



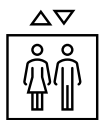
# Practicing Faith

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

9:30 am

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



**The Elevator** can be found at the end of the hall, through the door on the right front side of the sanctuary. **Accessible Bathrooms** are on the basement level. Once within the elevator, press "B". Exit and go left down the ramp. Once in the hallway, turn left, go the length, and turn right. The bathrooms are to the left at the top of a small ramp.



**Wheelchairs & First Aid Kit** are stored in the labeled "First Aid Closet" near the Main Street entrance to the sanctuary. **AED** (Defibrillator) is in the church library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary by the window. When entering from the Sanctuary, turn left.



**The Nursery** is open for you to use mindfully, and the service is audible from there. The Nursery is past the elevator, through the double doors, on the right hand side, before the steps. No volunteers will be on duty. A responsible adult **must** stay with their child.



**Hearing Assistance Devices** are available in a basket at the back of the sanctuary if you are having trouble hearing the service. If the service is too loud, you may spend worship in the **Library**, which is to the right of the front of the Sanctuary, through the wall door.



**Prayer Request and Information Cards** are in pews for visitors, or anyone who would like to share information or a prayer request. Prayer requests will go to our prayer chain and pastors. These will not be read during service. **Visitors**, we are so glad you are here! Completed cards can be placed in the offering plates.



The **Book of Joys & Concerns** is a green binder on the podium at the front of the sanctuary on the right. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like stated, celebrated or prayed about during **Prayers of the People**, 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. **Large Print Hymns** are available for those who need them.



For **Our Time with Children**, children and youth are invited to sit up front on the chancel steps for conversation and an age-appropriate message. They will then 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!



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

## St. John's United Church of Christ

500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 Office: 215.855.5489 email: [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan (she/her), M.Div., PhD., Senior Pastor

Pastor Tom Adil (he/him), M. Div., LPC, Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson (he/him), M.M., M.A., Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe (she/her), Connect3 Director

Kay Peebles (she/her), Church Office Manager

Grace Marchione (she/her), Communications Coordinator

Anthony Ottaviano III (he/him), Facilities Manager ~ Bill Bergey (he/him), Custodian

Deborah Dayton (she/her), Council President

Order of Worship  
St. John's United Church of Christ  
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446  
9:30 am — August 24, 2025 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit when indicated by an \*asterisk  
and **speak the words in bold.***

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PRELUDE Elegiac Pastorale.....Franklin D. Ashdown

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy One, in your company we take up the holy task of wondering.

**We wonder where our perspectives need expanding.**

We wonder whose voices do and do not influence our thinking.

**We wonder what fears constrain our love.**

We wonder whose stories could evolve our relationship with you.

**We wonder what small steps we might take to nurture our spirits  
and deepen our faith.**

May your faithful nudges support us in noticing, in awareness, in curiosity that informs  
our growth.

**Help us to reach out to you, trusting your eagerness to receive us. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

*Stanza 2 is sung in canon; lectern side begins, pulpit side follows.*



1. O Christ, the heal - er we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
2. From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed.
3. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
4. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find.



How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
Yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
Our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
The whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach and pros - per hu - man - kind.

CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE

To repent means to turn away and move in a new direction. Know that you are forgiven and set free to try again, find a different path, and love anew. Amen.

## SUNG RESPONSE Love Is of God



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-10 .....Pew Bible Page 659

Luke 13:10-17

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

## OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN

### 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

*(Sung in Russian)*

*Salvation is created in the midst of the earth, O God. Alleluia.*

*-Orthodox communion hymn, Psalm 74:12*

SERMON "We Are Set Free" ..... Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

\*HYMN #554 Out of the Depths, O God, We Call  
*The choir sings stanza 1, followed by all singing the entire hymn (stanzas 1-3).*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE #772 Nothing Can Trouble (Nada te turbe)  
*The response is sung twice and may be sung in harmony; first in English, second in Spanish.*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD  
*Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews.*



\*SUNG RESPONSE Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



Praise God, the Gi-ver and the Gift. Hands, hearts, and voi-ces now up - lift: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Breath of glad sur - prise, free - ing our spir-its, op'n-ing eyes.

Three in One-ness, love com-mun - ing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, bless these gifts of our hands and hearts and abundance. Receive and multiply them for the good of your people and this world that we share. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #547 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound  
*Stanzas 2 and 4 may be sung in harmony.*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE March.....Louis L  febure-W  ly

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

**The Assembly Hall** is located downstairs. From the Narthex – the room at the back of the Sanctuary – go down the steps on the left as you exit the Sanctuary and straight down the hallway. From the **Elevator**, go to the “B” level, go down the ramp and turn right

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor  
Robin MacMullen, Scripture Reader

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music  
Summer Tenor/Bass Ensemble

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Hospitality:</b>           | Team 1: Robin MacMullen |
| <b>Elder of the Morning:</b>  | Sue Clemens             |
| <b>Deacon of the Morning:</b> | Rickie Lee Sands        |
| <b>Audio Technician:</b>      | Griff Francis           |
| <b>Chancel Flowers:</b>       | Susan & John Hendricks  |
| <b>Driver:</b>                | Kay Peebles             |
| <b>Social Host:</b>           | Barb & Robin MacMullen  |

### Copyright Acknowledgments

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Image: Butterfly Release,  
Canva.

Love Is of God  
Text: 1 John 4:7-12  
Music: Davis Giersch  
© 1997 Davis Giersch

Praise God, the Giver  
and the Gift  
Text: Brian Wren  
© 1989 Hope Publishing  
Company

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Weekly Current Income Needed:                | \$7,884.62 |
| Weekly OCWM Needed:                          | \$826.92   |
| <b>A Look at the Week of August 17, 2025</b> |            |
| Attendance: Sunday, August 17                | 123        |
| Offering For Current Income                  | \$4,655.34 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission      | \$306.00   |

Welcoming our new Facilities Manager

**Tony Ottaviano!**



Anthony Ottaviano III joined the St. John's team as Facilities Manager during the Summer of 2025. As a Life Boy Scout, he learned early on to be a leader and a Team Player. His Christian educational background has given him a respect for nature, caring for animals, and the outdoor elements to create a true appreciation of God's gifts. After graduating high school, he poured his talents into carpentry, creating hand-made custom cabinets, fireplaces, kitchens, and all sorts of other projects. Most of his skills come from hands-on learning from experts in those trades. He considers himself a Jack of All Trades, Master of Some, and is always happy to learn and hone his abilities. His passions include beekeeping, gardening, problem solving, fishing, video games, and most importantly, spending quality time with his son.

## 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](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

|        |      |                                       |  |
|--------|------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 24-Aug | Sun  | <b>9:30 AM</b><br>9:45 AM<br>10:30 AM | <b>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>Sunday Morning Worship<br>Connect3, Activity Room<br>Fellowship, Assembly Hall |
| 25-Aug | Mon  | 7:00 PM                               | Fireside 12 Step CA, Fireside Room   |
| 26-Aug | Tues | 7:00 PM                               | AA, Assembly Hall  |
| 30-Aug | Sat  | 9:30 AM                               | Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall  |
| 31-Aug | Sun  | <b>9:30 AM</b><br>9:45 AM<br>10:30 AM | <b>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>Sunday Morning Worship<br>Connect3, Activity Room<br>Fellowship, Assembly Hall  |

### From the Elders' Desk:

### **Greeters Needed!**

St. Johns is committed to providing a warm and inclusive environment for visitors. Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters/Umbrella ministry for the 10:15 service starting Sunday September 7, 2025. Those willing to serve can contact an Elder or the church office for further information.

With Gratitude,

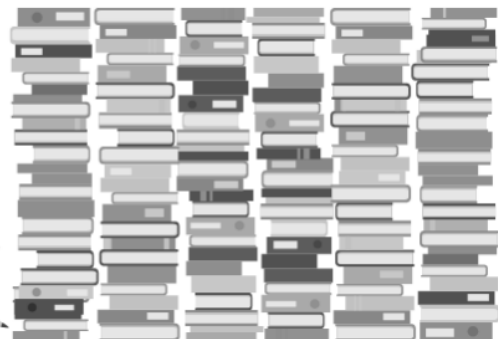
**Your St. John's Elders**

Chriss Bodde, Anne Kinsey, Emilie Truscott, Sue Clemens, Bill Cagney and Charles Sisian



## No more book donations please!

Lizzy is hard at work sorting our current donations & will let you know when she's done!





## Water & Celebration Sunday

Sunday, September 7 at **10:15 am**



Collect some water from a special place this summer. You may drop your water off during the week or on September 7. **Please write your name and the place your water was collected on the bottle or tag.** The water we collect will be purified & used for baptisms throughout the year.

**Bobby Jo Valentine**

@ St. John's

**United Church of Christ**

Tuesday, September 9

7:00 pm

Supported by the Artist Series at St. John's

As we celebrate 10 years as an Open and Affirming Congregation, St. John's UCC is thrilled to welcome Bobby Jo Valentine — Queer Christian Singer-Songwriter — in concert on September 9. This event is free and open to the community. Invite a friend!



## Women's Retreat

Saturday, September 13  
**9:30 am** St. John's Library

The presenter will be the **Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan** whose topic will be "Ask Pastor Linda Anything". Light refreshments will be served.

**All women are welcome!**

Are you wearing your  
**name tag?**

Printed name tags are located in the narthex and library.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Beginning September 14

**8:00 am & 10:15 am**

We are excited to share that starting this fall, we will be offering two Sunday services: 8 am and 10:15 am. While the services will be very similar in format and style of worship, you can expect a quieter, more contemplative atmosphere at 8 am.

We look forward to sharing more worship and programming updates soon. In the meantime, please make note of the schedule transition below. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

- **Now through August 31:** One service at 9:30 am
- **Every Sunday starting September 14:** 8:00 am and 10:15 am

## Blessing of the Backpacks



Sunday, September 14  
**10:15 am**

Students, teachers, educators, & families:  
bring your backpacks, lunch boxes, or planners to worship and **receive a blessing for the new school year!**



## Service of Installation: Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

Sunday, September 21  
**3:00 pm**

On the cusp of St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invite our congregation and neighbors to celebrate the church's rich history and pastoral lineage through the formal installation of our new senior pastor.



# Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

“Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

## Luke 13:10-17

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

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