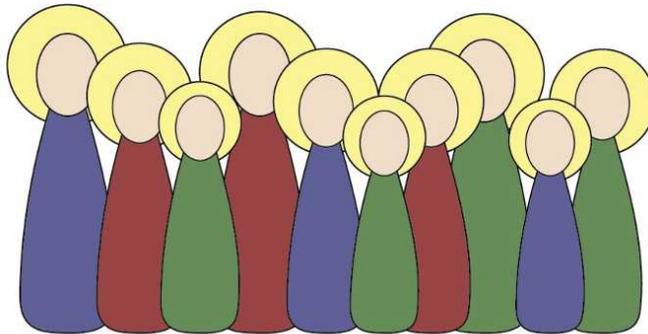


St. John's United Church of Christ
-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

November 2, 2025

10:00am Worship
Communion



Remembering: If you are willing, raise your hand or say yes if any one of these describes you:

- I remember a Christmas Eve in a faith community.
- I remember attending a funeral or a wedding in a faith community.
- I remember being in Sunday School or Youth Group in a faith community.
- I remember how I felt walking through the door today.
- I remember a time when I was touched by music in a faith community.
- I remember feeling angry in a faith community.
- I remember being in church and feeling I would never be alone.
- I remember all those who helped me understand faith and who have gone on before us.
- I remember...

“Lord, we can so often remember the Christians who moved mountains, by earthly standards, but please help us to pray and remember those who fulfilled their missional calling behind the scenes. We have been blessed by such a long history of the church, that many can go forgotten. Please help us to learn from the lives of those who didn't earn much spotlight. Let us glean from their humility and servitude. After all, you humbled yourself, even to the most shameful death that existed during your time, the cross. May we be more like these saints, and more like you, every day. Amen” Hope Bolinger

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

“Holy Love, open our hearts and our actions to love as you love. Amen” Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear
TODAY 10 am—Worship
Communion
Last Sunday Attendance: 44 **Offering:** \$1,810.00

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 Phone: 419-862-3511
Church Email: st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com
Pastor's Phone: 440-487-2549
Pastor's Email: millsm92445@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Office Administrator—Erica Baker
Office hours by appointment

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



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

November 2, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "For All The Saints" - Berry

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship (Inspired by Hebrews 12)*

One: We remember, O God...

All: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.

One: We remember, O God...

**All: The gentle strength of grandmothers,
the warm presence of grandfathers,
the loyalty of friends,
the kindness of strangers,
the joy of children,
the sacrifice of parents.**

One: We remember, O God,

**All: The supreme love of Jesus,
the blessing of his Spirit,
the reminder of his words,
the sharing of his suffering,
the glory of his resurrection,
shown forth in the lives of his disciples,
young and old, dead and living,
articulate and silent, strange and familiar,
brilliant and ordinary.**

One: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord. And as we remember...

All: surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..let us worship God with joy.

**Opening Hymn:* "Rejoice in God's Saints" #531

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer you everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let us be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. 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.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Story for All Ages:

The Family Album

Special Music: "We Gather Together" - The Songbirds

A Message for Today

Who Are the Saints?

Deuteronomy 6: 5-9

Psalm 149

Luke 6: 20-31

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Invitation to the Offering*

In sharing ourselves we reflect God's vision of love and justice for the world. We bring forward our gifts that are given freely, so that the ministry of Jesus Christ may flourish in this community and beyond.

**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)*

Holy and merciful God, you know the joy that is in us when we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions for the work you set before us. Use these gifts to heal and teach, comfort and challenge, that all the world might give you praise. 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

For the peace and unity of the saints, trusting in the promise of grace, let us come before God in prayer.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

Righteous One, write your commandments on our hearts...not as a list of do's and don'ts but as a vision of the people we can be, the lives we may live, and the world we may create. Emblazon your law of love in our hearts, on our lips, and in our journey. Transform us with your love so that we may reflect your love toward our neighbor and toward ourselves. Amen

Words of Grace

Beloved, you are loved, and you have power to choose love in every moment and every encounter. Love has the power to lift, to heal, and to change. Let Holy Love move the mountains before you and the valleys within you.

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 prayers, O Lord, hear our prayers, O Lord;
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Remembering

We remember those who have gone before us into your eternal realm this past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

Ruth M. Hetrick—January 8, 2025

Brian Joseph Ross—January 31, 2025

Janice M. Haar—June 22, 2025

James T. Reynolds—August 24, 2025

Jean Brandow Vance—October 17, 2025

Laura Tolliver—October 25, 2025

Breaking Bread Together

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ: from child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom...We thank you for this time, this meal, this remembrance. Amen

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn* "Rise Up, O Saints of God" #590

**Charge & Benediction*

Love your enemies,
pray for those who oppose you,
answer evil with good,
give to those in need;
for yours is the kingdom of God.

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
gives you a spirit of wisdom and revelation
to live in hope today and always.

**Postlude* "For All the Saints" - Limbaugh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

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.

"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 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: Janet Kuhlman (Cindy Little's aunt), Rex Gardener, Elle West (friend of Kaitlyn Applegate), Jean Brandow Vance

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, 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),

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



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