

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

October 5, 2025

10:00am Worship
World Communion Sunday



World Communion Sunday - across continents and cultures, we are one body in Christ, bound by faith and love. *Global Ministries: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ*

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability...each one heard them speaking in the native language of earth." *Acts 2: 1 - 13*

"Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God has no partiality.'" *Acts 10: 34*

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." *Corrie ten Boom*

Holy God, increase our faith in action. Amen

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

Last Sunday Attendance: 44 **Offering:** \$1,620.00

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 5, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude: "Let Us Break Bread Together" -
St. John's Bell Ringers*

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship (Rev. Taisaku Obata, Ube Church,
UCC in Japan)*

One: In a world that remains divided and in
conflict, God is inviting us, to make
us one.

**All: Today we gather around one table, in
answer to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

**All: God's love, which endures all things
and connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

**All: The many powers of the world,
which seek to stand over others.**

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to
God's power to bring salvation to all who
believe.

**All: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses
of Your love. Let us worship together
the true God, who makes us one.**

**Opening Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #72*

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Holy One, the cobwebs of doubt spread as we
notice divisions and injustices grow. We are
uncertain of your presence and have great
doubt of the ways you work through us. As we
seek your presence among us, clear our
minds of the distractions. As mercy blossoms,
our doubts will transform to belief. Fill our
souls with hope. May we know that your Realm
abides around us. Let us worship in this space
as others are worshiping around the world.
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:

God's Global Family

A Message for Today:

Unity in Diversity

1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

Psalm 133: 1

John 17: 21-23

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

As offerings are given in many ways in all church-
es around the world, so we too bring our offerings
to the altar. But from here, as we journey with God,
we listen to God's still-speaking voice asking us to
have faith in all we share. The Spirit of God asks
us to live into our faith as we share our treasures,
talents, and time with all creation — here and
around our world.

**Doxology*

"I Sing Praises To Your Name"

Hymn # 660

I sing praises in 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)*

**Gracious God, you are good news for a weary
world. You are hope for people in despair, and
you are home to exiles. Accept, we pray, the
offerings we bring this day. Use them accord-
ing to your own purpose and grace. In Christ's
name we ask it. 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 COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Pray with El Salvador

"Dear sisters and brothers in Global Ministries, and
on World Communion Sunday with the churches,
Disciples of Christ, and the United Church of Christ
in the United States. From El Salvador, this sister
church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, joins you in this
moment of witness. We pray. God of all mercy,
who has blessed us in your son Jesus, Messiah,
Redeemer, we want to thank you for all that Jesus
has taught us and all that Jesus has bequeathed
to us. We are grateful that He exhorts us to remain
in this communion of faith and hope, so that we
may be one family, one people, proclaiming that
Jesus Christ is the hope of the world.

We believe that your Holy Spirit will make us more fraternal, more of a family, more of your people, to proclaim the precious message of the Kingdom of God on this earth and in this history. Bless all the work and witness of Global Ministries, as well as all its counterparts in Latin America and throughout the world. May honor and glory be to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer, Amen." Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel (El Salvador)

Call to Prayer

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."
Soren Kierkegaard

We turn to God in praise and prayer not from a position of power and strength, but from the broken edges of our lives, from the broken edges of the world and the church. We offer our prayers, trusting in the One who is reconciling all things.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

Holy God, through Christ Jesus you bring the light of the Gospel into our lives as grace revealed. Help us to guard this treasure and to share it with others, too, so that the faith that has lived in our ancestors and now lives in us may come to life in every new generation and around the world. We pray for the needs of the world, gracious God, but may we know the needs of the world are really our needs, too. Great is your faithfulness, O God, we hope in you. Amen

Words of Grace

One: God, in Christ Jesus, grants us grace, mercy, and peace. Let us hold to the sound teaching of the faith: that God has the power to save us and has given us grace through all the ages.

All: We receive the treasure of faith entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Thanks be to God!

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

All: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

All: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

All: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

All: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving (together)

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and the living presence of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and throughout the generations. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world — renewed, invigorated, and committed — that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn*

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"
#698

**Benediction (from Venezuela)*

May God's blessing be with you until the end.
May God give you strength and hope so that you may continue on the paths of goodness, in obedience and love.
Building peace, radiating its light,
Let us go with God,
Let us go with God's blessing. Amen

**Postlude* "Praise to the Lord" by Tornquist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBER GATHERING If you would like to explore membership at St. John's, please contact Pastor Margaret so we can set up a gathering time. mills-m92445@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.

UPDATED DIRECTORY Erica sent out a link to update your information for the church directory. If you're viewing this online, [click here!](#)

A NEW WEBSITE is in the works! If you have anything specific you'd like to see included, email [st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com!](mailto: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 will continue Thursday evenings from 7:00 until dark. We will close the porch when the weather makes it too uncomfortable.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS: Donate your fall surplus to the Elmore food pantry. They are open the second Friday of each month from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and are located at Grace Lutheran Church, 19225 Witty Rd., Elmore. Call ahead to drop-off your fresh produce on the second Thursday of each month Grace Lutheran Church (419.862.3630) or Pat Shaffer (419.351.0150).

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS The Annual Chicken 'N' Biscuit Dinner Drive-Thru is on Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 4:00-6:00pm. It will be \$12/person. We need 9" PIES (apple, pumpkin, cherry). Please sign up – sheet coming soon.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

HONOR WORKERS "Annual Anniversary Outing" will be on October 7 at 6pm at The American Table in Oregon. Call Judy Suto for reservations: 419-862-3675

"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. You'll see my sign.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will be **October 12**. Bring them to church, or bring a picture and we'll bless your pets. We obviously will be outside.

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

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