

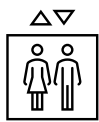
Roots and Branches

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

10:15 am

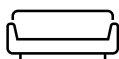
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 — January 4, 2026 — Epiphany Sunday

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

PRELUDE Organ Partita on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light": Theme.....John A. Benke

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Like the magi, we come today as those whose journeys cross many territories.

Come to us, this morning, O God, as One who includes everything in your care.

Come to us as One who crosses boundaries to make the world whole.

Help us cross the threshold of worship into a journey of deepening ourselves and our community.

In this season of Epiphany we celebrate the countless ways the Creator is revealed throughout the universe.

Praise be to the One whose glory reaches from a manger in Bethlehem, to Main Street in Lansdale, and to galaxies at the edge of time.

We pause and remember that each of us is connected to an extraordinary diversity of light and life.

Praise be to the One who places a spark of starlight and a ray of hope in each of us.

We are connected to the aid worker serving hot soup in Gaza.

We are touched by the tender sensitivities of the dolphins far out in the ocean,
the Indian restaurant owner and her family,
and the volcanic eruption off the coast of Iceland.

We are a part of the same universe as the oddly shaped moons of Jupiter.

We share the world with the retired plumber in Hatfield,
the young man trying to get clean,
and the endangered rhino in Indonesia.

The Creator connects us to all that is,

and we rejoice in that light. 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 Gather Us In



1. Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - try,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that sometimes we seek recognition, power, and prestige. Even though we are a people of faith, we often get seduced by the allure of approval and popularity. Instead of focusing on a deeper search for Jesus in our lives, we search for things that, in the end, do not satisfy. God of wonder, guide us toward the Christ who brings serenity, satisfaction, and joy. Bring us closer to the true meaning of our life's true purpose; one in which we, like the Wise Ones, share the real treasures, the treasures that matter, with our loved ones, strangers, and friends. Give us the courage to trust your guiding light on life's journey. Amen.

ASSURANCE

In the same way God guided the Magi, God desires to guide us into new life and abundant joy. When we confess our sins, God's forgiveness abounds and we are given the freedom to live without worry or fear. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6.....Pew Bible Page 651
Matthew 2:1-12Pew Bible Page 1

CHILDREN'S SONG This Little Light of Mine

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine; this lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine; this lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN AND CRADLE ROLL (CELEBRATING CHILDREN BORN IN 2025)

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 This Little Light of Mine (music above)

SERMON "Unexpected Gifts"Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #177 God of Change and Glory

COMMUNION

Holy are you, Eternal One.

You set light into being, casting the stars in the sky,
founding the evolving earth, and all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom.

You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.

You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace, and the promise of justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus, who reached into unexpected places.

You call us to discipleship and equip us to nurture love.

We come to this table to remember you and offer ourselves to your service.

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: #793 Holy, Holy, Holy

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 O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.



How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?

INVITATION TO RECEIVE A STAR WORD AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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

For online giving, use the QR code.



Offertory

Organ Partita on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light": Cantabile.....John A. Benke

*Offertory Response #159 As with Gladness Those of Old; Stanza 3

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of Light, receive these gifts offered in love. Inspired by the magi, help us to bring to you all that we have and all that we are. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. Amen.

***HYMN** #164 Arise Your Light Has Come
Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Organ Partita on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light": Fantasia...John A. Benke

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
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 4: Bruen	Chancel Flowers:	Sue & Bill Morris
Elder:	Bill Cagney	Driver:	Gale Linderman
Deacon:	Peter Conver	Social Host:	Jen & Chuck Favata
Audio Technician:	Scott Cunningham	Umbrella Ministry:	Judy Johnston

Copyright Acknowledgments

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Image: NASA image of night sky - <https://science.nasa.gov/missions/hubble/hubble-spies-sparkling-spray-of-stars-in-nac-2660/>

Gather Us In: Text and Music by Marty Haugen, © 1982 GIA Publications

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come: Text by Fred Pratt Green, © Hope Publishing Company

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

Jan 4	Sun	Epiphany Sunday	
		8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Praying Hands Stitchers, Library LOFT: Roots & Branches, Activity Room Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Jan 5	Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room
Jan 6	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
Jan 7	Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal
		7:30 PM	Artist Series Chorus Rehearsal
		8:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Jan 8	Thurs	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Activity Room
Jan 9	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Jan 10	Sat	9:30 AM	Unhanging of the Greens
			Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall
Jan 11	Sun	First Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Tom's Last Sunday	
		8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary LOFT: Roots & Branches - Ask Pastor Tom Anything, Activity Room Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall

Acknowledgements:

In memory of Marie L. Boulton to the GEM fund from The Hand Foundation, Inc

In memory of Debbie Krail from

Carol Colonnello

Bob & Jane Keim

Judith Rockelmann

Jason & Kyra Marks

Kay Fiala

James Lederach

In memory of Rev. Sue Bertolette to the GEM fund from Cookie Sales

Announcements:

Today:

- Praying Hands Stitchers – **9:00 am Library**
- LOFT: Roots & Branches – **9:00 am Activity Room**
- Connect3
- 2026 Offering Envelopes are in the narthex
 - o If you do not have a number and want one, please contact Kay in the office

This Week:

- Unhanging of the Greens at **9:30 am on Saturday, January 10**

Next Sunday:

- Rev. Tom's Last Sunday 😞
- LOFT: Ask Pastor Tom Anything at 9:00 AM
- (Rev. Elaine Ehly will be at worship next Sunday)

2025 Babies

Henry Wayne Fink

Born January 4, 2025

Grandson of Beverly & Wayne Fink

Juliet Carson

Born April 21, 2025

Daughter of Jess & Matt Carson

Harvey Benson Swayne

Born May 20, 2025

Great-grandson of Lorene Ahrens

Theodore Alexander Carper

Born November 25, 2025

Grandson of Bonnie & Walt Weber

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.