


OLD FIRST UCC – Winter Clothing Cupboard (for homeless clients)

Hats, gloves, warm socks, underwear, flannel shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants

St. John's Warming Tree

St. John's will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves from November 12 through December 3. Place your donations on the tree in the Narthex. All donations will be given to Urban Promise's Christmas Promise Store!

2023 Poinsettia Donation Form

Due Date 12/18/23



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Name _____ Amount \$ ____ Envelope # ____



*St. John's United Church of Christ
17th Annual
Women's Christmas Tea*



*Saturday, December 2, 2023
in the Assembly Hall
10 a.m. to noon*

*Come and enjoy delicious tea sandwiches,
desserts, a variety of teas,
Christmas Carols, wonderful fellowship and
information about Women in Training,
founded by two young teenage girls to help alleviate
period poverty for young American women.*

*Donations will be accepted to offset costs
and to benefit Women in Training.*

*If you would like to bring a food item to share, please contact Janet Morton at
mortfam116@gmail.com*

Gluten Free items will be available

*Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 22,
call Sally Jarinko at 215-256-8289, text 215-421-6678
or email to sjarinko@comcast.net
(Space is limited!)*

