

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

January 18, 2026

10:00am—Worship



During the Season After Epiphany, highlight and give thanks for the glimmers of joy and hope in your community.

“Knitter of our bones and namer of our being, we invite you to encompass us with your spirit. Everything we desire can be found in you. You desire wholeness for us and in us so now we draw nigh to receive from you and to share in you. Amen”

Leading Worship: Dave Ferguson, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 50 **Offering:** \$12,274.00

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

January 18, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "El Shaddai" by Card

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
We live sustained by God's presence and love.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

All: God weeps with us.

One: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith.

All: God gives thanks with us.

One: As we struggle for justice,

All: God struggles with us.

One: As we strive for peace,

All: God strives with us.

One: As we work to build the beloved community,

All: God works with us.

One: As we offer our gifts to all,

All: God blesses us.

One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

All: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

**Opening Hymn:* "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" #457

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

God, we have gathered together to worship You, to offer You our praise and thanksgiving; to once again affirm that You are our God, and that we are Your people, created by You long ago for Your purposes. Open our eyes and hearts to Your presence among us. Through Your Word and Spirit, challenge us to greater faithfulness and obedience, so that we may be the people You intend, and accomplish the work You have set out for us. In the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray. 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: **Take Time to LISTEN!**

A Message for Today:

The Word of God for the People of God

Isaiah 49: 1-7
Psalm 40: 1-11
John 1: 29-42

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

In Heaven it's believed that there is no good thing lacking. There is no scarcity, no shortage. We have the opportunity today to mirror Heaven. Let's bring whatever we are led to give to the altar, so that abundance may flow and that God's people and house lack no good thing.

**Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God triune, whom we adore.

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

Creator of heaven and earth, receive these offerings from our hearts and our hands. May they be used to bring heaven to the earth. 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on JANUARY 25th after service. All are welcome to attend! We will go over the 2025 Annual Report.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING—Dava Warner is leading the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative at St. John's! It is a program run through a nonprofit called Tackle Hunger that focuses on mobilizing communities to fight food insecurity together. Dava and our Faith Formation teachers will shine light on food insecurity and allow us to collect money and food items. Check the January Beacon for more information!

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS *** There will be no Songbirds or Bells this Wednesday, January 21st, but we will resume rehearsal on Wednesday, January 28th. Thanks!

HONOR WORKERS are taking a break in January, but will be meeting again on February 10th for a presentation from Julie Mayle, Curator of Manuscripts from the Rutherford B. Hayes Museum.

PASTOR MARGARET is at the annual Common Ground on the Border through 1/21. While she is enjoying 70 and sunny, we get a fresh batch of snow. I think Margaret is on shovel duty the rest of the winter. (Love, Erica)

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: The last few months have brought many neighbors to the pantry. Just a note we served 38 families during the month of January. Thanks to everyone in the community for your generosity.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY join us at 7:00pm in the Council Room every Monday night!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY LOOSE OFFERING will go to utility bills for the needy.

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY item of the month is peaches.

“OFFICE HOURS” AT CHRISTY’S will be held next week on January 15th (yay for Christy’s being reopened!). Join us anytime between 9:00am and noon for good conversation, coffee, tea, or...

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!

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, Helen Hollis (friends of Bill Verbryke), Ken Moore, Jerry and Dolores Beck, Janet Ottney, 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, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom and Sharon Crozier, David Reimer, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Ron Dangler, Kim Applegate, Briann, Rosemary Acha, Don Brimmer (Deb Ferguson’s brother), Dolores Neeb, Nikki Christensen, Kathy Willey, Sue Applegate, Mary Ann Zolman

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