

Hope is...*ALIVE!*

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

10:15 am

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—May 12, 2024—Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE: Chaconne.....Kenneth Danchik

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather having heard the call of your love in our lives.

We're here, mindful that you have nourished our lives on the journey.

We've come to acknowledge that without the nourishment you give we become brittle and frayed.

We've come to give thanks,

and we've come to listen to the song God will teach us in a new key for a new time.

It's a very old song, the message cascading down through the ages; its promise to all of creation.

It's a song about heaven coming to earth, love overcoming hate,

justice coming down like an unbridled stream; and peace flowing like a river.

*OPENING HYMN: Shall We Gather at the River.....597

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

*CONFESSION

Growing, nurturing, and sustaining God, regardless of our past or where we started in life, you've placed us in good soil. You have plans for us, and you want good for us. And yet, we often prefer to be rooted elsewhere, in places where we feel less confined and where we believe we can sustain ourselves without your care. We are seduced into believing that satisfaction comes from self-sufficiency and not from dependency upon you. Severed from your presence, we become like windblown straw, scattered without a center. God, forgive our foolish ways, and restore us to our rightful place with you. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

Great and welcoming God, even when we stray and forget that we are rooted in you, you stand ready to welcome us to our rightful place. Always ready when we come to ourselves, you forgive us in order that we might begin again. That is Good News! **Praise be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Walk-ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
break-ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry: Je - sus our bless-ing, our con-stant sur - prise.
Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise. Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

AN AFFIRMATION OF JOINING THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Welcoming Deborah Ahrens (Sponsor: Lorene Ahrens)

Welcoming Kathy Floyd (Sponsor: Anne Kinsey)

Welcoming Jennifer Gearhart (Sponsor: Susan Fitzpatrick)

Welcoming Carol Goddard (Sponsor: Gayle George)

Welcoming Paula White (Sponsor: Bob Bertolette & Emilie Truscott)

Welcoming Lillian Rose Gearhart

INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

Has your journey brought you to the place where you wish to affirm your baptism and join this Christian community of faith and life?

Will you continue, with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, to follow the way of Jesus Christ by loving and serving the world, even when it might mean being unpopular for seeking justice, peace and harmony?

Will you make every effort to grow in your faith, to find ways to unite with others who are on this journey, and to celebrate the presence of the Spirit in all of life, wherever you live and serve?

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Like you, our new members have chosen to continue their journey with Jesus Christ. Will you partner with them in our common effort to serve God and neighbor in all that we do?

We will with the help of God.

Will you nurture and celebrate their unique gifts, honoring the diversity of God's people and our unity in Christ's embrace?

We will with the help of God.

BAPTISM OF LILLIAN ROSE GEARHART

WELCOME

New members of St. John's United Church of Christ, with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as full members of this community of faith. We promise you our friendship, prayers, and support, as together we strive in our faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Psalm 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

ANTHEM: Lord, How Wondrous Is Your Song.....Mark Patterson

*Lord, how wondrous is your song; it fills the heavens with everlasting joy.
O Lord, how wondrous is your song; the earth resounds with hymns of praise.
Your word rings forth through the ages, a story of grace from above;
a song of hope, a song of peace, a song of love.
Lord, how wondrous, Lord, how wondrous, Lord, how wondrous is your song.
In the quiet strains of a child's prayer, Lord, we hear your song.
In the gentle voice of a friend how cares, your melody lives on.
In the servant's heart, there's a glad refrain and a living faith that rings.
Where your Spirit dwells there is music Lord, a song for all to sing.
Lord, how wondrous is your song; it fills the heavens with everlasting joy.
O Lord, how wondrous is your song; the earth resounds with hymns of praise.
Your word rings forth through the ages, a story of grace from above;
a song of hope, a song of peace, a song of love.
Lord, how wondrous, Lord, how wondrous, Lord, how wondrous is your song.*

-Mark Patterson

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: "Planted by Streams of Water".....Rev. Dale Davis

HYMN: God, We Thank You for Our People.....376

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: All

Stanza 3: Choir

Stanza 4: All

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE: Now the Green Blade Rises



When our hearts are win-try, griev-ing, or in pain, Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a-gain,



Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris-es green.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC: Blessed Is the One.....Jane Marshall

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during the Offertory music. The plates will then be dedicated during the Offertory Sung Response. You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.

*Blessed is the one who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.*

They are like a tree planted by streams of water.

-From Psalm 1

*SUNG RESPONSE: Praise God, The Giver and The Gift



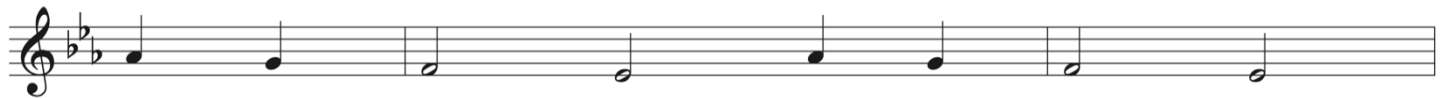
Praise God, the Gi - ver and the Gift. Hands, hearts, and voi - ces now up - lift:



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: Let Justice Flow like Streams.....588

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Jubilate.....Emma Lou Diemer

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
Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

United Ringers
Children's Choir
Chancel Choir

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Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, © 1969 Contemporary Worship I, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Lord, How Wondrous Is Your Song
Text: Mark Patterson, © 2008 Choristers Guild.
Now the Green Blade Rises
Text: John W. Crum, © 1928 Oxford University Press.
Praise God, The Giver and The Gift
Text: Brian Wren, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

May 12, 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 Sermon can be found on **Spotify** following the service, search
"St. John's UCC Lansdale Sermons"
- Today's worship audio will be available later online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website or YouTube:
[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:

Bill Leslie, Bob Bertolette,
Margie Jewell, Gale Linderman, Rick O'Connor, Scott Vanderburg

Elder of the Morning:

Chriss Bodde

CD Technician:

Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Tracey & Mark O'Neill

Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters:

Marcia Stacy

Chancel Flowers

Happy 96th birthday on May 13 and Happy Mother's Day to Lorene K. Ahrens from her loving family
 In memory of their mothers, Ruth Ekberg and Mae Brown, from Sandy and Scott
 In memory of Marie Evans from Jeane, Robert and Beth Fritz
 In memory of Mary Fritz from Robert, Jeane and Beth Fritz
 In memory of Lillian Wurster's birthday and Mother's Day from her daughter, Christine Wiley
 In memory of Nancy Schultz on Mother's Day from her daughter Merle Anne Morcom and Walter Hawkins
 In memory of Mary Franks from her parents, Donald & Suzanne Franks
 In memory of George Ruth's May 15th birthday from Chriss Bodde and family
 In memory of Daniel Elliott on our May 15th wedding anniversary from his wife, Elizabeth

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of April 28, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter	140
Attendance: 5:30 pm, May 1, Wednesday Night Live	20
Offering For Current Income	\$4,448.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$250.00
A Look at the Week of May 5, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter	103
Attendance: 5:30 pm, May 8, Wednesday Night Live	15
Offering For Current Income	\$6,740.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,291.00

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 contact the office.

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
Kay Peebles, Church Administrator	Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator
Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor	Bill Bergey, Custodian Mark Bruen, Council President.

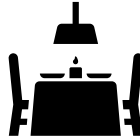
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bike & Brew

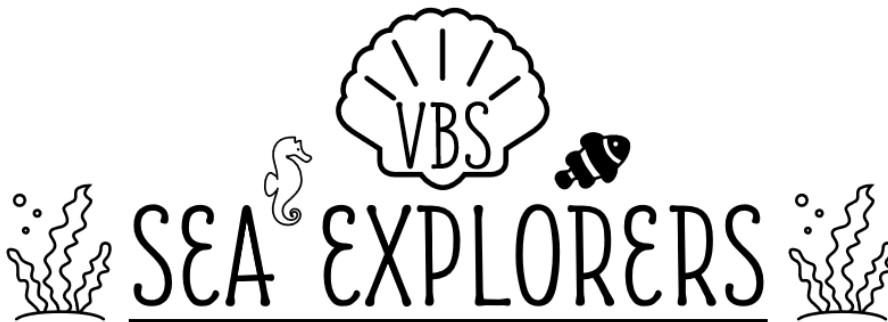


Help us send Dale off in style at the “Bike and Brew” on **Saturday, May 18**. Gather at 1:00PM at the Collegeville trailhead by Troubles End Brewing brew pub to bike, walk, or run along the Perkiomen trail, then return for an informal social at the brew pub to raise a glass and toast to Dale’s happy retirement. Details and signup sheets in Narthex and elevator lobby. Hope to see you there!



VFW Post 32 in Lansdale will be retiring American Flags that are done their useful life.

There is a kitchen size trash can in the church library. Please put yours there. Rickie Sands will be taking them to the Post for proper disposal with ceremony and burning to be done on June 14, Flag Day.



A monthly Carry-Out Connection program during June, July, and August with an in-person gathering at the end of each month for one hour.

More information to come!

Basket Raffle Is Back!

If you signed up to donate a basket for the raffle, please bring your completed basket to the church by May 10.

Each basket should be wrapped in clear cellophane with a sign attached identifying the theme and contents.

The baskets will be displayed in the Fireside room on Sundays from May 12 through June 2, at Lansdale Day on June 1, and at the Church Picnic on June 9.

Dates to Remember:

May 12

Ticket Sales begin!

June 9

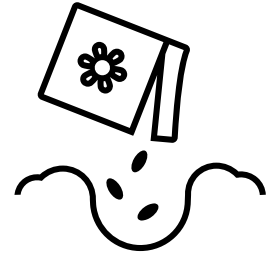
Church Picnic & Basket Drawing!

If you have questions, please contact Judy Johnston at (215) 896-9381 or twostitches@comcast.net

thank you

We want to express our sincere thanks to John Hendricks for his ten years as St. John's Website & Social Media Administrator. From sharing cherished memories in our Facebook group, to making our service recordings accessible through the pandemic and beyond, to keeping us connected to Rev. Sue in her final years with us, John's contributions cannot be overstated. His work to keep us informed, connected, and delighted by memories of the past will continue in his new role maintaining our church archives. He'll also continue capturing the wonderful photos we enjoy so much. When you see John, be sure to thank him for all he's done for our church community.

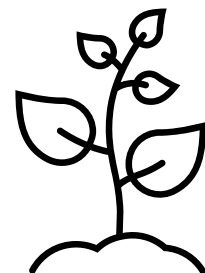
Have questions or comments about the church website or social media? Please contact Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator, at communications@st-johns-ucc.org.



Thank you to the small group of volunteers who helped prep the land for planting at the Garden of Health on April 27th. It was work that will give back to our community!

Don Atkiss – thanks for providing the rototiller.

Hope to see more of you at the Garden this summer helping to pick the bounty!



If you were not at Wednesday Night Live on Wednesday, you missed a delicious meal. A huge thank you goes out to all that helped make this evening special. Thank you to our 7 chili chefs, and the dessert chef for the homemade cupcakes, they were a special treat.



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

May	12	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Seventh Sunday of Easter <u>New Member Sunday</u> Enlightener Due Date Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary
May	13	Mon	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Zoom
May	14	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts, Activity Room AA, Assembly Hall
May	15	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live! Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Adult Education, Library Children's Music, Music Room Wind Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room
May	17	Fri	7:00 pm	Lansdale School of Business Graduation, Sanctuary & Activity Room
May	18	Sat	1:00 pm	Bike & Brew, Perkiomen Trail
May	19	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Pentecost Sunday <u>Rev Dale's Last Sunday</u> Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary