

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

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September 7, 2025

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10:00am Worship



**"Simple, genuine goodness is the best capital to found the business of this life upon. It lasts when fame and money fail, and is the only riches we can take out of this world with us." *Louisa May Alcott***

**"Creating God, we gather in your name to worship you. We give thanks that there is a small spark of God within us. Sustaining God, we gather in your name to worship you. We celebrate the loving presence of God in our life. Nurturing God, we gather in your name to worship you. We rejoice that God teaches us about love and forgiveness. As we grow in faith, trust and love for God, may our worship, witness and service bring honor to God's Holy Name." *Joan Scott***

**"The clay answers the potter. It is the very responsiveness of the clay that matters." *Jo Bailey Wells***

**"We are God's artifacts - beautiful, incomplete, and mysterious." *Sam Wells***

**Giver of Life, help us to understand, measure, and embrace the cost of discipleship. Amen**

**Leading Worship:** Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

**TODAY 10 am – Worship**

Communion

**Last Sunday Attendance:** 39 Offering: \$2,388.00

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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

September 7, 2025

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Story for All Ages: Jeremiah and the Potter

A Message for Today: Formed, Re-Formed,  
Forming

Jeremiah 18: 1-11

Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18

Adaptation of Luke 14: 1, 7-14

## GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude:* "Seek Ye First" - St. John's Handbells

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship (inspired by Jeremiah 18 & Psalm 183)*

One: We come into your house, Divine Potter. We are your clay.

**All: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Mold us again!**

One: We bring our burdens and concerns, our hopes and our dreams, our doubts and our delights.

**All: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Hold us in your sure and righteous hand!**

One: We seek your wisdom. Reveal your direction and our path.

**All: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Rebuild and replant us!**

*\*Opening Hymn: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" #502*

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Sovereign God, you are the Potter who has fashioned us into being as a community. Dwell in our midst. Share your wisdom and open every point of receptivity within us. You are holy, gracious, and kind. As we gather, we recommit to accept the joys and costs of discipleship. May you be glorified in our worship, and may we be transformed as we encounter you and your way anew this day. 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 RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Invitation to the Offering*

All that we are points back to our Creator; all that we have is gift and trust. God will finish what God has begun; we have the privilege of taking part. With grateful hearts, we bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

*\*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)*

**Generous God, receive our offerings and magnify them to propel the ministry of this church. May the community and the world benefit from our generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our contributions. Amen**

## WE SHARE OUR COMMON LIFE

*Announcements and Concerns may be emailed to: [millsm92445@gmail.com](mailto:millsm92445@gmail.com), texted to: 440-487-2549, or call into: 419-862-3511*

## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER

*Pray with Mozambique*

A UCC prayer initiative.

*Call to Prayer*

Loving God, we offer our prayers this day in gratitude and thanksgiving, for in Christ you have laid a foundation for us that we might follow you more closely. Hear our prayers...

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)*

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. We pray in the assurance that your mercy, O God, is available and near to us. And, we also pray in hope that your mercy will release us from inaction, apathy, and being overwhelmed so that we may be your instruments of redemption, reparation, and restoration in the world. Forgive us, perhaps most of all, for simply seeking your mercy for the ills of the world rather than your miraculous power to rise in us to overcome them. Grant us grace to pray boldly with our words and our actions in your name.

*Words of Grace*

Beloved, God's mercy is available and so is God's power at work in us. We do receive the grace of the Potter to be used to break down what needs to be deconstructed and reconstructed and to support what needs repair and restoration. A new world that reflects the realm of God is possible through us.

*Pastoral Prayer*

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.  
**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.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*The Invitation to the Table*

We are here because Jesus has called us — strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious... Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

*Affirmation of Faith*

The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith  
(Back of Hymnal)

*Breaking Bread Together*

*We Give Thanks (in unison)*

**Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen**

## **SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

*\*Closing Hymn*

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" #458

*\*Benediction*

Go, ready and committed to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to be the church in the world.

*\*Postlude* "The Church's One Foundation"  
by Wesley

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*\*\***COUNCIL MEETING** will take place TONIGHT at 7:00pm in the Conference Room at St. John's UCC.\*\*\*

**BEACON** The September Beacon is on the back counter. Please take one ONLY if you cannot access it any other way. Thanks!

**SEPTEMBER 14TH - RALLY DAY, WELCOME BACK SUNDAY, BLESSING OF THE BACK-PACKS, FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** Anything I missed? Come and bring friends as we begin our fall programming with a big **WELCOME BACK!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Anyone interested in providing Special Music please contact Lynn at 419-680-6196. Thanks!

**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:** What can you do with all of your surplus garden produce this summer? Donate it to the Elmore Food Pantry! Help families obtain fresh produce this growing season! We 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).

**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. See you there! Next week, Songbirds will be singing!

**HONOR WORKERS** will have their first fall meeting on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 at the church. Then we will visit Jennifer Peeler across the street to see her flowers, herbs, and bees. We will finish with dessert and a program called "Bee Surprised" in the Fellowship Hall.

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** will resume on September 8 at 7:00pm in the Council Room. We will begin with Philipians.

**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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL:** Tom Wilhart, pastor at the Church of God in Elmore, is retiring at the end of the year. The Community Meal on Thanksgiving day has been a mission and ministry of love created by the Church of God many years ago. The community volunteers to make it happen. There is a need for a vision for the future. We might have a volunteer to oversee this adventure but all ideas are welcome. What are your thoughts?

**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:** Cade Gwynn (son of Dava Warner's brother-in-law, Joe Gwynn)

**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