



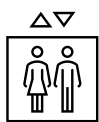
# The Goodness of Creation

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

10:15 am

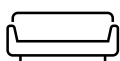
# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



**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.



Our **Soft Worship Space**, the front right of the Sanctuary, is available for all ages to engage their bodies in a way that allows them to be more present in worship. 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.



**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

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

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## SCRIPTURE READINGS

I Timothy 1:12-17.....Pew Bible Page 191

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

You who are my Comforter in sorrow,  
my heart is faint within me.  
Listen to the cry of my people  
from a land far away:  
"Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King no longer there?"

"Why have they aroused my anger  
with their images,  
with their worthless foreign idols?"

"The harvest is past,  
the summer has ended,  
and we are not saved."

Since my people are crushed, I am  
crushed;

I mourn, and horror grips me.  
Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then is there no healing  
for the wound of my people?

Oh, that my head were a spring of  
water

and my eyes a fountain of tears!  
I would weep day and night  
for the slain of my people.

## CHILDREN'S SONG Gathered in God's Name

The musical score is written on seven staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests and slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The song is a hymn about gathering in God's name.

Gath - ered in God's name 'round the ta - ble and font.

Gath - ered as one fam - 'ly in the name of love.

Gath - ered from near and far, gath - ered in this ho - ly place,

gath - ered as strang - ers and friends, gath - ered and gift - ed by grace.

Gath - ered in God's name 'round the liv - ing Word.

Gath - ered as one fam - 'ly in the name of love,

in the name of love, in the name of love.

## 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 (*music on page 4*)

SERMON    "Is There a Balm in Gilead?" .....Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

\*HYMN AND ANOINTING    #553 There Is a Balm in Gilead

*The refrain may be sung in harmony by all; The stanzas are sung by the soloists.*

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



Offertory    We cannot measure how you heal...Scottish Traditional, arr. Malcolm Archer

*We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.*

*The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.*

*So some have come who need your help, and some have come to make amends  
as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.*

*-John L. Bell and Graham Maule*

\*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, 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 #576 For the Healing of the Nations**

*Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** For the Healing of the Nations.....Setting by Paul Manz

**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  
Margie Jewell, Liturgist

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music  
Chancel Choir

**Worship Assistants**

**Hospitality:** Team 1: MacMullen  
**Elder of the Morning:** Anne Kinsey  
**Deacon of the Morning:** Paula White  
**Audio Technician:** Griff Francis  
**Chancel Flowers:** Anne & Eric Kinsey  
**Driver:** Gale Linderman  
**Social Host:** Amy Faga

**Copyright Acknowledgments**

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<i>Gathered in God's Name</i>	<i>We cannot measure how you</i>	<i>Praise God, the Giver and the</i>
Text and Music: Michael	<i>heal</i>	<i>Gift</i>
Burkhardt	Text: John L. Bell and Graham	Text: Brian Wren
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Publications	© 1989 Wild Goose Resource	Company
	Group, Iona Community	

Weekly Current Income Need:	\$7,884.62	Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$826.92
<b>The Week of September 7, 2025</b>		<b>The Week of September 14, 2025</b>	
<b>Water Sunday</b>		Attendance: 8:00 AM 41	
Attendance: 10:15 AM 150		Attendance: 10:15 AM 104	
Offering For Current:	\$12,884.00	Offering For Current:	\$5,985.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$896.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$487.00

## 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)

21-Sept	Sun	<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
		<b>8:00 AM</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> 10:45 AM 11:30 AM  <b>3:00 PM</b>	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Book Rummage Sale <b>Installation of Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan</b>
22-Sept	Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room
23-Sept	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
24-Sept	Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal
		7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
25-Sept	Thurs	9:30 AM	Enlightener Folding, Library
		6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Activity Room
26-Sept	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
27-Sept	Sat	9:00 AM	Mandated Reporter Training, Assembly Hall
		9:30 AM	Art of Living Foundation, Library
28-Sept	Sun	<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
		<b>8:00 AM</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> 10:45 AM 11:30 AM  <b>2:00 PM</b>	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Book Rummage Sale <b>Blessing of the Animals</b>



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

TODAY, 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.



From the  
Service Outreach & Witness  
Team:

## Join St. John's UCC to **Feed Hope** In **Gaza**

Famine is now at unprecedented levels in Gaza. Help us support World Central Kitchen as they seek to scale up production to one million hot meals a day. The church will match the first \$1,000 contributed.

Make a tax-free gift using the QR code, give online at [www.st-johns-ucc.org](http://www.st-johns-ucc.org), or mail a check to:

St. John's UCC 500 W Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446.



## Book Rummage Sale! SUNDAYS at 11:30 am

Books will be displayed downstairs during fellowship, completely free!

In-kind donations are welcomed and will be used to better the St. John's library.

## 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](http://victimservicescenter.org/events)**

Questions? Contact Jess Carson:

[Jessica-Carson@vscmontcopa.org](mailto:Jessica-Carson@vscmontcopa.org)

Information Needed For

## Fall Goodie Boxes for College Students!

Please send the name and complete address of the student(s) to Bonnie Weber at [bonweber@gmail.com](mailto:bonweber@gmail.com) or church office at [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org) by Sunday, October 5. **Goodie Box Items are due Sunday, October 12.**

See posting on Council Bulletin Board for requested items.



## 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.

## We're Introducing Living Our Faith Together With a **LOFTy Breakfast Potluck**

Sunday, October 5 at **9:00 AM**



The **LOFT** is a new space to live into the questions and deepen our spiritual practices. It builds on the St. John's tradition of Adult Sunday School & Adult Bible Study & offers opportunities for adult faith formation. Bring a dish and join us for breakfast for more info!

## Women's Retreat

Saturday, October 4

**9:30 am**

St. John's Library



**The October Women's Retreat will meet one week earlier than usual.** The presenter will be Luchi Lazares who will speak about her Mother's remarkable legacy and long standing connection with Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Light Refreshments will be served.

**All women are welcome!**





## I Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

You who are my Comforter in sorrow,  
my heart is faint within me.

Listen to the cry of my people  
from a land far away:

“Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King no longer there?”

“Why have they aroused my anger with their images,  
with their worthless foreign idols?”

“The harvest is past,  
the summer has ended,  
and we are not saved.”

Since my people are crushed, I am crushed;  
I mourn, and horror grips me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then is there no healing  
for the wound of my people?

Oh, that my head were a spring of water  
and my eyes a fountain of tears!

I would weep day and night  
for the slain of my people.