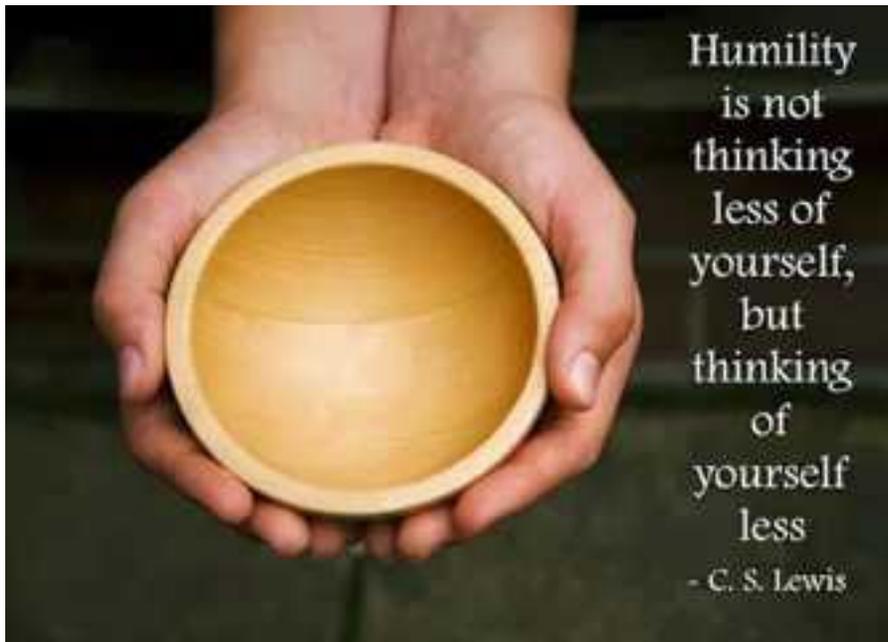


St. John's United Church of Christ
-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

October 26, 2025

10:00am Worship
Faith Formation
11:15am Fellowship



"What does it mean to humble ourselves? We are called to follow in the path of the One who should be exalted but who submits to the most humble of circumstances. The Creator became creation. The Son of God became a child of Mary and Joseph. The Sovereign of all became a homeless tradesperson who gets run out of his hometown. Jesus knows something about choosing to be humbled before ever reaching the cross, and invites his followers to do the same." The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Exalted One, help us to humble ourselves and to be merciful to all. Amen

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

Last Sunday Attendance: 40 **Offering:** \$1,035.00

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

October 26, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "His Strength is Perfect" -Chapman

Lighting of the Candles

**An Intergenerational Call to Worship
(based on Psalm 65)*

One: Come and worship,
everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

One: For listening when we call,
answering our prayers,
forgiving our mistakes,
and providing what we need:

All: let's praise God together!

One: Come and worship,
everyone on earth,
everywhere the sun shines,

All: let's praise God together!

**Opening Hymn:* "Be Thou My vision" #502

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

God of Love, Divine Friend, our hearts are open to you. If a thought crosses our minds, you are present and are ready to hold it for us. There is no emotion radiating from our souls that is too heavy or too painful for you. Your Spirit encourages our dreams as we seek to find ways to build Your Realm here on earth. May we work side-by-side, co-creating a world of possibilities where all experience Your love and joy. May our worship today be a mirror to our own brokenness and a portal to lives of humble service and compassion. 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: **Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man** (Led by Shirley Hensel)

A Message for Today **Brokenness and Humility**
Psalm 65
Luke 18: 9-14
Luke 19: 1-9

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

We are given holy opportunities to share our gifts no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey. May we embrace joy instead of judgment as we discern where God is calling us to utilize our gifts.

**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)*

Holy God, Source of Goodness and Grace, we thank you today for all you have given to us. When we bear more power and privilege, we are called to share more of our talents, time, and treasures. In our efforts to seek humility and balance, may we soberly evaluate our gifts and understand the healthiest ways to apportion them to strengthen your Realm and love your children. Amen

WE SHARE OUR COMMON LIFE

Announcements and Concerns may be emailed to: mills92445@gmail.com, texted to: 440-487-2549, or call into: 419-862-3511

WE REST IN PRAYER WITH GOD

Call to Prayer

Holy One, we ask you to hear us as we come before you in a prayer.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

One: God of the Mountains and Canyons, the range of emotions that wash through us are often triggers for the ways we hold ourselves. At times, we seek humility, but often find ourselves believing we do not deserve your love. Other times, as we search for confidence, we believe we are your favorites and find ourselves in moments of comparison, contrast, and judgment. Are we better than our neighbors? How can we relate to siblings in Christ when their lives are not like ours and they stand out when visiting our spaces? We are misguided as we give thanks that our lives are not as chaotic and unkempt as theirs. Yet you ask us to seek humility and know that each of your children are loved equally. Help us to extend mercy to our neighbors, and fill their minds with words of encouragement.

All: May each of us know our value in your Realm and experience your love in its fullness. Amen

Words of Grace

God fully shares mercy and grace no matter where we sit in our churches or what our power is in this world. May we know your radical love when we rarely experience it. May your light and kindness seep from our souls so that our neighbors will understand your grace even when the harsh winds surround them. No matter how chaotic or serene our lives may be, may we all know your steadfast love. Amen

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.

*Closing Hymn "When Peace Like a River" #428

**Benediction*

The God of love moves us to seek holy balance in our lives.

The Christ of faith moves us to share our gifts to create God's Realm on earth.

The Spirit of joy moves us to dream in new ways and co-create with the Divine.

May the Creator nurture you,
the Teacher walk with you,
and the Spirit strengthen you,
this day and forevermore.

*Postlude "The Heart of Worship" - Keveren

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: On November 2nd, we'll remember those who have gone on before us this past year. Please either write the names on a prayer card and leave in a basket on the back counter, or email the information to st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com. As the names are read, a bell is tolled and a candle is lit. I hope you'll be here for this most meaningful service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Fall Congregational meeting will be held immediately after church this morning for the purpose of looking at and voting on the 2026 budget and to receive the updated constitution which will be voted on at the annual meeting in January. Please plan to stay.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Pastries and coffee, fellowship and community, will be held right after the brief congregational meeting.

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.



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.

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

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 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, Elle West (friend of Kaitlyn Applegate)

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, Jane Kruse, David Reimer, Troy Hensel, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Troy Hensel

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

