



Forward in Faith

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

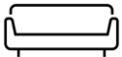
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 23, 2026 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you not heard? Have you not known?
From the beginning, God has been calling us into life.

We come with open hearts, ready to listen.

Look around you – the heavens stretch beyond our imagining,
the earth holds more beauty and mystery than we can comprehend.

We come to worship the One whose presence fills all creation.

The Holy One does not grow weary or give up.
God gives strength to those who are exhausted
and renews those whose hope has grown thin.

When we are weary, God meets us with strength.

When we are discouraged, God calls us toward hope.

Even young people grow tired, and the strongest among us stumble.
But those who wait for God shall renew their strength; they shall rise on wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**We gather as a community of hope – ready to walk together,
to lift one another up, and to seek justice, peace, and healing.**

Come, then, with your questions and your courage,
your weariness and your dreams.

**May our worship awaken hope, strengthen our spirits,
and send us into the world ready to love and serve.
Let us worship together!**

*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 #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that too often we try to carry everything by ourselves.
We convince ourselves that we must have all the answers,
Solve every problem, hold everything together, and never admit that we need help.
We forget that you have never asked us to walk alone.
Forgive us for the times we have trusted our own strength more than your presence.
Forgive us when pride keeps us from asking for help,
When fear keeps us from letting go,
And when busyness keeps us from listening for your still, small voice.
Teach us again that we belong to one another,
And that your love is stronger than our need to do everything alone.
In your mercy, meet us where we are
And lead us toward the freedom of trusting you.
Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31Pew Bible Page 632
Romans 12:1-8.....Pew Bible Page 149

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 "Soaring, Falling, and Waiting on the LordRev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #775 On Eagle's Wings

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.



Offertory Jesus is a Rock in a Wearly Land.....Setting by Ronald Nelson

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the galaxies and the grasshoppers, the earnest child and the eagle's wings, receive and bless the gifts we bring this day. Use them and call us into deeper stewardship and ministry as your hands and feet in this world. Amen.

*HYMN #596 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
The hymn may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer.....Setting by Paul Manz

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
Grace Bruen and Nancy Woehrle, Fluet Duet

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

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

This Week at St. John's

Sun Aug 23	13th Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Technology Hearing Fellowship
Mon	6:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues	7:00 PM	AA
Thurs	6:30 PM	Game Night
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat Aug 29	9:00 AM	Art of Living Foundation
	2:00 PM	Lansdale Founder's Day
Sun Aug 30	14th Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Tech Upgrade Vote
	11:00 AM	Fellowship



Acknowledgements:

In memory of

Robert "Bob" H. Tanis

To the Memorial Fund from:
Chunmei Li

To the Exterior Restoration Fund from:
Roger Atkin



In memory of

Edward Clayton & Margaretha Pole
from the Kiem/Baker Family

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team MacMullen

Umbrella Ministry: Joyce Huisenga

Elder:

Audio Ministry: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flowers: Susan & John Hendricks

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Deacon: Rick Fanciullacci

Social Hosts: Barb MacMullen

Game Night



**AUG 27
6:30 PM**

Join us in the Assembly Hall for Game Night every third Thursday! We supply a large selection of games and invite you to bring your own to share! Meet some new friends and enjoy a fun night of gaming!

Beverages and snacks provided.
Feel free to bring snacks to share!

"He leads me beside still waters."

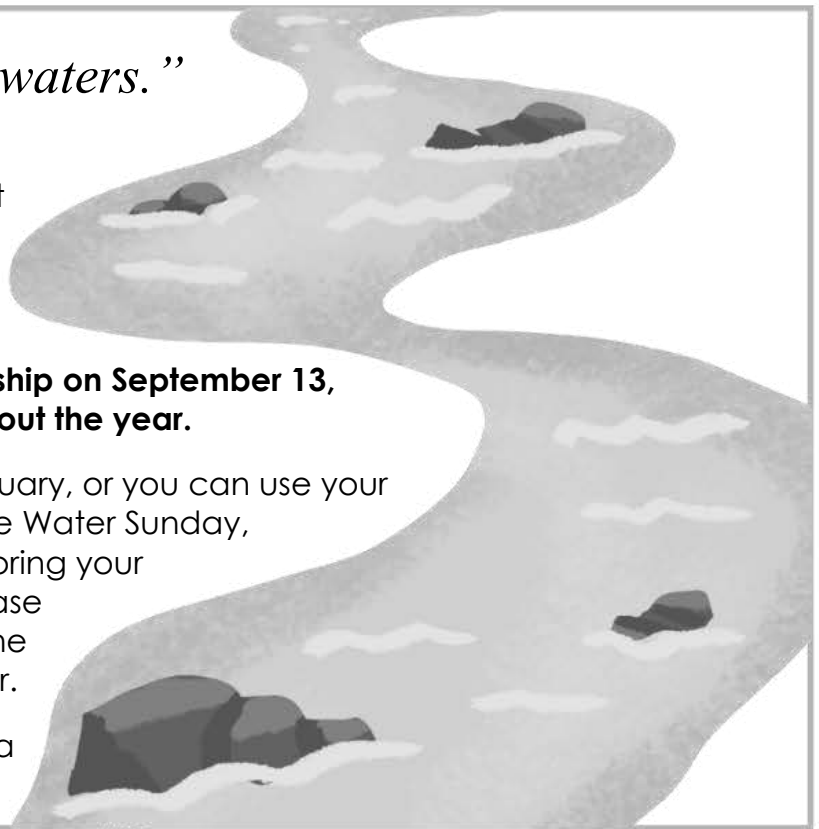
-Psalm 23

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. You may submit your bottle before Water Sunday, in the container on the same table, or bring your water to worship on September 13. Please label your bottle with your name and the location where you collected the water.

We will be marking each location with a droplet on the maps in the Sanctuary!



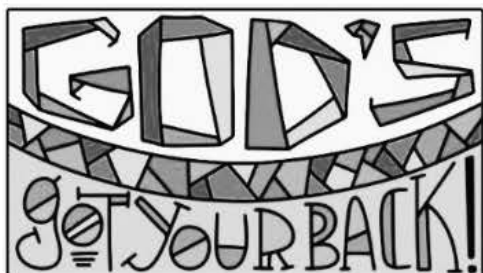
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 20

10:15 am

Students, teachers, educators, & families!

Bring your backpacks, lunch boxes, or planners! Come and receive a blessing for the new school year!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
2:00 PM

**SPECIAL TREATS FOR ALL
THE ANIMALS!**

**ALL PETS WELCOME -
LEASHED OR CRATED
PICTURES ALSO BLESSED**



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.



Women's Retreat

Saturday, September 12

9:30 AM | Church Library

**Army Colonel Cherryann Joseph
& Cpt. Rickie Lee Sands**

This month's program will be showcasing the Military Women's Museum at Arlington Cemetery and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's *In Memory* program, which honors the veterans that died after they returned home.

Light refreshments will be provided.
All women are welcome!



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!

Shelf Stable:

- Granola/Snack/Breakfast Bars
- Asian Noodle (ramen) in packs, not cups
- Long pasta (spaghetti, linguine, etc)
- Sugar, Flour, Baking Powder, Baking Soda
- Instant White Rice, Instant Brown Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Nuts (Any Kind)
- Rice Sides (Rice A Roni, Knorr products, etc)



Announcements:

Today:

- Tech Hearing after church
- Lost & Found items in library

This Week:

- o Game Night is this Thursday at 6:30 pm
- o Founders Day is this Saturday at 2 pm

-

Next Sunday:

- Tech Vote

Joys:

-

Concerns:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,

²³ who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. [\[a\]](#)

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.