



FAITH • LOVE • SERVICE
ST. JOHN'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

217 Berkley Road
PO Box 399 (for mail)
Devon, PA 19333
610.688.5222
www.stjohnsdevon.com

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Notes

There are offering trays located at each entrance to the sanctuary. If you would like to give, you can put your offering there before worship. You can also give online using this QR code.



If you have a prayer request, there are blue prayer cards in your pew racks that can be put in the trays, as well.

The ^ symbol indicates that you are invited to stand, as you are able.

The hymns can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the bulletin.

Please note: This service is being live-streamed and archived through our social media channels. While the video focuses on the worship leaders, participants may also appear in the recordings.

Welcome to St. John's!

No matter who you are, where you come from, what you look like, or what you are wearing, you are welcome here! No matter where you are in your faith, you belong here. All we want is to help you experience the presence and love of Jesus Christ! If there is anything we can do to help you feel more at home, please feel free to ask one of the greeters located at the sanctuary doors. We would love for you to join us for refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We are so glad that you are here and hope you will worship with us again soon!

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Abide With Me"

Lyte/Monk

Answering God's Call to Worship

One: Come, all you who have been given a second chance.

All: We give thanks to God for new beginnings and fresh starts!

One: Come, all you who *need* a second chance.

All: We trust that God's grace is always ready to meet us where we are.

One: God does not give up on us. There is *always* a way forward.

All: God calls us forward with grace, welcomes us with love, and gives us new life.

One: Come, then, just as you are, and let us find the life that we need in God.

^ Hymn

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Prayer of Invocation & Confession (ending with 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.

Promise of Forgiveness

^ Gloria Patri (#71 in the red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.



1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!




loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let praises fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!




Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,




praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to show and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

1-3 4 or 5

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5)

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS

98.98

Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Announcements

Congregational Life

September Birthdays

Happy birthday to everyone in our church family who is celebrating a birthday this month! Please wish them a happy birthday in person at church or send them birthday wishes by text, email, or a card in the mail. If you would like to be included in our birthday lists, please contact Barbara McConnell (blbmccconnell@aol.com).

Sept. 2 Stephanie Crill	Sept. 19 Connor Feldman
Sept. 5 Linda Groves	Sept. 20 John Adams
Sept. 7 Stella Urbina	Sept. 20 Chrissy Bouvier
Sept. 7 Jim Ryland	Sept. 21 Cat Duncan
Sept. 8 Liz Ward	Sept. 22 Wanda Odom
Sept. 9 Nana Owusu-Ntow	Sept. 22 Pam Schafer
Sept. 10 Pete Crawford	Sept. 23 Linda Duncan
Sept. 11 Richard Hangen	Sept. 24 Cynthia Schumacker
Sept. 15 Virginia Holt	Sept. 25 Sophie Coradi
Sept. 16 Mark Ward	Sept. 27 John McClintick
Sept. 17 Michael Whalen	Sept. 28 Matthew Loftus
Sept. 18 Katy Love	Sept. 29 Alice Bell
	Sept. 29 Rowan Bellew

Supper at St. John's

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. for a delicious dinner, followed by a class at 7:00. From now through October 21, the Rev. Miriam Diephouse-McMillan is leading a class on the mental health benefits of spiritual practices. You can come just for dinner, just for the class, or for both! We hope that you will take a break in the middle of the week and join us for a wonderful evening together!

Looking Ahead

Sunday October 18

Guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Brennan Breed
Pop-Up Sunday School on Exodus with Brennan Breed
Sunday Serve - Grocery Bag Packing for Gemma

Tuesday October 20

Lunch & Learn

Sunday October 25

Pop-Up Sunday School on Exodus with Brennan Breed
Fall Festival

Children & Youth

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our
Children & Youth Newsletter:



Sunday School - After the children's time, children in grades 1-7 will leave for Sunday School. Youth in grades 8-12 gather for weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the youth room.

Youth Fall Kick-Off is today 4:30 p.m. at SkyZone in Oaks.

College Care packages will be packed by our youth in the Carriage House after church next Sunday, October 4.

Faith Formation

Camino de Santiago Interest Meeting - Today

Last year Pastor Ridgley shared about her pilgrimage experience on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Since then, other church members have expressed an interest in walking the Camino. So we decided to see if there is interest in putting together a church-wide trip open to anyone who wants to go! Join us **today at 11:00 a.m.** for an informational meeting with *Progressive Pilgrimages* to learn more about walking the Camino de Santiago with your St. John's family!

Women's Book Study - 2 Opportunities

The Sunday group meets at 8:15 a.m., both in person in the Carriage house and on Zoom. They will be starting the book *Braving the Truth* by Rachel Held Evans on Sunday, October 11. If you would like to find out more or are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Wolfe at nj.wolfe@verizon.net.

The Monday group meets at 10:00 a.m., both in person and on Zoom (use the church Zoom link found on the website under Resources). They are reading *From Widows to Warriors: Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Lynn Japinga. Copies are available in the church office. Contact Nancy Arico (nancy.arico@verizon.net) for more info.

Men's Group

The Wednesday morning men's group meets again on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 a.m. in the Carriage House. All men are welcome!

Interested in Joining St. John's?

We would love for you to become a part of our church family! You can indicate your interest on the Fellowship Pad or contact one of our pastors. They will get in touch with you to set up time for coffee to discuss your interest.

This Week in the Church Office

The church office is open Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Any announcements for next week's bulletin or email must be sent to Annie by Noon on Wednesday.

Friday is Patrick and Ridgley's sabbath day, and the church office is closed on Saturday. If you email or call on those days, you will not get a response until they are back in the office.

If you have a pastoral emergency pertaining to a death, hospitalization, or crisis situation when the office is closed, please call 484-604-0499

Outreach

Pillowcase Sewing Event - Tomorrow

This September, in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Ryan's Case for Smiles is hosting their Miles of Pillowcase Smiles Campaign. Their goal is to sew 40,000 pillowcases – one for every child in treatment. Join us on Monday, September 28 as we resume our monthly gatherings in Fellowship Hall from 1-4 p.m. We need sewers (bring your own machine or use one of ours), pinners, ironers, and baggers. There is a job for everyone! Contact Kathy Johnson with questions: kjohnson.1725@comcast.net

Gemma Services Classroom Volunteers Needed!

Gemma Services is looking for classroom volunteers for their new autism-centered program for students in grades K-5. The program is housed at the Plymouth Meeting campus of the Martin Luther School. For more information, please contact Nancy Higgins at nrhiggins76@gmail.com.

"Everything but the Turkey" with Gemma Services

This year, the Outreach Committee is working with the "Everything but the Turkey" project at Gemma Services to provide the supplies to help 30 Philadelphia families enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. You can help in two ways:

1. Plan to join us after church on Sunday, October 18 to pack the food into bags
2. Donate \$25 Walmart gift cards so families can shop for fresh items.

After you purchase the Walmart Gift Card(s), you can return them to Nancy Higgins during coffee fellowship, or to the church office no later than October 18. If you would like a receipt from Gemma Services for your donation, please include a note with your name and address. Thank you so much for your generous support for these families!

Scan this QR code to subscribe to our weekly email update:



Giving

If you would like to support the life and ministry of St. John's, you can scan this QR code to give online.



Financial Update

As of August 31, year-to-date operating income from all sources totaled \$505,264, above budget by \$34,098. Expenses year-to-date are \$494,335, under budget by \$12,369. Income minus Expenses yielded a surplus of \$10,929.

Thank you for all the ways that you make the life and ministry of our church family possible!

Stewardship

Two weeks ago we kicked off our 2027 stewardship campaign, *Gratitude in Action!* Over the next six weeks, you will be hearing from members of the St John's community who will reflect on their gratitude for the life and ministry of our church family. If you have any questions about this year's campaign, please contact stewardship chair Jim Tiede (jim.tiede@gmail.com).

Music

Choir Rehearsals

The choir is back for the year! Join us at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary for rehearsals. Email Janet Kaido at music@stjohnsdevon.com for more information.

Youth Handbells Orientation - Today

The handbells will be out in the Music Room right after worship today for ANYONE - young and not so young - who would like to ring a bell. No commitment - just joyful, noisy fun. Do come try them!

Adult Handbells are back!

The Devon Chapel Bells (older teens and adults) resume rehearsals this Thursday evening from 6 to 7 in the Music Room. New ringers are always welcome! Email Betsy Miller with any questions.

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Patrick Marshall

Senior Pastor

patrick.marshall@stjohnsdevon.com

Rev. Ridgley Beckett

Associate Pastor

rbeckett@stjohnsdevon.com

Annie Carruthers

Church Administrator

admin@stjohnsdevon.com

Janet Kaido

Director of Music

music@stjohnsdevon.com

Nancy Arico

Treasurer

(outgoing funds)

treasurer@stjohnsdevon.com

Brian Bouvier

Financial Secretary

(incoming funds)

brianbouvier57@gmail.com

This Week at St. John's

Scan this QR Code for the complete church calendar:



Sunday, September 27

9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Youth Handbells Orientation (Music Room)
4:30 pm Youth Kickoff (Skyzone in Exton)

Monday, September 28

10:00 am Women's Book Group (Kean Room)

Tuesday, September 29

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 30

6:00 pm Supper at St. John's (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm Sacred Balance Class (Carriage House)
Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)

Thursday, October 1

5:00 pm Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm Adult Bells Rehearsal (Bell Room)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, October 2

9:00 am Exercise Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, October 4 - World Communion Sunday

8:30 am Deacons Meeting (Kean Room)
9:30 am Worship & Communion

St. John's Mission Statement

Reflecting God's unconditional love to all!

Core Values

Faith

We seek to grow in our faith and to recognize God's presence in our lives through scripture, worship, music, fellowship, study, and prayer.

Love

All people are welcome here. We are a caring, inclusive, intergenerational community, following Jesus Christ's example to love everyone, to be with one another in difficult times, and to share in each other's joys.

Service

We are passionate about helping those in need within our church family, in our local communities, across the country, and throughout the world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we are generous with our time, talents, and resources to bring hope to others in tangible, transformative ways.

Vision Statement

A spiritual home for the community where...

- everyone is welcomed with open hearts, showing each other grace in a complicated world
- people find belonging as they are known, valued, and loved
- together, we grow in our knowledge and love of God
- Jesus inspires us to serve others with compassion

Today's Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:23–32

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

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

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.