



# Season of Blessings

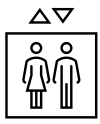
Water & Celebration Sunday

September 13, 2026

10:15 am

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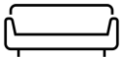
# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



**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  
10:15 am — September 13, 2026 — Water & Celebration Sunday

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

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PRELUDE When Peace Like a River.....Setting by David Evan Thomas

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

As the flood waters rose, Noah launched his ark into the waters.

**When Jesus came to the Jordan, he went down to the river and was baptized.**

Life washes over us in many ways.

**Sometimes we sail through troubled waters,**

**Sometimes we plunge into deep experiences of growth.**

At times, we are overwhelmed with depths of sadness.

**At times, we find ourselves stuck, anxious, afraid, angry, or alone.**

We reach for the courage to face our vulnerability,  
our fear, our rage, and our brokenness,

**And as we do, we notice that we are held in the arms of God's love.**

We are buffeted by waves of change.

**And we wade into the water.**

We are refreshed by fresh splashes of beauty and courage,  
the unfathomable depths of commitment by friends and family,  
and the challenging expanse of different peoples and customs.

**And still we wade.**

God's wide world floods us with unexpected comfort, surprise, and learning.

And still we wade.

**Amen.**

\*HYMN #597 Shall We Gather at the River

*The refrain is sung in harmony by all.*

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 4: All

CONFESSION

**Before God and one another we confess our shortcomings.**

**If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.**

**We acknowledge the injustices we see and declare God's vision**

**for a world of justice and joy. Remind us, God, and recharge us with your Word.**

**Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace.**

**This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 104:1-13, 24-30.....Pew Bible Page 532

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

CHILDREN'S SONG #423 Great Is Your Faithfulness - Stanza 3 & Refrain

*The hymn may be sung in harmony.*

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## 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.**

### CELEBRATION OF WATER

#### Bringing of the Water

*Those who wish are invited to come forward, name where the water comes from, and pour the water into the font. If you do not have water, you may come forward, name a special place of rest and refreshment, and run your hands through the water.*

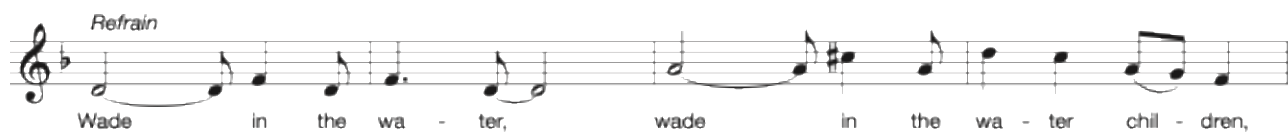
#### Invitation to Reaffirmation of Baptism

*If you would like to reaffirm your baptism with a blessing at the font, please come forward during Wade in the Water.*

#### Wade in the Water

*The soloist sings the text in italics.*

*Refrain*



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,  
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

*Stanzas*



1. Who's that yon - der dressed in white? God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.  
2. Who's that yon - der dressed in blue?  
3. Who's that yon - der dressed in red?



Must be the chil - dren of the Is - rael - ites. God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.  
Must be the Is - rael - ites a - com - in' through.  
Must be the chil - dren that 'ol Mos - es led.

*To refrain.*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REDEDICATION OF THE CENTENNIAL QUILT ..... Sue Clemens

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*For online giving, use the QR code.*

Offertory Take Me to the Water...African American Spiritual, setting by David Cherwien

*Take me to the water to be baptized.  
None but the righteous shall see God.  
I love Jesus. Oh, yes, I do.  
He's my savior. Oh, yes, he is.*

*Soloist, Deborah Dayton*



Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Life-giving God, out of the abundance of our lives and as a response to the blessings we have been given, receive these gifts. Multiply them and use them for the sake of love in a world so in need of it. Amen.**

\* HYMN Down by the Riverside  
*The hymn is sung twice.*



\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hornpipe from Water Music.....G.F. Handel*

## Following worship, you are invited to join us for Fellowship in the Assembly Hall for Ice Cream Sundaes.

**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, Senior Pastor   Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music  
Chancel Choir

### **St. John's United Church of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan (she/her), M.Div., PhD., Senior Pastor – [pastorlinda@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:pastorlinda@st-johns-ucc.org)  
Pastor Elaine Ely (she/her), M. Div., Support Pastor for Visitation and Pastoral Care - [pastorelaine@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:pastorelaine@st-johns-ucc.org)  
Andrew Paulson (he/him), M.M., M.A., Minister of Music - [andrew@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:andrew@st-johns-ucc.org)  
Kay Peebles (she/her), Church Office Manager - [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)  
Grace Marchione (she/her), Communications Coordinator - [communications@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:communications@st-johns-ucc.org)  
Anthony Ottaviano III (he/him), Facilities Manager - [building@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:building@st-johns-ucc.org)  
Bill Bergey (he/him), Custodian  
Alan Malachowski (he/him), Council President

### **Copyright Acknowledgments**

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*Image: Schoolhouse Beach, Linda Noonan, 2022.*

# EXPLORING *The* BIBLE

*Or, Stuff about the Bible You May Have  
Missed in Sunday School*

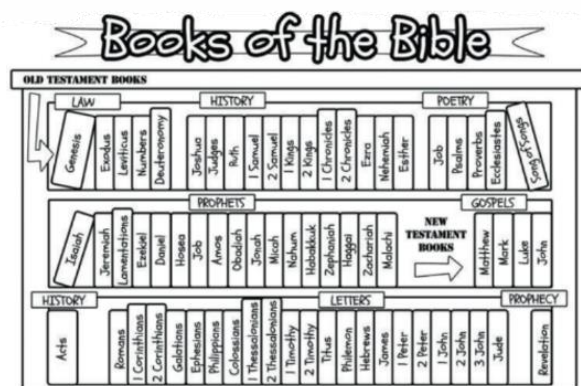
**Tuesdays September 15 - October 6**

10:00 am at church & 7:00 pm on Zoom

(watch your St. John's email for the link)

This four-part series will look at what the Bible is, how it came to be, and the ways it can support us today. It will be offered at church as well as on Zoom (at different times).

One of our first lessons: The Bible is *not* a Book.  
It's a Library!



## This Week at St. John's

|                 |                                  |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun<br>Sept 13  | <b>Water Sunday</b>              |                            |
|                 | 8:00 AM                          | Worship                    |
|                 | 9:00 AM                          | L.O.F.T.                   |
|                 | 10:15 AM                         | Worship                    |
|                 | 11:30 AM                         | Fellowship                 |
| Mon<br>Sept 14  | 7:00 PM                          | Fireside Group (CA)        |
|                 | 7:00 PM                          | Council                    |
| Tues<br>Sept 15 | 10:00 AM                         | Exploring the Bible        |
|                 | 7:00 PM                          | Exploring the Bible (Zoom) |
|                 |                                  | AA                         |
| Wed<br>Sept 16  | 6:30 PM                          | United Ringers             |
|                 | 7:30 PM                          | Chancel Choir              |
| Thurs           | 6:00 PM                          | Game Night                 |
| Fri             | 6:00 PM                          | North Penn Chess Club      |
| Sat<br>Sept 19  | 9:00 AM                          | Art of Living Foundation   |
|                 | 5:00 PM                          | Woori Drum Rehearsal       |
| Sun<br>Sept 20  | <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b> |                            |
|                 | 8:00 AM                          | Worship                    |
|                 | 9:00 AM                          | L.O.F.T.                   |
|                 | 10:15 AM                         | Worship                    |
|                 | 11:30 AM                         | Fellowship                 |



### Acknowledgements:

There were no acknowledgements this week.



In memory of  
**the September 13<sup>th</sup> 99<sup>th</sup> birthday**  
**of Ms. Betty Saukaitis**  
from her loving family

### Worship Assistants

**Hospitality:** Team Bruen

**Umbrella Ministry:** Marcia Stacy

**Elder:** Emilie Truscott

**Audio Ministry:** Matt Rivett

**Chancel Flowers:** Jen & Matt Harp

**Driver:** Gale Linderman

**Deacon:** Rickie Lee Sands

**Social Hosts:** Stewardship

|                                    |             |                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Weekly Current Needed:             | \$8,700.00  | Weekly OCWM Needed:                | \$865.38   |
| <b>The Week of August 30</b>       |             | <b>The Week of September 6</b>     |            |
| <b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b> |             | <b>15th Sunday after Pentecost</b> |            |
| Attendance: 9:30 AM                | 104         | Attendance: 9:30 AM                | 74         |
| Offering For Current:              | \$16,216.50 | Offering For Current:              | \$7,087.00 |
| Offering For OCWM:                 | \$425.00    | Offering For OCWM:                 | \$1,198.00 |

# Living Our Faith Together (The LOFT)

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM | ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S OFFICE

## September 13: SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

We'll explore Ecclesiastes 3 in different ways as we look back (and forward) on the seasons of our lives. If you are getting a surplus of 2027 calendars as "junk mail" bring them with you ... we might find a way to recycle them!

## September 20: ALL THAT WE HOLD

A time to share and process the things happening in our lives and in our world. We will write our own psalms as a way of crying out, giving thanks, or affirming the ways God is holding it all with us.



## 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!

## Spring Goodie Boxes

Please email [the name and complete address of college student\(s\)](mailto:the name and complete address of college student(s) to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com) to Bonnie Weber at [bonweber@gmail.com](mailto:bonweber@gmail.com) or the church office at [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org) by Sunday, October 4. Collection of items will be from now to October 11. Items should be left in the church library on the table marked Goodie Boxes. See posting on the Educators bulletin board in the elevator lobby for requested items. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## Check out the 2026-2027 Artist Series Season!



## Have You Checked the Lost & Found?

We have laid these items out on the a library table. Please see if any belong to you.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be emptying the Lost & Found of the items that have been there longer than two weeks.



We are looking for a dedicated group of folks who are willing to **help St. John's lock up after Fellowship each Sunday.**

Interested? Sign up here:



## **Announcements:**

Today:

- Water Sunday!
  - o Please take a moment to make sure your bottles have locations and your names on them!
- Educators are passing out St. John's 150 Anniversary Water Bottles!
- Sign up to bring cookies or brownies to candidate weekend!
- Stewardship is providing ice cream sundaes "with all the toppings" downstairs
  - o **during fellowship w/ mid-year finance update**
- Recognizing Eric Kinsey's wonderful work on the Enlightener!

This Week:

- Exploring the Bible
  - o **Tuesdays – 10:00 am at church / 7:00 pm on Zoom**
- **LOFT IS BACK!**
  - o First meeting (was) today at 9:00 am.

Next Sunday:

- Blessing of the Backpacks!
  - o for students, families, teachers, and educators
  - o Bring backpacks, planners, and/or lunchboxes!
- 

Joys:

-

Concerns:

# Psalm 104:1-13, 24-30

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

- O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
2 wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent;  
3 you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;  
4 you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.  
5 You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.  
6 You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.  
7 At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.  
8 They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,  
to the place that you appointed for them.  
9 You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.  
10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
11 giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
12 By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.  
24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
25 There is the sea, great and wide;

creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

<sup>27</sup> These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;

<sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good  
things.

<sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

<sup>30</sup> When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

## Matthew 10:40-42

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 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, 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.”