

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

September 21, 2025

10:00am Worship
11:15am Pastor Margaret's 80th Birthday Potluck!



"I find that when I show up and witness the day's dawning or setting, the day feels whole and holy."

Laura Kelly Fanucci

"How often do we tell our own life story? How often do we embellish, adjust, make sly cuts? And the longer life goes on, the fewer are those around to challenge our account, to remind us that our life is not our life, merely the story we have told about our life. Told to others, but—mainly—to ourselves."

Julian Barnes

"For all the heartaches and the tears for gloomy days and fruitless years I do give thanks, for now I know these were the things that helped me grow." *Crandlemire*

"In Your time, in Your time, you make all things beautiful in your time. Lord, my life to you I bring, may each song I have to sing, be to you a lovely thing, in your time."

"Faithful God, let us serve you as faithful stewards of the gifts you give. Amen"

Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear
TODAY 10 am – Worship
11:15 am— Pastor Margaret's 80th Birthday Potluck!
Last Sunday Attendance: 46 **Offering:** \$1,370.00

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

September 21, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Come and Find the Quiet Center"
by Hartsell

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Children of God, welcome!

All: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

One: welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

All: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community

One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**All: We are welcome, just as we are.
We are loved, just as we are.**

One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

**Opening Hymn:* "Let All Things Now Living"
#22

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Well, Great God, here we are this day, gathered together so we can worship You. Some of us are here for the music, and some for the friends, and some for the cookies and coffee, and the potluck. And we are all here because You have gathered us together in spirit and truth. Sanctify our time together. Now is the time to give thanks, to unload our hearts, to share our lives, and to hear the Story again. So let us worship You. In Your glorious and precious name, we pray. 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:

Happy Birthday to You...

A Message for Today: God, The Giver of Life

Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18

Matthew 6: 25-34

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Let us bring our gifts as faithful stewards so that lives may be changed, needs may be met, and the kingdom of God realized. We have given generously and cheerfully as an act of grateful praise.

**Doxology*

"Lord, Be Glorified"

Hymn # 465 verse 3

In your Church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your Church, Lord, be glorified today.

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

Abundant God, may the gifts we give along with Your miraculous power be sufficient to the needs of the community and a blessing to the world that You love. 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 Lebanon

A UCC prayer initiative.

Call to Prayer

Creator God, You call us to love and serve You with body, mind, and spirit through loving Your creation and our sisters and brothers. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these petitions on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. Let us pray together.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

**God of grief, You see our hurt and weep:
“O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears.” Some-
times we share Your grief, and we despair.
Sometimes, we are so used to the way
things are that we scarcely notice. But one
day, one night, one morning, maybe this
morning—Your pain, our pain, our world’s
pain hits us. And we call out to You, “Is
there healing?” Today we wait for Your
answer, You who weep for us and with us.
Amen.**

Words of Grace

Beloved of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. It cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Nothing you have done, nothing you will ever do is enough to separate you from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. In the name of the risen Christ, our lives are made new. 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 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

“Change My Heart, O God”

#373

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn*

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
#59

**Benediction*

May the God of hope sustain you,
the Holy Spirit keep you,
and Christ the Lord walk with you,
today and every day.

**Postlude* “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”
by Austin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POTLUCK—Join us downstairs after worship to celebrate Pastor Margaret’s 80th birthday!

OPEN COUNCIL POSITION We need to fill the position of Council Secretary as Heidi takes time to focus on her health. Please see Brian Holub if you are interested.

BEACON The September Beacon is on the back counter. Please take one ONLY if you cannot access it any other way. The October Beacon will be prepared shortly—please have your articles or any information you would like to be included to Erica by 9/25/2025.

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

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS rehearse every Wednesday night - Songbirds from 6:30-7:30 and Handbells from 7:30-8:30. Please consider participating in one or both. We really need about 3-4 more hand bell ringers! Some of us are trying to ring 4 handbells and that’s not an easy task! :)

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

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING will be held on Friday, September 26th at Ohio Wesleyan University. Pastor Margaret will attend to represent St. John’s.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

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 nights 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.

"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.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH is sponsoring a Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru on September 28 from 11:30am to sell out. Cost is \$15 and proceeds go to the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. 19225 W. Witty Rd, Elmore, OH.

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!

Hospitalized:

Bereavement:

Hospice: Janet Kuhlman (Cindy Little's aunt)

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,

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