



# *Tough Love from a Loving God*

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Senior Pastor Candidate Sunday  
November 17, 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**

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor Candidate  
Pastor Tom Adil, Acting Lead Bridge Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Bridge Support Pastor

Abbie Lampe, Guest Chancel Choir Director  
Ihna Cho, Guest Organist  
Chancel Choir

## **Copyright Information**

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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 17, 2024—Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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## PRELUDE

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her.....F.W. Zachau

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP – ADAPTED FROM BARBARA CROOKER “PRAISE SONG” AND PSALM 16

Praise the November Light, the thin sunlight that goes deep into the bones.

**Praise the crows chattering in the oak trees; they do not despair.**

Praise what little there is left:

the small boats of milkweed pods, husks, hulls, shells, the architecture of trees.

**Praise the quilt of leaves that covers the grass:**

**Scarlet Oak, Sweet Gum, Sugar Maple.**

Though darkness gathers, praise this broken and beautiful world.

**Praise you, O God. You show us the path of life.**

**In your presence there is fullness of joy;**

**In your right hand are pleasures forevermore!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation.....Hymn 400

*Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.*

### \*CONFESSION

**God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for serenity in the midst of struggle, and for commitment to each other's growth. Yet we confess that we are often anxious and afraid of making the hard choices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness.**

**Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE

There will be days when we withhold our praise. There will be days when we choose comfort over courage, and ourselves over others. But even on those days, we belong to God. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel: Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Amen.

### \*SUNG RESPONSE



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 2:1, 7-10.....Bible Page 241

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

Psalm 139.....Allen Pote

*Lord, you have searched me and known me, you know everything I do.  
When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through.  
Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say, your presence follows me day by day.*

*Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away?  
If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there.*

*Lord, you have searched me and known me, you know everything I do.  
When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through.  
Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say, your presence follows me day by day.*

*Search me, O God, and know me, try me and know my heart.  
See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.  
Amen. -Psalm 139:1-8, 23-24 (Paraphrase Allen Pote)*

SERMON

“String Too Short to Be Saved” .....Rev Dr Linda Noonan

\*HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness.....Hymn 423

*The hymn may be sung in harmony.*

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness.....Arr. Chris Rice

*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**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.....Hymn 403  
*The refrain may be sung in harmony.*  
 Stanza 1: All  
 Stanza 2: Higher Voices  
 Stanza 3: Lower Voices  
 Stanza 4: All

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Prelude in D Minor.....J.S. Bach

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

# Worship Assistants

**Hospitality:**

Robin MacMullen, Peter Conver,  
 Griff Francis, Stefanie Giampa,  
 Carol Luehrs, Jenn Moyer, Matt Rivett

**Elder of the Morning:**

Sally Atkiss

**Deacon of the Morning:**

Rick Faniullacci

**Audio Technician:**

David Douglass

**Chancel Flower Ministry:**

Sue & Bill Morris

**Driver:**

Gale Linderman

**Greeters:**

Marcia Stacy

**Social Host:**

Deb Dayton

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
<b>A Look at the Week of November 3, 2024</b>	
Attendance: November 3, All Saints Sunday	112
Offering For Current Income	\$4,091.57
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$444.50
<b>A Look at the Week of November 10, 2024</b>	
Attendance: November 10, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	138
Offering For Current Income	\$6,651.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$367.50

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.

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## 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

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## 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

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## Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

## Wednesday, December 18

7pm – Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

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## 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!

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## Sunday, December 29: First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am Sunday Morning Worship

## Wednesday, January 1



No Wednesday Evening Programming or Worship – Happy New Year!

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## Sunday, January 5: Epiphany Sunday

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

  
**CHARITABLE**  
*Gift Market*  
AT ST. JOHN'S UCC 

OUR 20TH YEAR!

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 today at the Market!



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!

November 19 – **Doppelflöte: Vincent M. Ryan & Melissa Freilich** (organ and flute duo)  
Advent Lutheran, Harleysville

November 26 – **Kathleen Scheide**  
Church of the Loving Shepherd, West Chester

  
**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.

Please help decorate our  
**Warming Tree**

In the spirit of the season, we are collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to help those in need.

Located in the Narthex of the church. We will be collecting NEW items during the month of November.



**ALL SIZES WELCOMED!**

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](mailto:mortfam116@gmail.com).

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

Please RSVP by  
**Wednesday, November 22**  
to Sally Jarinko  
text 215-421-6678 | call 215-256-8289  
email [sjarinko@comcast.net](mailto:sjarinko@comcast.net)  
(Space is limited!) 

## This Week at St. John's

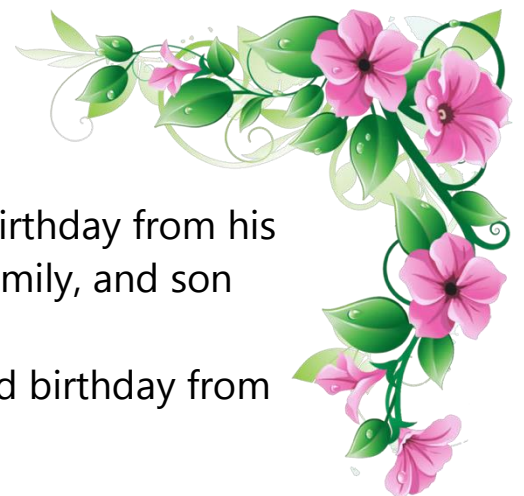
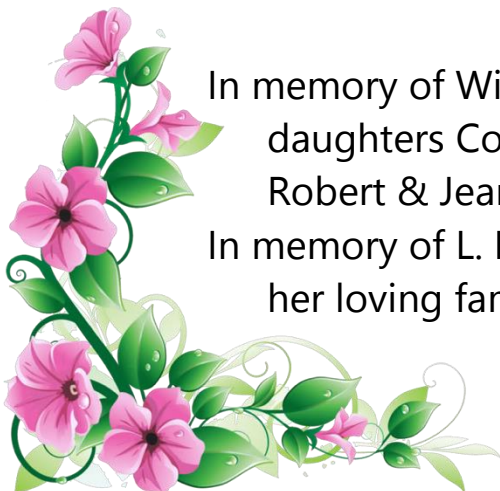
If you would like more information about St. John's, please speak with one of the staff or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

Nov	17	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	<b>Senior Pastor Candidate Weekend Day 2</b> <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Candidate Sermon &amp; Vote</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room CGM, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Nov	19	Tues	12:00-12:40 pm  7:00 pm	American Guild of Organist Philadelphia Chapter Tuesday Noon Recital Series, Sanctuary AA, Assembly Hall
Nov	20	Wed	5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm  7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-8:30 pm 8:30-9:30 pm	<b>Wednesday Night Live!</b> Community Meal, Activity Room Adult Education, Library United Ringers, Sanctuary Children's Choir, Music Room <b>Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary</b> Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Nov	21	Thurs	9:30 am	Enlightener Folding
Nov	22	Fri	10:00 am 6:00 pm	LMS Stone Soup Fest, Assembly Hall North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Nov	24	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	<b>Reign of Christ</b> Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Stampers Greeting Card Sale, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Assembly Hall

## Chancel Flowers

In memory of William Fritz's November 19th birthday from his daughters Connie May, Judy Koenig and family, and son Robert & Jeane Fritz and family

In memory of L. Louella Trout's November 23rd birthday from her loving family



# 1 Samuel 2:1, 7-10

Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the Lord;  
my strength is exalted in my God.  
My mouth derides my enemies  
because I rejoice in your victory.

The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low; he also exalts.  
He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.  
For the pillars of the earth are the  
Lord’s,  
and on them he has set the world.

He will guard the feet of his faithful  
ones,  
but the wicked will perish in  
darkness,  
for not by might does one prevail.  
The Lord! His adversaries will be  
shattered;  
the Most High will thunder in  
heaven.  
The Lord will judge the ends of the  
earth;  
he will give strength to his king  
and exalt the power of his  
anointed.”

# Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.