



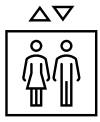
# Practicing Faith

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

9:30 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

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  
9:30 am — August 10, 2025 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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PRELUDE How Firm a Foundation.....Setting by David P. Dahl

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from Martin Luther King, Jr., in "Where Do We Go From Here?"*  
I must confess, my friends, the road ahead will not always be smooth.

**Where do we go from here?**

There will be rocky places of frustration,

**and meandering points of bewilderment.**

There will be inevitable setbacks here and there.

**There will be those moments when the buoyancy of hope  
will be transformed into the fatigue of despair.**

Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead  
with audacious faith in the future.

**Let us remember that there is a creative force in the universe  
working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil;  
a power that is able to make a way out of no way,  
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.**

Come, let us worship our God!

**Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #70 God Is Here! As We Your People Meet  
*Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.*

CONFESSION

**Holy One, we open our hearts to you this day,**

**and offer the truth of our lives:**

**the fear that stifles us,**

**the prejudice that blinds us,**

**the ignorance that hobbles us,**

**the doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places,**

**see the world with new and gracious eyes,**

**move to those places where love is needed,**

**and have faith that you are with us through it all. Amen.**

ASSURANCE

Hear the Good News of the Gospel: We are forgiven! We are set free to be more loving,  
more gracious, and more hopeful. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Love Is of God



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 33:12-22 .....Pew Bible Page 490

Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-13a

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died.

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**

ANTHEM How Firm a Foundation.....Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

SERMON "Faith in the Midst of the Mess" ..... Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

\*HYMN #490 I Want Jesus to Go with Me

COMMUNION

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**Christ is risen! He lives, and presides at this Feast!**

Let us gather to share in the Bread of New Life!

**Jesus is with us! Nothing can separate us from God's love.**

Let us drink together the Cup of Gladness!

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Let us prepare our hearts to come to the table set before us.

**Eternal One, Silence from whom our words come;**

**Questioner from who our questions arise;**

**Mystery in whose depths we find healing and ourselves:**

**enfold us now in your presence;**

**restore to us your peace;**

**renew us through your power;**

**and ground us in your grace.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and earth,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy #793 *The hymn is sung twice in Spanish, and may be sung in harmony.*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## 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.*



\*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 - ial

Al - le - lu - ial 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 - ial Al - le - lu - ial Al - le - lu - ial

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, receive these gifts of our bounty, our abundance, and our excess. May this offering be pleasing in your sight and help to build a more just and loving world. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #473 Blessed Assurance**

*The refrain may be sung in harmony.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE How Firm a Foundation.....Setting by Charles Callahan

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  
Summer Handbell Ensemble

**Worship Assistants**

**Hospitality:** Team 3: Mark Methlie  
**Elder of the Morning:** Chriss Bodde  
**Deacon of the Morning:** Paula White  
**Audio Technician:** Scott Cunningham  
**Chancel Flowers:** Lisa Thim  
**Driver:** Gale Linderman  
**Social Host:** Hogan Family

**Copyright Acknowledgments**

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<i>Image: Jesus' Hands, St. John's stained glass, Linda Noonan, 2025</i>	<i>Love Is of God Text: 1 John 4:7-12 Music: Davis Giersch © 1997 Davis Giersch</i>	<i>Praise God, the Giver and the Gift Text: Brian Wren © 1989 Hope Publishing Company</i>
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## 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)

10-Aug	Sun		<b>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Enlightener Due Date</i>
		<b>9:30 AM</b>	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:00 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		10:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall Elders, Library
11-Aug	Mon	7:15 PM	Council, Library
12-Aug	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
15-Aug	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
16-Aug	Sat	9:30 AM	Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall
17-Aug	Sun		<b>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
		<b>9:30 AM</b>	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:00 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		10:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall

### Acknowledgements



**In Memory of Rev. Sue on what would be her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday**

To the Chancel Flower fund

From her loving family

#### From the Elders' Desk:

#### Wednesday Night Life Update

The Elders and Staff of St. John's, following a thorough review of feedback, have determined to allocate Wednesday nights to 'Church Night' and retire the formal Wednesday Night Live program. We fondly recall two years of meaningful fellowship, programming, and worship and will build upon those foundations in the future. The Adult Choirs, Bells, and other Ensembles will continue in their Wednesday night rehearsals, and we invite you to stay informed about forthcoming opportunities for worship, fellowship, and programming. We express our sincere gratitude to the St. John's Family for their dedication to our multifaceted programs throughout the year.

Peace and Grace,

**St. John's Elders**

Chriss Bodde – Chair, Bill Cagney - Logistics Chair, Anne Kinsey - Secretary,  
Emilie Truscott, Sue Clemens, and Charles Sisian

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Beginning September 14

8:00 am & 10:15 am

We are excited to share that starting this fall, we will be offering two Sunday services: 8 am and 10:15 am. While the services will be similar in format and style of worship, you can expect a quieter, more contemplative atmosphere at 8 am.

We look forward to sharing more worship and programming updates soon. In the meantime, please make note of the schedule transition below. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

- ➡ **Now through August 31:** One service at 9:30 am
- ➡ **Sunday, September 7 (Celebration & Water Sunday):** One service at 10:15 am to welcome everyone back from summer travels!
- ➡ **Every Sunday starting September 14:** 8:00 am and 10:15 am

**The 2026 St. John's Printed Calendar!**  
 Sponsor a month for \$185 and choose that month's image from a wonderful collection of photos taken by the St. John's community.  
**Deadline to sponsor is August 15. Only 2 sponsorship slots remain!**



**Women's Retreat**  
 Saturday, September 13  
 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!**

Are you wearing your **name tag?**  
 Printed name tags are located in the narthex and library on magnetic boards.  
 Don't have one? Write your name on a sign up sheet and it will be ready by next Sunday!



**No more book donations please!**

Lizzy is hard at work sorting our current donations & will let you know when she's done!



## Psalm 33:12-22

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.  
From heaven the Lord looks down  
and sees all mankind;  
from his dwelling place he watches  
all who live on earth—  
he who forms the hearts of all,  
who considers everything they do.

No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.  
A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.  
But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,  
to deliver them from death  
and keep them alive in famine.

We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.  
May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,  
even as we put our hope in you.

## Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-13a

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

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