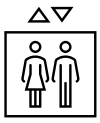
Witness

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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. <u>These will not be read during service.</u> **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**, <u>feel free to write inside before service begins</u>!

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 — October 19, 2025 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE If You But Trust in God to Guide You……Georg Neumark, arr. David Cherwien

If you but trust in God to guide you, with hopeful heart through all your ways,
You will find strength, with God beside you, to bear the worst of evil days.
For those who trust God's changeless love build on the rock that will not move.

What gain is there in futile weeping, in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in God's care and keeping, in sorrow will God love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross will bring you safe through every loss.

Be still, be still, and wait God's pleasure in cheerful hope, with heart content,
Trusting that grace which knows no measure will by unbounded Love be sent;
Nor doubt our inmost wants are clear to One who holds us always near.

Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; Offer your service faithfully,
And trust God's word, though undeserving, there find the truth to set you free;
God will not fail to guide and bless those who embrace God's faithfulness.
-Georg Neumark, tr. composite, alt.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, listen to the story
Of God's love and grace.
Come, tell the story
Of Jesus' life and saving work.
Come, experience the story
Of the Spirit's renewing power.
Come, let us listen, tell and experience the good news together!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN #86 When Morning Gilds the Skies

Stanza 1: All
Stanza 2: Higher Voices
Stanza 3: Lower Voices
Stanza 4: All

CONFESSION (PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

(continued next page)

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

ASSURANCE

Hearken now unto the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the gospel to all that repent and believe: as I live, says our Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of sinners, but that sinners turn from their ways and live. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Wherefore, beloved siblings, those of you who have truly turned to God with heartfelt repentance and sincere faith, may assuredly believe that your sins are forgiven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ……..……..…Pew Bible Page 692

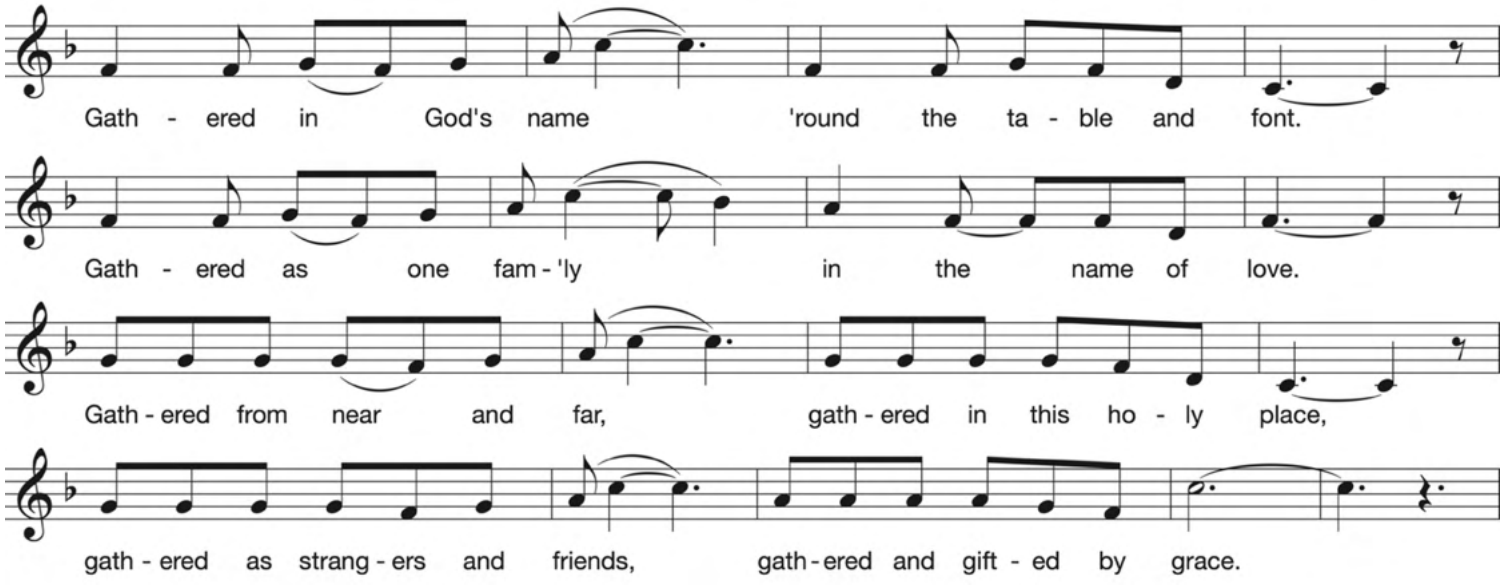
Luke 18:1-8……..……..……..…Pew Bible Page 75

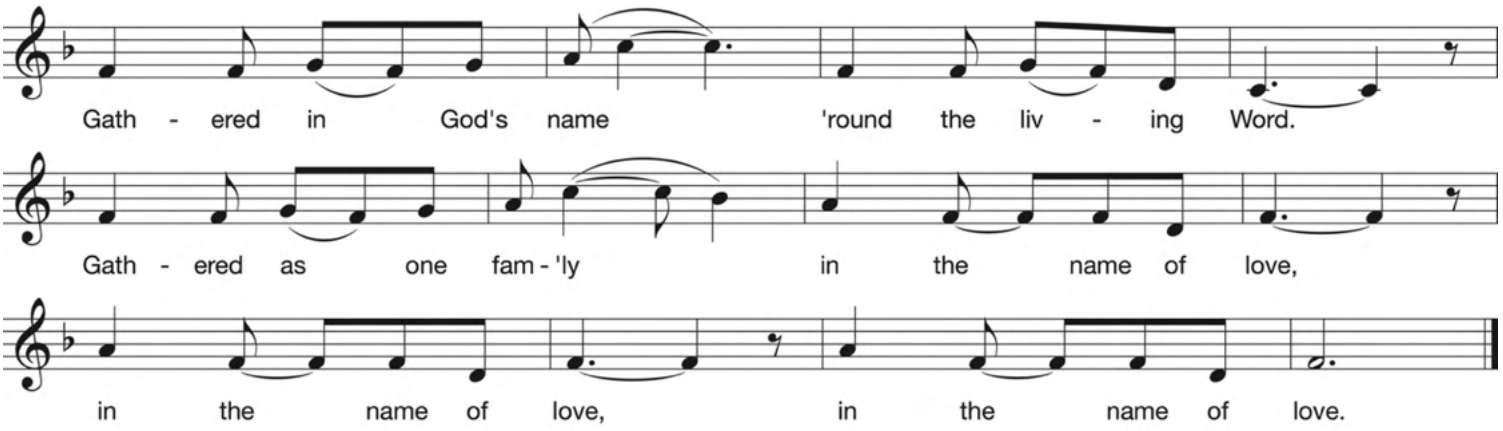
Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

CHILDREN'S SONG Gathered in God's Name





OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN

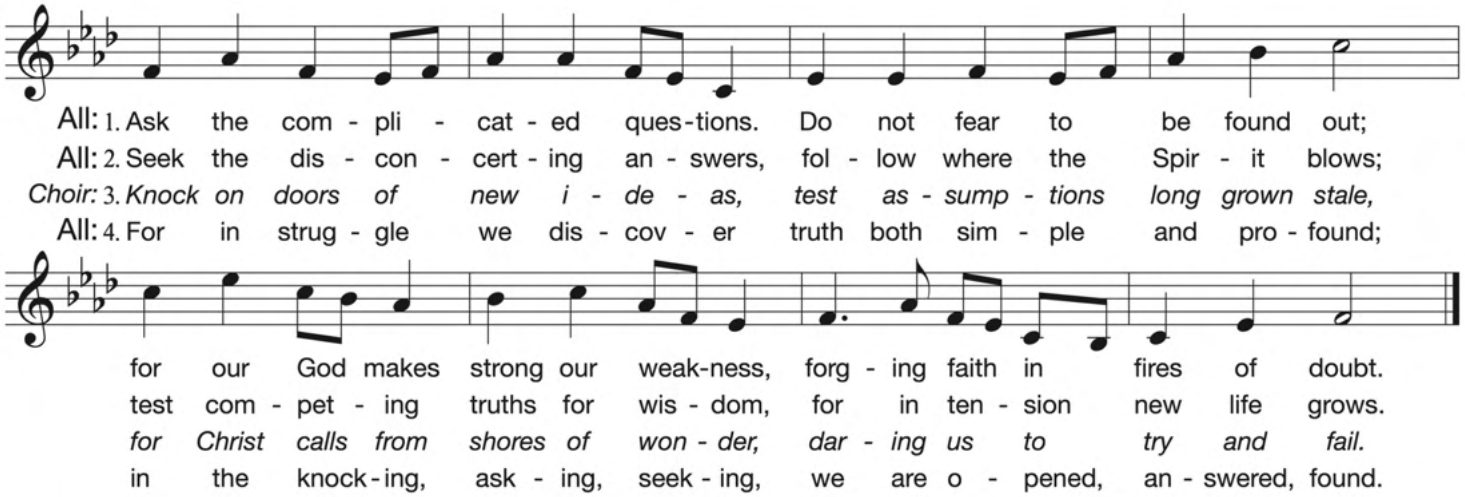
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 above)*

SERMON "The Justice Seekers" ……..Rev. Tom Adil

* HYMN Ask the Complicated Questions



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.

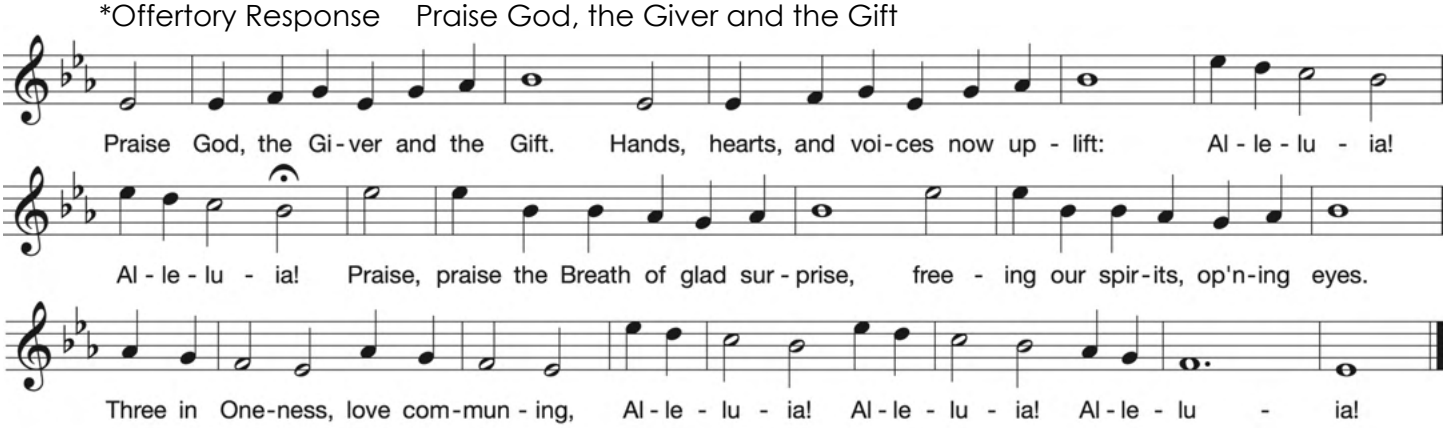
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews.
For online giving, use the QR code.

Offertory He, Watching Over Israel (from Elijah)……..Felix Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish; He will quicken thee.
-Psalm 121:4, 138:7

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Most heartily do we thank you, oh Lord, for all your mercies of every kind, and for your loving care over all your creatures. We bless you for the gift of life, for your protection around us, for your guiding hand under us, and for the many tokens of your love, especially for the saving knowledge of your son, our Redeemer; And for the living presence of your spirit, our comforter. We thank you for friendship and duty, for good hopes and precious

memories, for the joys that cheer us and for the trials that teach us to trust in you. Take from us these gifts and enable us to give ourselves entirely to your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #506 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
The hymn may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE How Firm a Foundation……Setting by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard

Much of today's liturgy is copied from last week's celebration of the 300th anniversary of the first communion of the German Reformed Church in America, celebrated at Faulkner Swamp UCC

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

Andrea Baxter, Director for Worship and Music*
Trinity Lutheran Choir*
Sherry Johnson, Flute*
Kristen Saul, Cello*

**We welcome Trinity Lutheran Choir and their director Andrea Baxter today in worship! The combined ensemble of the St. John's Chancel Choir and Trinity Lutheran Choir led worship earlier this morning at Trinity Lutheran and look forward to leading worship with you today!*

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 1: MacMullen
Elder of the Morning:	Anne Kinsey
Deacon of the Morning:	Judy Leslie
Audio Technician:	Griff Francis
Chancel Flowers:	Lillian & Dan Panachyda
Driver:	Kay Peebles
Social Host:	Congregational Dinner

Copyright Acknowledgments

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If You But Trust in God to Guide You
Text: Georg Neumark
tr. composite, alt.
© 1993 The Pilgrim Press
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Gathered in God's Name
Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt
© 2021 Birnamwood Publications

Praise God, the Giver and the Gift
Text: Brian Wren
© 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

Weekly Current Income Needed:	$7,884.62
Weekly OCWM Needed:	$826.92
The Week of October 5, 2025	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	30
Attendance: 10:15 AM	103
Offering For Current:	$8,697.00
Offering For OCWM:	$1,021.00
The Week of October 12, 2025	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	34
Attendance: 10:15 AM	92
Offering For Current:	$3,235.00
Offering For OCWM:	$265.00

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

Oct 19	Sun	**Congregational Dinner**	
		8:00 AM	Morning Worship
		9:00 AM	Living Our Faith Together
		10:15 AM	Morning Worship
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		12:00 PM	**Congregational Dinner**
Oct 20	Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside 12 Step CA
Oct 21	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
Oct 22	Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal
		7:30 PM	Artist Series Chorus Rehearsal
		8:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Oct 23	Thurs	9:30 AM	Enlightener Folding
		6:30 PM	**Trunk or Treat**
Oct 24	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Oct 25	Sat	9:30 AM	Art of Living Foundation
Oct 26	Sun	**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Open & Affirming Anniversary**	
		8:00 AM	Morning Worship
		9:00 AM	Living Our Faith Together
		10:15 AM	Morning Worship
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall

THE Artist Series AT ST. JOHN'S

presents

Philadelphia Brass

Sunday, November 2
4:00 PM

American Guild of Organists

Tuesday Noon Organ Recitals

Every Tuesday in November
12 pm

Light luncheon to follow in the library

All concerts are free to attend

Living Our Faith Together

Care For the Caregiver

Taught by Rev. Tom Adil

Sundays at 9 AM Activity Room

From the
Service Outreach & Witness Team:

Join St. John's UCC to

Feed Hope In Gaza

World Central Kitchen

The church will match the first $1,000 contributed. AND a generous donor will match the next $5000!

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.

Community Game Night

Trunk or Treat

Thursday, Oct 23 at 6:30 pm

Come in costume, bring some games to share, and enjoy a fun night of gaming with your family and ours. Beverages will be provided. Bring a snack to share. **There will be Halloween goodies at themed "Trunk or Treat" tables for ghouls and goblins of all ages!**

A Little Time – A BIG Difference

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers for our

Prayer Chain - Pray for those who need it and contact the next person in the chain.

Helping Hands – State what you are comfortable helping with (cooking, driving throughout the week, and anything else!) and if the need arises, be put in contact with the request. Helping Hands is physical, as needed, and for all our St. John's members!

Liturgists - Read the Scripture, Joys, Concerns, Announcements, and give the Prayer for the People during the 10:15 worship service.

Office Helpers – Shred every bulletin we print for donations to local pet stores (as bedding) and gardeners (for compost!)

If you are interested in volunteering at St. John's, please contact the Church Office

More volunteer opportunities on back.

Congregational Spaghetti Dinner

TODAY 12:00 pm

Lansdale-Hatfield

national giving alliance

Donations Needed

The Lansdale-Hatfield branch of the National Giving Alliance (NGA) is having their annual Ingathering on October 27. We give to 9 local agencies. **For donation items, please see the list on the community bulletin board.** Contributions may be given to Sally Atkiss, Suzanne Franks, or dropped off at the church office.

Andrew at A Longwood Christmas!

December 14 – bus leaves at 2 pm!

Join us on a bus trip to Longwood Gardens on Sunday, December 14 as Andrew performs classic carols, favorites from The Nutcracker, and other holiday hits on the Longwood organ! The bus leaves St. John's at 2pm and will return at approximately 9:15pm. If interested, please contact Debby Hendricks at dchendricks111@gmail.com 267-664-5490. Additional information can also be found on the community bulletin board and in the office.

Welcome to the LOFT:
Living **O**ur **F**aith **T**ogether

Sundays at 9 AM Activity Room

Oct – Nov 2

Care for the Caregivers

This four week segment offers support for anyone who is currently or has recently been in the role of caring for a loved one, family member, or friend.

Nov 9 - 16

Living Our Faith Together in a Broken World

How do we name and notice the despair, fatigue, or overwhelm we may be feeling while leaning on spiritual practices that can sustain us in a painful time?

Nov 23 – Dec 7

Engaging Advent Across Generations

This three-week segment includes scripture, reflection, and participatory experiences for people of all ages. Projects such as make-your-own Advent Wreath will weave together ancient traditions and invite us to try on spiritual practices that deepen our experience of Emmanuel – God-with-us.

Dec 14 - 21

Re-Membering Christmas

This is a set-apart time to reflect on our own experiences of the Christmas season – whether that includes loss, joy, grief, isolation, connection, or more. We'll consider questions such as, "How do we resist the cultural pressures to consume and over-function?" There will be space to share stories, memories, photographs, meaningful objects, and more.

A Little Time – A BIG Difference

Volunteers Needed!

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Driver Ministry – Help people to and from church who cannot drive themselves on your assigned Sunday.

Greeters/Umbrella Ministry – Greet folks at the doors on Sunday mornings and direct them to the Sanctuary. On rainy days, hold umbrellas over the heads of those who do not have them.

Hospitality Teams – Hand out bulletins and large print hymns in the Sanctuary on Sunday Mornings, know key locations in the church, and answer questions from visitors.

Chancel Flowers – Sign up for a Sunday and take our fresh flowers to whomever you wish to. Vases are provided, as are ribbons and a card.

Social Hosts – Provide food at Fellowship after the 10:15 service with the help of the Deacon of the Morning. Offer your own choice of food while the church provides drinks.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Creation Stewards – Help water and upkeep the gardens around St. John's

Visitation - Offer emotional support to our Home Congregation (previously called Homebound) by visiting them 4 times a year. Team members also bring Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias, as well as Prayer Shawls along with them to give to those folks.

Praying Hands Stitchers - Knit and crochet for good causes, provide prayer shawls, love squares for newborns, and other needle crafts! Stitchers meet in the library on the First Sunday of the Month at 9:00 am.

Office Helpers – Help shred every bulletin we print for donations to local pet stores (as bedding) and gardeners (for compost!)

If you are interested in volunteering at St. John's, please contact the Church Office
office@st-johns-ucc.org (215) 855-5489

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"The days are coming," declares the Lord,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,"
declares the Lord.
"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time," declares the Lord.
"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the Lord.
"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”