



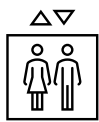
Roots and Branches

Baptism of Christ

January 11, 2026

10:15 am

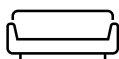
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 11, 2026 — Baptism of Christ

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

PRELUDE Deep River.....African American Spiritual, arr. Larry Shackley

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP — Based on Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name.

Let us worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord causes all in God's temple to say:

"Glory!" Come, let us worship the Lord and lift our voices in praise!

*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 #326 Crashing Waters at Creation

CONFESSION

Holy God, you see into our hearts. You see the true selves we try to hide from others, the deeds we fear would destroy our images, the unhealthy impulses that lurk so deep within us we can scarcely name them, the unholy habits that have been with us so long that they no longer prick our consciences. But you also see in us Jesus Christ, the Holy One who took on our sin and redeems us in his love. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ASSURANCE

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves. God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 42: 1-9.....Pew Bible Page 631

Matthew 3:13-17.....Pew Bible Page 2

CHILDREN'S SONG This Little Light of Mine

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

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 on page 3)

SERMON "Stretching Our Faith"Rev. Tom Adil

*HYMN #286 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
Refrain: All
Stanza 1: All; Refrain: All
Stanza 2: Higher Voices; Refrain: Higher Voices
Stanza 3: Lower Voices; Refrain: Lower Voices
Stanza 4: All; Refrain: All

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?

GENEROSITY TESTIMONY – Luchi Luzares and Armin Fernando

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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



Offertory Take Me to the Water.....African American Spiritual, arr. David M. Cherwien

*Take me to the water to be baptized.
None but the righteous shall see God.
I love Jesus. Yes, I do.
He's my Savior. Yes, he is.*

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we recall our baptisms, we are once more called to do what is pleasing to God, humbly giving our gifts and our lives in pursuit and support of what is righteous and just according to God's purposes — and doing so not counting the cost, but because pleasing God is simply what the beloved children of God want to do.

LITANY OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE OF PASTOR TOM ADIL

Leader: Our church community is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings, and the ways in which God is present with us through them all.

Pastor Tom: I thank this church - St. John's United Church of Christ, you, its members and friends – for the love, kindness and support shown me these last two years as your Pastor. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the opportunity to minister among you.

**People: Pastor Tom, we forgive you and accept your gratitude,
and accept that you now leave to bring your gifts elsewhere.
We are grateful for your time among us.
We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.
Your influence on our faith and faithfulness
will not leave us at your departure.
Your influence on our lives and our spirits will continue to be a part of us.**

Pastor Tom: I forgive you and accept your gratitude.

Leader: Church, do we release Pastor Tom from the duties of pastor at St. John's?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you, Pastor Tom, release us from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor Tom: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the relationship with any who remain or come to serve?

Pastor Tom: I do, with the help of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN #82 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Go, My Children, with My Blessing".....Andrew Paulson
In honor of Rev. Tom and his ministry at St. John's.

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, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music	Chancel Choir

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 1: MacMullen
Elder:	Chriss Bodde
Deacon:	All Deacons
Audio Technician:	Griff Francis
Chancel Flowers:	Tracey & Mark O’Neill
Driver:	Gale Linderman

Copyright Acknowledgments

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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.

Weekly Current Needed:	\$7,884.62	The Week of December 28, 2025
Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$826.92	Christmas Eve: 5:00 PM 122
The Week of January 4, 2026		Christmas Eve: 9:00 PM 176
Attendance: 8:00 AM	31	December 28: 8:00 AM 8
Attendance: 10:15 AM	102	December 28: 10:15 AM 76
Offering For Current:	\$5,689.00	Offering For Current: \$11,737.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$822.00	Offering For OCWM: \$439.00

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

Jan 11	Sun	Baptism of Christ	
		Rev. Tom's Last Sunday	
		8:00 AM 9:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary LOFT: Roots & Branches - Ask Pastor Tom Anything, Activity Room
		10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Jan 12	Mon	7:00 PM 7:15 PM	Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room Council, Library
Jan 13	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
Jan 14	Wed	6:30 PM 7:30 PM 8:30 PM	United Ringers Rehearsal Artist Series Chorus Rehearsal Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Jan 15	Thurs	6:30 PM	Game Night, Assembly Hall
Jan 16	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Jan 17	Sat	9:00 AM – 2:30 PM 9:30 AM	Girl Scout Cookie Drive Thru Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall
Jan 18	Sun	Second Sunday after Epiphany	
		8:00 AM 9:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary LOFT: Roots & Branches – Exploring Our Sunday School Windows
		10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall

Acknowledgements:

In memory of Debbie Krail from

Sharon & Thomas Clayton

Coulston & Aletta Henry

New Member Sunday

January 18

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

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!**

Announcing the 2026 St. John's Directory!

This year, St. John's will be making a picture directory! **Sign-ups for photo slots will begin on Sunday, January 25.** All participants will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and directory. Photography days will be Wednesday, March 18th and Thursday, March 19th. If you are unable to come in person, alternative options are available.



Want to help by being part of the process? Please contact the office.

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.



Love Sunday Photo Display

Sunday, February 8



We will be holding a special celebration of Love in all forms! **You are invited to bring photos of whom you love: wedding photos, partners, family, friends, pets, etc on Sunday, February 1.** These will be part of a display during Fellowship. Please identify each photo with a card with names, dates, and any other information you would like to share.

2026 Offering Envelopes



available in the Narthex

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

JANUARY 18 How the Light Gets In:
Exploring our 100-year-old
Sunday School Windows!

Announcements:

Today:

- Rev. Tom's Last Sunday ☹️
- LOFT: Ask Pastor Tom Anything **at 9:00 AM**
 - o (Rev. Elaine Ehly will be at worship)
- Church directory announcement
 - o **Sign ups for photo slots begin Sunday, January 25**
 - o Please check your bulletins for more information
 - o Volunteers needed – please contact the office
- Love Sunday Photo Display

This Week:

- Girl Scout Cookie Drive Thru
 - o The troop that meets here twice a month
 - o **Saturday 9 am – 2:30 pm in the parking lot**

Next Sunday:

- LOFT: Sunday School Windows

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, [a]
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."