

A Star Guides You

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025
10:15 am

Welcome to St. John's UCC Lansdale!

Visitors, please complete the ivory visitor's card found in the pew pocket so we can thank you for joining us this Sunday!



Completed cards go in the basket by the narthex.

The **Book of Joys & Concerns** is a green binder on the podium at the front of the chancel. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like stated, celebrated or prayed about during the service, feel free to write inside before service begins!

Hymnals are on the back of the pew in front of you.

Bibles are on a shelf beneath the pew in front of you.



For **The Children's Message**, youth are invited to sit up front on the chancel steps for a direct and intentional age-appropriate message.



After the Children's Message, children will be dismissed and escorted downstairs for our youth programming; **Connect 3**. Connect 3 is aimed at ages 3 through 12, but all youth are welcome!

Hearing Aids are available if you are having trouble hearing the service.

Please ask a Hospitality Team Member.



Wheelchairs & First Aid Kit are stored in the labeled "First Aid Closet" in the narthex.



AED (Defibrillator) is in the church library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary by the window. When entering from the Sanctuary, turn left.

Audio Recordings of service can be found online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website, or YouTube. Sermons are available on Spotify; "St John's UCC Lansdale Sermons".

If you would like a physical copy, contact the church office.

The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully. No volunteers will be on duty.

A parent, grandparent, or responsible adult **must** stay with their child.



Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth

Susan Fitzpatrick, Liturgist
United Ringers
Chancel Choir

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Festival of Lights

© 2025 John August Swanson
Eyekons

O Christ the Healer we Have Come

Text: Fred Pratt Green
© 1969 Hope Publishing Company

As With Gladness Those of Old

Text: William C. Dix; alt.
© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—January 26, 2025— Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (from Cantata No. 47).....J.S. Bach, arr. Cheryl (Sutton) Baker

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to worship God, the Living God,

Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

We have come to praise God, the Almighty God,

Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

We have come to worship God, the All-Gracious God,

Who chooses even you and me,

to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

All glory to God!

*OPENING HYMN

God is Here! As We Your People Meet.....Hymn 70

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

As we prepare our hearts to love as God has called us to love, let us confess that which holds sway over our lives and keeps us from more faithful living.

*CONFESSION

For the times we have used the gifts of your Spirit to enhance our own glory rather than serving others.

Forgive us, Lord.

When our use of your gifts has led to division and discord rather than increasing understanding and unity.

Forgive us, Lord.

For believing one gift to be superior to another rather than celebrating the various ways they build up the whole community.

Forgive us, Lord.

When we lack commitment to love as Jesus loved and to serve as he served.

Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, that our worship, witness and service may reflect the unity you desire for your people.

Amen

*ASSURANCE

Beloved in Christ, the good news is that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God continues to love and save us. Friends, believe these words of grace: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*SUNG RESPONSE

O Morn-ing Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in truth and light! My Sov-ereign meek and low - ly!

O Root of Jes - se, Prom-ised One, my God and Rul - er, you have won my heart to serve you sole - ly!

You are ho - ly, great and glo-rious, all vic-to-rious, Rich in bless - ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 19.....Pew Bible Page 483

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE 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

ANTHEM

Each Has a Gift.....Davis Giersch

*Do not conform to this world,
but be ye transformed by renewing your mind.
Then you will know God’s will,
God’s pleasing and perfect will.*

*Think highly not of yourself,
for we who are members of the body of Christ,
each has been given a gift,
a pleasing and perfect gift.*

*If you have the gift of prophecy, do it with faith.
If you have the gift of serving, then serve.
If you can give to others, be generous.
If you have the gift of mercy, do it with cheer.*

*Brothers and sisters in Christ,
offer yourselves as a living sacrifice.
Holy and pleasing to God.
Amen. -Adapted from Romans 12:1-8*

SERMON

“Following A Star”Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett

*HYMN

Many Are the Lightbeams.....Hymn 163

Stanza 1: Choir Stanza 4: Higher Voices
Stanza 2: All Stanza 5: All
Stanza 3: Lower Voices

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE



O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?

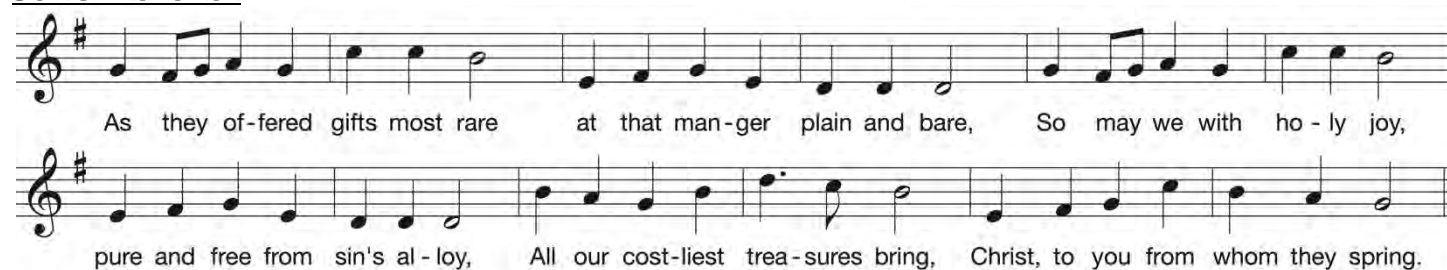
OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All.....John Foley

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All.

You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.

*SUNG RESPONSE



As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare, So may we with ho-ly joy,
pure and free from sin's al-loy, All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

God of Change and Glory.....Hymn 177
The refrain is sung by all.
Stanza 1: Higher Voices
Stanza 2: Lower Voices
Stanza 3: All

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Psalm 19.....Benedetto Marcello

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

Hospitality:

Mark Methlie, Jen Gilbert,
Sarah Hogan, Bonnie & Walt Weber

Elder of the Morning:

Emilie Truscott

Deacon of the Morning:

Rick Fanciulacci

Audio Technician:

Matt Rivett

Chancel Flowers:

Tracey & Mark O’Neill

Driver:

Kay Peebles

Greeters:

OPEN

Social Host:

Mary Billy & Kelly Bresadola

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2025	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2025	\$826.92
A Look at the Week of January 12, 2025	
Attendance: January 12, Baptism of the Lord	123
Attendance: January 15, Holden Evening Prayer	19
Offering For Current Income	\$7,696.00
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$902.00
A Look at the Week of January 19, 2025	
Attendance: January 19, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	110
Attendance: January 22, Holden Evening Prayer	21
Offering For Current Income	\$9,694.05
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$965.00

To give online through our secure platform, visit
[https://app.easytithethe.com/ app/giving/stjohnsucc](https://app.easytithethe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc)

Scan here for online giving:



California Wildfires 2025

On January 7, 2025, wildfire activity began in Los Angeles County, California. Immediate reports indicate that this fire has caused substantial damage throughout LA County, making this event the largest fire disaster in the county's history. At the time of this writing, nearly 30,000 acres have been consumed by the blazes. One hundred eighty thousand people are currently displaced from their homes due to devastation or evacuation orders, and these fires continue to spread, causing additional destruction.

The Disaster Ministries Team and other staff at the National Setting of the United Church of Christ continue to be in communication with the Southern California and Nevada Conference to monitor the situation and determine how best to support communities at this time. The devastation caused by the California wildfires has left countless families without homes, communities in mourning, and landscapes forever changed. As the smoke clears, the work of recovery begins—and it’s a long road ahead.

To support the long-term recovery of those affected by the California Wildfires, use our online giving QR code above and give to “OCWM”, designating that your donation is for “California Wildfire Relief.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 Offering
Envelopes &
2024 Contribution
Statements
are available in the Narthex

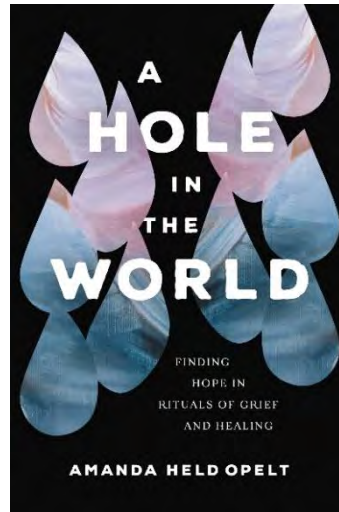
From the Elders Desk: Name Tag Ministry

After experiencing so much change in the past few years and in preparation of welcoming our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Linda Noonan, the Elders are committed to encourage and enhance fellowship among members and visitors at St. John's by providing individual magnetic name tags for all attendees.

The Ministry includes creating, distributing and storing the name tags for all those attending St. John's. It is our plan to introduce the name tags in mid-February and March, 2025. More details to come.

Thank you,
Emilie

St. John's Seeker's Class
to be
Rescheduled!



Wednesday
Night Live!
Adult
Education
Class
With Pastor Tom
Adil
6:15 pm

Adult Education Class will discuss "A Hole in the World" by Amanda Held Opelt.

When Amanda Held Opelt suffered a season of loss – including three miscarriages and the unexpected death of her sister, *New York Times* bestselling writer Rachel Held Evans – she was confronted with sorrow she didn't know how to face.

Her search for answers led her to discover that generations past embraced a robust array of rituals that served as vessels for pain and aided in the process of grieving and healing. Today, many of these traditions have been lost as religious practice declines, cultures amalgamate, death is sanitized, and pain is averted.

During discussion we work on drawing mandalas! If you have missed the reading, you can listen along to the discussion and share your own stories while we draw.

See You There!

Women's Retreat

Saturday, February 8
9:30 am Church Library

This month's presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett who will share her faith journey.

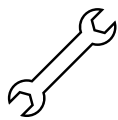
Light refreshments will be served.

All women are welcome!

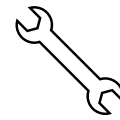
This Week at St. John's

If you would like more information about St. John's, please speak with one of the staff or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Jan	26	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	Third Sunday after Epiphany Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Elders, Library Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office
Jan	28	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Jan	29	Wed	5:45-6:45 pm 6:00-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm 7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-8:30 pm 8:30-9:00 pm	Wednesday Night Live! Community Meal, Assembly Hall Wind Ensemble, Sanctuary Adult Education, Library Children's Choir, Music Room Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Jan	31	Fri	7:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Feb	1	Sat	9:30-11:30 am	Art of Living Foundation, Library
Feb	2	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany New Council Vote Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Stitchers, Library Sunday Morning Worship Connect3, Activity Room Congregational Dinner, Assembly Hall



Introducing our New Facilities Manager...



Andy Jay!

Andrew Jay, or "Andy", joined St. John's as the Facility Manager at the beginning of January 2025. He attended Lincoln Tech for IT, and gained the CompTIA A+ Certification and Lenovo/Del Certifications. Before serving our congregation, he served in the United States Army for six years as a Support System Specialist and Infantry. For a decade, he was a Corrections Maintenance and Security Officer in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He moved down south, serving the Texas Department of Criminal Justice while living in Texas for a year and a half. Andy has been doing private contracting and freelance maintenance work for over a decade. In his spare time he loves spending time with family and friends, watching horror and sci-fi movies, and loves RPG style video games.

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

[cont. next page]

Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect one's own errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

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