



Forward in Faith

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

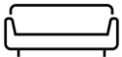
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 12, 2026 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil.....Handt Hanson, arr. Sherri Hansen

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 65*

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;

you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

**You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy;

the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;

the valleys deck themselves with grain;

they shout and sing together for joy. 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 #318 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

CONFESSION

**Jesus, you set before us the way of wisdom: to care for the poor, feed the hungry, and
share our possessions. But it is a way that is counter to the ways of the world. When we
take care of ourselves first, when we value our possessions more than our relationships,
forgive us. Help us to become wise in your ways, trust in your grace, and bold in our
love.**

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 55:10-13.....Pew Bible Page 648

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.....Pew Bible Page 12

CHILDREN'S SONG Rooted and Grounded in Love

We are root-ed and ground-ed in love. Like a tree by the ri-ver, we're plant-ed so deep.

We are root-ed and ground-ed in love. With each gift that we bring and each pro-mise we keep

as we birth a new world where we all have e-nough. We are root-ed and ground-ed in love.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a simple melody with lyrics underneath. The first line includes a long note for 'love' and a short note for 'deep'. The second line has a long note for 'love' and a short note for 'keep'. The third line has a long note for 'love' and a short note for '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 "Good Soil".....Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

The hymn is sung three times, first by the soloist and then by all.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart by good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It features a simple melody with lyrics underneath. The first line includes a long note for 'soil' and a short note for 'word'. The second line has a long note for 'soil' and a short note for 'stood'. The third line has a long note for 'hard' and a short note for 'cold'. The fourth line has a long note for 'day' and a short note for 'way'. The fifth line has a long note for 'heart' and a short note for 'soil'.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

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



Offertory "Thus Saith the Lord" and "But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?"

Nos. 5 & 6 from "The Messiah"G.F. Handel

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. -Haggai 2: 6-7; Malachi 3:1

*But who may abide the day of His coming?
And who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire. -Malachi 3:2-3*

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift

Praise God, the Gi-ver and the Gift. Hands, hearts, and voi-ces now up - lift: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise, praise the Breath of glad sur - prise, free - ing our spir - its, op'n - ing eyes.

Three in One - ness, love com - mun - ing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a symbol of our gratitude and our commitment to your work. May these offerings be used to bring hope, justice, and healing to those who are suffering. Bless and multiply these gifts, allowing them to reach beyond our expectations and bring Your light to the world. Amen.

*HYMN #425 For the Fruit of All Creation

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today's postlude is played by Michael Burkhardt, Founder and Director of Hearts, Hands and Voices. Michael will be leading this evening's hymn festival at 7pm and our community music camp which begins on Monday.

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 Karen Bausman Andrew Paulson Bill Cagney

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Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil: Text and Music-Handt Hanson © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing

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

Weekly Current Needed:	\$8,700.00	Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$865.38
The Week of June 28		The Week of July 5	
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost		Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	
Attendance: 9:30 AM	75	Attendance: 9:30 AM	75
Offering For Current:	\$3,989.00	Offering For Current:	\$7,683.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$190.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$1,008.00



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.

This Week at St. John's



Sun July 12	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	
	8:30 AM	Praying Hands Stitchers
	9:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Fellowship
	7:00 PM	Community Hymn Festival
Mon July 13	9:00 AM	Music Camp at Trinity
	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues July 14	9:00 AM	Music Camp at Trinity
	9:00 AM	Shirley Hale Memorial Visitation, Service, Luncheon
	7:00 PM	AA
Weds	9:00 AM	Music Camp at Trinity
Thurs July 16	9:00 AM	Music Camp at Trinity
	6:30 PM	Community Game Night
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat	9:30 AM	Art of Living Foundation
Sun July 19	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	How To Disagree: A Taste of Peacemaking and Dialogue Techniques from Israel-Palestine Fellowship

Chancel Flowers:

In memory of **dear friend, Scott Harmon's July 15th birthday** from Barbara Kirk

In memory of **Evaline Cagney** from her husband, Bill Cagney

Acknowledgements:

In memory of **Shirley Anne Hale** to the Exterior Restoration Fund from Emilie Truscott

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team Methlie

Umbrella Ministry: Joyce Huisenga

Elder: Bill Cagney

Audio Ministry: Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flowers: Kay Peebles

Driver: Gale Linderman

Deacon: Rick Fanciullacci

Social Hosts: Armin Fernando

"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.



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

How to Disagree:

**A Taste of Peacemaking & Dialogue
Techniques from Israel-Palestine**

NEXT SUNDAY, July 19

9:30 AM Worship Service

with Sheikh Abed speaking and playing the Oud

11:00 AM Public Conversation

The World needs more bridge-builders and peace-makers in this time of conflict, war, and atrocity.

Restore your hope in humanity with interfaith peacemaker, Sheikh Abed Elsalam Manasra of the Abrahamic Reunion, who works every day to build connections of dialogue, understanding, and empathy across religious, cultural, political, and ethnic lines in Israel-Palestine.



Celebrating the Lives of



Shirley Anne Hale

Tuesday, July 14

9 AM Visitation

11 AM Service

Luncheon to follow

St. John's UCC

Sanctuary

500 W Main St,
Lansdale

Betty J. Saukaitis

Saturday, July 18

10 AM Visitation

11 AM Service

Arbor Conference

Center

815 Maplewood Dr,
Harleysville

Announcements:

Today:

- Hymn Festival at 7 pm!
-

This Week:

- Music Camp begins **9 AM on Monday at Trinity Lutheran**
- Shirley Hale's Memorial Service is on Tuesday
 - o **9:30 AM Visitation**
 - o **11:00 AM Service with Luncheon** to Follow
- Betty Saukaitis Memorial Service on Saturday at Peter Becker
 - o **10 AM Visitation**
 - o **11 AM Service**
- Game Night **Thursday at 6:30 pm**

Next Sunday:

- 9:30 AM Worship
 - o with Sheikh Abed speaking and playing on the Oud
- 11 AM Public Conversation
 - o How to Disagree: A Taste of Peacemaking & Dialogue Techniques from Israel-Palestine

Joys:

-

Concerns:

- Elaine Pace broke her hip on Thursday and had hip surgery on Friday

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the
earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy

and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this [\[b\]](#) age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."