



Season of Blessings

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 am

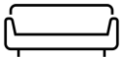
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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

10:15 am — September 20, 2026 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Christus, der ist mein Leben.....Walther

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Calling all children of the Living God:
the gospel is good news for every age and every stage!

Let us worship together, the young and the old.

The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons,
music, snacks, computers, science projects, books, and rest time.

Let us worship together, every generation.

We come together with different abilities and disabilities,
learning and navigating the world in a rainbow of ways and styles.

Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope. 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 #532 Come, Labor On

CONFESSION

**Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile,
getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news,
by our own short tempers and failings.**

**You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder,
unable to find that solid thing that will center us again.**

Help us, we pray, to see you as our center, and cling to the good around us.

**Help us to set aside our jealousies and prejudices,
and all that does harm to ourselves and others.**

Help us to grow more like Christ and bear His love in the world.

We pray this in His name, Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 145:1-8.....Pew Bible Page 555

Matthew 20:1-16 Pew Bible Page 20

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

The hymn may be sung in harmony.

OUR TIME WITH CHILDREN – BLESSING OF STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND FAMILIES (Insert)

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 “WWDD? (What Would Dolly Do?)”.....Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #237 I Come to the Garden Alone (In the Garden)
The hymn may be sung in harmony.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.

Spotlight on Generosity: The Good Samaritan (Emergency) Fund Susan Fitzpatrick

Offertory Light of a Clear Blue Morning.....Dolly Parton, arr. Craig Hella Johnson
*It's been a long dark night, and I've been waiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand-new day a-dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause I ain't see it in so long.
Ev'rything's gonna work out fine. Ev'rything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning. I can see the light of a brand-new day.
Ev'rything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay.
Soloist, Kathleen Siddall*

*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 - ial Al - le - lu - ial

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 - ial Al - le - lu - ial Al - le - lu - ial

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous 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 #23 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern.....J.C. Bach

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, Liturgist
Ihna Cho, Organist Grace Bruen, Chancel Choir Director 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

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

Copyright Acknowledgments

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Light of a Clear Blue Morning: Text-Dolly Parton © 1977 (Renewed 2005) Velvet Apple Music
Praise God the Giver and the Gift: Text-Brian Wren © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Image: "What Would Dolly Do" by Naked Pastor

EXPLORING *The* BIBLE

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

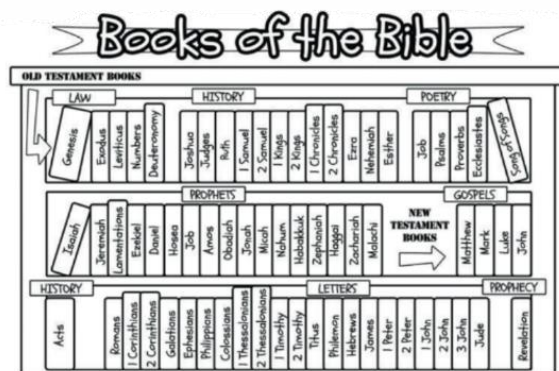
Tuesdays September 15 - October 6

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 Sept 20	Blessing of the Backpacks	
	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	L.O.F.T.
	10:15 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Fellowship
Mon Sept 21	6:30 PM	NAMI PPD Group
	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues Sept 22	10:00 AM	Exploring the Bible
	7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible Zoom AA
Wed Sept 23	6:30 PM	United Ringers
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Thurs Sept 24	9:30 AM	Enlightener Folding
	6:00 PM	Evening Book Club Girl Scouts
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat Sept 26	Candidate Weekend	
	9:00 AM	Art of Living Foundation
	2:00 PM	Candidate Meet & Greet
	5:00 PM	Woori Center Drums
Sun Sept 27	Candidate Sunday	
	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	L.O.F.T.
	10:15 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Fellowship
	2:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals



Acknowledgements:

In honor of

The Staff at St. John's

To the Technology Fund from:
Sally & Steve Jarinko

In honor of

Bonnie Hale's Birthday

To the Music Ministry Fund from:
Sally & Steve Jarinko



In memory of

husband, Bob Kinsey

from his wife, Ruth Kinsey

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team MacMullen

Umbrella Ministry: Susan Hendricks

Elder: Charles Sisian

Audio Tech: Robin MacMullen

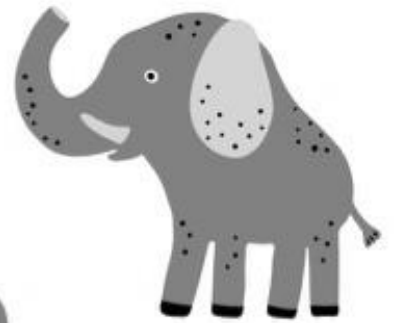
Chancel Flowers: Anne & Eric Kinsey

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Deacon: Paula White

Social Hosts: The Hogans

Weekly Current Needed:	\$8,700.00	Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$865.38
The Week of August 16		The Week of August 23	
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost		Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
Attendance: 9:30 AM	107	Attendance: 9:30 AM	103
Offering For Current:	\$6,280.00	Offering For Current:	\$4,137.00
Offering For OCWM:	\$395.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$205.00



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
2:00 PM**

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
500 W. MAIN
LANSDALE, PA 19446
www.st-johns-ucc.org



SPECIAL TREATS FOR ALL THE ANIMALS!
ALL PETS WELCOME - LEASHED OR CRATED
PICTURES ALSO BLESSED





Associate Pastor Candidate Weekend!

Candidate Meet & Greet

Saturday, September 26 | 2 PM - 4 PM | St. John's Library

Join the Search & Call Committee to meet and speak with our Associate Pastor Candidate.

Candidate Sermon & Congregational Vote

Sunday, September 27 | 8 AM & 10:15 AM | During Worship

At both services, the Associate Pastor Candidate will give a sermon. After both worship services, a congregational vote will be held.

Check out the 2026-2027 Artist Series Season!



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:



Spring Goodie Boxes

Please email **the name and complete address of college student(s)** to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com or the church office at 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.

Living Our Faith Together (The LOFT)

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S OFFICE

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.

September 27 - October 11:

NO ONE'S GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE (Or, How to Prepare for the End of Life)

This three-week series will include tools for planning our own funerals, expert advice about wills and legacy giving, the Five Wishes and how to use them. We will learn how to have delicate conversations with people we love about the end of life, grief, loss, and care.

Announcements:

Today:

- Blessing of the Backpacks!
- Living Our Faith Together (LOFT) at 9 am

This Week:

- Exploring the Bible
 - o **Tuesday at 10 am in the library / 7 pm on Zoom**
- Enlightener Folding – Help us get the Enlightener ready for mailing!
 - o **Thursday at 9:30 am in the library**
- Evening Book Club@
 - o **Thursday at 6:00 pm in the library**
- Candidate Weekend!
 - o Meet & Greet
 - **Saturday from 2 pm – 4 pm in the library**
 - o Candidate Leading Worship
 - **Sunday Morning, both services**

Next Sunday:

- Candidate Sermon
 - o Congregational Vote
- Blessing of the Animals at 2 pm

Joys:

-

Concerns:

- Those affected by the car accident at Valley Stream Apartments

Psalm 145:1-8

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

⁶ They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”