

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

September 28, 2025

10:00am Worship



"Let us who live with faith in God proclaim, 'Lord, You are my refuge and my fortress, my God I will trust forever.' Let us who trust in the Lord know that holy love surrounds us. God's protection will follow us throughout our days. When we call out to the Lord, we know that we are heard. God is with us in every trial and temptation, therefore we will rejoice in the salvation of the Almighty!"

-Psalm 91

"Eternal God, help us to listen and live, according to your good things. Amen".

-Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear
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

September 28, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Great is Thy Faithfulness/Blessed Assurance" by Wells

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 91)*

One: The Lord our God gives to each one of us a sense of blessing, security and confidence —

All: For God alone is our refuge, our place of safety.

One: Our life experiences reassure us that we can always trust in God's goodness and compassion —

All: For God alone is our refuge, our place of safety.

One: God's Presence is expressed to us in many ways which lead us into a closer relationship with God.

All: For God alone is our refuge, our place of safety. Let us worship this holy and Glorious God.

**Opening Hymn:* "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" #728

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls. Engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. 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:

The Snooze Button

A Message for Today:

Cost of Courage

Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Luke 16: 19-31

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

May our hearts be open to the generous life. The Sovereign God invites us to participate in building the kingdom through our financial resources. Let us always give in gratitude and joy knowing that sharing our abundance blesses our neighbor, community, and world.

**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)*

Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. 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 Indonesia

A UCC prayer initiative.

Call to Prayer

We yearn to live fully celebrating both the diversity of one human family, and the unity of our call to love and justice. We come in prayer with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears. Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism. Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us. Hear us as we pray.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

O God, we thank you and call on your name. We glory in you, our God, our strength. You have told us to seek your presence continually, and we do that now. You have told us to remember the wondrous works you have done, and we do that now. You are our God, and there is none like you. But we have made mistakes and failed and doubted. We have forgotten you and ignored your word. Please forgive us. Wash us, shape us, make us different. Make us less, and you more, for that would be best of all. We are sure you will. Amen

Words of Grace

God's mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by God is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

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*

"Shout to the Lord"

#94

**Benediction*

God Be With You

God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

**Postlude* "Let There Be Praise"

by Tunney

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. 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.

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! :)

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

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 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.

"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 today 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.

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

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, Susan Millinger, Jane Kruse

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