



Hello, St. John's family! My name is Kay, and I am the Office Manager. I have been extremely blessed to share the months since coming aboard with all of you!

In Spring, Lisa Delp, my predecessor, celebrated her retirement on the last day of March. Thanks to the dedication and work of our Council and staff, I was brought on the first day of April, with no gaps in office coverage! While I've been hard at work keeping the ship afloat, I've also been spending time reading old publications, and speaking with Council, staff, and all of you to learn as much as I can about St. John's as possible. By the end of April we welcomed aboard Grace Marchione, our Communications Coordinator, and she has spent the time since working alongside the Communications Task Force on how we communicate with the world outside St. John's.

In May, we had our New Member Sunday, welcoming in 5 new members. Later that month, we celebrated Rev. Dale's retirement after years in ministry and at St. John's! We welcomed Pastor Tom Adil aboard, who immediately began visiting, giving communion, and getting to know our wonderful congregation.

During the summer months, we began to have a presence in Lansdale First Fridays, an initiative headed by our innovative Council President, Mark Bruen. Soon after, Grace Marchione & I got approval from the Elders to start using the sandwich board donated by Sally & Steve Jarinko! Ever since, St. John's has been able to communicate constantly about our upcoming events, with folks calling in inquiring about announcements they've seen when driving by. The St. John's Reach Out Team used post cards designed by Grace Marchione to send handwritten messages to parishioners we haven't seen in a while. We raised over \$2,400 with our annual basket raffle and had our church picnic! Meanwhile, the heads of different ministries and I began to revitalize our bulletin board hallway, bringing the announcements and information there up to date! Since then, the different St. John's ministries have kept their bulletin boards current, informative, and fun!

As summer wound down, the ramp closed briefly as work began on repointing the church courtyard. Thanks to the Trustees, Leroy, Disciple Masonry, and a generous donation from Jim & Judy Lederach, the walls look crisp and professional and will stand for decades to come.

As fall began, the ministerial staff began a new series "Tough Love from a Loving God", and Wednesday Night Live began anew! Now, we have a service at 7pm, Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion, which Andrew introduced as a welcome constant in our ever-changing lives. With the community meal, Adult Education Class, Holden Prayer, and our music ensemble rehearsals, Wednesday nights at St. John's are a great place to be. On the Sunday Morning side of things, the Educators came together with Abbie Lampe and brought Connect3 back in a way that pays homage to Junior Church. Now, directly after the Children's Message on Sunday mornings, the children are taken downstairs for their own service and activities!

In August, the Trustees spearheaded an initiative to make our building compliant for a Fire Marshal inspection. Thanks to the hard work of our congregation, every closet in the building was found, claimed, cleaned, and accounted for.

In September, we celebrated Leroy Horst's 10+ years as the Building & Grounds Supervisor as he retired! Leroy's dependability and focus on keeping St. John's presentable and working is something we deeply appreciate. As Personnel and the Trustees work together to find a new Facilities Manager, the Trustees, Bill Bergey, and I work together to make sure the needs of the building are met.

On October 6th, World Communion Sunday, we celebrated the decade long ministry of Rev. Addie Stong as she turned a new page in her calling. She gave a beautiful final sermon at St. John's, reminding us that there are "No Worries!" if we give everything to God in prayer. As October continued, The Educators collected donations for the College Kid Goodie Boxes and hosted a Trunk or Treat Family Game Night, while the Soup Sale raised money for our Exterior Restoration fund, bringing their yearly total to over \$2400 so far! Stewardship worked hard on our "Giving Our All" covenant campaign, giving us heart shaped keepsakes and asking for our prayerful consideration. Sarah Hogan, our Librarian, has been taking stock of all the books in the St. John's Library and together with the Educators launched a new way to borrow books through lebib, an app and website now equipped with our library inventory! As fall wound down, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett aboard as our Bridge Support Pastor!

Then, after months of diligent, prayerful, and discerning work, The Search & Call Team brought in the final, staff and Council approved Senior Pastor candidate for a full weekend. On Saturday, November 16th, Rev. Linda Noonan had coffee and a meet and greet with the congregation in the library, and on Sunday, November 17th, she led worship. Her sermon, "String Too Short To Be Saved" reminded us that holding onto things and people that the world deems unimportant is exactly what Jesus taught. She gave us each a reminder and keepsake in the form of a piece of yarn on our bulletins. After the service, a congregational vote was held, and Rev. Linda Noonan was approved by the congregation as our settled Senior Pastor 143 to 1!

As it began to get colder, Pastor Tom and Rev. Hilary started this year's confirmation class. Our Charitable Gift Market was energetic with new charities mixed in, raising over \$7k for 17 worthy nonprofits, and the Council graciously voted to add support to agencies who did not receive quite as much support as last year. We then hosted our annual Thanksgiving Meal with Manna on Mainstreet, with enough for everyone to take home leftovers! On the last day of November, St. John's came together for the annual Hanging of the Greens, decorating the church for the holidays.

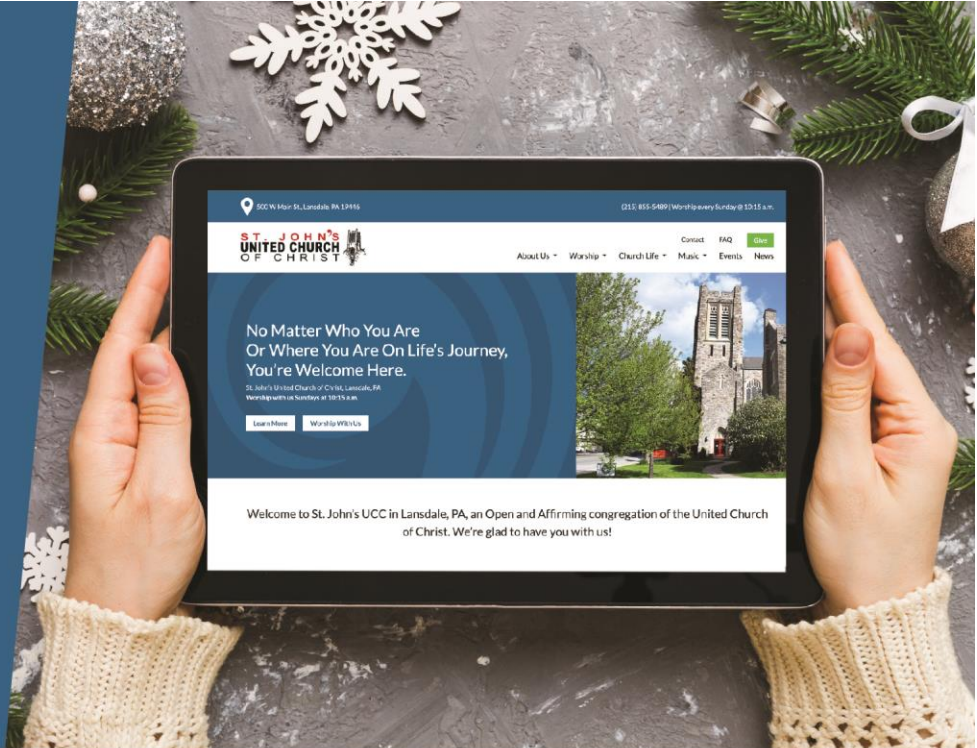
Advent started our newest theme "Prepare the Way", and prepare we have! On the first day of December we celebrated Love Gift Sunday. The tables on the Chancel were stacked tall with gifts as we took communion during service. The 16th Annual Women's Tea was held the following weekend, raising money for Liz's Birthday nonprofit, and was a spectacular show of community, love, singing carols, and of course, tea! Finally, after months of hard work, Grace Marchione unveiled the new St. John's website! Now, when you go to st-johns-ucc.org, you will find an easy to navigate and welcoming webpage for all things St. John's.

We have 5 confirmands, baptized 8 babies, and welcomed 5 new members and countless visitors. We mourned the passing of 9 members and 23 friends. Now, having turned up our thermostats and bundled up for sweater weather, we ready ourselves for the new year to come. As expressed by one of our Council members: "There have been many changes at St. John's, including in our worship with Pastor Hilary and Pastor Tom. They each have a different way of preaching, but even with those differences, it still feels like St. John's."

Be Blessed,



THE NEW ST. JOHN'S WEBSITE IS HERE!



WE'RE PROUD TO SHARE THE NEW CHURCH WEBSITE!

As announced this fall, we've been working on a new online presence for St. John's — and now, we're excited to finally share it with you!

Ushering in a new year full of promise for the church, the new site is designed to provide easy access to the information that matters most to lifelong St. John's members and first-time visitors alike.

As you explore, here are some pages you may wish to bookmark:

RECORDINGS

Home for Sunday service audio and bulletins, now all in one place!

<https://st-johns-ucc.org/sermon-library/>

(Can be found under Worship > Recordings)

EVENTS

A list of upcoming events at the church

<https://st-johns-ucc.org/event-listings/>

NEWS

The place for announcements, publications, and other updates

<https://st-johns-ucc.org/news-listings/>

If you encounter any bugs or errors, please report them to us at communications@st-johns-ucc.org.

HAPPY BROWSING!

New look, same address!

**SCAN TO VISIT THE NEW
CHURCH WEBSITE**

www.st-johns-ucc.org



**JANUARY
2025**



Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago: As part of a United Adults Class series, Ethel Shellenberger wrote a poem about AIDS.

Twenty-five Years Ago: To help spread the good news about our church family's birthdays, a monthly birthday calendar was posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

Twenty Years Ago: St. John's new cookbook was published. Sales helped support the Youth Program.

Fifteen Years Ago: St. John's Angels sold Super Bowl hoagies during social Hour.

Ten Years Ago: With the exception of the installation of the benches, St. John's Meditation Garden was completed.

Five Years Ago: More than 225 delegates and visitors attended the Fall Conference Meeting at Ursinus College, which celebrated its 150th Anniversary.

One Year Ago: The Visioning team completed their work. The top 10 findings were given to the Profile team.

End of Year 2024 in Church Council



Financial Report: Matt Carson, Financial Chair

I. Income vs. Budget:

November income was \$39,138.90. Of this total, \$23,984.17 came from tithes and offerings, falling short of the \$31,827.00 budgeted goal by \$7,842.83.

2. Expenses:

November expenses were \$52,971.64, which is \$1,681.25 higher than the budgeted amount of \$51,290.39.

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Year-to-Date Financial Summary:

I. Income:

Total year-to-date income is \$391,015.61, compared to a budgeted amount of \$418,413.33, creating a shortfall of \$27,937.72.

2. Expenses:

Total year-to-date expenses are \$573,717.16, which is \$4,773.62 over the budgeted amount of \$568,943.54.

3. Overall Financial Status:

With the investment transfer included, the year-to-date deficit is \$35,478.99, compared to the projected deficit of \$21,345.08.

Our Church's Wider Mission:

Donations to OCWM for November were \$1,978.50. Year-to-date donations total \$42,376.71, exceeding our annual goal of \$37,298.00 by 5,078.71.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with Matt Carson, Treasurer.

Staff and Contractor Reports:

Ministerial Staff (Tom Adil, Hilary Barrett, Andrew Paulson):

A family with an infant will participate as the Holy Family on Christmas Eve.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

There is a steady group of four to eight children during Connect3. The children will sing on Sunday, December 22, and Tuesday, December 24.

Kay Peebles, Office Administrator

The filing system has been completely reorganized.

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Grace Marchione, Communications Director

Defer to website discussion.

Board Reports:

Trustees: (Alan Malachowski)

With heat and drier weather, buckling of the wood floor in Assembly Hall is reverting back to natural state. Trustees will weigh the floor down to stabilize it without further work.

Don Fretz and son were thanked for the donated and installed commercial sink faucet in the kitchen.

The stone wall on the Richardson Avenue side of the building needs repointing at a cost of approximately \$12,000.

Deacons: (Rick Fanciulacci)

Congregational dinner is February 2, 2025.

Educators: (Mary Billy)

Educators are working with Abbie and the pastors on the Family Christmas Eve Service.

Elders: (Susan Fitzpatrick)

Rev. Noonan installation planning will begin after the holidays. It is anticipated it will be late spring/early summer.

Rev. Noonan start date and responsibilities will not change.

Emilie will take charge of a bulletin board addressing community's/members' needs

Susan will talk to Grace Marchione regarding a Facebook pull-down page for members' needs

Emilie confirmed 250 nametags for congregants will be ordered, as will lanyards.

As Sally's and Susan's terms are up, we have been seeking their replacements. Sue Clemens will serve and one more is needed.

Attendance for November: WNL average, 22; Sunday average, 141.

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Current Business—Priority Initiatives

Facilities/Superintendent Position—Personnel

(Marge Jewell)

Marge stated Personnel and Trustees are working together on interviews. The challenge is finding qualified candidates. Trustees are willing to step up and help in the interim. Marge suggested that anyone with thoughts on a possible local candidate refer them to the Personnel email (personnel@st-johns-ucc.org) to submit their application/resume.

New Business:

Tech Committee—Mark Bruen presented Grace

Bruen's report

Grace is working with Tech Committee (Griff Francis, Matt Rivett, Scott Cunningham, and Kay Peebles) to assess the need for and functionality of generic St. John's usernames. Altek made recommendations. The committee is questioning whether generic emails will solve the phishing issue. They have set up generic emails for testing. Training for council members is recommended regarding how to handle phishing attempts.

Congregational Meeting/Winter Congregational Dinner

The purpose of the meeting on February 2, 2025, is to vote in new Council members. The installation of new members is February 9, 2025, during worship.

Old Business:

Updated Website Status—Grace Marchione

The launch is behind schedule due to technical issues with the UCC Everywhere digital marketing platform.



Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for January 2025. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or

update any information on the list.

Reminder—The requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$40. Thank you!

January 5

In memory of Marie Evans's January 6th birthday from her daughter, Jeane, and Bob Fritz and family

In memory of Richard R. Schmidt's January 10th birthday from his cousins Bob and Jane Keim

January 19

In memory of my son Shane R. Morcom from Merle Anne Schultz Morcom and Walter Hawkins. May he rest in peace.

In memory of Michelle Leigh's January 23rd birthday from her Mum (Anne Haines)

In memory of Lorraine Badger's January 24th birthday from her daughter, Susan, and John Hendricks

In memory of Ethel Shellenberger's January 25th birthday from Lorene Ahrens



Church Leaders: Please provide articles for these coming events for the next *Enlightener* issue:

☆ Ash Wednesday

☆ Lent

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* bin in the Church Office (top bin) or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326.

The *Enlightener* is published monthly except for July and August by St. John's United Church of Christ 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446.

Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

Summary of November and YTD Income and Expense	Nov 2024	Jan–Nov 2024
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Counters' Discrepancies	0.00	0.00
Current Tithes/Offerings	23,984.17	343,219.40
Event Income/Fundraisers	523.00	9,563.00
Flowers	80.00	4,157.00
Interest Income, Savings Accounts	1.48	276.21
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income	0.00	700.00
Rental Income	3,350.00	29,550.00
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	0.00	3,445.00
Use of Building Income	300.00	3,550.00
Total Income	28,238.65	394,460.61
Gross Income	28,238.65	394,460.61
Expense		
Building Operation Expenses	3,477.99	58,971.11
Deacons Expenses	3,760.15	15,808.44
Educators Expenses	261.90	1,680.67
Elders Expenses	25.98	2,826.80
Miscellaneous Expenses	497.05	1,891.16
Operating Expenses	8,707.95	76,080.31
Salaries and Benefits	29,298.86	385,588.34
Trustees/Building Expenses	6,941.76	30,870.33
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	0.00	3,445.00
Total Expenses	52,971.64	577,162.16
Net Ordinary Income	-24,732.99	-182,701.55
Budgeted Transfers from Investments	11,039.38	147,222.54
Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers	-13,693.61	-35,479.01
Other Income		
Charitable Gift Market—Miscellaneous	5,633.00	5,633.00
Artist Series Income—Special	3,215.00	57,587.00
Benevolence Offerings	2,999.17	56,205.80
Soup/Cookies Sales	723.00	2,457.00
Special Accounts	2,183.00	133,628.21
Total Other Income	753.17	255,511.01
Other Expenses		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	3,525.82	36,407.40
Benevolence Disbursements	2,634.00	67,736.97
Soup Sale Expenditures	723.00	1,849.00
Special Fund Expenditures	2,000.00	123,936.57
Total Other Expenses	8,882.82	229,929.94
Net Other Income	5,870.35	25,581.07
Net Income	-18,862.64	-157,120.48
Net Income Plus Transfers	-7,823.26	-9,897.94

WELCOME REV. LINDA NOONAN

Dear St. John's Family:

The Search and Call committee are pleased to announce that Rev. Linda Noonan will be our new Senior Pastor. At the Congregational meeting held Sunday, November 17, 2024, the members voted to call Rev. Linda Noonan as Senior Pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ. Rev. Linda will begin to transition to St. John's in March and will be preaching for the first time as our Senior Pastor on March 09, 2025. We are grateful to God for bringing Linda to us, and we look forward to her leadership at St. John's and all the ways the Lord will work through her. Please keep her and her family in prayer during this transition.



"... My search led me to charismatic churches and toxic theologies, and being told I could not lead because I was a woman. Then I discovered spiritual communities that practiced extravagant welcome, prophetic witness, and care for a world in need. I knew I was home and that this was to be my work."

Rev. Linda Noonan is an Ordained Minister with full standing in the United Church of Christ and holds a current standing in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. She resides in Haverford with her husband and two adult daughters. She is a member of St. Paul's UCC in Exton, PA, and has been their full-time Designated Pastor since 2022.

As we look forward to a faithful and spiritually inspiring future here at St. Johns, the Search and Call Team feel certain that the Rev. Linda Noonan will inspire us to *"Gently guide in new vision, blending traditions with new ideas for growth and outreach, and lead us in achieving the goals outlined in our visioning."*

With Peace and Gratitude:

The Search and Call Team of St. John's UCC

Search and Call Chair: Susan Fitzpatrick

Sally Atkiss, Chriss Bodde, Steve Butz, Bill Cagney, Anne Kinsey, Janet Morton, Emilie Truscott, and Liz Vanderburg

Ex Officio Members: Mark Bruen and Deb Dayton

Personnel Chair: Marge Jewel

For your reference, additional bio information for Rev. Linda Noonan is available on the Senior Pastor bulletin board outside of the St. John's Library.

Chancel Flower Ministry

Thank you for being part of this amazing ministry! Many lives have been touched by your efforts! The flower room is through the door on the left side of the Chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you need will be in this room.

- Plastic & Glass Floral Containers
- Rubber Bands
- Chancel Flower Cards
- Bouquet Wrap
- St. John's Address Directory
- Ribbon
- Paper & Writing Utensils
- Address Stickers

If you cannot make your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else and let me know!

1. Remove the flowers from the brass vases and green liners.
2. Put the flowers into the plastic floral containers located on the shelf or the donated glass containers beneath the rolling cart, or you can wrap them in the foil on the shelf in the flower room.
3. Be creative! You bring something to this ministry that only YOU can bring. Let that shine!
4. Return the green liners to the brass vases. These belong to the florist.
5. You may separate the flowers into as many bouquets/vases as you wish—just please keep in mind that the containers need to last the month.
6. Include a card for each bouquet. You may use rubber bands or ribbon to secure them to the container if you wish—some cards have holes punched to allow this.
7. Write a personalized letter if you wish!
8. Write in the signup book who the flowers were delivered to on your assigned Sunday.



Thank you so much for being part of this life-changing ministry!

Kay Peebles
Church Office Manager

2025

Jan 5	Sue & Bill Morris	Feb 2	Sarah Baker & Bob Keim	Mar 2	Sarah Hogan
12	Kelly Bresadola	9	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	9	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
19	Toni & Steve Butz	16	Mary Billy	16	Kelly Bresadola
26	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	23	Barbara & Robin MacMullen	23	Gale Linderman
				30	

Apr 6	Sue & Mike Donahue	May 4	Judy & Bill Zoll	Jun 1	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
13	Sally & Steve Jarinko	11	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	8	Grace & Gerry Linderman
20	Karen & Mark Methlie	18		15	Shelly Longcoy
27	Bonnie & Ken Hales	25	Peter Conver	22	Judy Johnston
				29	Kay Peebles & Grace Marchione

Jul 6	Gayle & Bob George	Aug 3	Cindy Reese	Sep 7	Karen & Mark Methlie
13	Kay Peebles	10	Lisa Thim	14	Jen & Matt Harp
20	Lillian & Dan Panachyda	17	Barb & Don Fretz	21	Anne & Eric Kinsey
27	Mary Billy	24	Susan & John Hendricks	28	Ruth Kinsey
		31			

Oct 5	Marcia Stacy	Nov 2	Mary Billy	Dec 7	Lisa Thim
12	Amy Faga	9	Sarah Hogan	14	Barbara & Robin MacMullen
19	Lisa Thim	16	Lisa Thim	21	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
26	Tracey & Mark O'Neill	23	Sue & Bill Morris	28	Sue & Bill Morris
		30	Sarah Hogan		

THE
Artist Series
AT ST. JOHN'S

Join us for

The Midwinter Gala at PineCrest Country Club

7pm-10pm • Friday, March 14, 2025

Register today for a night filled with dinner, dancing, entertainment from the North Penn Navy Jazz Band, a top shelf open bar, and a silent auction filled with one-of-a-kind items. It's an evening like no other supporting *The Artist Series at St. John's*. Visit stjohnsartistseries.org or scan the QR code below learn more!



Thank you to our 2024-2025 Sponsors and Patrons!

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Ken and Bonnie Hales

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Emilie Truscott

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Ruth Kinsey

Judy and Bill Leslie

Mark and Karen Methlie

Wendy and Rick O'Connor

Nancy Raabe

\$250-\$499

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Jenny and Chuck Favata

A Friend

David Furniss

Steve and Debby Hendricks

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Lynn and Marilyn Hurley

Scott and Liz Vanderburg

\$100-\$249

Deb Ahrens

Lorene Ahrens

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Lynne Bartholomew

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Susan Clemens

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Marcia Stacy

Up to \$99

Thank you for your support