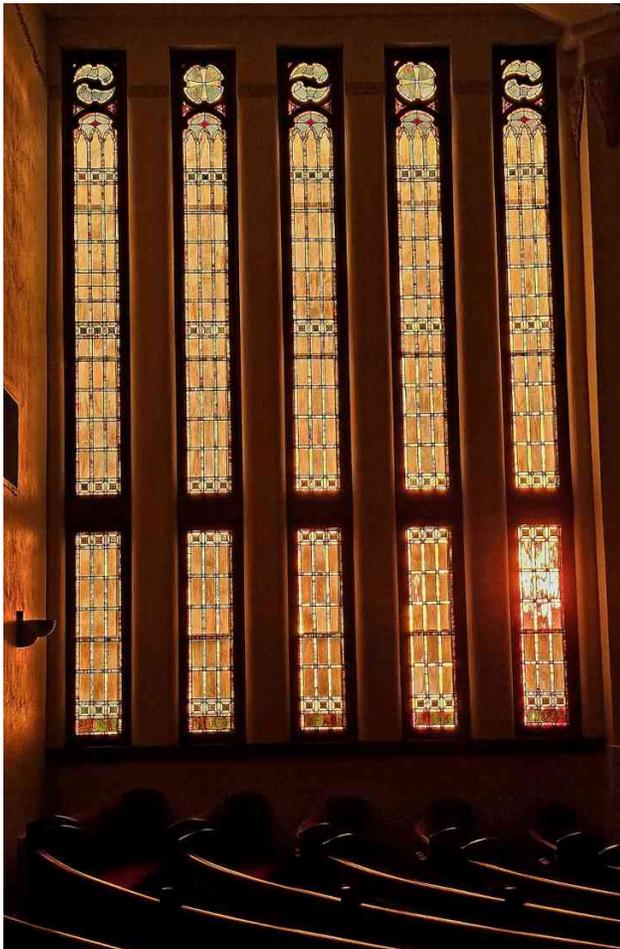


St. John's United Church of Christ
-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

January 25, 2026

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



“In a very real sense not one of us is qualified, but it seems that God continually chooses the most unqualified to do the work, to bear the glory. If we are qualified, we tend to think that we have done the job ourselves. If we are forced to accept our evident lack of qualification, then there's no danger that we will confuse God's work with our own, or God's glory with our own.” *Madeleine L'Engle*

Glory shines in gloom, and gloom cannot put it out. That was true at the time of Isaiah and the time of Jesus. Let us make it true today. Make glorious the way.

Glorious God, shine your life on us and make glorious the way we follow you. Amen

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 31 Offering: \$1,529.00

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 25, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Here I Am Lord" - Carter

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

All: Jesus calls us to worship.

One: Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

All: Jesus calls us to love.

One: Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

All: Jesus calls us to justice.

One: Come, then, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing, all who hunger for joy.

All: We come to the dawning way, we come to the hopeful way, we come to the way God makes glorious.

One: Let us heed the call of Christ.

All: Let us worship together with joy.

**Opening Hymn:* "Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult"
#345

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Holy One, your light dawns where our shadows are deepest. You are never far, your presence remains with us. Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our world's weariness. Shine upon the paths we walk – paths obstructed by fear, uncertainty, and the heavy burdens our communities carry. Yet, your compassion rises like morning light. Make us ready, alert, and courageous – people who move with your Spirit. Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God. Remain with us. Awaken us. And guide our worship into the brightness of your new 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 LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Story for All Ages: Saturday at the Food Pantry

A Message for Today:

Gloom and Glory

Isaiah 9: 1-4

Matthew 4: 12-22

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God, the source of all good things, has given us what we need. In joyful response, we offer our gifts, the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts for loving service in the name of Christ.

**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*

God of our salvation, receive these gifts we offer and bless them for the work of your kingdom. With gratitude for all you are doing in us and through us, we dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to our care. Amen

WE SHARE OUR COMMON LIFE

Announcements and Concerns may be emailed to: st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com, texted to 440-487-2549, or call 419-862-3511 and leave a message.



WE REST IN PRAYER WITH GOD

Invitation to 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!

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news of the Gospel: people who have walked under heavy burdens have been met by the One who lifts them. People who have carried what felt unshakeable have felt the yoke break from their shoulders. Into every place of strain or sorrow, God's mercy draws near. God's compassion reaches out. God's grace opens a way forward. In this promise, receive your freedom. In this grace, begin again.

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

"Jesus, Name Above All Names" #177

Jesus name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn* "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #319

**Benediction*

Go now in the presence of the One who lifts what is heavy, breaks what binds, and opens the way before you. As a new day unfolds, may courage rise in you, may compassion guide you, and joy find room to grow. The Spirit who descends and remains goes with you, goes before you, and goes within you – making glorious the way you walk. Go in peace, walk in love to begin again. Amen

**Postlude* "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"
-Austin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNUAL MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD TODAY. We have some adjustments to the constitution to review before we can bring it to you for a vote. If you haven't already, please pick up a copy of the constitution on the back counter, review it, and reply to Brian Holub with your thoughts. The constitution committee will meet to review all comments.

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 will resume rehearsal on Wednesday, January 28th pending weather. Thanks!

HONOR WORKERS will meet again on February 10th in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation from Julie Mayle, Curator of Manuscripts from the Rutherford B. Hayes Museum. All are invited! Text or call Joyce Bruntz, your hostess, at 419-345-3160 for more info.

"OFFICE HOURS" at Christy's continues on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to noon. Come for conversation, food, and a beverage anytime during the morning.

FEBRUARY LOOSE OFFERING will go to help the needy pay their utility bills.

COMMUNION SUNDAY will be on the second Sunday of February (2/8) as Lynn is having carpal tunnel surgery so we will be having a guest organist/pianist on 2/1.

SOUP POTLUCK on FEB. 8: To conclude our Souper Bowl of Caring Activity, we will have a soup potluck after church on Feb. 8th. Please sign the sheet on the back counter. Containers will be available starting today for your offerings for the Souper Bowl project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

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.

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.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will be ZOOM ONLY! Sharon will send out the link.

FEBRUARY BEACON is in production. :) Let Erica know if there is anything you'd like included by calling 419-862-3511 or email st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com.

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, Cathy Willey, Sue Applegate, Mary Ann Zolman

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

