



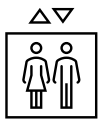
Forward in Faith

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

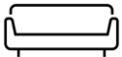
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 — August 16, 2026 — Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Out of the Depths, O God, We Call.....Setting by Alan Malachowski

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP "Blessing" by Jan Richardson

What we choose changes us.

Who we love transforms us.

How we create remakes us.

Where we live reshapes us.

So in all our choosing,

O God, make us wise;

in all our loving,

O Christ, make us bold;

in all our creating,

O Spirit, give us courage;

in all our living

may we become whole. 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 O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

Stanzas 2 and 3 are sung in canon. Lectern side begins and pulpit side follows.

1. O Christ, the heal - er we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
2. From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed.
3. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
4. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find.

How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
Yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
Our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
The whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach and pros - per hu - man - kind.

CONFESSION

**Holy God who is beyond our understanding, we reach out to you with questions:
Why are some healed while others suffer?
Why do some experience the privilege of position and power
while others face daily oppression?
How do we maintain our faith amidst these impossible questions?
Teach us to cry out to you, to lean on you when we have no answers,
to change course when we have strayed away from love,
and to open ourselves to your radical call so that we may become
your hands and feet in this world – feeding, loving, tending, and caring. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7.....Pew Bible Page 648
Matthew 15:21-28Pew Bible Page 16

CHILDREN'S SONG Rooted and Grounded in Love



OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN AND DEDICATION OF PRAYER SHAWLS

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 Taking 'No' for an Answer".....Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #554 Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.



Spotlight on Generosity: Child Sponsorship Program and Urban Promise..... Pat Rieker

Offertory Colors of the Wind.....Alan Menken

*You think you own whatever land you land on;
the earth is just a dead thing you can claim.
But I know every rock and tree and creature
has a life, has a spirit, has a name.*

*You think the only people who are people
are the people who look and think like you.
But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger,
you'll learn things you never knew, you never knew.*

*Have you ever heard the wolf cry to the blue corn moon
or asked the grinning bobcat why he grinned?
Can you sing with all the voices of the mountain?
Can you paint with all the colors of the wind?*

*Come run the hidden pine trails of the forest,
come taste the sunsweet berries of the earth.
Come roll in all the riches all around you,
and for once never wonder what they're worth.*

*The rainstorm and the river are my brothers;
the heron and the otter are my friends.
And we are all connected to each other
in a circle in a hoop that never ends.*

Have you ever...

*How high does the sycamore grow?
If you cut it down, then you'll never know.*

*And you'll never hear the wolf cry to the blue corn moon,
for whether we are white or copper skinned,
we need to sing with all the voices of the mountain,
need to paint with all the colors of the wind.*

*You can own the earth and still all you'll own is earth until
you can paint with all the colors of the wind. - Stephan Schwartz*

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift

The musical score is written on three staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change from two flats to one flat (B-flat only). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

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**

God of second chances and fresh starts, receive our gifts this day. Use them – and use us – to bring more healing, more justice, and more love to this world that we share. Amen.

***HYMN #551 Pass Me Not, O Gently Savior**

The refrain is sung in harmony by all.

Stanza 1: All Stanza 3: Higher Voices

Stanza 2: Lower Voices Stanza 4: All

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Adoration.....Florence Price

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
Pat Rieker Sally Jarinko, Liturgist Christopher Darring, Soloist

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 ~ Office: 215.855.5489 ~ email: office@st-johns-ucc.org

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Bill Bergey (he/him), Custodian
Alan Malachowski (he/him), Council President

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This Week at St. John's



Acknowledgements:

In memory of

Robert "Bob" H. Tanis

To the Memorial Fund from:
Lillian & Dan Panachyda, Rick & Wendy
O'Connor, Pier 13 Community Group,
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Patricia & Herbert Scrivener

To the Technology Fund from:
Steve & Debby Hendricks, Jo-Ann Sine



Sun Aug 16	12th Sunday after Pentecost Prayer Shawl Sunday	
	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship
Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues	7:00 PM	AA
Wed Aug 19	4:30 PM	L.I.F.T.
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Reserved
Thurs	9:30 AM	Enlightener Folding
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat	9:00 AM	Art of Living Foundation
Sun Aug 23	13th Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Prelude Begins

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team Bruen

Umbrella Ministry: Susan Hendricks

Elder: Emilie Truscott

Audio Ministry: Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flowers: Barb & Don Fretz

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Deacon: Scott Vanderburg

Social Hosts: The Hales

Thank You!!

Many thanks to those of you who have shared your 150th Anniversary booklet. It's a blessing for the Visitation Team to be able to share them with the homebound members who hadn't received one. They are delighted to see them and we are still getting them distributed. If you decide to recycle yours you can still do that by way of the church.

If you would like to donate yours and have not had a chance to, we are still looking for a few. If you know someone who missed a booklet, contact Pastor Elaine.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Do you have a person or event you would like to honor in worship?

The fresh flowers that adorn the Chancel area each Sunday are made possible through donations. The names of the people, special occasions, and dates being honored and their donors are listed in our publications and the bulletin closest to the requested date.

After worship, these flowers are taken by our Chancel Flower ministry volunteers to anyone in the community they wish - the ill, the homebound, or simply neighbors who deserve a smile.

Purple donation forms are available in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Elevator Lobby. **Donations no longer roll over from previous years. Please send a new request.** Please submit the form via offering plate, email, or mail to the office. You may donate by cash, check, or QR code. Donors will receive a letter from St. John's as proof of receipt.

Water Sunday September 13th



We invite you to collect a small amount of water from a special place that brings you rest. The water will be combined during worship, blessed, purified, and used for baptisms throughout the year.

Bottles are available in the Sanctuary or you can use your own. Please label your bottle with your name and the location the water was collected from.



Ending Hunger, Building Community, Transforming Lives

With cuts to benefits for the food-insecure, let us continue our commitment to helping stock Manna's pantry. Food donations are accepted each week and can be put in the Narthex (main entrance to the Sanctuary). Thank you!

Have You Checked the Lost & Found?

Our Lost & Found is filling up! In the library, beneath the portrait of Rev. Sue, is a basket full of items that have been left after events and worship services. Water bottles, glasses, bags, jewelry, and many other things have all been left behind. Please see if any belong to you. **On November 1st, we will be emptying the Lost & Found of the items that have been there longer than two weeks.**



Announcements:

Today:

- Prayer Shawl Sunday!
- Technology Update

This Week:

- Enlightener Folding on Thursday at 9:30 am
 - o Come help put the Enlightener together!
- Game Night is postponed to **Thursday the 27th**

Next Sunday:

- Technology Hearing following the worship service to answer questions.

Joys:

- Kitty, Kay's girlfriend, has moved to the area and is excited to join the St. John's community!

Concerns:

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' [table](#)." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.