

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

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. DEADLINE: NOV. 30

ANGEL TREE is up at the library if you'd like to make Christmas special for someone!!

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!

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.

"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.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY resumed on November 17th. Join us at 7:00pm in the Council Room!

NEW MEMBER GATHERING A brief conversation will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7th with coffee and pastries right after church. Any who wish to join in the conversation on the history of St. John's, who we are as the UCC, and what it means to be a member of the church, feel free to join us. I look forward to gathering together.

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.

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.

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: Eli & Abby Wright Gerkensmyer 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, 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



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

November 23, 2025

Reign of Christ Sunday
Thanksgiving Sunday

10:00am—Worship
Faith Formation
11:15am—Fellowship



"The beginning is always today." Mary Shelley

"The timeless in you is aware of life's timelessness. And knows that yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream." Khalil Gibran

Open our hearts today, O Lord, to hear your words of redeeming love.
Open our lives today, O Lord, to help us become your disciples.

Come, let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.
Throughout all our lives, God has blessed us with love and hope.
Praise be to God who provides for us.
May our hearts be truly grateful, and may we show our gratitude by the ways in which we live and care for others.

"Sovereign God, give us the urgency for your realm today. Amen"

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 37 **Offering:** \$2,010.00

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

November 23, 2025

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Ode to Thanksgiving" - Beethoven

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: In this present time, no matter what passes before us,

All: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,

All: God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.

One: As the world trembles in fear and worry,

All: May we find stillness and peace knowing God is God of all.

**Opening Hymn:* "Christ the Eternal Lord" #335

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Holy Redeemer, in the dusk of this liturgical year, we recall the beauty of our days together. The blessedness of Christmas love and the light of Epiphany move us to bring illumination to our neighbors. The hope of Easter and the strength of Pentecost inspire us to bring the Good News of God's love to this world. All of this is to create God's Realm here on this earth, where we follow the steps of Christ, knowing the endurance of the Holy Spirit abides with us today and always. 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: **Thanks Living**

A Message from Cherry Street Mission
- Dustin Schmidt

Special Music: "Autumn Carol"
- Songbirds & Bells of St. John's

A Message for Today **Today!**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

What would happen if we were to set aside our worries and begin to create paradise on earth – here and now! What if we shared just a little extra of our time, talent, and treasures so that others can experience paradise on this side of heaven? When we share our gifts, the universe begins to transform for our neighbors, creation, and ourselves.

**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)*
God of all time and space, you call us to transform the world through the extension of your grace to all of creation. May we find new and creative ways to share our treasures, talents, and time in order to create your Realm here on earth. May we work to create paradise beginning here today. 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

With humble hearts, trusting in grace, we lift our prayers to God, the Lord of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Hear our prayers.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (in unison)

Bounteous God, you have lavished your finest gifts on each one of us. We thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed our lives – with love, hope, friends, our church, and so many other things that we cherish. Help us be a blessing for others – that they may come to know you and rejoice in your love. Give us hearts of courage and confidence to step out into the world in service, bringing hope where there is doubt, peace where there is strife, love where there is discord. These things we pray in Jesus' name, Amen

Words of Grace

Through the words and acts of Jesus, we experience peace, hope, and grace. God's love is beyond limits and will move us to open ourselves to the beauty of infinite mercy.

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* "Let All Things Now Living" #22

**Benediction*

Beloved of God, place your whole trust in God's absolute abundant love. Feel the powerful presence of God in your life and know that God's blessings are with you.

May the Spirit of Strength give us courage to care for our neighbors.

May the Christ of Mercy give us peace in each time and space.

May the Creator of Hope inspire us to love in new ways.

Companions on this journey, we are called to build God's realm, creating heaven on earth for all.

Go in peace, and may God's peace always be with you. Amen

**Postlude* "Now Thank We All Our God w/ Come Ye Thankful People Come" - Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHERRY STREET MISSION: We offer a warm welcome to Dustin Schmidt, the Discipleship Manager at Cherry Street Mission. He has been on the staff for 3 years but has been connected to the ministry for the last ten years as an Associate Pastor in the community. We are pleased to be able to share our November Loose (benevolent) offering with Cherry Street Mission to assist in their ministry to those in need in Toledo.

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.

NO COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER There will be no community Thanksgiving Dinner this year.

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 by calling 419-344-9279 or email her at cz56small@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.

