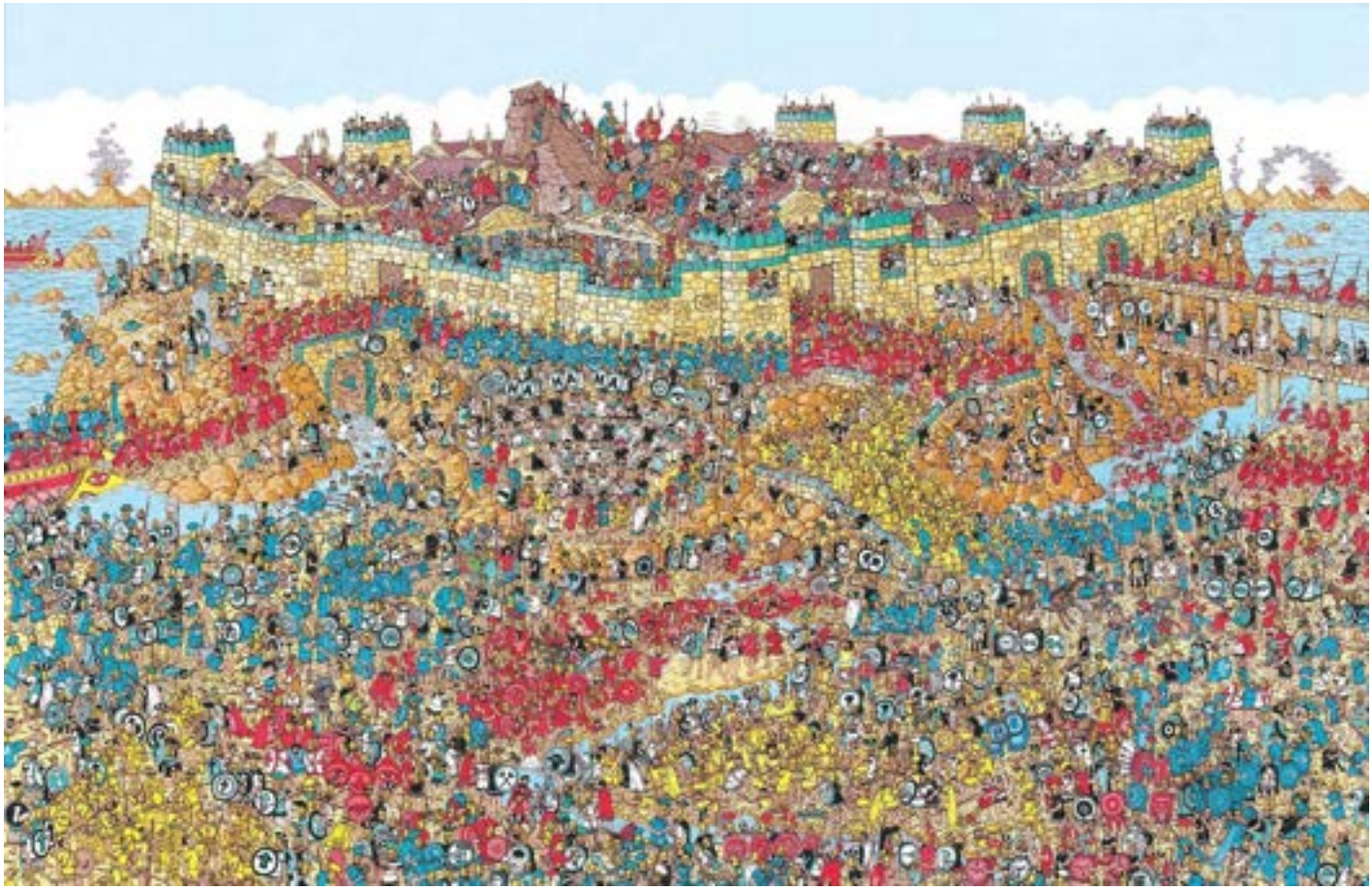


Waldo?

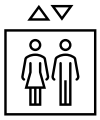
Season of Blessings

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 am

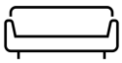
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



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. <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 11, 2026 — Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Variations on a Theme of Corelli……Aaron David Miller

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship God in our need,
Bringing with us the needs of the world.
We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus,
And who knows by experience what human life is like.
We come with our faith and with our doubts,
We come with our hopes and with our fears.
We come as we are because it is God who invites us to come,
And God has promised never to turn us away.

*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 #303 Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

CONFESSION

Holy One, we acknowledge that you have modeled a way of being in the world
That we struggle to adopt.
You invite us to love the neighbor we do not know, and the enemy we do.
You encourage us to prioritize the marginalized and center the oppressed
Even when our own needs overwhelm us.
You invite us into your kindom,
And the cost of discipleship sometimes seems more than we can afford.
Holy One, we need strength and hope for this journey.
Let your surpassing peace enable us to pursue a worthy and pleasing life.
Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-39 ……Pew Bible Page 117
Philippians 4:4-9 ……Pew Bible Page 183

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 "A Bit Like Finding Waldo"…..……..……..Rev. Elaine Ely

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Romans 8:38-39)

"**For I am convinced that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

*HYMN #547 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

The choir sings stanza 3. All sing stanzas 1, 2, 4, and 5.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS.

For online giving, please use the QR code.

Offertory Rejoice in the Lord alway……..Henry Purcell

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice!

Be careful for nothing; but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.
-Philippians, 4: 4,6,7

*Offertory Response Praise God, the Giver and the Gift



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, receive our offerings as acceptance
To your invitation to the kindom life.
May they be used to spread abundance, generate hope, and meet needs.
Bless us as we give to grow in generosity, gratitude, and grace.
We give thanks for this opportunity to participate in your kindom come
And your will be done in our communities and world.
Amen.

*HYMN Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Stanza 1: All *Stanza 3: Lower Voices*

Stanza 2: Higher Voices *Stanza 4: All*



*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 156.....Dieterich Buxtehude

Following worship, you are invited to join us for the Congregational Dinner 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. Elaine Ely Ken Hales Andrew Paulson 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

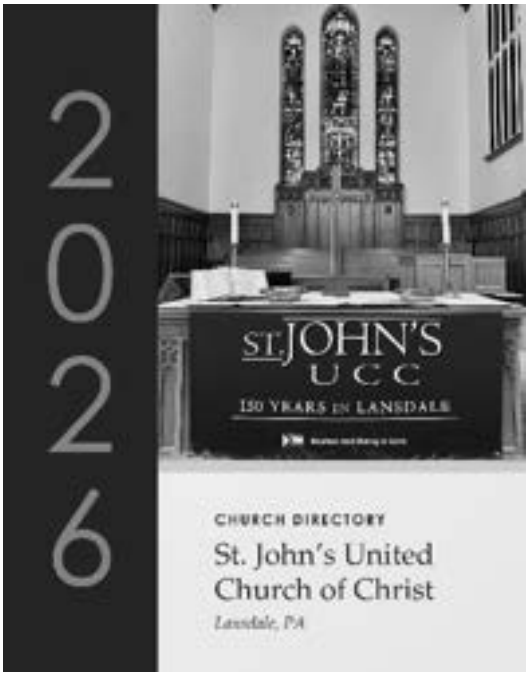
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Those Who Have Been Invited: Service Prayers for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.
Praise God the Giver and the Gift: Text-Brian Wren © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

The 2026 St. John's Directory is here!

The directory will be available in the library after both services! Those who had their pictures taken professionally at the church this year have free directories. **If you did not get a picture taken at the church, the suggested donation is $20 per copy.**

Thank you for participating in this wonderful church tradition!



This Week at St. John's

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
Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside Group (CA)
Tues		Organ Tuning
Oct 13	19:30 AM	Visitation Team
		AA
Wed	6:30 PM	United Ringers
Oct 14	7:30 PM	Artist Series Chorus
Thurs	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir @ Trinity
Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club
Sat	9:00 AM	Art of Living Foundation
Oct 17	5:00 PM	Woori Center Drums
Sun	**21st Sunday after Pentecost**	
Oct 18	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	L.O.F.T.
	10:15 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Fellowship

Acknowledgements:

In memory of

Thelma Brunner

To the Technology Fund from:
The Estate of Thelma Brunner

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 Host: Congregational Dinner

Weekly Current Needed:	$8,700.00	Weekly OCWM Needed:	$865.38
The Week of October 4		**The Week of August 27**	
19th Sunday after Pentecost		**Candidate Sunday**	
Attendance: 8:00 AM	*	Attendance: 8:00 AM	*
Attendance: 10:15 AM	103	Attendance: 10:15 AM	126
Offering For Current:	$6,172.00	Offering For Current:	$3,758.00
Offering For OCWM:	$933.00	Offering For OCWM:	$335.00

*Attendance for the 8 AM services were not recorded.

Due Today!

November Enlightener

Church community! Please provide articles for November events and October reflections! All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. **Please email submissions to** Enlightener@st-johns-ucc.org **or place them in the Enlightener bin in the church office.**

Spring Goodie Boxes

Please submit your donated items by end of day **TODAY.** **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

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 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.

Congregational Outbox

For those who do not have Council Mailboxes, there are designated spots on the white shelves in the Church Office that will serve as a mailbox. Instructions are on the shelf. Thank you for working with us to keep the office orderly!



Trunk or Treat Game Night

Thursday, October 29
6:00 PM | Fireside & Activity Room

Come in costume, bring some games to share, and enjoy a fun night of gaming with your family and ours!

There will be Halloween goodies at themed "Trunk or Treat" tables for ghouls & goblins of all ages!

We want YOU to have a table at our Trunk or Treat! Provide treats and decorate your table! Sign up on the Educator's bulletin board in the Elevator Lobby!

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:

- Congregational Dinner
- November Enlightener Articles Due by end of day today
    - Reflections, Announcements, & Events
- Goodie Box Donations Due by end of day today!
- Directories are available in the library
    - **Free for those who got their pictures taken at the church**
    - please read the sign for more instructions

This Week:

- Visitation Team Meeting **Tuesday at 10:30 am**
    - Rev. Elaine's Office
- Second Rehearsal for the Artist Series Christmas Festival
    - It's not too late to sign up!

Next Sunday:

- Sharing worship with Trinity Lutheran through our Combined Choir
-

Joys:

-

Concerns:

-

Acts 8:26-39

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward
the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
(This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there
was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had
come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated
in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit
said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30 So Philip ran
up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do
you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can
I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and
sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was
reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does
the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"
35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he
proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were
going along the road, they came to some water, and the
eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from
being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and
both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water,
and Philip[c] baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the
water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch
saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be
anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known
to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is
pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard
and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with
you.