

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

November 16, 2025

10:00am Worship



“You may be able to conquer the whole world and gain everything in action, but you’ll live in torment if you can’t find peace of mind and satisfaction.” Mouloud Benzadi

We’re called to be fam’ly united in love, God’s grace and God’s mercy we live now to prove. We’re God’s beloved people: we walk in God’s way, where justice and mercy shine bright as the day. Yes, yes! A thousand times, yes! Better together than out on our own. Yes, yes! A thousand times, yes! Here in God’s fam’ly no longer alone. Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins and Ken Medema

God of the earthquake and the silence, quiet in us any voice but your own, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might hear, and in hearing we might believe, and in believing we might act, making way for your new creation. Amen

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear
TODAY 10 am—Worship
Last Sunday Attendance: 44 **Offering:** \$1,171.00

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 16, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"
-Berry / Handel

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously;

All: let us sing God's praises throughout all the earth.

One: Shout aloud and sing for joy,

All: from the highest peaks to the deepest caverns,

One: Shout aloud and sing for joy,

All: from the tiniest creatures, to the greatest herds.

One: Shout aloud and sing for joy,

All: in the midst of our joys and sorrows.

One: Shout aloud and sing for joy,

All: As we come to worship the God of all creation.

**Opening Hymn: "We Have Come to Join in Worship"*
#647

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Beloved Creator and Sustainer, like the sunlight, your presence illuminates the world around us. Like the air, your being invigorates us. Even when the world seems to be on fire, your quenching rain soothes our souls. Through your wisdom, we find our hope and strength. Fill our minds with your peace and our hearts with fortitude, knowing you will never depart from us. 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: We Are One in God

A Message for Today That They May All Be One
Isaiah 65: 17-25
John 17: 20-26
UCC Statement of Faith (Back of Hymnal)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God, with gratitude and praise.

**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)*

Creator God, Source of all Life, we see how your gifts transform the hearts, minds and souls of this world. May your wisdom continue to strengthen our spirits. Through our gifts of treasures, talents, and time, we can serve your children, ensuring no one goes hungry and all are thriving. Through our endurance and compassion, may we build God's Realm here on earth, even as we all are one. 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

Just as the prophet Isaiah assured God's people so many years ago he assures us now that God is our salvation. It is because of that confidence, because of that promise, that we dare approach God with our prayers.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

God of peace we confess we are a people of fear. We have let anxiety rule our days and worry our nights. We have been distracted by nerves and focused on tension. We have ignored your command to not be afraid. Forgive us, O God. Calm our hearts, settle our stomachs, and renew in us the ability to find our comfort in you. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Words of Grace

Shame and despair will not overtake us. The grace of God sustains us from dawn until dusk and in the depths of the night. The prophet Isaiah assures us: God is building a new heaven and a new earth. Rejoice in what the Lord is creating in you, in me, in all creation.

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.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn*

"I Sing the Almighty
Power of God" #31

**Charge & Blessing*

Be strong in the truth of God.
Bear witness to the Gospel.
Persevere in the face of evil.
Persist in your commitment to Christ.
Live without fear.
Love without reserve.
And may the grace of God,
the love of Christ,
and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you
always.
Go in peace. Walk in love.

**Postlude "Count Your Blessings" - Stevens*

ELMORE KIWANIS FRUIT BASKETS If you'd like to volunteer to put together fruit baskets for the widows and widowers of our community this holiday season through the Elmore, Kiwanis, please contact Cindy Little at 419-344-9279 or email cz566small@yahoo.com. We will assemble baskets on Wednesday, December 10th from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Elmore Library. We appreciate any and all volunteers!

HONOR WORKERS's Judy Suto will host the "Song of the Season" program with Lisa Garges on December 9th at 7:00pm. Members will address Christmas cards to shut-ins.

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.

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 resumes on November 17th. We will focus on what it means to please God: Colossians 1:10 "...live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

HOME COMMUNION: If you wish Pastor Margaret to bring communion to your home, please call 440-487-2549.

AA MEETING is every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:00. We are so glad to have them meet in our Fellowship Hall.

"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.

ANGEL TREE forms are available at the back counter of the church. Please return by Nov. 14th at the latest!

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.

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.

WOMEN'S 55th ANNUAL ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE—OUR CHRISTMAS STAR will be held Thursday, December 4 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Genoa. Registration begins at 5:45 with service at 6:00. Soup and salad dinner provided by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish after the service. Collection to benefit Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. RSVP to secretary@ourladygenoa.org or 419-855-8501 by November 30th.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: On Wednesday, November 26, 2025, we will host a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. The service will include a special anthem by the Songbirds, prayers, hymns, scripture and a brief reflection. Won't you plan to attend to remember to whom we lift our thanks and praise.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd: In November, our Loose Offerings are going to Cherry Street Mission. Dustin Schmidt, Discipleship Manager for Cherry Street Mission, will be our guest speaker and will share stories of the mission in worship as well as answer questions at Fellowship Hour.

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: Jean Brandow Vance, Eli & Abby Wright Gerkenmyer and family for the loss of their infant daughter

Nursing Home/Rehab —Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Lois Rymers

At Home — Joanne Busdeker, Carlton Giesler, Doris Klaustermeyer, Cindy Calhoun, 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, 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, Sandra Shaffer, Russ Krumnow, Jim Krumnow, Jim and Jane Garner, Amy M, Lois Pelly, Loren Sampson, Jeanette Tangeman, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom and Sharon Crozier, David Reimer, Troy Hensel, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Jeff Little, Ron Dangler

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