

Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

LONG LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Who
are
we

Who
is our
neighbor

Who is
God
calling us
to become

?

The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregations in search of a pastor. *All* congregations are encouraged to engage in its process of discovery every 3-5 years. The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation. Not just to be completed by a search committee – the more participation, the better!

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, PA

Settled Associate Pastor

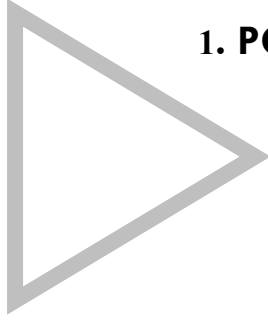
Keystone Conference, North Penn Association

February 11, 2026

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
- Who Are We Now?
- Who Is Our Neighbor?
- References
- Consent and Validation

*“God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work.”
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*



1. POSITION POSTING

- a. LISTING INFORMATION
- b. SCOPE OF WORK
- c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
- d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: St. John's United Church of Christ

Street address: 500 West Main St. Lansdale, PA 19446

Supplemental web links:

<https://st-johns-ucc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MyStJohnsUCC>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohnsUCCLansdalePA>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5uWu2epjNMIhmqgd30lcWE?si=f0b7f9d23cf34f0f>

Additional ecumenical affiliations (e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships):

Conference: Keystone Conference

Association: North Penn Association

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Persons:

Rev. Kevin J. McLemore, Regional Conference Minister for Region 1

Keystone Conference, United Church of Christ

Office: 717-652-1560, extension 302

Cellphone: 773-717-0029

kevin@keystoneucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

St. John's United Church of Christ is seeking an Associate Pastor who will work collaboratively and creatively with others to expand accessibility and inclusivity in all areas of church life; help cultivate a culture of belonging in which the experiences, needs, and gifts of children, youth, and vulnerable ones are centered; and work to insure that ministry, programs, and relationships align with congregational values, including our Open and Affirming commitment to advocate for and support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, and queer individuals, equipping us to embody Christ's extravagant affirmation and be bold witnesses for justice and inclusion and ensuring that all people are celebrated as beloved children of God.

The Associate Pastor will serve as a spiritual leader and teacher, with a focus on faith formation for children, youth, and adults, as well as pastoral care and support for those at the edges of congregational life including homebound and those exploring the St. John's community. The Associate Pastor will also be part of the worship team which includes preaching and worship leadership. This set of responsibilities is somewhat flexible, based on skills and gifts of the candidate.

St. John's is experiencing a time of revitalization, new energy, and deepened service, outreach, and witness. After losing their senior pastor of 42 years in 2022, the church has called a new settled pastor and is excited about the ways God is leading us into the future. Community service, living into our values as an Open and Affirming congregation and Creation Stewards, accessibility, ministry to young people, and cultivating a beloved community are some of our priorities. We embrace a contemporary and relevant faith in a traditional setting. As we prepare to celebrate our 150th Anniversary in 2026, we are full of gratitude and joy at the ways the gifts of the past have brought us to this moment. We are building on a firm foundation and St. John's is rooted and rising in love!

Respectfully submitted,
St. John's Search and Call Committee



Passing of the Peace during 10:15 worship



Front of St. John's with banners



St. John's Choir at Easter



Soft worship space in the Sanctuary



Palm Sunday Congregational Procession led outside by Choir

What we value about living in our area:

St. John’s is located on Main Street in the heart of downtown Lansdale, PA, a town with a population of 19,000 that is experiencing a revival as a vibrant suburb of the greater Philadelphia area. There is significant foot traffic along Main Street with a lively business and culturally diverse restaurant scene, including breweries and a Black-owned bookstore. The town has many street fairs and festivals (Photo right: Lansdale Pride Day, 2025). Access to public transportation (SEPTA), thirty minutes to Philadelphia, easy access to New York City (less than two hours), and an affordable cost of living, coupled with a small-town feel, make Lansdale a destination for many young adults and younger families. Lansdale is in the North Penn School District and is highly regarded for academics, sports, and the arts. There are strong relationships and communication between government, elected officials, social service agencies, and faith communities, most notably at the “Lansdale Hub,” in which police, judges, social service organizations, and faith leaders meet monthly to discuss collective care and support for our neighbors.



Current size of membership: ~700

Languages used in ministry: English

Position Title: Associate Pastor

Position Duration: Settled

Compensation Level: Full Time (40-50 hours/week)

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Our intent is for salary and benefits to meet the conference compensation guidelines with one exception: health benefits are offered to the staff member only. Family benefit coverage can be added and paid for by the staff member. We are open to discussion/negotiation on this item.

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

At St. John's, we value our ministerial and administrative staff and lay leadership, their relationships with one another, and the collaborative spirit with which they function and lead. Our Associate Pastor should expect and be eager to join a dynamic, creative, and supportive ministry team. Each member's unique gifts are honored, and each is entrusted with their own responsibilities and tasks, working as one body for the sake of nurturing and holding space for spiritual growth, collective care, connection, and engagement with the world around us.

The Associate Pastor will serve as a spiritual leader and teacher, with a focus on Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults as well as Pastoral Care and Visitation for those at the edges of congregational life including homebound and those exploring the St. John's community. This set of responsibilities is somewhat flexible, based on skills and gifts of the candidate.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

- Work with Senior Pastor, staff, and lay leaders to expand accessibility and inclusivity in all areas of church life.
- Help cultivate a culture of belonging at St. John's in which the experiences, needs, and gifts of children, youth, and vulnerable ones are centered.
- Work to insure that ministry, programs, and relationships align with congregational values, including our Open and Affirming commitment to advocate for and support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, and queer individuals, equipping us to fully embody Christ's extravagant affirmation, and bold witnesses for LGBTQ+ justice and inclusion, ensuring that all people are celebrated as beloved children of God.

Worship and Ritual Care

- Prepare and lead Sunday worship, including preaching approximately once a month, and supporting Sunday worship remaining Sundays per month.
- Collaborate with Senior Pastor and Minister of Music to plan liturgical seasons, thematic focus, and ways to include children, youth, and adults in multi-sensory, participatory worship.
- Support and share leadership with the Senior Pastor for other seasonal and special services.

- Coordinate with the Senior Pastor in conducting baptisms, weddings and funerals, and other forms of ritual care as needed.

Faith Formation

- Help shape vision for and lead coordination of Faith Formation programs for children, youth, and adults. This includes the LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) program for adults, Connect3 Sunday morning program for children, Vacation Bible School, and educational/engagement programs for children and youth. Explore the possibility of introducing OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum or other resources.
- Supervise and support Youth Group programming and leaders.
- Develop and implement programs to support family life, connecting children, youth, and families in building relationships, deepening spiritual growth, and engaging in community service.
- Assist in identifying, nurturing, and incorporating children, youth, and young families who are new to our church.
- Supervise Nursery and Christian Education staff and programming.
- Plan Confirmation as needed.
- Provide ongoing opportunities and support for leadership development for volunteers, children, and youth.

Pastoral Care and Visitation

- Care for those unable to physically attend church. Responsible for coordination of pastoral care activities including being the primary point of contact with the Elders to manage visitation of persons who are hospitalized or homebound.
- Care and nurture of visitors and new members, including coordinating New Member Gatherings in partnership with Elders.
- Provide worship, pastoral care, and administrative coverage in the absence of the Senior Pastor.

Administration

- Participate in weekly meetings with staff and Senior Pastor, and monthly meetings with Educators and Church Council.
- Attend other Board meetings as needed and serve as a resource person in all areas of church life (stewardship, evangelism, mission, community outreach, etc.).

- As needed, provide articles for church publications and collaborate with Communications Coordinator and Senior Pastor on social media presence.
- Participate in regular reviews of Faith Formation staff and contractors.
- Work with the Office Manager to ensure that clearances are current for staff, volunteers, and members of council and work to ensure compliance with Safer Church policies and arrange or lead annual compliance training for staff, volunteers, and Council.
- Maintain an active connection with the UCC Association and Conference.

Core Competencies:

- **Excellence in worship leadership:** Bringing God's world to life, relating sacred texts to our own lives.
- **Extravagant welcome** to our community and members of St. John's, and a commitment to providing a safer and braver space for spiritual growth and connection.
- **Collaborative spirit** in working with our valued staff and volunteers.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: Salary plus housing allowance starting at \$78,000 and may be increased based on experience.

Benefits: We follow Conference Guidelines with one exception: Health Insurance is for the staff member only. Health Insurance can be added for family members if paid for by staff member.

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Living nearby with a housing allowance.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.

As a larger congregation with members throughout the greater Lansdale area, we expect the Settled Associate Pastor to be available for regular visitation to homes, facilities, and hospitals as well as spending a reasonable time at church for meetings, events, and worship.

State any incentives: No additional incentives beyond what is included in the Conference Guidelines (Pension, Insurance, Sabbatical, Vacation, etc.)

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: Within the Keystone Conference, the Pennsylvania Southeast region is blessed to be one of the most UCC-dense regions in the country, with many nearby UCC clergy with whom to form relationships. The Conference offers Communities of Practice for clergy, as well as a list of Spiritual Coaches/Mentors.

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

St. John's United Church of Christ is seeking an Associate Pastor who will work collaboratively and creatively with others to expand accessibility and inclusivity in all areas of church life; help cultivate a culture of belonging in which the experiences, needs, and gifts of children, youth, and vulnerable ones are centered; and work to insure that ministry, programs, and relationships align with congregational values, including our Open and Affirming commitment to advocate for and support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, and queer individuals, equipping us to embody Christ's extravagant affirmation and be bold witnesses for justice and inclusion and ensuring that all people are celebrated as beloved children of God.

As a spiritual leader and teacher, the Associate Pastor will help build community, provide opportunities for connection, reflection, spiritual growth, and resilience in hard times. They will work collaboratively to build what Martin Luther King, Jr. called "beloved community" that prioritizes belonging, justice, and collective care for one another and our neighbors.

Below are the three Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry that we believe our Associate Pastor will embody to support the life and ministry of St. John's in this position:

Engaging in Sacred Stories and Traditions

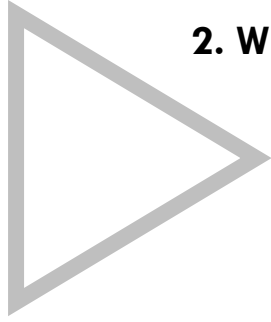
- Bringing life to sacred stories and traditions in worship, education and visitation.
- Leading faith formation effectively across generations.

Working together for Justice and Mercy

- Practicing the radical hospitality of God.
- Building relationships of mutual trust and interdependence.

Strengthening Inter- and Intra- Personal Assets

- Respecting the dignity of all God's people.
- Understanding and ministering to stages of human development across the generations.



2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

In 2022 and in the midst of the pandemic, St. John’s lost its long-time Senior Pastor (42 years) to cancer. The following three years were a time of grief and transition while also including a thoughtful visioning process which formed the groundwork for the search for a new Senior Pastor. The arrival of our called Senior Pastor in March 2025 has marked a “new chapter” for St. John’s with renewed energy, enthusiasm, and hope.

Honoring the past while renewing our faith for the future. We are grateful for our church’s rich spiritual history and successful programs and are looking for leadership to help us continue our vision for our future while providing spiritual care and support for those more vulnerable among us - our elders and our children and youth. In a time of great social change and upheaval, we want to be a congregation that holds space for our personal and collective loss while looking outwardly with fresh faith and enthusiasm. We want to honor and respect tradition while welcoming new opportunities and embracing the change that accompanies diversity of experience.

Excellent Worship: Worship is the place where we come to find connection, refuge, and engage the intersection of faith and life. We are blessed to have a very strong Music Ministry which illuminates and enlivens our worship. We offer two Sunday services - a service at 8:00 am which is quieter and briefer, and a service at 10:15 am which includes choir, bell choir, and instrumental ensembles.

We want to be a church of relevance, inclusion, generosity, activity, music, fun, and caring; and a church where clear communication helps to foster harmony.



Water Sunday, ONA Anniversary Sunday

Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

St. John's is building on a foundation and history of commitment to serving our neighbors. Lansdale's strongest social service organization, Manna on Main Street, was begun in the basement of St. John's when a previous pastor saw neighbors who were hungry and began offering meals at the church. We are currently engaged in a community organizing-style listening campaign to ascertain community needs and discern the places where St. John's is best equipped to respond. We have completed a community-wide fundraiser for food aid to Gaza, are committed to support and solidarity for Palestinian justice, support the local faith community efforts for mutual aid and direct support, and support a range of local and international relief efforts through generous contributions. We are deepening our commitment as Creation Stewards. We want to Live the Word by working together to follow Jesus' teachings, living our faith in the current moment by participating in meaningful initiatives.

Accessibility and Inclusivity: Accessibility extends beyond physical accommodations for those with disabilities or physical limitations. (We have an elevator, amplification aids, and most of our spaces are wheelchair accessible.) We are working to be more accessible to families with children and youth, and leaning into our call as an Open and

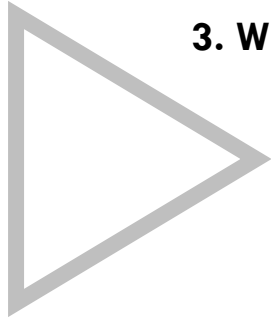
Affirming Congregation (we became an ONA church in 2015). This includes beginning a Youth Group after a hiatus of many years, including youth in worship leadership, and adding staff for childcare during worship.

We also have created a “Soft Worship Space” in the sanctuary where children, youth, and those adults who need a different kind of space in order to engage worship more fully can stim, move their bodies, knit, color, play, or relax in stuffed chairs or rockers during the service.



Kids during Vacation Bible School enjoying the “Soft Worship Space”

While we do not currently have the capacity to livestream worship, we are in the process of a major tech upgrade which will not only allow livestreaming for those unable to participate in person, but improved lighting, sound, and image amplification.



3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. 11-YEAR REPORT
- c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- e. CHURCH FINANCES
- f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

Our open and affirming congregation is a welcoming community devoted to following Christ. We believe in a gentle, loving God, full of grace, mercy, and justice, still-speaking and revealed in Jesus Christ. As we journey together, we seek to live our faith, to serve God by loving our neighbor, to generously share what has been entrusted to our care, to do justice, and to be good stewards of all creation. We depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us to share Christ’s life-giving message of forgiveness, grace, and courage through words and actions within our community and beyond. We strive to create a sense of belonging within our church and be instruments of God’s love and peace.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

We are a dynamic, music-loving community dedicated to supporting, serving, and uplifting our members and the surrounding community.

Our congregation is a vibrant and inclusive community known for its warm atmosphere that feels like a second family. We prioritize fostering connections through various service and social groups, from practical ones like knitters, drivers, and the flower ministry to recreational activities such as social hour and gardening. This diversity reflects our commitment to drawing the circle wide and embracing people from all walks of life and diverse interests. We believe in creating a space where everyone feels valued, connected, and inspired on their spiritual journey.

Our highly gifted Minister of Music cultivates and amplifies the musical talents of congregational members, creating meaningful worship experiences which deepen our faith and foster a sense of community. Our [Artist Series](#) features special musical

presentations such as Brahms' "Requiem", Hayden's "Creation," and Craig Hella Johnson's "Considering Matthew Shephard," which are all free and open to the public.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.



St. John's holds two Sunday services: One service at 8:00 am which is quieter and briefer, and a service at 10:15 am which includes chancel choir, bell choir, and instrumental ensembles.

Worship takes place in a beautiful, illuminated sanctuary with a traditional worship order and relevant messages that address the intersection of faith and life, powerful music, and creative twists (photo left, participation in the Sermon!).



Kids come and sit with the pastor during "Our Time with Children" and are invited not just to hear a message, but to talk about their own lives.

Folks gather water from special places during the summer and pour them into the baptismal font during Water Sunday. Water is flung from the font as folks are invited to "Remember your baptism!"

Pews were removed and a long banquet table was set for a reflective Maundy Thursday Supper and remembrance of Jesus' meal in the Upper Room (photo above).

Describe the educational program/faith formation vision of your church.

We strive to offer many opportunities to learn, ask questions, and discuss our faith, but we have seen small class sizes in our Education programming as an effect of the pandemic. We are ready to partner with the new Associated Pastor in assessing our current programs to address the needs of the community during this time of transition and post-pandemic. We look forward to the renewal and growth of our programs.

Currently we offer programming for all ages, including:

- **Children’s Sunday School Program, “Connect3”:** A weekly, in-person children’s Sunday school program that takes place during worship following “Our Time with Children” and is led by our Connect3 Director. The program often includes music, engaging world issues such as water or learning about Malawi, and occasionally focuses on preparing for a musical number for Easter or Christmas.
- **Confirmation:** Classes meet most years with 7th and 8th grade students led by the Senior Pastor. The schedule follows the school year from September to Pentecost Sunday. We encourage youth to make decisions for themselves, welcome questions and doubt, and prioritize “belonging” over “belief.”
- **Adult Faith Formation:** The LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) is a new initiative to provide opportunities to live into the questions and explore and deepen spiritual practices. It covers a range of topics from supporting caregivers, living our faith in a broken world, re-remembering Christmas, the struggle for justice in Palestine, writing your own psalm in a time of despair, and preparing for the end of life.
- **Vacation Bible School:** We offer a multi-generational Vacation Bible School each summer that has taken different forms and focuses. This is an area for new ideas and energy.



Chalk drawing at church picnic, Intergenerational Vacation Bible School

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Organization

Our congregation is organized for ministry and mission through the church's Council. We are grateful to have a congregation willing to offer their talents and time to serve St. John's. The Council follows St. John's Constitution and By-Laws. The council consists of the Council Officers (Executive Council: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and four Boards (Trustees, Elders, Deacons, and Educators) with six members per Board. All Council positions have term limits. Council members are nominated through a Nominating Committee led by the current Vice President and are voted into office by the Congregation. Pastors and the Minister of Music attend the Council as non-voting members, along with other members of staff when appropriate. Personnel, Finance, Stewardship, and Service/Outreach/Witness Committees have input to Council when appropriate. The Council meets approximately 1.5 hours per month, and each Board meets approximately 1.5 hours per month. Council minutes are summarized in our periodic publications and available to all members.

Additional Committees are formed as needed, to address current or emerging needs or opportunities, and connected to the Executive Council or one of the Boards.

Communication

St. John's is blessed to have a gifted Communications Coordinator who is responsible for communications, social media, and messaging. We communicate decisions, updates, and programs through two regular publications - a monthly newsletter and a bi-weekly publication that highlights the upcoming week's worship details, volunteer opportunities, and important announcements.

Announcements also take place during weekly worship. Communication within leadership structures is strong and useful in the event of emergencies. Recently, the church building was hit when a driver traveling at high speed crashed into the church, destroying the main entrance. No one was hurt, and staff and leaders responded quickly and responsibly, communicating with the congregation at each important step in the process to repair the damage.

Congregational meetings are scheduled at least twice yearly and include election of Church Council, budget, and topics which require congregational deliberation.

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

(add here the 11-Year Report developed with the help of your conference staff, UCC Data Hub, and MissionInsite)

United Church of Christ ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS



Church: 0340 - Saint Johns UCC - Lansdale, PA

Assoc/Conf: North Penn in Keystone
Schedule: 0 - UCC Church

Year	Members	AVG Weekly Attendance	CHRED / Faith Form	Confirmation	Confession	Transfer Or Reaffirm	Death Or Trans Out	Other Losses	Net Membs Adds-Removed
2015	901	271	70	5	11	7	10	30	-17
2016	904	255	60	4	0	17	18	0	3
2017	915	240	55	6	0	19	14	0	11
2018	927	235	55	6	0	17	11	0	12
2019	922	235	55	3	0	9	17	0	-5
2020	914	202	70	2	0	0	10	0	-8
2021	907	178	40	5	0	2	14	0	-7
2022	895	185	40	4	0	0	16	0	-12
2023	733	145	56	4	0	3	20	149	-162
2024	739	150	56	0	5	10	9	0	6

Year	Current Expenses	Capital Payments	Basic Support	Additional UCC Giving	Total OCWM	Other Support	Wider Mission	Basic Supp % Curr Local	Total Expend	Pledges And Offerings
2015	\$608,167.00	\$88,216.00	\$45,717.00	\$3,945.00	\$49,662.00	\$21,196.00	\$70,858.00	8%	\$717,579.00	\$517,803.00
2016	\$547,300.00	\$56,418.00	\$44,782.00	\$3,972.00	\$48,754.00	\$21,196.00	\$69,950.00	8%	\$624,914.00	\$596,689.00
2017	\$504,741.00	\$524,767.00	\$44,898.00	\$13,075.00	\$57,973.00	\$13,661.00	\$71,634.00	9%	\$1,052,224.00	\$368,644.00
2018	\$528,666.00	\$28.00	\$45,114.00	\$12,902.00	\$58,016.00	\$19,880.00	\$77,896.00	9%	\$557,611.00	\$392,373.00
2019	\$585,615.00	\$5,818.00	\$46,470.00	\$13,586.00	\$60,056.00	\$41,559.00	\$101,615.00	8%	\$639,229.00	\$394,570.00
2020	\$574,654.00	\$4,493.00	\$48,313.00	\$14,294.00	\$62,607.00	\$42,027.00	\$104,634.00	8%	\$628,724.00	\$385,325.00
2021	\$613,803.00	\$20,126.00	\$58,746.00	\$21,243.00	\$79,989.00	\$42,330.00	\$122,319.00	10%	\$692,082.00	\$418,711.00
2022	\$646,814.00	\$55,219.00	\$39,974.00	\$8,737.00	\$48,711.00	\$39,068.00	\$87,779.00	6%	\$747,119.00	\$491,293.00
2023	\$669,994.00	\$106,104.00	\$40,687.00	\$14,817.00	\$55,504.00	\$40,238.00	\$95,742.00	6%	\$825,800.00	\$554,225.00
2024	\$786,861.00	\$121,582.00	\$43,434.00	\$7,501.00	\$50,935.00	\$28,586.00	\$79,521.00	6%	\$941,282.00	\$636,595.00

% Change	Members	Avg Weekly Attendance	CHRED / Faith Form	Total Additions	Total Removals	CURR Local Expenses	Total OCWM	Total Expenditures
2020 - 2025	-19.15	-25.74	-20.00	650.00	-10.00	36.93	-18.64	49.71
2015 - 2025	-17.98	-44.65	-20.00	-34.78	-77.50	29.38	2.56	31.17

For more information about report data, please visit Data-Hub-Church-Field-Guide.pdf

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
Number of active members:	347	Yes
Number of active non-members:	41	Yes
Number of children of active participants:	23	Yes
Total of church participants:	411	Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
More than 10 years:	75%	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	15%	Yes
Less than 5 years:	10%	Yes

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate?</i>
19	15	28	19	34	42	37	91	126	Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
Single adults under 35:	1%	Yes
Households with minors:	11%	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	7%	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	40%	Yes
Single adults over 65:	41%	Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
High school:	16%	Yes

College:	28%	Yes
Graduate School:	25%	Yes
Specialty Training:	8%	Yes
Other (please specify):	22%	Yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate?</i>
Adults who are employed:	28%	Yes
Adults who are retired:	49%	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:		Unknown

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

This information is not collected, but a sampling of the congregation indicates that members work in a diverse range of careers. Many have been educators and health care providers in various settings: teachers, musicians, therapists, case managers, and nurses. Self-employed business owners, sales managers/agents, scientists, and administrators are also represented significantly within the congregation. Other occupations include those who work in finance or business in general.

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

St. John's is predominantly white and of European heritage with a small number of non-white members (Filipina/o, mixed race). Diversity in our context is primarily theological and political, with a majority of active participants skewing center/liberal. St. John’s new Senior pastor - who identifies as part of the lgbtq+ community - is committed to addressing the broader social, political, and economic realities of our world (including Christian Nationalism, genocide in Palestine, and the vulnerability of queer, trans folks, immigrants, and disabled in this time) in the context of faith, recognizing the diversity of opinions and perspectives in the congregation. As the church has gone through a significant amount of change, the current focus is on providing care and spiritual support

to the congregation while turning toward service and witness beyond our doors, and less about working to welcome in more racial and ethnic diversity before we have done “the work” needed to do so.



Some worshippers following the ONA Anniversary Celebration.
Pride T-shirts: “The Greatest of These Is Love. St. John’s UCC”

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings?
Adult Groups or Classes	150 across dozens of different groups focused on faith, service and outreach	Adult education planned by Senior and Associate Pastor; all other groups are led and planned by Laity
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	3	Senior and Associate Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	10	Connect3 Director
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	300 Christmas Eve 175 Easter	Senior and Associate Pastor, Minister of Music
Church-wide Meals	150 x 2 Cong. dinners ~45 each Sunday Social Hour	Deacons and Laity
Choirs and Music Groups	50 across Chancel Choir, Hand Bells, Wind Ensemble	Minister of Music
Church-based Bible Study	10	Senior and Associate Pastor
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	9 x year during services; Various at home through visitation	Senior and Associate Pastor in services, plus Laity for home bound
Community Meals	125	Manna on Main Street uses St. John's facility with participation from St. John's Laity
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	4	Senior and Associate Pastor
Drama or Dance Program	N/A	

Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	9	Senior and Associate Pastor, Minister of Music, Office Admin, Building and Grounds Supervisor
Intergenerational Groups	25 (VBS)	Laity
Outdoor Worship	150	Senior and Associate Pastor, Minister of Music, Connect3 Director
Prayer or Meditation Groups	N/A	
Public Advocacy Work	N/A	
Retreats	N/A	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	N/A	
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	2	Senior and Associate Pastor, Minister of Music
Worship (time slot: 8:00)	29	Senior and Associate Pastor, Minister of Music
Worship (time slot: 10:15)	130	Senior and Associate Pastor, Minister of Music
Young Adult Groups or Classes	N/A	
Youth Groups or Classes	15	Youth Group Lay Leader
Other	N/A	

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Patti Thomas	No	N/A	N/A	Y

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

Patti Thomas participates as a member of the congregation.

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Sr. Pastor	Yes	Full Time	Reports to Council Exec Board and works closely with the Board of Elders	Began March 2025
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music	No	Full Time	Senior Pastor	6 years
Kay Peebles, Church Admin	No	Full Time	Senior Pastor	2 years
Anthony Ottaviano, Facilities Manager	No	Full Time	Senior Pastor and Trustees	Began August 2025
Abbie Lampe, Connect3 Director	No	Part Time	Senior Pastor	7 years
Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator	No	Part Time (Contractor)	Senior Pastor	2 years

We have additional paid contractor positions for Nursery Attendant, Financial Administrator, and Historian/Photographer.

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's overall ministry?

St. John's has a long history of being in community with one another and serving our neighbor. Our members' many and varied interests have generated ample opportunities to express our desire to live into Christ's vision for the church. Music plays a central and unifying role in drawing us together. God is Still Speaking to us through tradition and we are excited to learn and practice new ways to "be the church" and meet the changing needs of our members and community.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Budget and Actuals from 2024 and 2025; 2026 Congregation approved budget.

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals	2026 Budget
Income					
Current Tithes/ Offerings	410,000	376,418	410,000	399,320	452,000
Trust Fund Income	15,000	13,500	14,000	15,380	
Event Income/ Fund Raisers	12,700	10,100	14,200	6,138	14,200
Flowers	4,000	4,682	5,000	3,961	5,000
Rental Income	32,500	32,900	33,500	33,500	33,500
Use of Building Income	4,000	3,550	3,500	2,625	3,500
Misc. Unrestricted Income	2,000	742	2,000	3,014	2,000
Xfer from Immediate Needs / Special Funds (memorial) to Cover Communications Coordinator Position & Operational Expenses	53,600		25,000	25,000	172,461
Xfer from Investments	139,195	157,700	140,280	165,027	
Additional Xfer from Investments to cover communications Coordinator expenses in excess of 25K			14,260	3,820	
Total Income & Transfers	672,995	615,014	661,740	689,473	683,861
Expense					
Salaries and Benefits	459,510	414,855	434,673	433,658	451,684
Deacons Expenses	17,070	14,708	13,540	11,126	18,625
Educators Expenses	1,450	1,681	1,450	1,471	5,800
Elders Expenses	2,800	2,905	2,700	6,847	4,395
Trustees	17,150	33,373	16,100	41,582	18,245
Bldg Expenses	60,000	64,758	87,424	76,449	77,004
Operating Expenses	62,380	64,102	65,393	90,980	106,908
Misc. Expenses	1,035	1,891	1,200	650	1,200
New Communications Coordinator Position (funded by investments or other funds (memorial, etc)	51,600	18,911	39,260	28,343	-
Total Expense	672,995	617,183	661,740	691,105	683,861

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? **66%**

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church? No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? (indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year)

- Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Strengthen the Church
- Neighbors in Need
- Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (recommended 10%)

We set a goal for OCWM contributions as part of our annual operating budget process. Historically it has been around 10% of our operational budget. Members designate giving to OCWM separate from tithes or other benevolences. All designated funds received that are designated for OCWM are sent to the conference. If we exceed our goal, Council may vote to redirect excess funds to other benevolences or expenses with notification to the congregation. Our giving has been strong to OCWM - the Conference recognizes St. John’s as a top-tier contributor.

What is the church’s current indebtedness? St. John’s has no debt.

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget. N/A

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
~2010 - 2017	New Organ Console, re-use and augmentation of Organ Pipes	\$524,767	\$524,767	In addition to leading worship and hymn singing, the new organ allows for the ability to host American Guild of Organists (AGO) noon recitals and Artist Series community concerts.
2019	Sanctuary Painting	~23,000	Complete	By purchasing a lift for \$8,300, and using volunteer painters, the cost of refreshing the Sanctuary was reduced from the \$76K estimate provided by a painting contractor.

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2023 - present	Exterior Restoration Project - phased repointing of exterior stonework of church and education building.	Estimated at \$50-150k incremental to phases already completed.	Five phases (\$143k) are completed and paid for. \$26k raised for next phase	Addresses water penetration issues and ensures our building remains safe and welcoming for all who use it.
ongoing	General Capital Fund	\$ N/A	\$30,498	Ability to make capital improvements when necessary, in advance of a targeted campaign. Most recently used to repair the slate roof.

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? \$2,701,571 as of December 2025

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances?

During our budget review process, a % draw to meet expenses is determined and voted upon as part of the budget approval process. 1/4 of the approved amount is transferred quarterly. Any change to the budgeted withdraw amount is voted on by Council or the Congregation according to thresholds for budget changes detailed in our bylaws.

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)?

6.67% of the 3Q 2025 balance will be drawn from our investments in 2026.

In 2021, 4.95 % of our 4Q 2020 balance was drawn from our investments

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years:

2021 – 4.95%

2022 – 4.67%

2023 – 5.79%

2024 – 7.07%

2025 – 8.14%

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? 2070

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Calculations were done based on the 2026 budgeted annual withdrawal of \$172,461 and an estimated rate of return of 6%. This rate of return is much lower than our actual 5 year average rate of return, which is 11%.

Other Assets:

- **Reserves (savings):** \$87,479. This includes \$31,344, which are restricted funds outside of operating cash accounts for specific purposes. An example is the GEM Fund (Going the Extra Mile - supporting benevolences and initiatives outside of our local area) and Emergency Fund (supporting needs of our congregants and members of our local community for items such as rent, utility payments, or car repairs.)
- **Investments (other than endowment):** \$30,498 in capital funds
- **Does your church have a parsonage?** No
- **Describe all buildings owned by the church:** St John's owns the church building where we worship, the connected education wing, and a detached garage.
- **Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:** A Lansdale bank owns one parking lot on the far side of the meditation garden. We jointly manage the parking lot and can use it for church worship or events.

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? Elevators and ramps allow access to the entire church building. Pews on the pulpit and lectern side of the sanctuary have been cut back to allow room for people who use a wheelchair or other mobility equipment during worship and events in the sanctuary.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

It is important that congregational giving supports the church's work, especially the staff salaries, while the regular maintenance of the building can be funded from our endowments. Since the pandemic, a downturn in attendance has resulted in relying on our endowments more heavily than we would like. It became evident that getting our message of welcome to our existing congregation and the broader Lansdale community required the addition of a new Communications Coordinator role. Aligned with our 2024 Stewardship theme of "Investing in our Future," our congregation voted to add \$51,600

to our 2024 budget to fund this position from a combination of the use of some of our special savings funds and additional withdrawal from our investments. We hired a contractor to fill that role in 2024. We have seen dramatic improvement in our communications, including rebranding, a new website, new curation of our Facebook pages, and updating of all of our communication in alignment with our updated brand. In 2026 that position was fully incorporated into our operating budget. With the technical work largely completed, we look forward to expanding our reach and ability to reach more members of the greater Lansdale community.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

- Establishment of Manna on Main Street (1981) which grew to be its own independent organization in 2012.
- Tradition of long-tenured pastors and other staff members (8 senior pastors in 150 years)
- The most important event in the life of the church in the past 10 years was the long illness and passing of our senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Susan C. Bertollette in 2022, following a 42-year pastorate as both associate and senior pastor.

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past.

St. John's became an open and affirming church in 2015. This decision was reached by consensus of the congregation following a period of careful and prayerful consideration. In 2025, we also removed pews to make room for our "Soft Space" to allow our sanctuary to be more comfortable and welcoming.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement...." Describe your congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.

St. John's desire to 'draw the circle wide' has led to discussions in exploring pragmatic aspects of what being a warm and welcoming church means. How can we extend an 'extravagant welcome' in Christ's love while also ensuring that the church provides a safe space for all worshippers? We updated Safer Church Policy provides a framework

to help guide leadership in discussion and resolution of sensitive situations, helping to strengthen our environment of both safety and generous hospitality.

In addition, several questions surrounding council executive, board member and committee terms in the past few years has made plain that the current bylaws of St. John's are in need of clarification and updating. A team of key staff and lay leaders is in the early stages of a comprehensive bylaw review process to bring recommended revisions to the council and congregation for discussion and approval, in order to bring clarity to the current governing framework.

Ministerial History *(include all previous ministerial staff for the past 30 years)*

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Senior Pastors		
Rev. Dr. John W. Touchberry	1973-1999	Y
Rev. Dr. Susan C. Bertollette	1999-2022	Y
Interim/Bridge Pastors		
Rev. Dale Davis (Interim)	2022-2024	Y
Rev. Tom Adil (Bridge)	2024-2025	Y
Rev. Dr. Hillary Barrett (Bridge Support)	2025	Y
Associate Pastors		
Rev. Susan C. Bertollette	1980-1999	Y
Rev. Robert C. Smith (interim)	1999-2000	Y
Rev. Russell D. Clark	2000-2002	Y
Rev. Lori Esslinger (part time interim)	2002-2003	Y
Rev. George Bahner (part time interim)	2002-2003	Y
Rev. Ryan W. Henderson	2004-2013	Y
Rev. Adelaide Stong	2014- 2024	Y

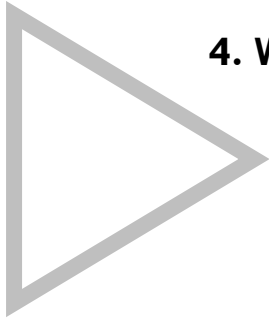
Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

Throughout our history, but especially true over the past 30+ years, beginning with Drs. Touchberry and Bertollette, and continuing to the present day, our pastors have endeavored to keep the church engaged in the community, responding to the needs of our neighbors and supporting programs and agencies who provide aid to people in need. Our pastors have been approachable and welcoming to all.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? No

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? No

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church? No



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?

Service, Outreach, and Witness - Following a significant period of leadership change which required an internal focus for several years, St. John’s is undergoing a community organizing style process of listening sessions and research meetings to build relationships, and discern and engage in service, outreach, and witness.

- Service
 - Food and housing insecurity are the two most pressing issues for our Lansdale community. As the founders of what is now Manna on Main Street, St. John’s has a long commitment to food justice in Lansdale. We continue to be an active supporter of this work. We also support and partner with organizations to provide mutual aid, food, gifts, and supplies locally, and are on the cusp of discerning new avenues of engagement and direct service.
- Outreach
 - We are building and reviving relationships in our Lansdale community through presence at local festivals, street fairs, and local events.
 - Our Senior Pastor has a strong history of interfaith connection and is building new relationships with local faith partners, elected officials, and the business community.
- Witness
 - Open and Affirming - St. John’s has leaned more confidently into our ONA commitment. This looks like showing up for community Pride events, connecting and supporting local lbtq+ programs and efforts, hosting queer-focused programs, and ensuring that our ONA commitment is visible and evident in our communications, programs, and worship.

- Awareness and support for Palestinians and justice in Palestine/Israel - Our pastor regularly travels to Palestine and is co-chair of the United Church of Christ Movement for Palestinian Solidarity. Through her work and relationships, we have raised \$12,000 for food aid to Gaza, and support an organization that provides mutual aid to those living under occupation in the West Bank.
- Creation Care - St. John's has a long history of land stewardship and cultivation of native and pollinator gardens to support local wildlife and biodiversity.

Financial Support - We provide financial support for our neighbors, partners, and programs designed to support vulnerable folks and offer mutual aid, including:

- Significant financial support for a community mutual aid ministry (organized by the Society of St. Vincent DePaul).
- Emergency funds for those in immediate need.
- Grants for organizations and partnerships through designated benevolences for UCC, community, and international partners.

Describe your congregation's participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ (association / conference / national setting). We send representatives, both pastors and lay members, to UCC meetings at all the above mentioned levels.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.) Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Designations from other denominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future?

Our primary focus – in this time of legislative effort to strip away fundamental human rights for the lgbtq+ community – has been our Open and Affirming commitment. Accessibility, Creation Justice, and Economic Justice are also priorities for us.

Describe your congregation’s participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).

In the Lansdale community, we have formed ties of faith and music with our siblings at Trinity Lutheran Church with regular worship and choir exchanges, liturgical season gatherings, and more. Our Senior Pastor participates in local ecumenical and interfaith circles. We are part of the Poverty Summit – a local, ecumenical effort to advocate and provide mutual aid for our neighbors and participate in the “Lansdale Hub” meetings at which public servants, social service agencies, and faith partners collaborate monthly to provide support for our most vulnerable neighbors.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out.

While we have no new mission statement yet, we are working to provide opportunities for connection, spiritual growth, and resilience in hard times, and cultivate what Martin Luther King, Jr. called “beloved community” that prioritizes belonging, justice, and collective care for one another and our neighbors.

4b. MISSION InSite

Comment on your congregation’s MissionInsite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown?

Based on the footprint of our current members, MissionInsite suggests that the 25-34 and 65+ age groups in the North Penn neighborhood are growing sectors and include a high percentage of educated adults. This indicates a significant opportunity to engage young adults and families as well as empty-nesters. The recent construction of Lansdale Station Apartments provides over 180 living spaces just a few blocks from the church. These factors offer significant opportunities for outreach and growth potential. We see opportunities to expand our activity in local events like Lansdale Day and First Fridays and to connect with the community by opening our facilities for various events and concerts.

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and b) other neighborhoods with which your church connects?

St. John's active participants are, as a whole, older than the Mission Insite study group area, with a greater percentage of retirees than within the Lansdale neighborhood. The level of education and median family income are also greater than those in the immediate surrounding community.

How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not?

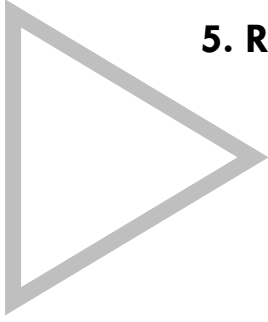
Current demographics are not currently shaping our ministry.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

St John's is the big church with the beautiful windows and where Manna on Main Street was founded. We have a rose garden and meditation labyrinth that are enjoyed by many in our community. St. John's is also known for its vibrant music program, which regularly collaborates with local schools and churches.

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

- Appreciation for the spiritual maturity, sensitivity, and approachability of pastors who create an integrated and positive worship experience
- Welcoming congregation with strong social ties and an open and affirming perspective
- Vibrant music programs with accessible opportunities to engage in choir and ensembles
- Beautifully maintained facilities, inside and out with a great central location in town which is accessible to cities and other suburbs via mass transit



5. REFERENCES

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

REFERENCE 1

Rev. Fritz Fowler / Senior Pastor / Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale
215-368-1710 / Ffowler@trinitylansdale.com / Collaborator in music and education

REFERENCE 2

Mary Burnell / Lansdale Montessori School Director
267-664-1384/ mary@lansdalemontessori.com / Tenant

REFERENCE 3

Suzan Neiger Gould / Executive Director / Manna on Main Street
215-855-5454, ext. 2001 / execdir@mannaonmain.org / Community Service partner



1000 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 | trinitylansdale.com | tlc@trinitylansdale.com | 215.368.1710

February 1, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer this letter of reference for St. John's United Church of Christ in Lansdale, Pennsylvania in support of their call of an associate pastor. I am the Lead Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, a colleague in shared ministry within the Lansdale community located just four blocks from them

St. John's UCC has long been a faithful and visible presence in Lansdale for 150 years, rooted in a clear commitment to the Gospel, thoughtful worship, and an open and affirming posture toward the wider community. Their congregation embodies a sincere desire to live out Christ's call to love, justice, and service, not only within the walls of the church but also in the everyday life of the borough.

One of St. John's greatest strengths is their spirit of hospitality and inclusion. In my interactions with four of their clergy and several lay leaders, I have consistently experienced openness, generosity, and a genuine eagerness for collaboration. For example, after the Ulvande school shooting in 2022 their then Associate and I co-led a prayer service for our congregations and community. We have also partnered together in hosting mid-week Advent Supper and Worship Services. Our two choirs also have a rich history of combining and singing at each other's churches including co-hosting music camp during the summer. In January 2026 we co-hosted a prayer service of lament and hope after the continued violence in Minneapolis. As we look forward to the summer of 2026 our two congregations are engaging in conversation about the possibility of hosting a joint VBS.

The music program at St. John's United Church of Christ is a vital asset to the congregation's ministry, enriching worship and drawing the broader community into meaningful encounters with faith through the arts. Under strong leadership of Andrew Paulson, the program supports a spectrum of experiences including the well-known "The Artist Series at St. John's", which brings world-class musicians and diverse musical genres to the historic sanctuary.

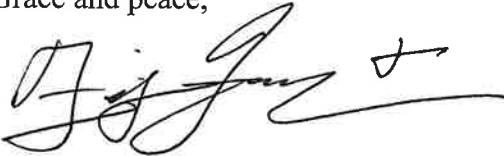
St. John's also demonstrates strong commitment to community engagement and social witness. They are attentive to local needs and are willing to respond creatively and compassionately, even when doing so requires stepping beyond comfort zones. An example of this is the ministry at the first Friday gatherings in Lansdale, presence at Lansdale Day, and their witness at community gatherings. Their ministry reflects a congregation that listens carefully—to Scripture, to one another, and to the voices of those who are often unheard.

From my perspective, one area of opportunity for St. John's, as with many congregations today, is navigating the balance between honoring long standing traditions and adapting to changing realities. For example, St. John's does not have the ability to stream worship services for those who can not attend worship in person. A second area of opportunity is to address the continued declining membership and attendance, especially among those in younger generations, an issue that all mainline churches are struggling with today.

Significant experiences I have shared with St. John's include working closely with their pastoral staff and receiving mutual support as we strive together to share the love and light of Christ with our community and world. I am grateful and know that St. John's is blessed to have the leadership of Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan who I have known for close to ten years. I have found her leadership to be dependable, communicative, grounded, and prophetic.

I offer this reference with confidence and gratitude for the witness of St. John's and the hope and expectation of continued collaboration between our congregations. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fritz E. Fowler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. Fritz E. Fowler
Lead Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church
Email: ffowler@trinitylansdale.com
Office: 215.368.1710
Cell: 315.720.5498

We are called to embrace diversity and to connect all generations to God's family.



500 West Main Street
Lansdale, PA 19446

mary@lansdalemontessori.com
215-362-1427

January 17, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer this letter of reference for St. John's United Church of Christ in Lansdale. First as a parent, then as a long-time teacher and now as the director of Lansdale Montessori School, which is housed at St. John's, I have had the privilege of getting to know the church's staff and community on a daily basis for the past eighteen years. For more than 30 years, St. John's has been home to our school, serving not only as our physical space, but as a true partner in mission, values, and community.

One of the greatest strengths of St. John's ministry is its deeply welcoming spirit. It is an open and affirming congregation where people are accepted and cherished for who they are. This commitment to inclusion is not simply stated but actively lived out in the life of the church. As a long-time resident of Lansdale Borough, I have especially appreciated St. John's commitment to being a vital part of the wider community, welcoming people and community groups into the church and participating meaningfully in the civic and cultural life of the town.

St. John's has also demonstrated long-standing and tangible support for education and families. For more than three decades, the church has been a home for Lansdale Montessori School and has consistently supported our mission of providing an authentic, affordable Montessori educational environment. This partnership reflects the church's values of service, stewardship, and care for children and families.

A particularly meaningful aspect of St. John's ministry has been the involvement of its pastors with our school community. Over the years, especially during the holiday season, pastors have shared their faith stories with our students in ways that highlight shared values such as kindness, compassion, and care for one another, while fully affirming the diversity of our students and families. These interactions have been thoughtful, respectful, age-appropriate, and closely aligned with our inclusive educational philosophy.

St. John's also has a vibrant and enriching music ministry. The presence of music in the building, especially the sound of the organ filling the halls, adds warmth and life to our shared space. We have also appreciated access to the many musical events and offerings provided by the church, which enrich both the congregation and the broader community.

As with any living, growing ministry, there are always opportunities for continued reflection and growth. St. John's ongoing efforts to remain responsive to changing community needs and to find new ways to engage people of all ages will be important as it looks to the future. The church's openness to learning and adaptation is a strength that will serve it well.

In closing, St. John's UCC has been a steady, generous, and affirming presence in our community for many years. Its commitment to welcome, inclusion, service, and partnership has made a lasting impact on Lansdale Montessori School and countless families. The Lansdale Montessori staff and I are grateful for our relationship and appreciative of the meaningful ministry St. John's offers the Lansdale community. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Burnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Burnell
Director
Lansdale Montessori School

January 30, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

In the early 1980s, Rev. Dr. John Touchberry brought together numerous local faith communities to form an Interfaith Community Council and respond to the growing needs in and around Lansdale. A food pantry and weekly dinner were provided for the community in the basement of St. John's United Church of Christ on Main Street and dedicated volunteers helped provide this important mission for the community. But it was when the building next to St. John's was donated to the church for use as a soup kitchen and food pantry that Manna on Main Street as an organization came to life as an even more robust response to persons in need in the North Penn region of Montgomery County.

In the ensuing years up to the present, St. John's has been a vital partner of Manna on Main Street. There is an ongoing relationship between St. John's and Manna with St. John's providing in-kind food and monetary donations, and many of their members volunteering on a regular and ongoing basis with Manna. For its part Manna has provided mission moments, spoken to various church groups, and participated in community events held at the church. When church members or community residents turn to St. John's for help, Manna provides them with emergency food services if needed or if the needs are outside of Manna's scope, we are able to provide referral recommendations to service organizations known to Manna.

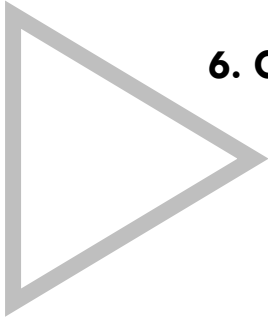
The most memorable aspect of the St. John's and Manna partnership is the Thanksgiving meal served at noon on Thanksgiving in the basement of St. John's. The basement hall and commercial kitchen as the place where Manna's mission was conceived is the perfect setting for the freshly cooked, complete Thanksgiving meal served to 100+ people by volunteers. The blessing is always offered by the Pastor or Associate Pastor of St. John's and words are spoken that this Thanksgiving tradition is a reminder of Manna's beginning at St. John's.

Simply put, Manna would not exist as a respected community resource without the generosity and continued support of St. John's. Manna's roots are in St. John's and its congregation continues to nurture our work.

Respectfully and enthusiastically submitted,



Suzan Neiger Gould, Executive Director



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

- a. CLOSING PRAYER
- b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT
- c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

At our winter Artist Series Concert, the central theme was built around the song “**For Everyone Born**” with lyrics written by **Shirley Erena Murray**, music by **Brian Mann** and arranged by **Tom Trenney**. This song embodies the core values of St. John’s and the honored position we wish to embody in Lansdale and the surrounding area.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, Justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song.
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, Justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free!

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, Justice and joy!

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?
 - Search and Call Committee, comprised of members from the Board of Elders and members of the congregation at large
 - Senior Pastor
 - President and Vice President of Council
 - Finance Committee Chair

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile: None!

Signed:

Deb Dayton / Church Council President

Liz Rivett / Search Committee Co-Chair

Bill Cagney / Search Committee Co-Chair

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the association / conference named.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature: 

Name / Title: Rev. Kevin McLemore
Transitional Regional Conference Minister

Email: kevin@keystoneucc.org

Phone: 773-717-0029

Date: February 11, 2026

This document is created through support to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

“Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God!’” – Mark 11:22

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

