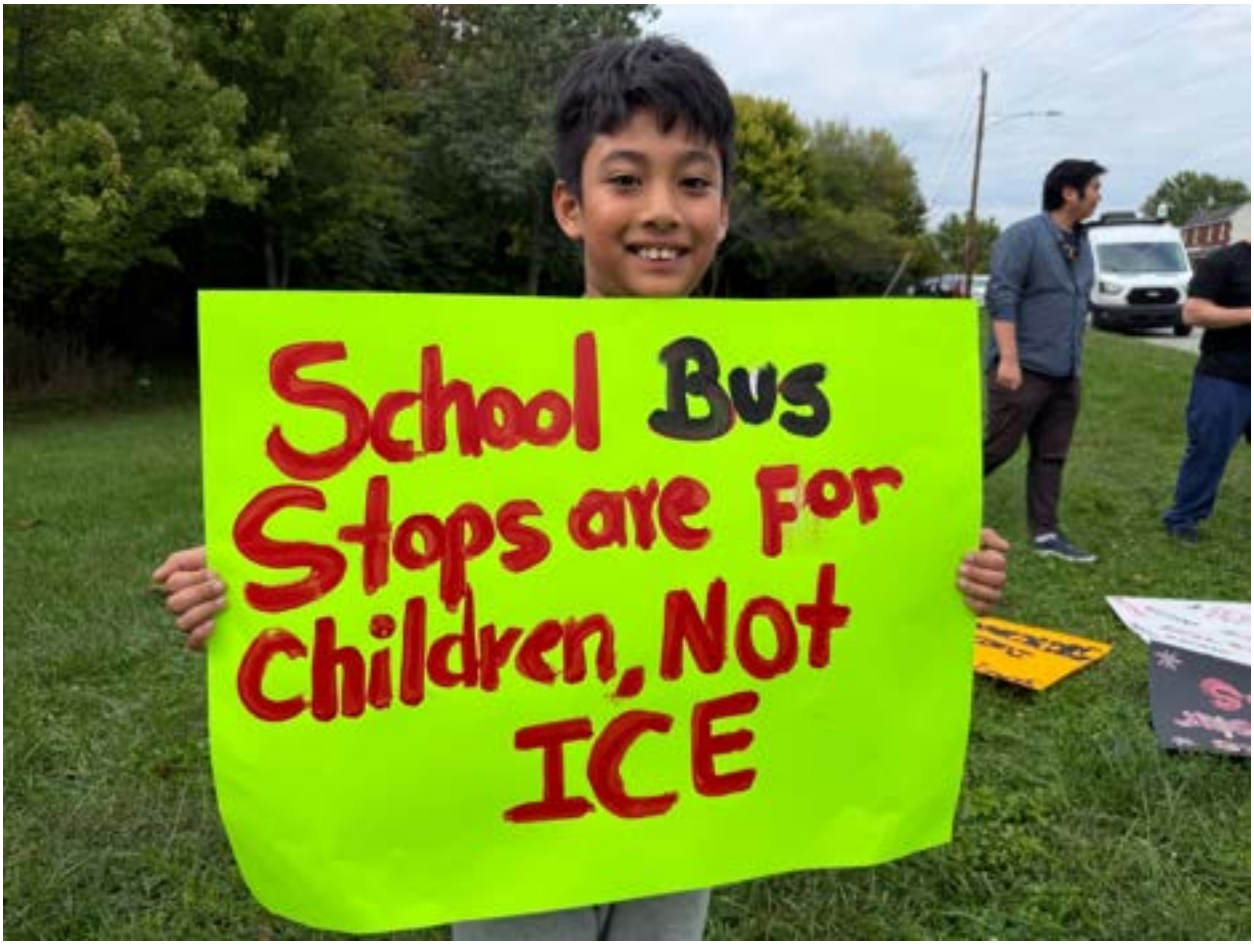


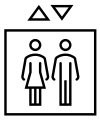
Season of Blessings

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

10:15 am

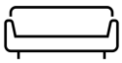
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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. <u>These will not be read during service.</u> **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, <u>feel free to write inside before service begins</u>!



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 — October 4, 2026 — World Communion Sunday

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

PRELUDE Kum Ba Yah……Arranged by John F. Wilson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Japan*

In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

What do we find at today's table?

God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

What is not at today's table?

The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.
Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

*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 #339 Adoro te devote (Truth Whom We Adore)

The choir sings stanza 1 in Latin. All then sing stanzas 1-3 in English.

CONFESSION *from South Africa*

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

God forgive us.

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,

We ask your mercy.

For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

We ask your mercy.

For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

God forgive us.

WORDS OF GRACE *from Bangladesh*

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a parent embracing you. God watches over you, guiding you each day. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive

others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming Rev. Dr. Butch Kuykendall (Sponsors: Nicole and Don Groff)and Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens *in absentia* (Sponsor: Andy Faga)

Do you promise to support this congregation with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, or your service?

St. John's United Church of Christ, I commend Butch and Tim to your love and care.

We celebrate with you this spiritual home. Honoring the diversity of paths to God, we welcome you to this faith community with open hearts and open minds.

Members of the household of God, please pause in silence to affirm your willingness to be present to these brothers in times of need and special joy.

Silent Prayer

Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

You belong to us. We belong to you.
Along with the entire universe, we all belong to God.

Though many, we are one body. There are many paths to God,
and we all drink of the same Spirit.

We rejoice to recognize you as members of this congregation of St. John's United Church of Christ.
In response to you today, we renew our own vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a full member of this community of faith. The God of all grace, who has called us to endless glory and solidarity, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace, now and forever.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 25:1-9……Pew Bible Page 486

I Corinthians 12:14-26 ……Pew Bible Page 161

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 "You Belong to Us. We Belong to You"……Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #207 Just as I Am

The hymn may be sung in harmony.

COMMUNION *from Global Ministries of the UCC/Disciples of Christ*

From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.

We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.

From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East—

We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

Christ welcomes us all.

Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. Some come with gratitude.

Christ welcomes us all.

Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

At Christ's table, there is room for all.

Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share.
We come to be made one.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and earth,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy #793 *The hymn is sung Spanish and may be sung in harmony.*

Words of Institution
Prayer of Blessing
Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.
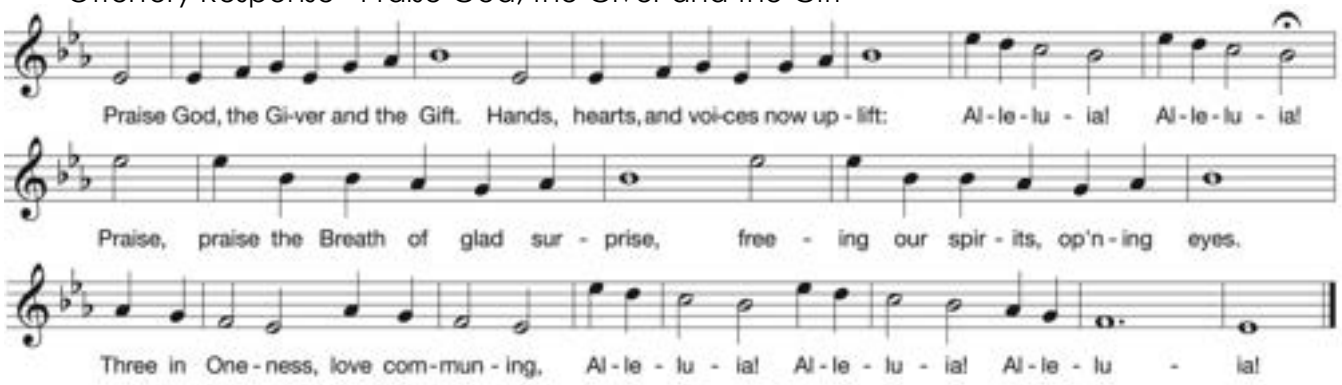
For online giving, please use the QR code.

Spotlight on Generosity: Neighbors in Need and Our Church's Wider Mission

Offertory O Taste and See……R. Vaughan Williams

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is;
Blest is the one that trusteth in him. -Psalm 34: 8
Soloist, Susan Sands

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful God, receive these gifts, increase our faith, and move us toward the love that Jesus showed for us and this world that we share. Amen

*HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Kum Ba Yah……Improvisation by Andrew Paulson

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
Susan Fitzpatrick, Liturgist 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

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Image: "School Bus Stops Are for Children" by Linda Noonan, Norristown, September 30, 2026

This Week at St. John's

Sun	**19th Sunday after Pentecost**	
Oct 4	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	L.O.F.T.
	10:15 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Fellowship
	4:00 PM	**Artist Series: Dali Quartet**
Mon	6:30 PM	NAMI PPD Group
Oct 5	7:00 PM	Council
		Fireside Group (CA)
Tues	10:00 AM	Exploring the Bible
Oct 6	7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible Zoom
		AA
Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers
Oct 7	7:30 PM	Artist Series Chorus
	8:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Thurs	6:30 PM	SOW Team
Oct 8		Girl Scouts
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat	9:00 AM	Art of Living Foundation
Oct 10	9:30 AM	Women's Retreat
	5:00 PM	Woori Center Drums
Sun	**20th Sunday after Pentecost**	
Oct 11	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	L.O.F.T.
	10:15 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Congregational Dinner

Acknowledgements:

In memory of

Bob Tanis

To the Technology Fund from:
Anne & Eric Kinsey



There are no Chancel Flowers this week

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Team Methlie
Umbrella Ministry: Marcia Stacy
Elder: Sue Clemens
Audio Tech: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flowers: Marcia Stacy
Driver: Gale Linderman
Deacon: Rick Fanciullacci
Social Hosts:

Deadlines	
Goodie Box Addresses	**TODAY**
November Enlightener	10/11
Goodie Box Donations	10/11

Weekly Current Needed:	$8,700.00	Weekly OCWM Needed:	$865.38
The Week of August 27		**The Week of September 20**	
Candidate Sunday		**Blessing of the Backpacks**	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	*	Attendance: 8:00 AM	16
Attendance: 10:15 AM	126	Attendance: 10:15 AM	101
Offering For Current:	$3,758.00	Offering For Current:	$5,500.00
Offering For OCWM:	$335.00	Offering For OCWM:	$525.00

*Attendance for the 8 AM service on 8/27 was not recorded.



Living Our Faith Together

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM
ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S OFFICE

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.

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!

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 **TODAY**. 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.

ngc national giving alliance

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:

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

This Week:

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

Next Sunday:

- Candidate Sermon
  - 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."