



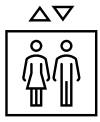
# From Generation to Generation

First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 28, 2025

10:15 am

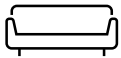
# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



**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 — December 28, 2025 — First Sunday after Christmas Day

*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      Away in a Manger.....Arr. Vincent Ryan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays, on good days and bad days,  
**Early in the morning and very late at night,**  
Here in this room, and out in the world,  
**God, we long for you to break in. Meet us in this space.**  
Surprise us with your presence.  
**Fill this room with your good news.**  
**With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. 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    #126 Angels from the Realms for Glory

CONFESSION

**We long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, You are always there. Amen.**

ASSURANCE

Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season: Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lamentations 3:55-57.....Pew Bible Page 723

I called on your name, O Lord,  
from the depths of the pit;  
you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear  
to my cry for help, but give me relief!"  
You came near when I called on you;  
you said, "Do not fear!"

Matthew 2:13-20

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

CHILDREN'S SONG #136 Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

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 #136 Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

SERMON "Making Hope"..... Rev. Tom Adil

\*HYMN Coventry Carol

The refrain is sung first, followed by the stanzas. After the final stanza, the refrain is sung again.

*Refrain*

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit-tle ti - ny child, By by, lul - ly, lul - lay.

1. O sis - ters too, How may we do For to pre - serve this day  
 2. He - rod, the king, In his rag - ing, Char-ged he hath this day  
 3. That woe is me, Poor child for thee! And ev - er morn and day,

This poor young - ling, For whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - lay?  
 His men of might, In his own sight, All young child - ren to slay.  
 For thy part - ing Nei-ther say nor sing By by, lul - ly lul - lay!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE #131 It Came upon the Midnight Clear; Stanza 3

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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



Offertory Silent Night, Holy Night.....Arr. Chris Rice

\*Offertory Response #128 In the Bleak Midwinter; Stanza 4

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We offer our gifts so that we may grow closer to the One who pitched his tent in a poverty-stricken land in order to be closer to us. May we, like Him, see those who receive these gifts as Christ among us. Amen.**

\*HYMN #154 Go Tell It on the Mountain

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Joy to the World.....Arr. Wilbur Held

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. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor  
Amy Faga

Ihna Cho, Guest Organist  
Shelly Longcoy

**Worship Assistants**

**Hospitality:** Team 3: Methlie  
**Elder:** Emilie Truscott  
**Deacon:** Rickie Lee Sands  
**Audio Technician:** Robin MacMullen

**Chancel Flowers:** Sue & Bill Morris  
**Driver:** Scott Vanderburg  
**Social Host:** Rickie & Sue Sands

**Copyright Acknowledgments**

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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.

## 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)

|        |          |                                       |                                       |
|--------|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dec 28 | Sun      | <b>First Sunday After Christmas</b>   |                                       |
|        |          | <b>8:00 AM</b>                        | Sunday Morning Worship                |
|        |          | <b>10:15 AM</b>                       | Sunday Morning Worship                |
|        |          | 11:30 AM                              | Fellowship, Assembly Hall             |
| Dec 29 | Mon      | 7:00 PM                               | Fireside CA 12 Step, Activity Room    |
| Dec 30 | Tues     | 7:00 PM                               | AA, Assembly Hall                     |
| Jan 1  | Thurs    | <b>New Year's Day – Office Closed</b> |                                       |
| Jan 2  | Fri      | 6:00 PM                               | North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall  |
| Jan 4  | Sun      | <b>Epiphany Sunday</b>                |                                       |
|        |          | <b>8:00 AM</b>                        | Sunday Morning Worship                |
|        |          | 9:00 AM                               | Praying Hands Stitchers, Library      |
|        |          |                                       | LOFT: Roots & Branches, Activity Room |
|        |          | <b>10:15 AM</b>                       | Sunday Morning Worship                |
|        | 11:30 AM | Fellowship, Assembly Hall             |                                       |

## Praying Hands Stitchers

January 4 at 9:00 AM



A group of dedicated people who enjoy knitting and crocheting for good causes! We make prayer shawls, love squares, and more! Yarn, needles, hooks, and instruction are provided.

**All are welcome!**

## Unhanging of the Greens

January 10 at 9:30 AM

Come help pull down and pack away the Greens and other Advent decor around the church!

**All are welcome!**



### 2025 Donation Deadline

**BEFORE Monday, December 29th**

**All donations designated for 2025 must be received by the church office BEFORE Monday, December 29th.** Donations after that date will be credited to your 2026 account. Your contributions may be delivered in person via offering plate, mailed to the church, or placed in the drop box located on the office door. Contributions through EasyTithe can be made through December 31st.

### New Member Sunday

January 18

Interested in making St. John's your spiritual home? Contact Rev. Linda  
pastorlinda@st-johns-ucc.org

### 2026 Offering Envelopes

available in the Narthex

If you would like an envelope number and do not have one, please contact the office.



### Last Call For 2025 Babies

We will be announcing all babies born in 2025 on January 4. If you would like one included, please contact the office by **Tuesday, December 30.**



### Congregational Dinner

Sunday, January 25

After worship, we will celebrate heritage with a special pork and sauerkraut (or vegetarian lasagna) dinner! **Please bring PA Dutch style side dishes and desserts!**

## Come to the LOFT and Explore St. John's Roots & Branches!

**EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00 AM IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM**

In January and February, the LOFT (Living Our Faith Together - which is our adult faith formation space - our Adult "Sunday School") will focus on some of the history of St. John's UCC (roots) and the ways in which the vision of our forebears is being lived out in our time (branches). Come and share your own stories, learn about those who have gone before us, and imagine together how God might still be speaking at St. John's.

**JANUARY 4** What Is the United Church of Christ: Why Does It Matter to Us?

**JANUARY 11** Celebrating Pastor Tom: His Ministry, His Gifts, and His Service (Ask Pastor Tom Anything!)

## **Lamentations 3:55-57**

I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit;  
you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear  
to my cry for help, but give me relief!"  
You came near when I called on you;  
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Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

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When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

# Announcements:

## **This Sunday (December 28):**

- No LOFT or Connect3
- 2026 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex
- Last Call for 2025 Babies
  - o Send names in to the office by This Tuesday

## **This Week:**

- Office Closed on New Years Day

## **Next Sunday (January 4):**

- Praying Hands Stitchers at **9 AM in the Library**
- LOFT: Roots & Branches series **9 AM in the Activity Room**

## **Coming Up:**

- Unhanging of the Greens **Saturday, January 10**
- Pastor Tom's Last Sunday (**January 11**) ☹️
- New Member Sunday **January 18**
  - o If you are interested in making this your spiritual home, please speak to Rev. Linda
- Anniversary Sunday **January 25**
- Congregational PA Dutch Dinner **Sunday, January 25**  
**after service**
  - o Pork & Sauerkraut and Vegetarian Lasagna
  - o Please bring PA Dutch style side dishes and desserts!
-