

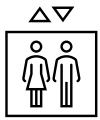


Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025  
St. John's United Church of Christ

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



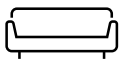
Throughout the worship service, you will be asked to **Speak** when text is bolded. The pastor will also prompt you to **Stand in Body or Spirit** whenever we sing and at other times. **Music** for Christmas Carols, along with other music related information, is found in the Christmas Carol Booklet. **Pew Bibles** are on a shelf beneath the pew in front of you to follow along with scripture lessons.



**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, is staffed, 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.



**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

### PRELUDE

*Prelude, Offertory, Postlude, and Musician Information are found in the Christmas Carol Booklet.*

### WELCOME

\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #1 Joy to the World

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Today, just a bit more light was shining than yesterday.

**Tonight, we welcome the light  
even as we find comfort and beauty in the dark.**

We open ourselves to possibilities of presence,  
companionship, fullness and new starts.

**Tonight, like babies, we let our guard down.**

Tonight, like children, we drop grudges,  
embrace each other, and love the world.

**Tonight, like wise ones, we let go of hoarding and reclaim generosity.**

Tonight, like courageous travelers, we seek a better world.

**Move among us, Holy Spirit, in our dark and light places.**

Help us, O God, to proclaim your unexpected appearance  
in the stables of the world, the devastated lands,  
and the struggles of each person to take the next step.

**Open our eyes to your subtle beauty, your rooted presence,  
and your child-like power. Amen.**

### OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN (5:00)

### FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Read by Gerry Linderman (5:00) and Marge Jewell (9:00)*

\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #2 O Come, All Ye Faithful

### SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-7

*Read by Sarah Hogan (5:00) and Deborah Dayton (9:00)*

### CHRISTMAS PRAYERS AND CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THOSE AT A DISTANCE

We gather together on this special night surrounded by others.

**Like Mary and Joseph, some of us are far away from those we love.**

\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #3 Away in a Manger

### THIRD LESSON Luke 2:8-14

*Read by Carolyn Rivett (5:00) and Peter Conner (9:00)*

### CHRISTMAS PRAYERS AND CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THOSE BRINGING FORTH LIFE

Now the time had come, and Mary gave birth to her first-born child.

**Like Mary and Joseph, some of us are far away from those we love.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.**

\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #4 Angels We Have Heard on High

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:15-20

*Read by Jess Carson (5:00) and Milla Heidt (9:00)*

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS AND CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER

And Mary sang out: "My spirit rejoices in God who has visited this lowly servant."

**God brings down the powerful from their thrones, and lifts up the lowly.  
God fills the hungry with good things, and sends the rich away empty.**

\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #5 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Offering plates are passed to the congregation in the pews.  
For online giving, please use the QR code.*



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of justice and joy, receive and multiply these gifts that we may boldly and tenderly build your Beloved Community here in this place. Amen.**

COMMUNION

On this most wondrous of nights, we gather at the table of grace to recall God's vision of peace for all people and for our shared world.

**We remember Jesus, the child born into a time of violence,  
amid fear and uncertainty.**

We remember the fragility of that revelation, as well as the hope he stirred, the tables he turned, and the imagination he inspired.

**We remember the One who blazed a path of extravagant generosity  
and extraordinary, self-giving love.**

We remember Jesus' offer of himself for others: temple-shaker, world-maker, rule-breaker, risk-taker, the author and finisher of our faith.

**In the midst of our own fears and division, we dare to gather,  
to break bread at a common table,  
and to raise our voices as one in lament, hope, wonder, and praise.**

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 Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## COMMUNION *(continued)*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Communion is optional and this table is open to all regardless of belief, affiliation, questions, doubts, or faith. There is bread and a gluten-free option (wafer) and the cup contains grape juice.*

*5 pm: Please come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive the bread, and dip it into the cup.*

*9 pm: Please receive the bread and the cup from the trays passed through the pews and wait to partake together.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## \*CHRISTMAS CAROL AND CANDLE LIGHTING #6 Silent Night

*Please tip your unlit candle towards your neighbor to receive the light. Once your candle is lit, keep it in the vertical position. Extinguish your candles when the pastors extinguish theirs.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

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.

# POINSETTIAS



*In honor of*  
**Lorene Ahrens**  
*from her loving family*

*In loving memory of mother & father*  
**Margaret & Marvin Ahlum**  
*from daughter, Nancy Morris*

*In loving memory of*  
**Warren & Lorraine Badger**  
*from daughter, Susan and John Hendricks*

*In loving memory of*  
**Grace & Pete Ehly**  
*from Dean Meacham, their daughter*

*In loving memory of*  
**June Hendricks**  
*from nephew, John and Susan Hendricks*

*In loving memory of*  
**Anna & Daniel Henninger**  
*from Lyn & Don Huntsinger*

*In loving memory of*  
**Maureen Hogan**  
*from family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Blanche & Archie Huntsinger**  
*from Lyn & Don Huntsinger*

*In loving memory of*  
**Loved Ones**  
*from the Keim/Baker Family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Loved Ones**  
*from Judy Koenig & Family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Debbie Krail**  
*from Kay Peebles*

*In loving memory of*  
**Bob Krause**  
*from family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Judy Lederach**  
*from the Lederach Family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Charles R. May**  
*from Connie May*

*In loving memory of daughter,*  
**Connie Morris-Welby**  
*from mother, Nancy Morris*

*In loving memory of*  
**Loved Ones**  
*from James, Frances, & Siobhan Morris*

*In loving memory of*  
**Catherine & Albert Munzinger**  
*from Kay Fiala*

*In loving memory of*  
**Our Parents**  
*from Judy & Chuck Neidhardt*

*In loving memory of*  
**Jane & Weelington (Junie) Nyce**  
*from Suzanne & Don Franks & family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Lynn Richardson**  
*from Jean & Tom Beggs*

*In loving memory of*  
**Earl, Emma, Alma & Bertha Swartley**  
*from Susan & John Hendricks*

*In loving memory of*  
**Thomas (Tim) Timko**  
*from his wife, Vada, and son, Tim, & Family*

*In loving memory of*  
**Tobi Timko**  
*from mother, Vada, and brother, Tim, & Family*

## 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 24	Wed	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
		<b>5:00 PM</b>	Afternoon Service
		<b>9:00 PM</b>	Evening Service
Dec 25	Thurs	Christmas Day – Office Closed	
Dec 26	Fri	Day After Christmas – Office Closed	
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	New Year's Day – Office Closed	
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

### Prayer Shawls are available in the library.



Our Praying Hands Stitchers create prayer shawls that are available in the library. Each shawl comes with a small charm and a letter. Please take one for yourself and/or anyone you believe would appreciate one.

*"Wrap it around you whenever you're sad, happy, needing comfort, cold, worried, at peace, needing answers, meditating, and ministering."*

## YOU'RE WELCOME HERE YEAR ROUND!

**Grab a 2026 calendar from the library and join us again!**

Thank you for joining us for Christmas Eve! 2026 St. John's Calendars are available for free in the library.



St. John's UCC invites you to

# Sunday Morning Worship

**8:00 AM**

A quieter, contemplative worship opportunity for early risers.

**10:15 AM**

Our traditional service incorporating more music and a children's message.

## Praying Hands Stitchers

Every first Sunday 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!**

## New Member Sunday

January 18

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

## Celebrating 10 Years Open & Affirming!

St. John's is proud to be celebrating our tenth year of being an open and affirming congregation! We have made a public covenant of welcome into our full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.



## Celebrating 150 Years

In 2026, St. John's UCC turns 150 years old! We were founded in 1876, only four years after Lansdale! We're celebrating from January to May!

### Anniversary Worship & PA Dutch Dinner

Sunday, January 25

### Birthday Bash & Block Party

Saturday, May 30

### 150 Years of Music Service

Sunday, May 31

## Christmas Offering

The St. John's Christmas Offering supports four causes. **The UCC Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)** supports retired and under-resourced clergy. **Manna on Main Street** gives food support to Lansdale and North Penn neighbors. **GEM Fund (Going the Extra Mile)** gives grants to partners and community projects. **HIRN (Hebron International Resource Network)** for those in urgent need in West Bank, Palestine. You may designate your gift to any of the above. Otherwise, it will be evenly split.



## **FIRST LESSON    ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7 –**

*Read by Gerry Linderman (5pm) and Marge Jewell (9pm)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## **SECOND LESSON    LUKE 2:1-7 –**

*Read by Sarah Hogan (5pm) and Deborah Dayton (9pm)*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

### **THIRD LESSON    LUKE 2:8-14 –**

*Read by Carolyn Rivett (5pm) and Peter Conner (9pm)*

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

## **FOURTH LESSON    LUKE 2:15-20 –**

*Read by Jess Carson (5pm) and Milla Heidt (9pm)*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.