

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

October 19, 2025

10:00am Worship



“To those who have watched over me, for those who have protected me, for those that have shielded me thanks be to the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. For the roof that shades me from the sun, for the walls that shield me from the storm, for the bed that warms me in the night, thanks be to the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. To the one who keeps me from evil, to the one who preserves my life, to the one who watches over my coming and going, thanks be to the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.”

Inspired by Psalm 121

As the sun sets behind the hills, we celebrate hope in our Creator. Even as the sun strikes the earth in daytime, we celebrate peace in our Creator. As we move about the earth from day to day, we celebrate the love of our Creator.

Loving God, give us a heartfelt persistence for justice. Amen

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear
TODAY 10 am—Worship

Last Sunday Attendance: 44 **Offering:** \$1,670.00

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

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<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

October 19, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "If My People Will Pray" -Christopher

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: I lift my eyes up to the mountains,
from where does my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

One: We look not to the mountains or valleys,
even heaven or earth,

All: for God is found among us.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered together
in Christ's name,

All: God is here among us.

One: Come, let us worship the God of Creation,
the God of People, the God of Community.

**All: Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is our path.
Let us worship together in faith.**

**Opening Hymn:* "Sweet Hour of Prayer" #478

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Your Word is a lamp to our feet, our guide
through the dark, the wisdom and truth that we
follow each day. Your Word is sweeter than
honey, yet sharper than swords, is healing and
justice and ours to obey. Your Word is our
understanding of grace, peace and love, the
reason we gather to worship today!**

**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: Pray and Don't Give Up

Special Music: "Holy Ground" by the Songbirds

A Message for Today The Heart of Prayer
Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Luke 18: 1-8

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God our Creator looks for us to celebrate hope,
peace, and love through the ways we give from
our spirits. May we find our hearts become full of
light as we share our treasures, talents, and time
with our communities.

**Doxology*

"I Sing Praises To Your Name"

Hymn # 660

I sing praises to your name, O Lord,
Praises to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised;
I sing praises to your name, O Lord,
Praises to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised.

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**God of our Hearts, with much gratitude, we
share our gifts with you today. We
continue to search for your dreams and fulfill
your visions as we create your Realm here
on earth. Energize us to utilize our gifts for the
strength of all humanity. Empower us to
share our time, talents and treasures as we
seek to never lose hope and heart. Amen**

WE SHARE OUR COMMON LIFE

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



WE REST IN PRAYER WITH GOD

Call to Prayer

Holy One, Holder of our Hearts, from time to time, we notice our souls are heavy from injustices. From the ways our community members are treated to the lack of compassion towards folks in faraway places, we attempt to embrace hope and often feel defeated. Yet you continue to be the bearer of dreams, God of Love. May we feel your Spirit's peace even when struggles accumulate. May we be baptized by your glimmers even as we journey through a world filled with ashes. Hear us as we pray...

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

Draw me today into fresh encounters with Jesus, O God. Make me a servant of love so that others may know how much You love them and I may know how much You love me. Let me not be afraid of new pastures, whether they be green or brown or parched. And as I pass through whatever the day's valleys, keep my head lifted up to the mountain, from whence my help comes. Never let me forget the people Jesus welcomed...the greedy and the great, the bad and the good, the respected and the cheats. Even as the world becomes more callous and chaotic, may I never underestimate Your capacity to fashion the miraculous from the monstrous, even to make me a choice masterpiece from the mire and the clay.

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

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #489

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
#473

*Benediction

May the God of Hope stir us to awaken to Divine dreams.
May the Christ of Light embolden us to use our voices.
May the Spirit of Peace fill us with the resolve to transform our world.
With help from the Holy One, we will never lose heart.

*Postlude "Down to the River to Pray" -McDonald

Prayer List

A large rectangular box with a light blue background and a green border. It contains the title "Prayer List" at the top and ten horizontal black lines for writing names.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

REV. DAN BUSCH, Association Minister of the Northwest Ohio Association, UCC, is retiring on November 1st. A celebration of his service will be held next Sunday, 10/26 at 3:00pm at Trinity UCC in Tiffin. All are invited.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet immediately after church! All are welcome.

A NEW WEBSITE is in the works! If you have anything specific you'd like to see included, email st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com!

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.

PASTOR ON THE PORCH It is getting dark and chilly, but dress warmly. I will turn the porch light on and we'll meet if anyone wants to.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY meets Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Council Room.

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

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

HONOR WORKERS will host a fire safety event with our very own Jim Wilburn on November 11, 2025 in the church basement at 7:00pm! Hosted by Barb Bruntz.

"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.

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: Janet Kuhlman (Cindy Little's aunt), Rex Gardener

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

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, Amanda Downey, Sandra Shaffer, Jane Kruse, 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, Susan Millinger, Jane Kruse, David Reimer, Troy Hensel, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue

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