



St. John's United Church of Christ  
500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

## **Enlightener**

April 2025 Vol. XLV, No. 4

### **St. John's Love**

St. John's UCC, you sure know how to roll out the Welcome Wagon! I have felt such warmth, enthusiasm, support, and love in my short time here. I can only imagine – and trust – that visitors, guests, and neighbors experience the same “St. John's Love” when they come through our doors. I'm excited to work together and to continue to, as your banner outside proclaims, “Draw the circle wide.”

### **Amazing Staff and Leaders**

You have a wonderful, gifted, and committed staff. They are helping me learn the ropes, get oriented, and have even shared their secret stashes of tea and sweets! We are working on clarifying processes and procedures, and beginning to identify some priorities as we go. I know you'll continue to support them as we find a new rhythm, and strengthen the foundations for the collective vision and mission which will unfold in this time.

The Ministerial Staff has been a blessing. Andrew's musical leadership and deep theological grounding is truly magical. Pastor Tom's gentle, wise presence has been a gift and I'm grateful for our partnership. And your leaders? You are in good hands, church!

### **Listening As a Priority**

Pastors talk. A lot. (I mean, it makes sense. We are paid to use our words!) We preach. We pray. We teach. I will still do all those things (and by the grace of God, not be too long-winded about it). But I also want to listen.

One of my priorities for the next months is to listen. To listen to folks who are here and participating. To listen to those who are feeling at the margins, looking in, unsure about how or if to engage, and have their own stories to tell. To listen to our neighbors and the Lansdale community. I want to listen to you. I want to hear who you are, what you love, what you long for, and ways you have been touched or shaped by St. John's UCC.

This will happen over time, and not overnight! Along the way, I will be inviting people to “Listening Sessions.” Some of these will be open to anyone. Some will be focused on particular groups or identities or interests. (I'll start with children and youth, because I believe we are always strongest when we center the voices and experiences of our young people.) So, stay tuned for some of these conversations. I can't wait to hear from you!

Blessings,  
Pastor Linda

ps. Folks are asking what to call me. Pastor Linda, Reverend Linda, or Linda – are all fine!

## APRIL 2025

### Were You There?

#### Thirty Years Ago:

A letter regarding the kitchen renovation was sent to all members, explaining the selection of contractors and the financial impact of the plan.

**Twenty-five Years Ago:** The Board of Educators requested donations of preschool toys and games to help stock the two nurseries.

**Twenty Years Ago:** The Prayer Shawl Ministry cofounder, Janet Bristow, spoke at the April 17 10:15 service. She also presented a workshop from 1 to 4 PM.

**Fifteen Years Ago:** The Earth Day event on April 10 was a stream clean-up at Lorimar Park in Huntingdon Valley.

**Ten Years Ago:** The PSEC Spring Youth Event was held from April 17 to 19 at High Point Camp, 200 Chapel Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508, for youth between the ages of 13 and 18.

**Five Years Ago:** The Labyrinth Garden rejuvenation was scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Participants were encouraged to wear their gardening clothes to worship. The Deacons prepared lunch.

**One Year Ago:** The Personnel Committee was searching for candidates to fill the Church Office Manager position pending Lisa's retirement.



ARTICLES DUE FOR MAY ISSUE

DEADLINE: APRIL 13

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](mailto:erickinsey46@gmail.com). If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326.

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St. John's United Church of Christ  
500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446  
Eric Kinsey, Editor: [erickinsey46@gmail.com](mailto:erickinsey46@gmail.com)

Here is the chancel flower donation list for April 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 \$35. Thank you!

April 6

In memory of Charles A. Pool Jr.'s April 4th birthday from his family

In memory of Martine Boorse's April 7th birthday from her husband, Richard

In memory of Robert and Madge Chandler; Marvin, James, and Maryetta Moyer; and Benjamin, Betty, and Helen A. Hammel from the LaVerne Moyer family and the Carol and Ben Hammel family

In memory of the Rev. Hugo C. Kellermeyer and Mrs. Josephine Kellermeyer from Lorene Ahrens and family

April 13 Palm Sunday

In memory of Mary C. Fritz's April 16th birthday from her family

In honor of the April 16th Wedding Anniversary of Dr and Mrs. Willard from Dee Reedman and family

In memory of Marvin Roshong's April 17th birthday from his wife, Jean, and family

April 20 Easter Sunday

In memory of Betty Focht's April 24th birthday, from her family, Sally, Steve, and Eric Jarinko

April 27

In loving memory of Charles W. Lutter's April 29th birthday from his family



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rob Linderman, husband of Gale and brother of Gerry, who passed away recently.

## 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
- St. John's Address Directory
- Ribbon
- Chancel Flower Cards
- Bouquet Wrap
- 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 about who the flowers were delivered to on your assigned Sunday.

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



2025

Kay Peebles  
Church Office Manager

April 6	Susan & Mike Donahue
April 13	Sally & Steve Jarinko
April 20	Karen & Mark Methlie
April 27	Bonnie & Ken Hales

Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense	February 2025	Jan-Feb 2025
<b>Income</b>		
Current Tithes/Offerings	40,219.05	93,789.33
Event Income/Fundraisers	995.00	1,455.00
Flowers	80.00	260.00
Interest Income, Savings Accts	1.61	3.33
Misc. Unrestricted Income	30.00	30.00
Rental Income	3,350.00	6,700.00
Use-of-Building Income	300.00	1,290.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>44,975.66</b>	<b>112,862.58</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>44,975.66</b>	<b>112,862.58</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Building Operation Expenses	13,045.10	20,703.79
Deacons Expenses	767.15	1,768.17
Educators Expenses	0.00	51.97
Elders Expenses	322.76	547.02
Miscellaneous Expenses	10.60	10.60
Operating Expenses	15,237.53	22,699.37
Salaries and Benefits	33,424.16	64,715.31
Trustees/Building Expenses	2,366.35	2,366.35
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>65,173.65</b>	<b>112,862.58</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>-20,197.99</b>	<b>-9,334.92</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Artist Series Income—Special	4,675.00	7,235.00
Benevolence Offerings	5,105.00	16,687.13
Soup/Cookies Sales	0.00	569.00
Special Accounts	7,723.00	34,411.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>17,503.00</b>	<b>58,902.00</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	896.24	1,507.96
Benevolence Disbursements	6,557.00	12,851.67
Charitable Gift Market	0.00	0.00
Soup Sale Expenditures	0.00	592.07
Special Fund Expenditures	2,041.00	8,191.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>9,494.24</b>	<b>23,142.70</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>8,008.76</b>	<b>35,759.30</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-12,189.23</b>	<b>26,424.38</b>

## Remarks on Holy Week from the Board of Elders

**Palm Sunday, April 13**, marks the start of Holy Week, a period of reflection and remembrance leading up to Easter. Palms will be distributed in anticipation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem during the 10:15 service.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7 PM**

This day honors Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, highlighting the significance of humility, selflessness, and service to others. A potluck dinner will be shared in the "Sanctuary." Join us as we recreate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16-17*

### **Prayer Vigil Reminder, April 17, at Noon**

Don't forget to sign up for our annual Prayer Vigil that starts Maundy Thursday, April 17, and runs through Noon Good Friday, April 18, 2025. A signup sheet with ½-hour prayer time slots will be posted in the Bulletin Board hallway **and will include times that the St. John's building will be open for prayer.**

### **Good Friday, April 18, at 7 PM**

As the Prayer Vigil continues, Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, focusing on the crucifixion, devotion, and remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. If you are unable to attend, consider quiet reflection of the significance of Jesus' death.

**Holy Saturday, April 19**, commemorates the day Jesus remained in the tomb after his crucifixion, bringing Lent to a close. This day is characterized by reflection, prayer, and anticipation of Easter.

### **Easter Sunday, April 20, at 7 AM**

Easter commemorates the joy of Jesus' resurrection three days after his crucifixion. Jesus rose from the dead at sunrise. Join us for our 7 AM Sunrise Service, where we will celebrate the resurrection in a beautiful outdoor setting at White's Road Park, 400 Whites Rd., Lansdale. Please bring your own seating. We will share Communion in nature and provide some refreshments. This service will also include a nature-based Easter egg hunt for children. Watch for an announcement of change of venue in the event of inclement weather.

### **Easter Sunday, April 20, at 10:15 AM**

This service will be held at the church, continuing the celebration of the resurrection, with shared Communion.

Wishing you a blessed and reflective Holy Week!  
St. John's Elders

## Notes from Church Council



### Financial Report – Susan Donahue

#### 1. Income vs. Budget:

- January income was \$38,552.00.
- Of this total, \$33,570.28 came from tithes and offerings, falling short of the \$48,832.00 budgeted goal by \$15,261.72.

#### 2. Expenses:

- January expenses were \$47,688.93, which is \$4,331.88 lower than the budgeted amount of \$52,020.81.

#### 3. Overall Impact:

- Offering for January was well below expectations and expenses were lower than expected. While our income exceeded our expenses for the month, it was not enough to meet expenses annually.

### Year-to-Date Financial Summary:

#### 1. Income:

- Total year-to-date operating income is \$132,216, compared to a budgeted amount of \$154,336, creating a shortfall of \$22,120.

#### 2. Expenses:

- Total year-to-date operating expenses are \$113,003, which is \$9,793 over the budgeted amount of \$103,210.

#### 3. OCWM:

- Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) for January and February were \$7,877 and \$4,071, respectively. The year-to-date total of \$11,948 is higher by \$1,589 of our year-to-date goal.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with Susan Donahue, Treasurer.

### Staff Reports

#### Andrew Paulson:

Andrew expressed his desire for all to attend the Holden Evening Prayer Service on Wednesdays.

*[continued on next page]*

**Abbie Lampe:**

The family choir will sing next at the Easter Sunrise service.

**Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan:**

Rev. Linda expressed her thanks for an “unbelievable” welcome. She said that her initial priorities will be getting to know St. John’s, ascertain what is working, and what needs lie ahead. She thanked Rev. Tom for the great orientation he has provided.

**Rev. Tom:**

Rev. Tom will concentrate on visitation, new members, and continuing to support Rev Noonan.

**Kay Peebles, Office Manager:**

Deb Dayton reported for Kay. Three issues were mentioned: publications, honoring the memory of congregants, and Easter lilies. Deb will work with those involved regarding publications before changes are made.

**Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator:**

Deb Dayton reported for Grace. Three items were highlighted: the Social Media Document, Instagram for St. John’s, and the signboard.

**Board Reports****Trustees:**

- An entire rank of pipes in the sanctuary organ failed to operate recently. Steve Hendricks, in conjunction with Bill Klimas, a principal in the company that renovated our organ, assisted Steve via the internet, to repair the problem. We saved a substantial amount with the in-house repair.
- There is a leak in the flashing between the church and bell tower resulting in water in the sanctuary. The Trustees received a bid to repair the flashing on both sides of the tower. A savings of \$1200 will be realized by doing both sides of the tower rather than only the side that is obviously leaking.

*[continued at right]*

**Deacons:**

- The Easter lilies have been ordered.
- Plans for the basket raffle are underway.

**Educators:**

- Goodie boxes for 13 students were sent. Special thanks to Bonnie Webber.
- The Easter Sunrise service is being planned.
- Abbie Lampe is looking for volunteers for Connect 3.

**Elders:**

- Attendance averages: 113, Sunday Services; 15, WNL; 90, Ash Wednesday.
- The name tag program has been going well.
- Preparations are being made for Holy Week.
- Visitation plans are underway for distribution of Easter lilies.

**Current Business:**

- A St. John’s 150th anniversary committee has been formed to brainstorm ideas for our celebration.
- Building Use Procedures: Draft policies have been written to be discussed by Council. Deb underlined their importance as a tool for future use.

***From the Elders’ Desk***

In February the Elders and Staff met to review the 2025 Christmas Eve Service schedule. After a dedicated evaluation of past, present, and future needs of our St John’s congregation, and with inclusion of ideas from some of our members, the following schedule was prayerfully agreed upon:

There will be two Christmas Eve Services. One will be a family service at 4 or 5 PM (time is still to be determined) and the other will be a candlelight service at 9 PM with prelude music to begin at 8:30 PM.

Yours in Christ,  
St. John’s Elders





## In Memory of Judy Lederach

To the Artist Series from:

*Mary Billy*



To the Exterior Restoration Fund from:

*John & Susan Hendricks*

*Ellen Garcia*

*Nancy & Raymond Wentz*

*Jean & Tom Beggs*

*Sue & Bill Morris*

*Gerry & Grace Linderman*

*Charles & Joann Sisian*

*Kay Fiala*

*Bob & Jane Keim*

*Chuck & Jenny Favata*

*Wayne & Sally Fetterman*

*Doris Latta*

*James & Susan Gunden*

*The Busha Family*

*Doug & Mary Lynne Moyer*

*Jo-Ann Sine*

*Christina Amerald*

*Timothy Lederach*

*"In memory of my Aunt Judy Lederach from the Busha Family. Aunt Judy always had a big smile to go with her vibrant personality. Although I hadn't had the opportunity to see much of her over the past many years, I have tons of childhood memories that I will never forget. She was great." – Pamela M. Busha*



## In Memory of Ida B. Scott

To the Memorial Fund from:

*Sally Stetson*

*Debbie Krail*

*Sarah Holland & Porshe Mainline*



*"In memory of my Dear Friend, Ida Scott. Love and miss you." – Debbie Krail*



## In Memory of Linda J. Harpel

To the Memorial Fund from:

*Debbie Krail*

*"With love, from the Krail family" – Debbie Krail*



## In Memory of Virginia Boorse, Joseph Smith, & Joseph Daniel Smith

To the Memorial Fund from:

*Jo Ann & Charles Sisian*



## LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER SUNDAY 2025 AT ST. JOHN'S ~ "FROM ASHES TO RESURRECTION"



"Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure..." This text, from the first stanza of the hymn *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*, will be sung every Sunday throughout the season of Lent, as we journey *From Ashes to Resurrection*. We begin our walk on Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, and then continue to follow Jesus' example pure throughout the season of Lent. Our journey continues through Holy Week, as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Handwashing, Holy Communion, and the telling of the Passion story continue our journey through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. After the pain of Friday comes the joy of Sunday, as we remember Christ's resurrection with outdoor and indoor worship on Easter Sunday.

**We hope you will join us on this most important journey, *From Ashes to Resurrection*.**

### **Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday**

7pm—Ash Wednesday Worship

### **Sunday, March 9: First Sunday in Lent**

10:15am—Sunday Morning Worship

### **Wednesday, March 12**

6:15pm—Lenten Study

### **Sunday, March 16: Second Sunday in Lent**

10:15am—Sunday Morning Worship

### **Wednesday, March 19**

6:15pm—Lenten Study

### **Sunday, March 23: Third Sunday in Lent**

10:15am—Sunday Morning Worship

*Open Invitation/Luke 13:1-9*

### **Wednesday, March 26**

6:15pm—Lenten Study

*This Place Could Be Beautiful, Right?*

7pm—Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

### **Sunday, March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

10:15am—Sunday Morning Worship

*Now What?/Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

### **Wednesday, April 2**

6:15pm—Lenten Study

*Don't Come Out Empty Handed*

7pm—Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

### **Sunday, April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent**

10:15am—Sunday Morning Worship

*Something New/Isaiah 43:15-21*

### **Wednesday, April 9**

6:15pm—Lenten Study

*Learning to Hold On, Learning to Let Go*

7pm—Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

### **Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday**

10:15am—Sunday Morning Worship

*Into Jerusalem/Luke 19:28-40*

4pm—Ein deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)

*The Artist Series at St. John's Palm Sunday Concert*

### **Wednesday, April 16**

No Holden Evening Prayer or Lenten Study

### **Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday**

12pm—24-hour Prayer Vigil Begins

7pm—Maundy Thursday Worship

*The Blessed Community/John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

### **Friday, April 18: Good Friday**

7pm—Good Friday Worship

*A Broken Strength/John 18:1-19:42*

### **Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday**

7am—Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship

*Resurrection Joy/John 20:1-18*

10:15am—Easter Sunday Sanctuary Worship

*Resurrection Joy/John 20:1-18*

## GOOD NEWS

The eastern monarch butterfly population nearly doubled in 2025, according to a new report published in Mexico, where the monarchs overwinter. The population wintering in central Mexico occupied 4.42 acres, up from 2.22 acres the previous winter. While monarchs occupied nearly twice as much habitat as last year, populations remain far below the long-term average. The desired level for the population is 6 hectares (about 14.8 acres), so we need to keep up the good work! For more information on the status of monarchs see [worldwildlife.org/species/monarch-butterfly](http://worldwildlife.org/species/monarch-butterfly) and [worldwildlife.org/stories/eastern-migratory-monarch-butterfly-populations-decrease-by-59-in-2024](http://worldwildlife.org/stories/eastern-migratory-monarch-butterfly-populations-decrease-by-59-in-2024).



## FROM THE CREATION STEWARDS

### Spring Cleanup—WAIT!

When the weather warms up, we get spring fever and want to get out and clean out our flower gardens. Don't. Think twice before you rake, mow, and blow this year.

Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to insulate them from the elements. Whatever your landscape, you can ensure that resources for nests and overwintering are available. Eighty percent of the bee population is killed by early cleanup. The consensus is that gardeners should wait until temperatures are 50 degrees or above for at least seven consecutive days. This is typically **mid to late April or May** in our area. Moderation is the best practice. At St. John's we will clean up the Labyrinth Garden and rose garden before then for appearance. We will let the rest of the gardens go until early May to protect the pollinators. For more information, go to [xerces.org/leave-the-leaves](http://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves).





**Join Us for our NEW**

**Monthly Community Event**

# Family Game Night

at St. John's UCC

**Thursday, April 10th**

**Time: 6:30-8:30 pm**

*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 old or new favorites to share. Meet some new friends and enjoy a fun night of gaming!*

*Beverages will be provided.  
Bring a snack to share.*

*St. John's UCC  
in the Assembly Hall*

**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.**

500 West Main St.  
Lansdale, PA 19446

215-855-5489  
[office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

FB: St John's UCC Lansdale, PA  
<https://st-johns-ucc.org>  
Under the "events" section





## Ein deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)

4pm • Sunday, April 13

It's our season finale! The North Penn Chamber Singers and The Artist Series Chorus combine with orchestra to present this choral masterwork by Johannes Brahms! Join us as we conclude the season with this magnificent work sung by a massed chorus with a 39-piece professional orchestra. Scan the QR code below for additional information.



## Thank you to our 2024-2025 Sponsors and Patrons!

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Thank you for your support