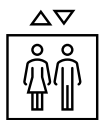




The Goodness of Creation

Water & Celebration Sunday
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025
10:15 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

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
10:15 am — September 7, 2025 — Water & Celebration Sunday

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

PRELUDE Deep River.....Setting by Wilbur Held

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As the flood waters rose, Noah launched his ark into the waters.

When Jesus came to the Jordan, he went down to the river and was baptized.

Life washes over us in many ways.

Sometimes we sail through troubled waters,

Sometimes we plunge into deep experiences of growth.

At times, we are overwhelmed with depths of sadness.

At times, we find ourselves stuck, anxious, afraid, angry, or alone.

We reach for the courage to face our vulnerability,
our fear, our rage, and our brokenness,

And as we do, we notice that we are held in the arms of God's love.

We are buffeted by waves of change.

And we wade into the water.

We are refreshed by fresh splashes of beauty and courage,
the unfathomable depths of commitment by friends and family,
and the challenging expanse of different peoples and customs.

And still we wade.

God's wide world floods us with unexpected comfort, surprise, and learning.

And still we wade.

Amen.

*HYMN #597 Shall We Gather at the River
Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

CONFESSION

Before God and one another we confess our shortcomings.

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

We acknowledge the injustices we see and declare God's vision

for a world of justice and joy. Remind us, God, and recharge us with your Word.

Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace.

This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE

God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with God,
forgiveness is ours. That promise comes true now. Siblings in faith, know that in Christ
Jesus, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 42:1-11Pew Bible Page 497

Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

CHILDREN'S SONG Gathered in God's Name



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.**

CHILDREN'S SONG Gathered in God's Name

CELEBRATION OF WATER

Bringing of the Water

Those who wish are invited to come forward, name where the water comes from, and pour water into the font. If you do not have water, you may come forward, name a special place of rest and refreshment, and run your hands through the water.

Invitation to Reaffirmation of Baptism

If you would like to reaffirm your baptism with a blessing at the font, please come forward during Wade in the Water.

Wade in the Water

The soloist sings the text in italics.

Refrain



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

Stanzas



1. Who's that yon - der dressed in white? God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
2. Who's that yon - der dressed in blue?
3. Who's that yon - der dressed in red?
Must be the chil - dren of the Is - rael - ites. God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
Must be the Is - rael - ites a - com - in' through.
Must be the chil - dren that 'ol Mos - es led. *To refrain.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER 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.
For online giving, use the QR code.*



Offertory Down in the River to Pray...Traditional Southern Gospel, arr. David Mennicke

*As I went down in the river to pray, Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown; Good Lord, show me the way!
Oh, sisters, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down.
Oh, sisters, let's go down, Down in the river to pray.
As I went down in the river to pray, Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way!
Oh, brothers...fathers...mothers...sinners...children...*

Offertory 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

Life-giving God, out of the abundance of our lives and as a response to the blessings we have been given, receive these gifts. Multiply them and use them for the sake of love in a world so in need of it. Amen.

*HYMN Down By the Riverside

The hymn is sung twice.

Gon - na lay down my sword and shield down by the riv - er - side,

down by the riv - er - side, down by the riv - er - side,

Gon - na lay down my sword and shield down by the riv - er - side,

down by the riv - er - side.

I ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, I ain't gon-na stud-y war no more,

stud - y war no more.

I ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, I ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, —

stud - y war no more.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hornpipe from Water Music.....G.F. Handel*

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
Chancel Choir

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 3: Mark Methlie
Elder of the Morning:	Sue Clemens & Charles Sisian
Deacon of the Morning:	Judy Leslie
Audio Technician:	Robin MacMullen
Chancel Flowers:	Karen & Mark Methlie
Driver:	Scott Vanderburg
Social Host:	Deacons

Acknowledgements



In Memory of Lynn Richardson

To the GEM fund
From Suzanne Franks



In Memory of Dale Davis's Mother

To the GEM fund
From Suzanne Franks



In Memory of Nancy Fanciullacci

To the GEM fund
From Suzanne Franks



In Honor of Sandy & Bob Taylor's 60th wedding anniversary on September 11th

To the Chancel Flower fund



In Memory of Ruth Ekberg

To the Chancel Flower fund
From her daughter, Sandy, and Scott Brown



In Loving Memory of James "Uncle Jim Jim" Snyder On his birthday

To the Chancel Flower fund
Love, Mom, Dad, Jackie, James and the boys.

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

7-Sept	Sun	Water & Celebration Sunday	
		9:00 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Stewardship, Library
8-Sept	Mon	7:00 PM	Council, Zoom Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room
9-Sept	Tues	7:00 PM	Bobby Jo Valentine at St. John's AA, Assembly Hall
10-Sept	Wed	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
11-Sept	Thurs	1:00 PM	St. John's Stampers, Activity Room
		6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Activity Room
12-Sept	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
13-Sept	Sat	9:30 AM	Women's Retreat, Library
			Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall
14-Sept	Sun	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
		8:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall

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*Image: Montana Stream,
Linda Noonan, 2025.*

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Text and Music: Michael
Burkhardt
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Publications

*Praise God, the Giver and the
Gift*
Text: Brian Wren
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am & 10:15 am

Beginning September 14

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!

Community Game Night

Thursday, September 18th

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm



Join the Board of Educators for our monthly community event! 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 full 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 by contacting the Office.



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.



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.

Mandated Reporter Training

Saturday, September 27

9 am to 12 pm

Join us for this state-approved training course that fulfills requirements for mandated reporters in accordance with Act 31 of 2014 and Act 126 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

RSVP:

victimservicescenter.org/events

Questions? Contact Jess Carson:
Jessica-Carson@vscmontcopa.org

Psalm 42:1-11

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food

day and night,

while people say to me all day long,

“Where is your God?”

These things I remember

as I pour out my soul:

how I used to go to the house of God

under the protection of the Mighty One

with shouts of joy and praise

among the festive throng.

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise him,

my Savior and my God.

My soul is downcast within me;

therefore I will remember you

from the land of the Jordan,

the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep

in the roar of your waterfalls;

all your waves and breakers

have swept over me.

By day the Lord directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God my Rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”
My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Matthew 10:40-42

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”