



Season of Blessings

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 am

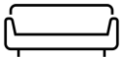
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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 27, 2026 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Allegro.....Johann Christian Kittel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Enfleshed*

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.
Out beyond our imagination for freedom,
there is an even more expansive landscape of liberation—
There, the Holy waits for us.
There, the Holy beckons us to draw near.
Out beyond our dreams for belonging,
there is an even more vast skyscape of connection—
There, the Holy waits for us.
There, the Holy beckons us to draw near.
Out beyond our cries for justice,
there is an even deeper well of reparations—
There, the Holy waits for us.
There, the Holy beckons us to draw near.
Come, let us worship!

*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 #304 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

*Stanza 1: All
Stanza 2: Higher Voices
Stanza 3: Lower Voices
Stanza 4: All*

CONFESSION

These are times, O God, that trouble our souls.
Each day brings unnerving news and disruption to our world
and to any sense of normality.
We are anxious, fearful of the escalating war, the persecution of
the most vulnerable among us, and the degradation of our planet.

We acknowledge that our distress that sometimes feels crippling.
We confess that we sometimes forget that you are with us.
Hold us close, God, and deepen our trust that nothing will ever
separate us from you or distance you from us. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16.....Pew Bible Page 517

Matthew 21:23-32 Pew Bible Page 21

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

The hymn may be sung in harmony.

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 "By What Authority?".....Sarah Klockowski

*HYMN #473 Blessed Assurance

The refrain may be sung in harmony.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.



Offertory O Love.....Elaine Hagenberg

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

-George Matheson

*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**

Merciful God, you have given us so much. Receive, now, these gifts to be multiplied and used for the restoration of hope, the deepening of faith, and the building of your Beloved Community. Amen.

***HYMN** The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
The hymn is sung twice.



***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Jubilate.....Emma Lou Diemer

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

Sarah Klockowski Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan Andrew Paulson Chancel Choir

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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This Week at St. John's



Acknowledgements:

In memory of

Johanna Shetler

To the Memorial Fund from:

Bob & Jane Keim

In honor of

Their 74th Wedding Anniversary

To the Technology Fund from:

Don & Barb Fretz



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
Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues Sept 29	10:00 AM	Exploring the Bible
	12:00 PM	Enlightener Folding
	7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible Zoom AA
Wed Sept 23	6:30 PM	United Ringers
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat Oct 3	9:00 AM	Art of Living Foundation
	5:00 PM	Woori Center Drums
Sun Oct 4	19th Sunday after Pentecost	
	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	Praying Hands Stitchers L.O.F.T.
	10:15 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Fellowship

Hospitality: Team Leslie

Umbrella Ministry: Joyce Huisenga

Elder: Suzie Franks

Audio Tech: Griff Francis

Chancel Flowers: Ruth Kinsey

Driver: Gale Linderman

Deacon: Scott Vanderburg

Social Hosts: The Leslies

Weekly Current Needed:	\$8,700.00	Weekly OCWM Needed:	\$865.38
The Week of September 20		The Week of September 13	
Blessing of the Backpacks		Water Sunday	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	16	Attendance: 8:00 AM	23
Attendance: 10:15 AM	101	Attendance: 10:15 AM	113
Offering For Current:	\$5,500.00	Offering For Current:	\$7,870.10
Offering For OCWM:	\$525.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$584.00
The Week of September 6		The Week of August 30	
15th Sunday after Pentecost		14th Sunday after Pentecost	
Attendance: 9:30 AM	74	Attendance: 9:30 AM	104
Offering For Current:	\$7,087.00	Offering For Current:	\$16,216.50
Offering For OCWM:	\$1,198.00	Offering For OCWM:	\$425.00

THE
Artist Series
AT ST. JOHN'S

Today is the last day for Artist Series giving!

Donations are due today (Sunday, September 27) in order for names to be printed in season programs and publications.



Give Online

Scan the QR code to donate online.

Give by Check or Cash

Please make checks payable to
St. John's UCC and indicate
Artist Series in the memo line.



THE
Artist Series
AT ST. JOHN'S

**DALÍ
QUARTET**

WITH JONATHAN RAGONESE

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 4
AT 4 PM**

Living Our Faith Together (The LOFT)

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

LOFT is helping with hard conversations because

NO ONE'S GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE

Join us for helpful, non-threatening information and discussions around the challenging topic of end-of-life decisions and planning. There can be lots of reasons it is hard to start these conversations, but getting answers and knowing what to expect can make difficult times that we know are ahead of us much more manageable.

September 27: STARTING THE CONVERSATION

October 4: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE TIME COMES: HOW TO BE READY

October 11: NUTS & BOLTS / TOOLS & RESOURCES

Bring your questions and experiences as we share and acknowledge that it is never too soon to get ready for the inevitable.



Women's Retreat

**Saturday, October 10
9:30 AM | Church Library**

Barbara MacMullen

Barb will talk about Deafness and share her experience teaching at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. Those who attend might even learn some sign language!

Light refreshments will be provided.
All women are welcome!

Have You Checked the Lost & Found?

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



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 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.



The Hatfield-Lansdale Giving Alliance is collecting donations for their upcoming Ingathering on October 26th. Clothing for all ages, toiletries, diapers, blankets, sheets, towels, and monetary donations are much appreciated. Donations can be brought to the church office.

Questions can be answered by Sally Atkiss or Suzanne Franks.

Announcements:

Today:

- Our Associate Pastor candidate – Sarah Klockowski
- LOFT: None of us are getting out of here alive

This Week:

- Exploring the Bible **Tuesday at 10 AM in the Library & 7 PM on Zoom**
- Enlightener Folding **Tuesday at noon in the library**
 - o thank you for your flexibility, volunteers!

Next Sunday:

- Praying Hands Stitchers meets next Sunday **at 9 am in the library**
-

Joys:

-

Concerns:

-

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might
and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

¹³ He divided the sea and let them pass through it
and made the waters stand like a heap.

¹⁴ In the daytime he led them with a cloud
and all night long with a fiery light.

¹⁵ He split rocks open in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

¹⁶ He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.