

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

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February 1, 2026

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10:00am—Worship



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” Desmond Tutu

“No one has ever become poor by giving.” Anne Frank

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” Henry James

Still Speaking God, empower us to do what is good now. Amen

**Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear**

**Last Sunday Attendance: 9    Offering: \$ :)**

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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  
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<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore>  
<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



## The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

February 1, 2026

### GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

- One: Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
the downtrodden and despairing,  
**All: They will rejoice in God's reign forever.**
- One: Blessed are those who mourn,  
who are grieving,  
**All: They will be comforted in God's reign forever.**
- One: Blessed are the ones who seek justice and  
righteousness  
**All: They will find it in God's reign forever.**
- One: Blessed are we when we love our  
neighbors and seek their needs  
**All: We will live in God's reign forever.**
- One: Blessed are we all when we seek to serve  
others in God's name.  
**All: Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God.**

*\*Opening Hymn: "Morning Has Broken" #35*

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Holy One, we gather to worship you, to sing praises to your name, to lay our needs and desires before you in prayer, to be instructed by your word. Enable us to worship you in the way you desire. Help us to see the gap between our declarations of love for you and our courage in serving you. Push us toward the linking of our worship of you here in church and our work for you in your world. Move us from mere talk about righteousness, justice, and love so that we might walk the talk and be agents of righteousness, justice, and love. This we humbly ask in your name. 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: If You're Happy...*

*A Message for Today: Are You Tired, God?*

Micah 6: 1-8  
Matthew 5: 1-12

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Invitation to the Offering*

We serve a Good God who has blessed us with good things to share for the good of the kingdom. Let us be glad of that goodness as we bring forward the gifts of our hearts as well as our hands.

*\*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 Goodness, bless and use these gifts for your work, transforming them into blessings for others that serve your purpose of love, justice, mercy, and compassion in the world. Help us always remember that all good things come from you. 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*

In the beginning, God looked at all that was created and called creation “good”. In these times of new beginnings, let us give thanks for the grace that enables us to be doers of good no matter the challenges we face. When we do good, challenges are ever present. Sometimes challenges can be overwhelming and so we’re tempted to retreat or stay silent. Help us to remember all that God does for our good so that we can go forth and do the same.

### *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.**

## **SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

### *\*Closing Hymn “Jesus, My Lord”*

#### REFRAIN

Have you seen Jesus my Lord  
He’s here in plain view  
Take a look, open your eyes  
He’ll show it to you.

1. Have you ever looked at the sunset  
with the sky mellowin’ red,  
And the clouds suspended like feathers?  
Then I say: You’ve seen Jesus my Lord.

(refrain)

2. Have you ever stood at the ocean  
with the white foam at your feet?  
Felt the endless thunderin’ motion?  
Then I say: You’ve seen Jesus my Lord.

(refrain)

3. Have you ever looked at the cross  
with a man hangin’ in pain?  
And the look of love in his eyes?  
Then I say: You’ve seen Jesus my Lord.

(refrain)

4. Have you ever stood in the family  
with the Lord there in your midst,  
Seen the face of Christ on your neighbor?  
Then I say: You’ve seen Jesus my Lord.

(refrain)

### *\*Benediction*

Go forth as children of God, having received mercy, to be peacemakers and to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God wherever your life’s journey takes you.. Go in peace. Walk in love.

### *\*Postlude*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW:** The constitution with proposed changes is on the back counter. Please take a copy and make any comments to Brian Holub by Sunday, February 15th. Thank you.

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING** will take place on February 15, 2026 at 7:00pm.

**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 February Beacon for more information!

**SONGBIRDS AND BELLS** meet at 6:30 and Bells meet at 7:30 on Wednesdays. Please join us.

**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 next Sunday, Feb. 8th. Lynn will be back with us after carpal tunnel surgery. Songbirds will be singing.

**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** is done for now. The next study will be on David. Stay tuned!

**FEBRUARY BEACON** has been sent electronically and there are a limited number of printed copies on the back counter..

## **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