



The Beacon—October 2025



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Here it is October. The trees are beginning to change color. The days are getting cooler yet with the sun shining, the temperature is just right. Now I know this can't last but for now — wonderful. October is also the month of GLAUCE - the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators. For many years — I've attended this event where educators from local churches in the Great Lakes region gather to learn, worship, and enjoy time together. We gather to promote and interpret the teaching ministry as a vital element in the life of Christ's Church. Most of you know that my calling was to the educational ministry of the church serving as the Director of Christian Education at Old South UCC in Kirtland for 10 years and then on the staff of the Western Reserve and Eastern Ohio Associations for 37 years. Over those years the image of Christian Education changed from a model of classroom teaching to the forming of faith by community. It went from a program for children and youth to the nurturing of all ages. It changed from being "taught" by a few to the work of the congregation — being "caught."

In Luke we read: "When he had finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, 'Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.' Simon replied, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets.'" Now here's how it relates to Faith Formation — instead of book learning, we experience trusting God and putting out into the deep - deeper love, deeper commandments, deeper spiritual living. Moving beyond where we are. Move out into the deep. As we move into this new energy that fall often brings, may we go beyond our comfort zone. May we go beyond.

Pastors are considered to be preachers and teachers — in fact, that's part of our installation vows. But often we neglect the teaching part. As we move into October — may we move beyond where we are into the deeper experiences of Jesus and the Gospel. May I remember the teaching, nurturing, faith forming, catching part of my calling and help each of you to go beyond where you've always been into the deep. So as the leaves change color, as they move beyond their normal green into the vibrant colors of fall — may we change as we move forward in faith and spiritual living and become more vibrant in our spiritual lives.

Blessings,

Pastor Margaret



**St. John's mission...to live the love and grace of God
through redeeming faith in Jesus the Christ
by seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God.**



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.

No experience necessary! Come praise the Lord through music!

Prayers / Parish Record

Daily Prayer Requests

God hears our prayers and so we encourage you to lift the following people to God in prayer daily. You may want to remove this page and keep it with your daily devotions.

Hospitalized:

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, Jane Kruse, Susan Millinger, Dave Reimer

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

October Anniversaries

Steven & Shannon Simpson	10/12/
Daniel & Amy Laity	10/21
Brian & Heidi Holub	10/16
Ray & Susanne Bucalo	10/07
Paul Holewinski & Susan Cole	10/11
Bryan & Nicole Blausey	10/03
Ross Ahlhorn & Brianne Little	10/08

October Birthdays

Mary Sue James	10/02
Kendra Harder	10/03
Lindsay Giesler	10/05
Kiley Gronwall	10/06
Logan Miano	10/07
Cheryl Helmke	10/08
Leah Baechle	10/09
Lisa Sheets-Archibald	10/11
Douglas Ottney	10/11
Duane Arndt	10/12
Nichole Almroth	10/13
Jennifer Reynolds	10/15
Michelle Garey	10/16
Jana Sampson	10/18
Stephanie Kuhlman	10/18
Paul Roadarmel	10/19
Heather Cook	10/20
Rodger Jimison	10/21
Peggy Lutman	10/22
Joanne Price	10/22
Nancy Almroth	10/23
Jim Sankiewicz	10/24
Tracy Berkel	10/24
Liam Bucalo	10/24
Richard Kuhlman	10/27
Leslie Erwin	10/28
Brianne Little	10/28
Loren Sampson	10/30
Arnold Smith	10/31
Caiden Yurista	10/31





Church Council Meeting September 7, 2025

The Council met on Sunday 9/7/25 at 7:00 pm. The following people attended: Pastor Margaret, Ron Busdeker, Bill Verbryke, Dick Kuhlman, Jim Wilburn, Cindy Little, Barb Bruntz with President Brian Holub presiding.

- The meeting opened with a Prayer from Pastor Margaret.
- Erica Baker presented information about starting a website for the church using a template from the UCC. This website would be customizable for our church needs. There would be an e-mail link to access the site. This site should be easy to navigate with different tabs for videos of service, The Beacon (past and present issues), contact information, donations, last minute announcements, etc. The cost would be \$469/year or \$45/month. Ron motioned to approve the funds for the site. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Ron went over the financial report. He mentioned that the general fund is up a little. Giving has been slightly down. We have dipped into the government money that we received during Covid. Our property taxes were also paid. Jim motioned to accept the financial report. Bill seconded the motion. Motion was passed.
- There will be a Budget Committee meeting after service on 10/5.
- There will be a Council meeting after service on 10/19
- The Autumn Congregational Meeting will be after service on 10/26
- Evan Shurtz has been working with Paul to find a way to upgrade and streamline the way we record and post our services online. Evan was not able to be at the meeting, but he sent a written proposal to acquire some new equipment. Calvary Lutheran Church in Northwood is, unfortunately, closing and they are looking to sell/auction off equipment and fixtures. Evan had some information regarding the A/V equipment that could be purchased for \$1500. Ron made a motion to allow Evan to make the purchase. Bill seconded the motion. The motion was

passed. Evan is also working on getting quotes for a new computer for the church office.

- Deacon's report: the average attendance for July was 36 with 35 taking communion.
- the average attendance for August was 36 with 28 taking communion. There were also five Sundays in August.
- Pastor's report: Margaret mentioned that she wants to get back to counting the number of online views also.

She also mentioned that we need to finish the updated directory. Congregants' contact info gathering was started by Katie, when she was Office Admin. Erica is looking to get the info finalized so that a new directory can be completed and sent out.

We need to have a conversation in the future regarding a new elevator or chairlift.

- Loose offering designations: September and October will go to Bistro 163

November will go to the Community Thanksgiving dinner

December will go to the Christmas Fund

January and February will go to help pay utilities for needy Elmore families

- Margaret also mentioned a few issues in the parsonage, none of which are an emergency situations.

1: The ceiling in the upstairs bedroom needs attention after the roof leaked.

2: The window in the downstairs bathroom won't stay closed/locked.

3: Some of the basement walls are damp and the paint is peeling.

4: The front storm door should probably be replaced.

- Trustees report: The light under the carport needs to be replaced. The linden tree along the parking lot should be getting replaced in mid-September.

-- Faith Formation will be resuming in September

-- SPRC met on 6/16/25 to hire a new Office Admin.

-- President's report: Brian informed those attending the meeting of the change to Heidi's cancer treatment. Due to this she will need to step down as Council Secretary. Becky Busdeker has since offered to take on the role.

- The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

These notes have been submitted by Pres. Brian Holub

Office Notes

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.

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.

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.

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

BEACON Please have your articles or any information you would like to be included to Erica by 9/29/2025.

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



Office Notes Continued...



TOGETHER IN PRAYER If you would like Pastor Margaret to lift up a prayer concern or announcement in the Sunday morning worship service, please email millsm92445@gmail.com or text 440-487-2549 or call the church at 419-862-3511.

MONTHLY BEACON began in September and we will continue to try to release it monthly! Be sure to get Erica any information you'd like included by the 25th of each month.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING: There are four special offerings in the United Church of Christ taken at various times of the year. Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Christmas Fund. With our giving to Our Church's Wider Mission, we give to all five offerings of the UCC becoming a Five for Five congregation. These offerings support various ministries within the UCC including disaster relief, refugee assistance, church growth, and assistance for retired clergy/authorized ministers. In October, we will support the Neighbors in Need offering which supports the UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States including support for the Council for American Indian Ministry, advocacy efforts, direct service projects and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are also annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. More details will be in the October Beacon.

WHY DO I GIVE?

For many years, I led stewardship and giving workshops for local churches in the association where I served as staff for Youth, Faith Formation, Stewardship and Church in the World. It was a joy to watch congregations and individuals come to recognize that giving isn't to raise money to meet the budget, or even to pay the bills — giving is because God has blessed us with so much that we can do nothing less than give back. So I give to my church in gratitude, not because the church has needs but because I need to give.



NWOA WISE RESOLUTION

WISE, UCC Mental Health Network:

Welcoming - Inclusive - Supportive - Engaged. - At the Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the UCC, we heard about the initiative for the association and each local church to become a WISE association and church. The association voted the resolution printed in the Beacon. I will contact Rev. Fred Coulter, the chair of the team working on this, for a presentation to us in the near future. Among the information that will be shared as we move forward is this: "It is a process to encourage congregations (and associations and conferences) to become more welcoming and supportive of those living with mental health challenges and their families. It is providing safe space for spiritual support." I would like us to consider being a WISE congregation. The resolution is below:

Northwest Ohio Association United Church of Christ

Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged (WISE) Resolution



In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that no matter who you are and no matter where you are or have been on life's journey, you are welcome. This affirmation is rooted in love when Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love another." (John 13:34-35)

The Northwest Ohio Association (NWOA) has chosen to live out this commandment by becoming a Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged (WISE) association. We will establish covenantal relationships with God and individual churches within the Northwest Ohio Association, as well as with each other and ourselves.

Therefore, the NWOA agrees to live out this call of accepting all of God's beloved children by entering into a WISE covenant:

WHEREAS, the NWOA resolved to be Welcoming to people with mental health challenges to reduce the stigma that has made them feel unwelcome in the past.

WHEREAS, the NWOA resolves to be Inclusive to people with mental health challenges to ensure they fit into all association events and activities.

WHEREAS, the NWOA resolved to be Supportive of people with mental health challenges to recognize that everyone needs help at some time in their life.

WHEREAS, the NWOA resolved to be Engaged with people who have mental health challenges to learn more from them and how they can be active participants in the beloved community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NWOA will become a WISE Association in all activities from April 26, 2025 forward.

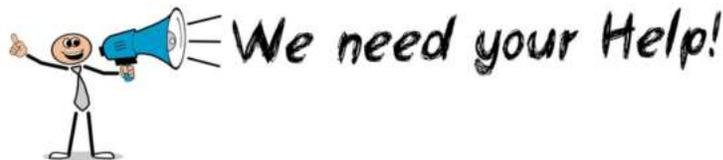
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWOA will offer resources and support to congregations who choose to become WISE churches.

St. John's United Church of Christ
448 E. Rice Street, Elmore, OH

ANNUAL CHICKEN 'n' BISCUIT DINNER
Saturday, October 18, 2025
4:00 - 6:00 pm

DRIVE-THRU ONLY
Donation: \$12.00/meal

MENU INCLUDES:
Chicken, Biscuit & Gravy
Tossed Salad
Homemade Cranberry Sauce
Applesauce



Pies, Pies, Pies!

It's that time of year. We need pies for our Chicken 'N' Biscuit Drive-Thru. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please sign up at the information desk at the back of the church.

9" and 10" pies are needed. Please bring them to the Fellowship Hall by 12:00pm on October 18th.

Thank you!

HONOR WORKERS ARE AT IT AGAIN!

The Honor Workers enjoyed their time learning about bees and honey from Jennifer Peeler.



WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT FOR THE HONOR WORKERS?

Celebrate the 87th year of the Honor Workers with great food (you choose from the menu!) and lots of fun fellowship!

OCTOBER 7, 2025

“Annual Anniversary Outing”

6:00 P.M.

The American Table

846 S. Wheeling St., Oregon, Ohio 43616

Reservations: call Judy Suto—419-862-3675

HONOR WORKERS SEPTEMBER 9th MEETING MINUTES

The first meeting of the Honor Workers was on September 9, 2025. There were 10 members and 2 guests attending. The group met at the church and walked across the street to the home of Jennifer Peeler. She showed us around her flower garden and shared many tips on flower growth and how to prepare for winter. She is also very knowledgeable in bee keeping. She has several kinds of bees and harvests honey. She was a wealth of knowledge.

The group then walked back to the church for dessert prepared by Shirley Hensel and a business meeting. Announcements were made for the October 18 th “Chicken n Biscuit” drive thru dinner. A Sign up sheet was circulated for cranberries for the dinner. Sign up sheets were also passed around for those going to the Anniversary outing on October 7 th at the American Table in Oregon. The November program will be Jim Wilburn sharing information from the Harris-Elmore Fire Department.

Anyone in the congregation is invited to join us for any of our programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Bruntz, Secretary



GOODBYE TREE You may have noticed that we had a tree removed on Rice Street. While it was sad to see it go, it was necessary.

UPCOMING LOOSE OFFERING SCHEDULE

September—Bistro 163

October—Bistro 163

November—Community Thanksgiving Dinner

December—Christmas Fund

January—Utilities for the Needy

February—Utilities for the Needy



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report—August 2025



General Fund

Balance as of August 1, 2025 \$ 1,138.37

Offerings \$ 16,103.00

Expenses \$ 11,138.00

Balance as of August 31, 2025 \$ 6,077.06

*** Average attendance for Sundays in September= 47*

September Weekly Offering

September 7: \$2,685.00

September 14: \$1,370.00

September 21: \$1,620.00

September 28: \$2,175.00

September Loose Offerings went to Bistro 163

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Songbirds 7:30 Bells	2 9am: Christy's 7pm: Pastor on the Porch 7pm: AA	3	4
5 10:00 Worship World Communion Day	6 7pm Bible Study	7 6pm Honor Workers Anniversary	8 6:30 Songbirds 7:30 Bells	9 9am: Christy's 7pm: Pastor on the Porch 7pm: AA	10	11
12 10:00 Worship Blessing of the Animals Faith Formation 11:15 Fellowship Hour	13 7pm Bible Study	14	15 6:30 Songbirds 7:30 Bells	16 9am: Christy's 7pm: Pastor on the Porch 7pm: AA	17	18 4-6pm: Chicken 'N' Biscuit
Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators						
19 10:00 Worship Council Meeting after Church	20 7pm Bible Study	21	22 6:30 Songbirds 7:30 Bells	23 9am: Christy's 7pm: Pastor on the Porch 7pm: AA	24	25
26 10:00 Worship Faith Formation Congregational Meeting 11:15 Fellowship Hour	27 7pm Bible Study	28	29 6:30 Songbirds 7:30 Bells	30 9am: Christy's 7pm: Pastor on the Porch 7pm: AA	31 Halloween! 	

THIS MONTH WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP

in the sanctuary at 10:00 am

Fellowship Hour are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

*Thank You to all who are continuing their contributions to St. John's.
Church services can be found on [YouTube](#) and [St. John's Facebook page](#).*

Hard copies of the October Beacon are available by the side door of the Clinton Street entrance.

Pastor Margaret's 80th Birthday Recap





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Administrative Assistant:

Erica Baker

Music Director:

Lynn Grear



THE BEACON

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-