



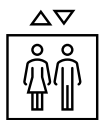
Practicing Faith

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 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) & Additional First Aid Kit** are 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

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 31, 2025 — Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE We Come to the Hungry Feast.....Setting by David Cherwien

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to God.

Happy are those who revere the Holy One.

Generation to generation delight in God's blessings.

Sing aloud to God our righteousness; shout for peace to God.

We rise from the depths in mercy, grace, and justice.

Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for love to God.

Our hearts are steady and secure. Worship the Holy One!

***OPENING HYMN #332 As We Gather at Your Table**

CONFESSION

Righteous God, forgive us for the positioning we do. We seek elevated places and too often fail to notice the absences at your table. Our tables are segregated by the ways we diminish the beautiful distinctiveness you celebrate among us. We live in complacency while the world around us weeps in pain, suffering, and despair. Break our hearts, O God, so that we will seek your kin-dom more than our own acquittal. As in the days of Jeremiah, we "have changed [our] glory for something that does not profit" and are appalled. Convict our spirits to propel us to reshape the world into your vision of beloved community—repaired, restored, and reconciled. Amen.

ASSURANCE

Beloved, the Holy One is righteous and just as well as compassionate and faithful to forgive the contrite heart. God will give you strength and courage to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

SUNG RESPONSE Love Is of God



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11Pew Bible Page 607

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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 Aria.....Flor Peeters

SERMON "The Kind of Blessing We Need"Rev. Tom Adil

*HYMN #498 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

The refrain is sung by all.

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 4: Lower Voices

Stana 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 5: All

Stanza 3: All

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



***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

As we come to your banquet, O Lord, may we leave our defenses and escape routes behind us. Instead, let us bring to your our most precious offerings: these humble gifts from our most humbled selves. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** This Little Light of Mine



***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune.....Andrew Carter

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
Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Steve Hendricks, Horn

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 1: Bill Leslie
Elder of the Morning:	Bill Cagney
Deacon of the Morning:	Peter Conver
Audio Technician:	Matt Rivett
Chancel Flowers:	OPEN
Driver:	Jo-Ann Sine
Social Host:	Vernon & Barbara Hunsberger

Copyright Acknowledgments

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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
A Look at the Week of August 24, 2025	
Attendance: Sunday, August 24	106
Offering For Current Income	\$3,695.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$245.00
A Look at the Week of August 17, 2025	
Attendance: Sunday, August 17	123
Offering For Current Income	\$4,655.34
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$306.00

Acknowledgements



**In Honor of the Rev. Frank & Beatrice Pehrson's
September 5 Wedding Anniversary**
To the Chancel Flower fund
From their daughter, Karen, and Mark Methlie

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

31-Aug	Sun	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	
		9:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship
		9:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		10:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
1-Sept	Mon	Labor Day – Office Closed	
2-Sept	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
3-Sept	Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal
		7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
4-Sept	Fri	6:00 PM	Lansdale First Friday North Penn Chess Club
7-Sept	Sun	Water & Celebration Sunday	
		9:00 AM	Praying Hands Stitchers, Library
		10:15 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:30 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:00 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall Educators Meeting

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

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.

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

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!

Library



Blessing of the Backpacks



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

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



Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, September 28 at **2:00 pm**

Special treats for all the animals! All pets welcome – leashed or crated, furry, scaly, and creepy crawly! Pictures also blessed.

No more donations please!

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Beginning September 14

8:00 am & 10:15 am

Service of Installation:

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

Sunday, September 21

3:00 pm

On the cusp of St. John's 150th 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.



Isaiah 11

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the
earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's
nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

He will raise a banner for the nations
and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah
from the four quarters of the earth.
Ephraim's jealousy will vanish,
and Judah's enemies will be destroyed;
Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah,
nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.
They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west;
together they will plunder the people to the east.
They will subdue Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be subject to them.
The Lord will dry up
the gulf of the Egyptian sea;
with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand
over the Euphrates River.
He will break it up into seven streams
so that anyone can cross over in sandals.
There will be a highway for the remnant of his people
that is left from Assyria,
as there was for Israel
when they came up from Egypt.

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

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