

Blessed are you
LUKE 6:22



A Star Guides You

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 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

Pastor Tom Adil, Acting Lead Bridge Pastor
Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Chancel Choir

Copyright Acknowledgments

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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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Text: Kathleen Thomerson
© 1970 The Fishermen, Inc.

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—February 16, 2025— Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

Great God of Earth and Heaven.....Setting by David Cherwien

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Everyone come, come and refresh without money and without price.

Our hunger is not slight. We thirst for harmony and hunger for integrity.

Listen together for we have words of life.

Your yearning shall be filled, our longing shall be touched.

For there is a promise:

“My love for you shall be as for David.

Listening, you shall have good food and abundance.”

Gracious God, who has satisfied the hungry and quenched the thirst of longing people:

Grant us now the gift of attentiveness,

That our eyes may see the favor of your love.

Grant us quickness of imagination, that we may see the signals of your promise.

Grant us warmth of heart, that companionship may bind all within this house in peace and love

So that we may enjoy your wonder and grace.

For the sake of Christ, we pray, and for the sake of all humankind.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O for a World.....Hymn 575

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 4: Organ

Stanza 2: All in Harmony

Stanza 5: All

Stanza 3: All in Harmony

*CONFESSION

Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the glory of God and the hope of humanity. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

Good creation of God, the Holy One has begun a good work in you and will see it through to completion. You have power to transform and grace to enter the newness of life. God is near and comes down with us. Receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace as the gift that has been given. It is available, yours, and enough.

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

Jeremiah 17:5-10.....Pew Bible Page 677

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you[a] on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light.....Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

In Him...

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him...

-Kathleen Thomerson

SERMON

“The Middle Way”Pastor Tom Adil

*HYMN

Great God of Earth and Heaven.....Hymn 579

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

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit.....Rusty Edwards/Jane Marshall

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 4: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: All in Harmony

Stanza 5: All

Stanza 3: Higher Voices

POSTLUDE

Great God of Earth and Heaven.....Setting by Ennis Fruhauf

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

Bill Leslie, Bob Bertollette, Gale Linderman,
Rick O'Connor, Scott Vanderburg

Elder of the Morning:

Sue Clemens

Deacon of the Morning:

Sumiko Booraem

Audio Technician:

Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flowers:

Mary Billy

Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters:

OPEN

Social Host:

Gale Linderman & Carol Luehrs

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|---|-------------|
| Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2025 | \$7,884.62 |
| Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2025 | \$826.92 |
| A Look at the Week of February 2, 2025 | |
| Attendance: February 2, 4th Sunday after Epiphany | 141 |
| Attendance: February 5, Holden Evening Prayer | 14 |
| Offering For Current Income | \$11,430.25 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission | \$1,384.00 |
| A Look at the Week of February 9, 2025 | |
| Attendance: February 9, 5th Sunday after Epiphany | 80 |
| Attendance: February 12, Holden Evening Prayer | 17 |
| Offering For Current Income | \$18,852.00 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission | \$1,752.00 |

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



Scan here for online giving:

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!

St. John's Seeker's Class

with Pastor Tom Adil

Today after service in the 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 today! 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 us today!

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.

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.

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.

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season and the journey to the cross.

At **6 PM** a dinner hosted by the Elders and featuring pizza, salad, and potluck desserts, will take place.

**Contribute your favorite dessert dish.*

At **7 PM**, join us in the sanctuary for a special worship service, featuring music, communion, and imposition of ashes.

If you cannot attend the dinner, please come to the worship service.

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

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| Feb | 16 | Sun | 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Prayer Shawl Sunday Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Soup Sale, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Assembly Hall Seeker's Class, Pastor's Study |
| Feb | 18 | Tues | 7:00 pm | AA, Assembly Hall |
| Feb | 19 | Wed | 5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm 7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-8:30 pm 8:30-9:30 pm | Wednesday Night Live! Herald Due Date Community Meal, Assembly Hall Adult Education, Library Children's Choir, Music Room Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary |
| Feb | 20 | Thurs | 9:30 am 6:30 pm | Enlightener Folding, Library Family Game Night, Assembly Hall |
| Feb | 21 | Fri | 6:00 pm | Chess, Activity Room |
| Feb | 23 | Sun | 9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am | Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Herald Due Date Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall |



The Field of the Cloth of Gold

Musical exchange between England and France

SUNDAY
MARCH 9
4 PM

Riverview Early Music members include soprano Abigail Chapman, multi-instrumentalists John Lacombe and Bill Thatcher, and percussionist Peter Gregory. Songs will be accompanied and dances played on period instruments, with an emphasis on the early plucked string family (lutes, theorbo, and early guitar) as well as viola da gamba, recorder, and a plethora of percussion instruments.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you[a] on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

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“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
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“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”