

CROSSING THE UNCROSSABLE

The Goodness of Creation

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

10:15 am

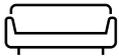
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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

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 28, 2025 — Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Prelude and Procession.....Diane McAninch

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Inspired by Psalm 146)*

Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!

Come and be in awe at the altar of life!

Come and find your place in the whole of things.

We seek paths of flourishing, for us and for all.

The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

The Spirit of Life is here! Let us open our hearts!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN #314 Community of Christ

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

CONFESSION

Compassionate God, we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away in denial or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the Gospel that claim that your Creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your will enables all to flourish. We love to seek power instead of finding power in love. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE

God's mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 9:1-6, 14-16Pew Bible Page 477

Luke 16:19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

"'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

CHILDREN'S SONG Gathered 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 "Crossing the Uncrossable Divide"Rev. Tom Adil

*HYMN #587 Through All the World, a Hungry Christ
 Stanza 1: Choir
 Stanzas 2-4: All

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 When the Poor Ones.....Miguel Manzano, arr. David M. Cherwien
 *When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
 when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
 when the wounded offer others strength and healing:
 We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
 we see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When compassion gives the suffering consolation;
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;
when the nations work to change war into peace;
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

-José Antonio Olivar, tr. Martin A. Seltz

*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

Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.

*HYMN #306 The Church of Christ, in Every Age
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fantasy on *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*.....Gilbert M. Martin

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	Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor	Chancel Choir
United Ringers	

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 2: Leslie
Elder of the Morning:	Chris Bodde
Deacon of the Morning:	Judy Johnston
Audio Technician:	Robin MacMullen
Chancel Flowers:	Ruth Kinsey
Driver:	Gale Linderman
Social Host:	Karen & Mark Methlie

Copyright Acknowledgments

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<i>Gathered in God's Name</i>	<i>When the Poor Ones</i>	<i>Praise God, the Giver and the Gift</i>
Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt	Text: José Antonio Olivar,	Text: Brian Wren
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	J.A. Oliver and San Pablo International-SSP, admin. OCP Publications	

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

Sept 28	Sun	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
		8:00 AM	Morning Worship
		10:15 AM	Morning Worship
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
		2:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals
Sept 29	Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room
Sept 30	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
Oct 1	Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal
		7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Oct 3	Fri	6:00 PM	Lansdale First Friday North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Oct 4	Sat	9:30 AM	Women's Retreat, Library
			Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall
Oct 5	Sun	World Communion Sunday	
		8:00 AM	Morning Worship
		9:00 AM	LOFTy Potluck Breakfast, Assembly Hall
			Praying Hands Stitchers, Library
		10:15 AM	Morning Worship
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall



Acknowledgements



In Memory of Nancy Fanciullacci

To the GEM fund from
Anne & Eric Kinsey
Wendy & Rick O'Connor

In Honor of Gold Star Mother's Day

To the Chancel Flower fund
From Jean Reshong

In Memory of Nancy Fanciullacci

To Current Expenses from
D & S Hendricks

**In Memory of John Burkholder's
October 2nd Birthday**

To the Chancel Flower Fund
From his daughter, Judy Johnston,
and family

In Memory of Mason's 23rd Birthday

To the Music Fund
From Anne & Eric Kinsey

**In Memory of Julia G. Kriebel's
October 3rd Birthday**

From her Family

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, or mail a check to:

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



Information & Donations
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 or church office at office@st-johns-ucc.org by Sunday, October 5.

Goodie Box Items are due Sunday, October 12 and may be dropped off in the library throughout the week. **See posting on Council Bulletin Board for requested items.** Monetary donations also accepted.

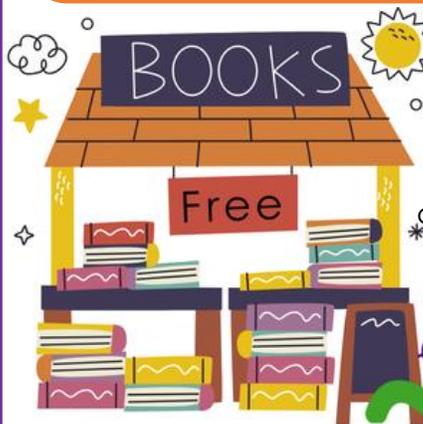


Blessing of the Animals

THIS SUNDAY at 2:00 pm



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



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.

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 Luzares 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!

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!**

Congregational Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, October 12

12:00 pm



Psalm 9:1-6, 14-16

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

My enemies turn back;

they stumble and perish before you.

For you have upheld my right and my cause,

sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.

You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;

you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies,

you have uprooted their cities;

even the memory of them has perished.

that I may declare your praises

in the gates of Daughter Zion,

and there rejoice in your salvation.

The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;

their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

The Lord is known by his acts of justice;

the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.

Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”