



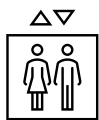
From Generation to Generation

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

10:15 am

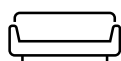
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 — November 30, 2025 — First Sunday of Advent

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

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *with* Of the Father's Love Begotten.....Arr. Susan E. Geschke

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSION OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND HYMN #116 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanza 1 and the refrain are sung. Please face the wreath during the procession.

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"—it sounds like it's time to start celebrating!

Some of us are ready to shout with joy.

But some of us are not ready to celebrate.

Not celebrate? Is your burden too much to bear?

Our loneliness intensifies during the Christmas season.

Our struggles are very real.

Our tears seem to have no end.

Then you should lead the celebration!

We should run through the streets to ring the bells!

We should sing the loudest of all!

You should fling the tinsel on the tree, open the house to your neighbors,
and call them in to dance!

For we, as well as anyone, know the hope of Advent.

THE FIRST CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH IS LIT.

It is unto you that one will be born—

One who comes to lift the burdens from our shoulders.

One who comes to wipe the tears from your eyes.

We are not alone,

for soon Christ will be born, once again, into the world.

This is God's promise. This is the source of our hope. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*If you prefer a "no-contact" greeting, you are invited to place your hand over your heart
as you acknowledge your neighbor.*

*HYMN #112 Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that sometimes we lose sight of hope in the face of trials. Gloom often encapsulates us when life is confusing and conflict is great. Our faith is rattled, and we are swallowed by shadows of fear. The world often feels like the end is near even when a new beginning is around the corner. We forget that even when shadows have lengthened, there remains a crack in the surface. Light streams into our space, and warmth dances upon our hearts. When fear unnerves us, may we feel your loving embrace. Amen.

ASSURANCE

Take comfort, friends, that God's grace is sufficient and God's love is unconditional, even in the midst of doubt or despair. This is God's promise. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Welcoming Prime Castro

Sponsor: Sue Clemens

Has your journey brought you to the place where you wish to affirm your baptism and join this Christian community of faith and life?

Will you continue, with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, to follow the way of Jesus Christ by loving and serving the world, even when it might mean being unpopular for seeking justice, peace and harmony?

Will you make every effort to grow in your faith, to find ways to unite with others who are on this journey, and to celebrate the presence of the Spirit in all of life, wherever you live and serve?

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Will you partner with them in our common effort to serve God and neighbor in all that we do?

We will with the help of God.

Will you nurture and celebrate his unique gifts, honoring the diversity of God's people and our unity in Christ's embrace?

We will with the help of God.

WELCOME

Prime, with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a full member of this community of faith. We promise you our friendship, prayers, and support, as together we strive in our faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 1:1-17.....Pew Bible Page 1

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their

swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

CHILDREN'S SONG He Came Down

Today's Children's Song, He Came Down, is a carol that comes from Cameroon.

The choir will sing once through, and you are invited to join in the second time.

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

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 He Came Down (*music above*)

SERMON "We Are Not Our Own"..... Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #564 We Are Not Our Own
The soloist sings stanza 1, all sing stanzas 2-6.

COMMUNION

Insistent Spirit of waiting and wandering, we lit the candle of hope today, because even while the long night continues, we refuse to let the shadows have the final word.

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

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

Christ is risen! He lives and presides at this feast.

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 #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God; Stanza 5

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews.

For online giving, use the QR code.



*Offertory Creator of the Stars of Night...Traditional Latin Hymn, arr. Michael Burkhardt

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,

O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, You came; but not in splendor bright,

Not as a monarch, but the child Of Mary, blessed mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:

All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;

Defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,

Praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

-Traditional Latin Hymn, tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.

*Offertory Response #104 We Hail You God's Anointed; Stanza 3

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a symbol of our gratitude and our commitment to your work in this place. Bless and multiply them to bring hope to those who suffer and comfort to those in need. Amen

*HYMN Wait for the Lord

The hymn is repeated and may be sung in harmony.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Finale on "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"Wayne L. Wold

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

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team 3: Methlie **Chancel Flowers:** Sarah Hogan
Elder: Sue Clemens **Driver:** Gale Linderman
Deacon: Judy Leslie **Social Host:**
Audio Technician: Matt Rivett

A note on "Israel" language in worship: In our music and scriptures, "Israel" and "Israelites" refer to ancient Israel and its people, not the modern political state. At various times in history, it meant the collective name of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob, the Hebrew people, "the people of Israel," the nation of Israel as a whole, or the Northern Kingdom. We want to be faithful hearers and interpreters of scripture, and pray fervently for the day when Palestinians and Israelis may live in mutual peace, security, and dignity.

Copyright Acknowledgments

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Hope, Sliman Mansour

He Came Down
Text and Music: Trad. Cameroon,
arr. John Bell
© 1986 Iona Community, GIA

Creator of the Stars of Night
Text: Traditional Latin Hymn, tr.
Hymnal 1940, alt.
© 1940 Church Pension Fund,
Church Publishing Inc.

Wait for the Lord
Text: Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier
© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA

Acknowledgements:



In memory of Marie Boulton to the Exterior Restoration Fund from Mary Lou Lutter

🌸 In honor of Raelyn McAfee's birthday on December 2nd from her mother, Bonnie, and Pop Pop Jack McAfee

🌸 In memory of loved ones and her husband, Fred, from Thelma Brunner

🌸 In memory of Earl Bruce Kirk's passing from his daughter, Barbara Kirk

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 30	Sun	First Sunday of Advent New Member Sunday	
		8:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		9:00 AM	LOFT: Intergenerational Advent, Activity Room
		10:15 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
		12:00 PM	Palestine Presentation
Dec 1	Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room
Dec 2	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
Dec 3	Wed	Wednesday Evening Worship	
		5:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal
		6:00 PM	Community Meal
		7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
		7:30 PM	Artist Series Chorus Rehearsal
		8:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Dec 5	Fri	2:00 PM	Christmas Tea Set-Up
Dec 6	Sat	10:00 AM	Women's Christmas Tea
Dec 7	Sun	Second Sunday of Advent Love Gift Sunday	
		8:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		9:00 AM	Praying Hands Stitchers, Library
			LOFT: Intergenerational Advent, Activity Room
		10:15 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
			Christmas Cookie Sale
		4:00 PM	Artist Series Presents: Christmas Festival

Weekly Current Income Need: \$7,884.62		Weekly OCWM Needed: \$826.92	
The Week of November 16, 2025		The Week of November 23, 2025	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	32	Attendance: 8:00 AM	34
Attendance: 10:15 AM	86	Attendance: 10:15 AM	110
Offering For Current:	\$6,673.25	Offering For Current:	\$5,714.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$489.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$292.00

St. John's Advent Devotional!

Available in the Library

This year, St. John's will provide an Advent Devotional that follows the sermon theme! Special thanks to Judy Koenig, Connie May, and Betty Elliot for helping put the devotionals together.

St. John's 17th Annual Women's Christmas Tea



Saturday, December 6
10 am to noon

Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 3, to Sally Jarinko text 215-421-6678, call 215-256-8289 or email sjarinko@comcast.net

(Space is limited!)

Living Our Faith Together Intergenerational Advent

Sundays at 9 AM Activity Room

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan Presentation on Palestine TODAY | 12pm

Join us in the library as Rev. Linda gives a presentation on her most recent visit to Palestine.

✓ Sunday, Dec 7 2026 Budget Vote

During Worship at 8:00 & 10:15 AM
We appreciate your participation!

URBAN PROMISE

Camden, NJ

Always Popular

Bikes 📦 Scooters
Walmart/Amazon Gift Cards

Ages 5-10

Lego Sets 📦
Squishmallows
Slime 📦 Science Kits
Play-Doh 📦
Pokemon Cards

Ages 11-16

Headphones 📦
Wireless Speakers
Hoodies 📦
LED Strip Lights
Anime 📦
Polaroid Cameras

LANSDALE CODE BLUE WOMEN'S SHELTER

Lansdale, PA.

Toiletries

Travel size to smaller bottles of Shampoo/Conditioner, Lotion, Deodorant, ANY size and type FEMININE Products

NEW Clothes

Large to XL Sweatpants / Sweatshirts
Medium to XL Underwear
Larger-sized Sports Bras
Medium to XL Thermal Underwear
Hats

Other

Backpacks
Gift Cards to Sudz & Starbucks



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Matthew 1:1-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Announcements:

This Sunday (November 30):

- Happy First of Advent!
- Advent Devotionals are available in the library
 - o Pocket Sized & Large Print available
 - o Special thanks to our volunteers for making it possible
- LOFT: Intergenerational Advent
- Poinsettia Donation Form in your bulletins.
 - o **Donations must be made by Wednesday, December 17**
- Presentation on Palestine

This Week:

- Wednesday Night Advent Worship
 - o Community Meal at 6:00 PM
 - o Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM
- Women's Christmas Tea (Saturday Dec 6)
 - o RSVP waitlist

Next Sunday (December 7):

- LOFT: Intergenerational Advent
- 2026 Budget Vote at the beginning of both services
- LOVE GIFT during both services
- Christmas cookie and bake sale
 - o Asking for volunteers to bake cookies at home and bring them to the church library by this Friday to be packaged and sold by the pound.
 - o Sign up sheets in the elevator lobby & narthex
 - o Cookies sold during fellowship
- For Everyone Born: Artist Series Christmas Festival
 - o 4 pm in the Sanctuary
- Articles for the Enlightener due