



Tough Love from a Loving God

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday**

November 10, 2024

10:15 am

Welcome to St. John's UCC Lansdale!

Visitors, please complete the ivory visitor's card found in the pew pocket so we can thank you for joining us this Sunday!



Completed cards go in the basket by the narthex.

The **Book of Joys & Concerns** is a green binder on the podium at the front of the chancel. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like stated, celebrated or prayed about during the service, 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.



For **The Children's Message**, youth are invited to sit up front on the chancel steps for a direct and intentional age-appropriate message.



After the Children's Message, children will 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!

Hearing Aids are available if you are having trouble hearing the service.

Please ask a Hospitality Team Member.



Wheelchairs & First Aid Kit are stored in the labeled "First Aid Closet" in the narthex.



AED (Defibrillator) is in the church library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary by the window. When entering from the Sanctuary, turn left.

Audio Recordings of service can be found online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website, or Youtube. Sermons are available on Spotify; "St John's UCC Lansdale Sermons".

If you would like a physical copy, contact the church office.

The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully. No volunteers will be on duty.

A parent, grandparent, or responsible adult **must** stay with their child.



Worship Leaders

Pastor Tom Adil, Acting Lead Bridge Pastor

Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Liturgist

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Wind Ensemble

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Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You

Text: Rae Whitney © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Praise God, the Giver and the Gift

Text: Brian Wren © 1989, Hope Publishing Company

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—November 10, 2024—Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Stewardship Sunday

*You are invited to stand if able when indicated by an *asterisk and **speak the words in bold.***

PRELUDE

Three Czech Folk Songs: I. Walking at Night.....Johnnie Vinson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, the Creator and Redeemer.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Esther, Sarah and Ruth,

Our refuge and strength in times past, and the Lord of all history.

The Father who is with us in all of life, our provider and prompter in the here and now,

The Lord of today.

The Maker of a new heaven and a new earth,

Our help and hope for what is to come today and tomorrow.

Here now in our worship, fill us with strength and purpose.

Renew our spirits as we move beyond this day,

Always hopeful of God's future for us and the world as people of faith.

*OPENING HYMN

Come, O Thankful People, Come.....422

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*CONFESSION

God of the wilderness, because we forget your promises that you have made to us before, promises that you have always fulfilled...too often we live like children, traveling confused and fearful. And so, we confess our own wanderings in sorrow, sadness and doubt. We know how it feels to be lost, hurting and troubled. It seems often that we are wandering scared from all that threatens us and our neighbor.

Desperate for survival, we settle for safety instead of taking risks for your people.

Forgive our reckless measures to find security. Forgive our lack of confidence in the face of death. Give us a large measure of your spiritual nourishment so that even in the great difficulties, we will flourish in your grace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

Through the Bible, God uses difficult journeys and wilderness experiences for moments of transformation and rebirth. No place or experience is too far removed from God's love. Not even death can separate us from God's amazing grace. As we travel on through the darkness, may we always be certain of God's Light being here with us. In Christ's name. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE



OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 17:8-16.....Bible Page 317

GOSPEL READING

Mark 12:38-44

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

Three Czech Folk Songs: II. Meadows Green.....Johnnie Vinson

SERMON

"The Widow's Dilemma - The Other Side of the Coin".....Pastor Tom Adil

*HYMN

Take My Gifts.....562

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE

Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a - wak - ened to re - ceive you,
 minds a - lert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending.....Robert L. Edwards/F.J. Haydn
Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during the Offertory music. The plates will then be dedicated during the Offertory Sung Response. You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.

*SUNG RESPONSE

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

*CLOSING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God.....419
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Three Czech Folk Songs: III. Spring, the Madcap.....Johnnie Vinson

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

*Be sure to return at 4pm for Mainstreet Brass,
the first concert of the 2024-2025 Artist Series season!*

Scan the QR code to hear Mainstreet Brass now!



Worship Assistants

Hospitality:

Grace & Mark Bruen, Mary Billy,
Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman,
Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning:

Susan Fitzpatrick

Deacon of the Morning:

Scott Vanderburg

Audio Technician:

Matt Rivett

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Lisa Thim

Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters:

Joyce Huisenga

Social Host:

Joyce & Ron Huisenga

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of October 20, 2024	
Attendance: October 20, Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	135
Offering For Current Income	\$5,037.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$196.50
A Look at the Week of October 27, 2024	
Attendance: October 27, Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	111
Offering For Current Income	\$4,759.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$317.50

To give online through our secure platform, visit <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>

Scan here for online giving





Prepare the Way

Advent and Christmas 2024



In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah foresees it. In the New Testament, John the Baptist proclaims it. This Advent season at St. John's, we will live it. This season's theme, *Prepare the Way*, reminds us of the importance of preparing. Preparing for a hectic holiday season, preparing for new leadership at St. John's, and most importantly, preparing for God's only Son to enter into our broken world.

Join us as we *Prepare the Way* in Advent and celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve and beyond by attending our upcoming events this holiday season.

Wednesday, November 27

No Wednesday Evening Programming or Worship – Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, December 1: First Sunday of Advent/Love Gift Sunday

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 4

7pm – Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

4pm – Comfort and Joy: The 2024 Artist Series Christmas Festival

Wednesday, December 11

7pm – Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, December 18

7pm – Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4pm – Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Musical Leadership from the Children's Choir, Piano, and Organ

Prelude Begins at 3:45pm

11pm – Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion and Candle Lighting

Musical Leadership from the Chancel Choir, United Ringers,

Chancel Choir, String Quartet, Piano, and Organ

Prelude Begins at 10:45pm

Wednesday, December 25

No Wednesday Evening Programming or Worship – Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 29: First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, January 1

No Wednesday Evening Programming or Worship – Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 5: Epiphany Sunday

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE
Artist Series
AT ST. JOHN'S

Presents

Mainstreet Brass

Sunday, November 10th

4:00 pm

The Lehigh Valley based ensemble Mainstreet Brass will present a free program that is sure to reach listeners of all ages! The glorious sounds of trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion will fill the sanctuary to begin this season. This is the first Artist Series concert of the year.

A freewill donation will be taken to support the Artist Series at St. John's.



Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 30th

9:30am



We will be decorating the church for the advent season. Please plan to join us in making the church festive for the holidays.

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

St. John's 16th Annual

Women's Christmas



Tea

Saturday, December 7, 2024

10 a.m. to noon

Assembly Hall

Come and enjoy delicious tea sandwiches, desserts, a variety of teas, Christmas Carols, wonderful fellowship and information about Liz's Birthday Closet, a program that provides birthday toolkits to help families celebrate their children's birthday.

Please email Janet Morton if you would like to bring a food item to share at mortfam116@gmail.com.

Donations will be accepted to offset costs and to benefit Liz's Birthday Closet

American Guild of Organists Philadelphia Chapter Tuesday Noon Recital Series

Every Tuesday in November

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm
St. John's Sanctuary

This free concert series is sponsored by the American Guild of Organists Philadelphia Chapter and rotates to different churches around the Philadelphia area from October to May – November is St. John's month!



CHARITABLE Gift Market

AT ST. JOHN'S UCC

As usual, there will be a large selection of "Gifts from the Heart" offered by 17 charities! You can choose the perfect gift to honor those on your gift list with donations to organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and The Seeing Eye that help people, animals and the environment. Alex's Lemonade Stand will be there, and soft pretzels and baked goods will be available for purchase.

You can find the shopping list on St. John's website and on the CGM bulletin board in the corridor outside the Library.

See you on November 17 at the Market!

Please RSVP by
Wednesday, November 22

to Sally Jarinko

text 215-421-6678 | call 215-256-8289

email sjarinko@comcast.net

(Space is limited!)



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

Nov	10	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am 4:00 pm	Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Sunday Enlightener Due Change for Children Offering Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Stewardship, Church Office Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office CGM Meeting, Library The Artist Series at St. John's presents Mainstreet Brass
Nov	11	Mon	6:00 pm 7:15 pm	Elders, Library Council Meeting, Assembly Hall
Nov	12	Tues	12:00-12:40 pm 7:00 pm	American Guild of Organist Philadelphia Chapter Tuesday Noon Recital Series, Sanctuary AA, Assembly Hall
Nov	13	Weds	5:45-6:45 pm 6:00-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm 7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-8:30 pm 8:30-9:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live! Community Meal, Activity Room Wind Ensemble, Sanctuary Adult Education, Library Children's Choir, Music Room Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Nov	14	Thurs	1:00 pm 6:30 pm	Stampers, Activity Room Girl Scouts, Activity Room
Nov	15	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Nov	16	Sat	9:30-11 am 2:00-4:00 pm	Senior Pastor Candidate Weekend Day 1 Coffee Corner, Library Meet & Greet, Library
Nov	17	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Senior Pastor Candidate Weekend Day 2 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Candidate Sermon & Vote Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room CGM, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Assembly Hall

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff or contact the office.

Pastor Tom Adil, M. Div., LPC, Acting Bridge Lead Pastor

Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, D.Min., M. Div., BA, Associate Bridge Pastor

Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth

Kay Peebles, Church Office Manager Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator

Bill Bergey, Custodian Mark Bruen, Council President