



Follow Me

First Sunday in Lent

Our journey into the season of Lent serves as an opportunity to reorient ourselves toward God. It's a call for a renewed dependence on God in light of self-confidence, self-determination, and our attempt to seek control instead of first listening. When the Spirit pushed Jesus into the wilderness, Jesus learned to depend on God. When the Spirit pushes us into the wilderness, we get angry and double down on finding a way out. Lent is designed to become a time of learning and self-discovery in a time when the world tells us that we are the true masters of our destiny. The danger is losing sight of the Kingdom of God in favor of comfort, security, and arrogance.

February 18, 2024
10:15 am

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 am—February 18, 2024—First Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE: Trio.....Josef Rheinberger

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO LENT

What would you like lifted from you?

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

As we enter into the season of Lent, we are reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

And though no one lives forever, in our time we have been entrusted as God's representatives in the work of caring for the creation and for the peoples of the earth.

Each generation is called to continue in the work of kindness, generosity, peacemaking, and care for the least among us, the poor, fragile, and frail.

Which is why we come to worship; not to self-congratulate but to reorient our lives in the direction of God's realm.

In the same way the Spirit of God was present at the dawn of creation and at the moment of Jesus' baptism, that Spirit is present now.

Come Holy Spirit, nourish our hungry hearts, restore our vision for your world, and lead us from wilderness places to the flowing streams of your never-ending love.

***OPENING HYMN: Forty Days and Forty Nights.....205**
Stanzas 2 and 4 may be sung in harmony.

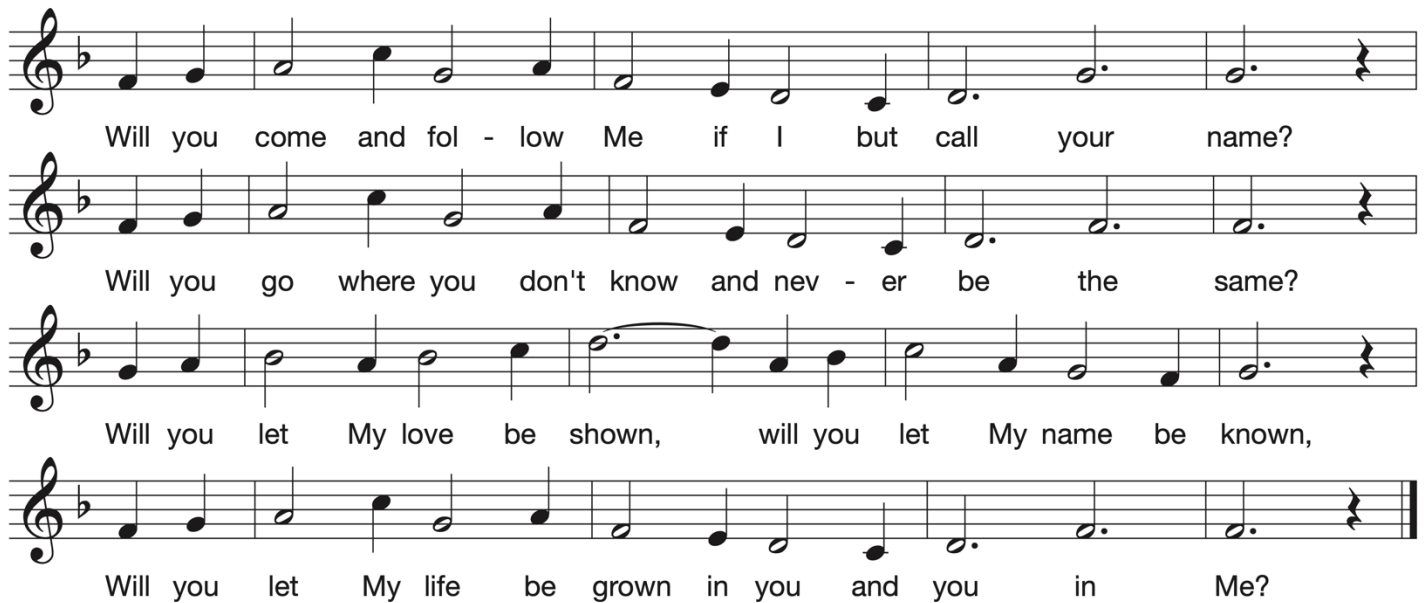
***CONFESSION**

Creating, renewing, and sustaining God, we've managed once again to slip away from a focus on you. We confess we lose sight of you in light of the freedom you give us. We mistake your gift of freedom and turn it into independence. Without realizing it, we begin to live as if we don't need you; placing you in the background of our lives, around but not necessary. Furthermore, the idea of dependence makes us feel weak, while independence makes us feel strong. Is it strength we seek to satisfy our own sense of power? Forgive us Lord, for mistaking our power as ultimate when true power comes from you in the form of humility, service, compassion, and care. Bring us back into the right relationship with you, for we ask it yearning for clean hearts. Amen.

***ASSURANCE**

The Good News is that our repentance leads to reunion with God. Like the father of the prodigal son, we too are welcomed home when we realize we left our spiritual home and begin the journey back to where our hearts are restless no more. **Thanks be to God!**

***SUNG RESPONSE: Will You Come and Follow Me**



Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?

Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,

Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

ANTHEM

We Shall Walk Through the Valley.....African American Spiritual, arr. Undine Smith Moore

<i>We shall walk through the valley in peace,</i>	<i>There will be no trials there,</i>
<i>We shall walk through the valley in peace.</i>	<i>There will be no trials there.</i>
<i>If Jesus, himself shall be our leader,</i>	<i>If Jesus, himself shall be our leader,</i>
<i>We shall walk through the valley in peace.</i>	<i>We shall walk through the valley in peace.</i>

MESSAGE

"The Good News of God".....Mary Chantry and members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

***HYMN: Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor.....590**

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE: O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me.

OFFERING: Will You Come and Follow Me.....Setting by Charles Callahan

*SUNG RESPONSE: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Today's offering will be brought forward and dedicated during the singing of the response. If you did not get a chance to place your offering in the plates during the collection, you are welcome to place your offering in a plate up front after the service or scan the QR code found in the bulletin to give electronically.

Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,

that were a pres - ent far too small;

Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,

de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: I Want Jesus to Go with Me.....490

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Forty Days and Forty Nights.....Setting by Robert Lau

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Chancel Choir

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O Lord, Hear My Prayer
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February 18, 2024

- 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/stjohnsuccclansdalepa
- 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: Grace and Mark Bruen, Team leaders; Mary Billy, Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman, Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning: Bill Cagney

CD Technician: David Douglass

Chancel Flower Ministry: Barb & Robin MacMullen

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Umbrella Ministry: Joyce Huisenga

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of February 4, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, February 4	140
Attendance: 5:30 pm, February 7	19
Offering For Current Income	\$10,682.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,604.50
A Look at the Week of February 11, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, February 11	135
Attendance: 7:00 pm, Ash Wednesday, February 14	70
Offering For Current Income	\$6,432.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,184.50

To give online through our secure platform, visit
<https://app.easytithe.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>

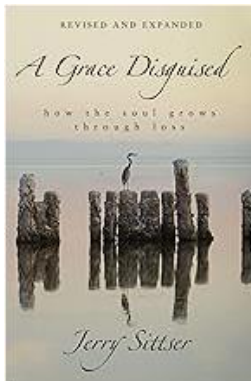
Rev. Dale Davis, M. Div., Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor
Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth
Lisa Delp, Church Admin. Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Bill Bergey, Custodian
Mark Bruen, Council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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today we welcome Mary Chantry, President of the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and other members of the Society in sharing their ministry of caring for the suffering and needy. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a cherished mission partner with St. John's. Inspired by the call of the Gospel to serve, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul serves through the ministry of charity and justice. Today we will learn about this society and its mission which began in Paris, France in 1883. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is active in 150 countries with a local conference based here in Hatfield.

Wednesday Lenten Book Study



Join us beginning Wednesday, February 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John's Library (and on Zoom) when we begin this year's Lenten book conversation. This year's book is titled, **A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss** by Jerry Sittser. Everyone experiences loss, some of it tragic and unexpected, sometimes predictable. Regardless of the kind of loss we experience, Jerry Sittser suggests our souls have the opportunity to grow.

We will host this study for five consecutive Wednesdays, concluding on Wednesday, March 20. Contact Rev. Dale or the church office if you plan to attend via Zoom so we can share the link with you.

The book is available on Amazon and there are two editions, a revised and expanded version, along with a January 1, 1996 version (if you scroll down) which is much less expensive, especially if you buy it "used."

Soup Sale, Sunday, February 25

Order forms available in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby





Passing the Plate

We have received a number of comments recently regarding opportunities for collecting offering. In response to these comments, beginning on Sunday, February 18, Hospitality Team members will begin to once again pass offering plates to the congregation in the pews during the 10:15 service. The current practice of having plates by the entrances before the service will also continue for those who prefer that method. Electronic giving will also remain an option.

This change will be the subject of brief announcements during the next two services and anyone with questions or comments can reach out to Bill Leslie any time.



A team of volunteers are needed to represent the welcoming atmosphere here at St. Johns. We are looking for greeters for the Sunday morning service at 10:15. We'd like 3 members each Sunday to serve as greeters at the back of the Sanctuary (2) and Back Door (1) entrance (formerly known as umbrella ministry) to welcome attendees. You can be paired with someone as well. Please consider this important ministry! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and Elevator lobby or you can call the church office or speak to an Elder.

Spring Goodie Boxes



Please bring your donations (for packages for young people living away from home) to the church Library through **March 3rd**. We will be preparing 24 boxes.

Donations of non-perishable, small, sturdy food items, school items, or personal items are greatly appreciated. Send the name and complete USPS address of your student to the church office (office@st-johns-ucc.org) or Bonnie Weber before March 3rd.

Also, verify the address if your student previously received a package. Send questions to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com. Many thanks for your continued support!

2023 Contribution Statements

You may pick up your 2023 contribution statement on Sunday mornings in the Narthex and throughout the week in the Church Office.

Connect³ Mission Project

“Shine the Light” of love and Christian fellowship on the children of Malawi.

Back in November, Rev Chuck Monts and his wife Deb spoke to us about their work in Malawi. Our children learned about the children there, and learned a song they sing in church. When we asked what we could do to help the children there, Deb and Chuck suggested we help create a library, because the children have no books. They also suggested sending solar powered flashlights, because there is no electricity.

We have started a collection of books and flashlights to send to the children in Malawi.

If you would like to help with this project, there are three ways to do so:


- New or used children's books for all ages can be dropped off in the library
- Solar powered flashlights can be dropped off there, too
- If you would like to contribute money to cover the cost of shopping (or to buy more books), please mark your contribution “Malawi mission project”

Thank you for your support of this project and of the growing Christian community in Malawi.

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

Feb	18	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	First Sunday in Lent Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Representatives from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will share their mission and ministry with St. John's Q&A with St. Vincent de Paul, Library Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Feb	20	Tue	7:00 pm	AA
Feb	21	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 Lenten Book Study, Library Conflict De-Escalation Meeting, Assembly Hall United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary
Feb	22	Thu	Morning 9:30 am	Soup Prep Enlightener Folding
Feb	23	Fri	Morning 6:00 pm	Soup Cooking Chess
Feb	25	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Second Sunday in Lent Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Soup Sale and Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Feb	27	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts AA
Feb	28	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 Lenten Book Study, Library United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary
Mar	1	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Mar	3	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Third Sunday in Lent Connect ³ , Activity Room Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Goodie Box Donations deadline



Lily Donation Form

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

From: _____

Amount \$ _____ Envelope # _____

If you wish to make a donation toward Easter lilies in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out this donation form and place it in the offering plate, or contact the church office at 215-855-5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org by Sunday, March 24, 2024

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER 2024 AT ST. JOHN'S ~ "FOLLOW ME"

Join us as we follow Jesus into the wilderness of Lent, through the passion of Holy Week, and to the glory of Easter!



Wednesday, February 21

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, February 25: Second Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, February 28

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 3: Third Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 6

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 13

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 20

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Join us for worship with a Palm Processional
and Holy Communion to usher in Holy Week.

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday (cont.)

4:00pm – *Illuminare: The Music of Elaine Hagenberg*
Continue your Holy Week journey with the St. John's Artist
Series Palm Sunday concert - a powerful afternoon with the
St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends, pianist Vince Ryan,
and full orchestra presenting music of this incredible living
composer. A reception follows this inspirational afternoon.

Wednesday, March 27

No 5:30pm Wednesday Night Live Worship.

No 6pm Lenten Book Study

(Dinner will still be served from 5pm-6:45pm)

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday

7pm – Maundy Thursday Service

Join us for an intimate, interactive worship
experience around tables in Assembly Hall with
Holy Communion and Hand Washing.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday

7pm – Good Friday Service

Join us for a moving Tenebrae worship service that
includes a dramatic reading of the Passion story
from the Gospel of Mark.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday

7am – Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship

Join us for outdoor sunrise worship with Holy
Communion at the bandshell at White's Road Park.
An Easter Egg Hunt for children follows the service.

10:15am – Easter Sunday Sanctuary Worship

Join us for worship at St. John's with Holy
Communion. Festive brass accompanies this festive
service that concludes with the famous Widor
Toccata organ postlude.

Music Ensembles at Special Services

Ash Wednesday: Chancel Choir

Good Friday: Chancel Choir

Palm Sunday: Chancel Choir

Easter Sunrise: Children's Choir, United Ringers

Easter Sanctuary: Chancel Choir, United Ringers, Brass