



A Star Guides You

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 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 Assistance Devices 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. Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Guest Preacher

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Pastor Tom Adil, Acting Lead Bridge Pastor

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth

Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Bridge Support Pastor

Wind Ensemble

Copyright Acknowledgments

All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709 or are in the public domain.

The Gift of Love

O Christ the Healer we Have Come

As With Gladness Those of Old

Music & Text: Hal H. Hopson

Text: Fred Pratt Green

Text: William C. Dix; alt.

© 1972 Hope Publishing Company

© 1969 Hope Publishing Company

© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—February 2, 2025— Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

Horkstow Grange from Lincolnshire Posy.....Percy Grainger, arr. Michael Sweeney

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame.

Our praise is continually of you.

In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.

In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame.

Our praise is continually of you.

**Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation,
for you are our rock and fortress.**

In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame.

Our praise is continually of you.

**Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel,
for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.**

*OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....Hymn 43

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 4: All

*CONFESSION

God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the ways that we reject your presence, your guidance, and your will. Redeem us and restore us as your beloved creation and active citizens of your kingdom.

In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

*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!

(Continued on next page)

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 17:1-6 Responsively Read.....Pew Bible Page 480

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

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

Salvation is Created.....Pavel Chesnokov, arr. Michael Brown

SERMON

“Guest Message”Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

***HYMN**

The Gift of Love

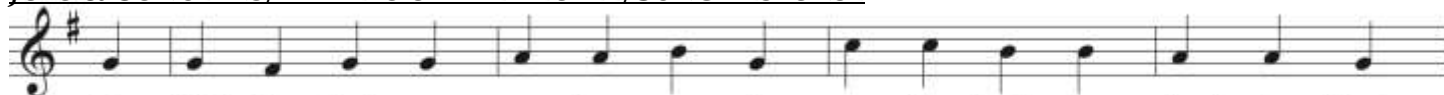


1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the gift to all in - spire,
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
but not be giv'n by love with - in, this prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

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

Meditation on The Gift of Love.....Hal H. Hopson

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during Meditation on The Gift of Love.

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**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You.....Hymn 4

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Lost Lady Found from Lincolnshire Posy.....Percy Grainger, arr. Michael Sweeney

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

Hospitality:

Grace & Mark Bruen, Mary Billy,
Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman,
Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning:

Emilie Truscott

Deacon of the Morning:

Sumiko Booraem

Audio Technician:

Scott Vanderberg

Chancel Flowers:

Sarah Baker & Bob Keim

Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters:

OPEN

Social Host:

Congregational Dinner

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 19, 2025	
Attendance: January 19, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	110
Attendance: January 22, Holden Evening Prayer	12
Offering For Current Income	\$9,694.05
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$965.00
A Look at the Week of January 26, 2025	
Attendance: January 26, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	135
Attendance: January 29, Holden Evening Prayer	17
Offering For Current Income	\$7,672.25
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$443.00

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

Scan here for online giving:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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."

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.

Magnetic stands for name badge storage have already been placed in the narthex and library.

More details to come.

(MORE) ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

St. John's Seeker's Class

with Pastor Tom Adil

February 16 at 11:45 am

Pastor's Study

St. John's is offering a Seeker's class by Acting Lead Senior Pastor Tom Adil for all those who are interested in either learning more about St. John's UCC or joining the church. We will meet in the Pastor's Study (adjoining the Sanctuary) immediately after worship on February 16, 2025. As we discuss what it means to be a part of this faith community, some of the topics we will review are:

- How did the UCC originally form?
- What are "UCC beliefs?"
- How do we embody faithful and vital witness and ministry today at St. John's?

Feel free to bring some goodies from downstairs as you join this class on the 16th!

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

Come on down to the next meeting of
the St. John's Stampers

and learn how to make
hand-made cards!

When: Thursday, February 13th at 1pm

Where: the Activity Room!

Prayer Shawl Sunday February 16

The Praying Hands Stitchers will be having a Prayer Shawl Sunday following the 10:15 service.

Shawls can be used as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress, during bereavement, for prayer and meditation, nursing a baby, during illness and recovery for those in need of comfort and solace.

Anyone is welcome to select a prayer shawl for themselves or to take to a friend, an acquaintance, or a family member. Please join us during worship to celebrate this meaningful outreach ministry at St. John's.

St. John's Soup Sale!

Sunday, February 16

During Fellowship

Ham & Bean

Potato (by order only)

Turkey Noodle with Corn

Turkey Noodle without Corn

\$9

per Quart



All proceeds go to Exterior Restoration Fund

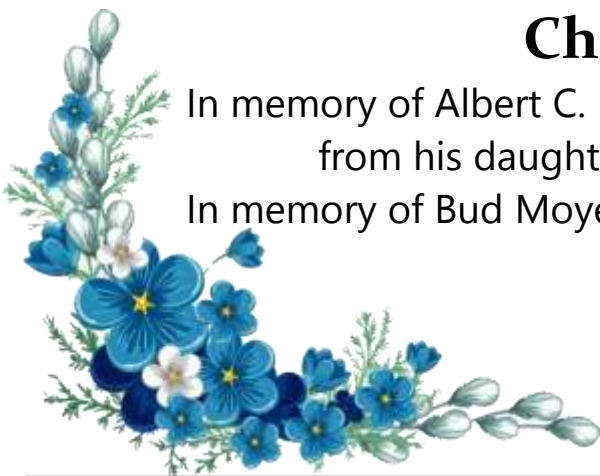
This Week at St. John's

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

Feb	2	Sun	<p>9:00 am</p> <p>10:15 am</p> <p>10:45 am</p> <p>11:30 am</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>New Council Vote</p> <p>Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office</p> <p>Stitchers, Library</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>Connect3, Activity Room</p> <p>Congregational Dinner, Assembly Hall</p>
Feb	3	Mon	10:00 am	Book Club, Library
Feb	4	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Feb	5	Wed	<p>5:45-6:45 pm</p> <p>6:15-6:45 pm</p> <p>7:00-7:20 pm</p> <p>7:30-8:30 pm</p> <p>8:30-9:30 pm</p>	<p>Wednesday Night Live!</p> <p>Herald Due Date</p> <p>Community Meal, Assembly Hall</p> <p>Adult Education, Library</p> <p>United Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>Children's Choir, Music Room</p> <p>Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary</p> <p>Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary</p> <p>Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>
Feb	7	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Feb	8	Sat	9:30 am	Women's Retreat, Library
Feb	9	Sun	<p>10:15 am</p> <p>10:45 am</p> <p>11:30 am</p> <p>11:45 am</p> <p>1:00 pm</p>	<p>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Enlightener Due Date</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>Connect3, Activity Room</p> <p>Fellowship, Assembly Hall</p> <p>Seeker's Class, Senior Pastor's Study</p> <p>Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office</p> <p>Artist Series Chorus Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Albert C. Munzinger's February 6th birthday
 from his daughter and grandson, Kay & Tom Fiala
 In memory of Bud Moyer from his wife, Ruth, and Family



Psalm 17: 1-6

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my words.

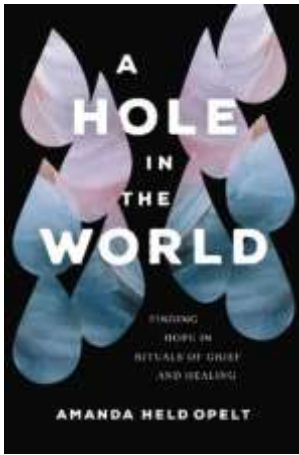
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

(EVEN MORE) ANNOUNCEMENTS



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. Books are available for \$15.

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!



Join us for our **NEW**
Monthly Community Event

Family Game Night At St. John's UCC!

Thursday, February 20, 2025

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Assembly Hall



Join the Board of Educators for
Family Game night!

All are welcome.

There will be a selection of games available. Feel free to bring some of your favorites to share. Meet some new friends and enjoy a fun night of gaming!

Beverages will be provided.

Bring a snack to share.

Please RSVP via our Facebook Event Page, the sign-up sheets in the elevator lobby or Narthex OR by contacting the church office so we have enough tables available.

Information needed for Spring Goodie Boxes for college students!

Requesting to have name and complete address of student(s) sent to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com or church office at office@st-johns-ucc.org by February 23, 2025.

Collection of items for goodie boxes will be due by March 2, 2025. See posting on Educators bulletin board for requested items.