



Forward in Faith

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

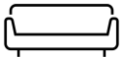
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



The Elevator are 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.



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** at the front right of the Sanctuary is available for all.



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 on the podium at the front of the sanctuary on the right. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like shared, 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 also available.



Children are invited to come to the steps during **Time with Children** for a conversation with the pastor. The **Nursery** is available and staffed for babies and toddlers. The Nursery is past the elevator, through the double doors, on the right. We believe the sound of children in worship is not a distraction – it is evidence of life, growth, and the future of the church. If your child makes noise, it is not a bother. It is a blessing!



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."



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. We want to be faithful hearers and interpreters of scripture, and pray for the day when Palestinians and Israelis may live in mutual peace, security, and dignity.



We are an **Open and Affirming congregation**, advocating for and supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, nonbinary, and queer individuals in our church and our world, and affirming that all people are beloved children of God.

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
9:30 am — June 28, 2026 — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Folk Tune.....Percy Whitlock

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as a people to worship the Holy One
Who considers our cries and responds to our conditions.

We gather even when wearied by the world

Because we trust in God's steadfast love.

Our souls may ask, "How long, Holy One?"

Yet our hearts rejoice in your saving acts.

We gather even when shaken and sorrowful

Because we hope in God's steadfast love.

We gather to sing to the Holy One

Who has been generous with us.

Our worship and our work testifies to the goodness of the God who prevails.

Let us worship the God of Life!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to greet your neighbor with a sign of peace. If you prefer a "no-contact greeting, you can place your hand over your heart as you acknowledge your neighbor.

*HYMN #332 As We Gather at Your Table

Stanza 2 is sung in canon. The pulpit side begins, followed by the lectern side.

CONFESSION

Holy One, in our comfort in feeling welcome here and loved by you,

We too often forget what a privilege that is.

We foolishly assume everyone knows your love.

We confidently greet and welcome those who come through our doors

And think that is enough.

Prod us to look at empty spaces and consider who is missing.

Take us outside our walls to search for those who do not know your love,

Who do not know the extravagant welcome that awaits them here.

Forgive us our complacency.

Embolden us to welcome with confidence and love in your name.

Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 13.....Pew Bible Page 479

Matthew 10:40-42.....Pew Bible Page 10

CHILDREN'S SONG Rooted and Grounded in Love



OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN

presented by our VBS Volunteers

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.

SERMON "Not Just a Churchy Welcome Wagon".....Rev. Elaine Ely

*HYMN #543 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Higher Voices

Stanza 5: All

Stanza 2: All in Harmony

Stanza 4: Lower Voices

Stanza 6: All

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.



Offertory Recitativo and Aria from God the Lord is sun and shield, BWV 79.....J.S. Bach
Sung in German

Praise God! We know where to find the way to blessedness, for Jesus, you show the way through your word and teaching; your name we will be therefore ever praising. But since so many here on earth dismiss your word and walk in blindness, with the worldly have mercy, Lord; your grace may lead them all to faith, to walk the righteous way forever, and call you by your name as Saviour!

God, O God, forsake your children nevermore! Let your word shine for your pilgrim; all the more enemies are fiercely raging, you alone our lips are praising.

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, may the gifts we bring provide for our community and neighbors
Just as you have always provided for us.
Bless our time, talent, and treasure for your glory and your kindom. Amen.**

*HYMN The Lord Now Sends Us Forth



*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata in E Minor.....Johann Pachelbel

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. Elaine Ely Deb Ahrens Andrew Paulson Bill Cagney Kate Matlack

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Praise God the Giver and the Gift: Text-Brian Wren © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

God the Lord is sun and shield: English version by Jutta and Vernon Wiker © 2002 Carus-Verlag, Stuttgart

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth: Text and Music-Annon. Central American, tr. Gerhard Cartford © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

It Shall Be Provided: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ

“He leads me beside still waters.”
-Psalm 23

We invite you to collect a small amount of water from a special place that brings you rest, (the ocean, the lake, the garden hose....).

The water will be combined during worship on September 13, purified, and used for baptisms throughout the year.

There are bottles available in the Sanctuary, or you can use your own. Please label your bottle with your name and the location where you collected the water.



We Love the Anniversary Booklets!

Might you have one you do not need? We would like to make them available to our homebound members and a few folks who were away on May 31st. If your family took more than one home, it would save the church significant money if you are willing to donate your extra for those who didn't get one. In addition, the booklet is now on our website, so if that meets your booklet needs we welcome your donation of extra copies. The collection box is in the library.

Is our Transportation Ministry for You?



One of our St. John's ministries that is part of our Helping Hands ministry does the important service of providing a ride to and from church each Sunday for those no longer able to drive. We also have drivers who volunteer upon request during the week for those needing a ride to doctor's appointments and treatments. Our driver pool has dwindled recently. Having 2 or 3 more drivers would be a blessing. And if you or someone you know needs the help of this ministry, please contact the office so we can make arrangements.

Audio Ministry Volunteers Needed!



As part of our continued accessibility efforts, we provide a recording of the church service each week on youtube, and the sermon on Spotify. These audio recordings are only available thanks to the work of our Audio Ministry!

We are looking for one or two individuals to help with recording the Sunday church service.

If you are interested, please contact Robin MacMullen.

This Week at St. John's

Sun	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	
June 28	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Fellowship
Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues	7:00 PM	AA
Thurs	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
Fri	Office Closed for Fourth of July	
Sun	Anniversary Sunday	
July 5	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Fellowship

Chancel Flowers:

In memory of **Eric Kirk** from his mother,
Barbara Kirk



Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team MacMullen
Umbrella Ministry: Betty Elliott
Elder: Sue Clemens
Audio Ministry: Griff Francis

Chancel Flowers: Judy Johnston
Driver: Gale Linderman
Deacon: Paula White
Social Hosts: Barb MacMullen

Weekly Current Needed:	\$8,700.00	Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$865.38
The Week of June 14		The Week of June 21	
Second Sunday after Pentecost		Second Sunday after Pentecost	
Attendance: 9:30 AM	104	Attendance: 9:30 AM	111
Offering For Current:	\$5,779.00	Offering For Current:	\$4,637.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$714.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$102.00

With People of All Times and All Places: A Community Hymn Festival Sunday, July 12 at 7 pm

Free Admission with a Freewill offering to support Music Camp!

Join world-renowned hymn leader, choir director, and organist Michael Burkhardt with Andrew Paulson, Andrea Baxter, and musicians from St. John's, Trinity Lutheran, and the greater community for an evening singing praise to God through music from around the world.



Food Needed for Music Camp!

Food needed for Music Camp! Scan the QR code for a list of food items needed for Music Camp and drop off your items in the labeled narthex container from June 28-July 12.



Hearts, Minds, & Voices Children's Music Camp

Monday, July 13 through
Thursday, July 16
from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Music Camp is a joint venture between two vibrant faith communities in Lansdale: Trinity Lutheran Church and St. John's UCC. Music camp will take place from July 13-16, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church and features Dr. Michael Burkhardt and his curriculum, Hearts, Hands and Voices.

Age: Children entering 2nd through 7th grade in the fall

There will be a closing time when children will share what they've learned on Thursday evening at 7:00



St. John's Evening Book Club!

Interest Meeting

St. John's Library

Thursday, July 9th at 6:00 pm

Following the tradition of the Women's Retreat Book Club, we are starting a book club for those who work during the day. Our first meeting will be discussing how books will be picked each month, as well as getting a feel for genre. We will meet on the second Thursday of each month. Leave the kiddos at home and enjoy a good book with friends!

Can't make it? Our first official meeting will be August 13th, and we will be discussing *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*.

Social Hosts Needed for July & August!



Provide food at Fellowship after the service with the help of the Deacon of the Morning. Offer your own choice of food while the church provides drinks. Interested? Speak with Rick Fanciullacci!

Announcements:

Today:

- Volunteers Needed
 - o Drivers / Social hosts for July & August / Audio Ministry
- Food Needed for Music Camp
 - o Labeled container in the Narthex
 - o For list of needed foods, scan QR Code

This Week:

- Office Closed on Friday for the Fourth of July
-

Next Sunday:

- Praying Hands Stitchers are **NOT meeting next Sunday** pushing their usual meeting back a week for the holiday
 - o **They will be meeting on Sunday, July 12**

Upcoming:

- Community Hymn Festival on Sunday, July 12 at 7 pm.
- Music Camp July 13th to the 16th at Trinity Lutheran

Joys:

Concerns:

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the Lord

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."