



Forward in Faith

July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

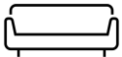
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 — July 5, 2026 — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE America, the Beautiful.....Samuel A. Ward, arr. Tedd Smith

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from Psalm 145:8-14*

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, let us worship God!

God, you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

Come to worship with a heart of hospitality—

welcoming neighbors, immigrants, strangers, and friends.

God, you are loving to everyone, and your compassion is over all your works.

Come to worship as a gracious guest—

openhearted to what others have to share with you.

All your works praise you, O God, and your faithful servants bless you.

Community is built in ordinary relationships and the Holy Spirit

guides us in the ways of solidarity.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

As we mark this Independence Day, we pray for our country,

our leaders, and all its people.

May the people know of your power and the glorious splendor of your dominion.

Yours, O God, is an everlasting reign; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

You are faithful in all your words and merciful in all your deeds. Hallelujah! Amen.

*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 #459 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

CONFESSION

**Merciful God, there are chasms in our lives,
deep valleys that separate us from one another and from you.**

We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,

For fear of admitting our part in the separation,

For fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,

To a wholeness with each other and with you.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations

Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.

WORDS OF GRACE

The love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love.

May we know that we are forgiven and freed to love and serve. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 7:15-25.....Pew Bible Page 144

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.....Pew Bible Page 10

CHILDREN'S SONG Rooted and Grounded in Love



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.

SERMON "My Yoke Is Good to Bear"Rev. Dr. Bob Fogal

*HYMN #484 O Come to Me, You Weary

Stanza 1: All

Stana 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 4: All

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.



Offertory

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of all nations, peoples, and creation, receive our offerings this day. Use them and use us in bringing your vision of love to this world in this time. Amen.

***HYMN Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

1. Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus is my plea;
2. I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
3. Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
4. When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
5. Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus is my plea;

dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.
dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE The Stars and Stripes Forever.....John Philip Sousa
Organ Duet with David Furniss arr. Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault

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. Bob Fogal Marge Jewell Andrew Paulson

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Just a Closer Walk with Thee: Text and Music-North American Traditional*

This Week at St. John's



Sun July 5	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Fellowship
Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues	7:00 PM	AA
Thurs	6:00 PM	Evening Book Club
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sun July 12	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Fellowship
	7:00 PM	Community Hymn Festival

Acknowledgements:

In memory of **Betty Saukaitis** to the memorial fund from Kurt & Candy Saukaitis

Betty was our mother and mother in law. She always had such warm memories of all the years Bob, her family, and she spent at St. John's. It was not a surprise that giving back to her church family was her wish. Betty was a wonderful mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was truly our blessing.

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team Leslie

Umbrella Ministry: Judy Johnston

Elder: Charles Sisian

Audio Ministry: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flowers: Gale & Bob George

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Deacon: Scott Vanderburg

Social Hosts: Susan Fitzpatrick

Weekly Current Needed: \$8,700.00		Weekly OCWM Needed: \$865.38	
The Week of June 21		The Week of June 28	
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost		Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	
Attendance: 9:30 AM	111	Attendance: 9:30 AM	75
Offering For Current:	\$4,637.00	Offering For Current:	\$3,989.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$102.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$190.00

“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.

With People of All Times and All Places: A Community Hymn Festival

Sunday, July 12 at 7 pm in the St. John's Sanctuary

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, Hands, & 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 St. John's Morning 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:

- Evening Book Club Interest Meeting is this Thursday at 6:00 PM in the library
-

Next Sunday:

- Praying Hands Stitchers are **meeting next Sunday**
- Community Hymn Festival on **next Sunday, July 12 at 7 pm.**

Next Week:

- Music Camp July **13th to the 16th at Trinity Lutheran**
- Shirley Hale memorial service **Tuesday, July 14**
 - o visitation 9-10:45 , service at 11 am

Joys:

Concerns:

Romans 7:15-25

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”