

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

**NEW MEMBER GATHERING** Several folks have expressed interest in becoming members of St. John's. We will send options for a date to meet in the near future. If you would like to explore membership, please contact Pastor Margaret at millsm92445@gmail.com or 440-487-2549 or call the church at 419-862-3511. We'll explore the history of St. John's, who we are as a United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a member of the church. I look forward to gathering together. If others wish to be reminded of the history, and who we are, and what it means to be a member, please feel free to join us. Stay tuned.

**HOME COMMUNION:** If you wish Pastor Margaret to bring communion to your home, please call 440-487-2549.

**"OFFICE HOURS" at Christy's** will continue on Thursdays from 9 to noon. All are welcome at the round table just inside the front door.

**SIBERIAN SOLSTICE 2025**, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.: St. Paul UCC in Oak Harbor is hosting "A Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute Since 2006" event. Twelve performers, exciting light show, video, narrated story. Show starts at 7:00 pm. No tickets needed. A free-will donation will be accepted.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** On Wednesday, November 26, 2025, we will host a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. The service will include a special anthem by the Songbirds, prayers, hymns, scripture and a brief reflection. Won't you plan to attend to remember to whom we lift our thanks and praise.

**ANGEL TREE** forms are available at the back counter of the church. Please return by Nov. 14th at the latest!

## IN OUR PRAYERS

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM THE LIST OR IF ANYONE WISHES TO BE ADDED. PLEASE WRITE THOSE REQUESTS ON A PRAYER CARD. THANK YOU!

**Bereavement:** Jean Brandow Vance

**Nursing Home/Rehab** —Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Lois Reimer

**At Home** — Joanne Busdeker, Carlton Giesler, Doris Klaustermeyer, Cindy Calhoun, Jerry Haar, Heidi Holub, Lois Rader, Dustin Schmidt, Catherine Aldrich (Sue Applegate's friend), Joanne Price, Sherry Sherman (Pastor Tim's wife), McKinley Blausey, Jamie Irwin (Lois Rader's granddaughter), Dave Mate (friend of Paul Holewinski) and Debra Mate (Dave Mate's sister), Bob Hensel, Betty Walker, Don and Helen Hollis (friends of Bill Verbryke), Ken Moore, Melody Haar, Jerry and Dolores Beck, Janet Ottney, Rosemary Acha, Paul Holewinski, Marvin Kates, Tracy Crone, Rachael (neighbor of Sue Applegate), Shawn Meager, Becky Truman, Jennifer and Joe Shamy, Sandra Shaffer, Russ Krumnow, Jim Krumnow, Jim and Jane Garner, Amy M, Lois Pelly, Jenny Northup, Loren Sampson, Jeanette Tangeman, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom and Sharon Crozier, Jane Kruse, David Reimer, Troy Hensel, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Jeff Little, Ron Dangler

**Service Men & Women:** Kyle Babka, Dr. Samuel L. Preston III, Captain Benjamin Wideman

## *St. John's United Church of Christ* -Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

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November 9, 2025

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10:00am Worship—Stewardship Sunday  
Faith Formation  
Fellowship



Stewardship Sunday —each year this Sunday in November is designated by the UCC as Stewardship Sunday. What is the work of stewardship? It is the work of generosity in the spirit of Jesus. In many of our churches, today is when they talk about stewardship in terms of pledge campaigns and often scarcity. But we are a wonderfully generous congregation both in our giving and in our outreach. A vital and successful church doesn't have much to do with numbers but with commitment and the spirituality of giving. A successful church moves in the spirit of abundance and not scarcity. God is a God of abundance. Can we be God's people in that spirit as well?

**Leading Worship:** Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

**TODAY 10 am—Worship**

**Last Sunday Attendance: 47    Offering: \$4,830.00**

P.O. Box 288 – 448 Rice St. Elmore, OH 43416

Pastor—Margaret Mills

Pastor Emeritus—John W. Bock

Ministers—All the Members of St. John's

Church Office Hours

Office Administrator—Erica Baker

Office hours by appointment

**Church Phone:** 419-862-3511

**Church Email:** st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com

**Pastor's Phone:** 440-487-2549

**Pastor's Email:** millsm92445@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore>

<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



## The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

November 9, 2025

### GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude:* "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" - Keveren

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

One: Come let us worship God. What shall we bring before the God of compassion?

**All: We bring ourselves .. our bodies and our spirits – broken and in need of healing.**

One: What shall we bring before the God of eternal vision?

**All: We bring our dreams and our hopes to be fulfilled.**

One: What shall we bring before the God of ever lasting love?

**All: We bring our gratitude and our possessions.**

One: What shall we bring before the God of all good gifts?

**All: We bring ourselves. Come, let us worship God!**

*\*Opening Hymn:* "For the Fruit of All Creation" #723

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**O Great God of Abundance, your presence illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern what you are calling us, your church, to do and be in this moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world and for our neighbors. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray, as we open our hearts to worship you. Amen**

*\*Invocation Response*

"What Does the Lord Require of You"

**What does the Lord require of you,  
What does the Lord require of you.  
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.  
To seek justice, and love kindness,  
And walk humbly with your God.  
To seek justice, and love kindness,  
And walk humbly with your God.**

### WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

*A Story for All Ages:* **DARE—2BU**

*A Message for Today* **Where Is Your Treasure?**  
Genesis 12: 1-3  
Psalm 24  
Matthew 14: 13-21

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Litany of Giving*

One: Because you gave the very breath of life,  
**All: we give our thanks to you, O Lord, with every breath.**

One: Because you nurtured life with human love,  
**All: we bring you all of our relationships for your blessing.**

One: Because you gave the rich and living earth,  
**All: we offer you, our Maker, the first fruits of our fields.**

One: Because you gifted us with time to be,  
**All: we bring our moments and our days as gifts again to you.**

One: Because you gave us skills to work and create,  
**All: we bring you what we make with our hands and the money we earn with our skills.**

One: Because each one of us has gifts and skills, some recognized, some talents hidden,  
**All: we offer you what each of us can see, and make and do. Enable us to see more clearly what these gifts may be.**

One: Because you freely offered us redeeming love,  
**All: we bring the gift of love in gratitude to you.**

One: From gift to gift, from grace to grace, our gifts are only gifts of yours returned.  
**All: Receive them in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

*\*Doxology* "We Praise You, O God" #726 1st verse  
We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

*\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**Creating and redeeming God, you have given us so many gifts. We bring you the gifts of our hands. We pray that they may bear the gift of ourselves, our wealth, our various special gifts and skills, and the gift of our commitments to share your great good news through Jesus Christ, in whose name and spirit we pray. Amen**

### WE SHARE OUR COMMON LIFE

*Announcements and Concerns may be emailed to:* [millsm92445@gmail.com](mailto:millsm92445@gmail.com), *texted to:* 440-487-2549, *or call into:* 419-862-3511

### WE REST IN PRAYER WITH GOD

*Call to Prayer*

The Psalmist assures us that the Lord is near to all who call on God in truth. So with that assurance of God's presence, God's steadfast love, and God's overwhelming mercy, let us come before God in prayer.

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)*

**Wise God, we often seek counsel from so many sources while ignoring your guidance. Help us to navigate the tough choices we must make and to discern the circumstance of our world and our lives through your perspective. Your way is life and embodies care, compassion, and concern for all creation. May we follow your model for the flourishing of our brothers and sisters and our home, the Earth. Amen**

*Words of Grace*

Beloved, God gives good instruction and the grace to begin anew. You are empowered by God to choose the path of life everlasting and nudged by God when your journey strays. Know that every movement toward God is received with gladness and the full and welcoming embrace of the Holy One.

*Pastoral Prayer*

One: Celebrating the coming of the One who brings the reign of God to all people, let us pray for the world God loves, the Church God calls, and all the people around the world, according to their needs.  
**All: Hear our prayer!**

*Silent Prayer*

*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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

*Prayer Response*

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" #490  
Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

### SENT FORTH TO SERVE

*\*Closing Hymn* "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" #581

*\*Charge & Benediction*

Go with joy, celebrating the love of Christ; and in so doing, give yourself to others. Share fervently and be extravagant. Go from this place knowing that God is with you, and that God's love is forever and for evermore.

*\*Postlude* "Like a River Glorious" - Berry

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HONOR WORKERS MEETING** today right after the service at the back of the sanctuary.

**HONOR WORKERS's** Judy Suto will host the "Song of the Season" program with Lisa Garges on December 9th at 7:00pm. Members will address Christmas cards to shut-ins.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** are now open! Each plant is \$10.50 and you can find order forms on the back counter and can be returned to the church office.

**BELL RINGERS** We are still in need of 2 more bell ringers for the Christmas season (and longer if possible)! If you enjoy hearing the bells ring on Sundays and can count, we'll teach you the rest! It's not hard and we always have fun! Please, Please consider joining us for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:30-8:30. Thank you!

**NO COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER** There will be no community Thanksgiving Dinner this year.

**PASTOR ON THE PORCH** is done for the year. See you on the porch in the spring!

**ELMORE RETIREMENT VILLAGE** is currently accepting applications for residency. If you are aware of anyone that is interested in living in Elmore, please feel free to have them contact Jeanette A. Buckantz, Manager, at 419-862-2408.

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** will NOT meet on November 10th and will resume on November 17th. We will focus on what it means to please God: Colossians 1:10 "...live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

**AA MEETING** is every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:00. We are so glad to have them meet in our Fellowship Hall.