

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

February 15, 2026

10:00am—Worship
Mardi Gras & Transfiguration Sunday
11:15am—Fellowship

“He must have lit up the sky that day on the mountain, what we call the transfiguration. Jesus on the mountaintop unveiled a foretaste of heaven and glory. Light filled him so that the witnesses remarked on a hue of white that was whiter than any shade possible. It was a sci-fi transportation to another dimension and while Peter and John were still reeling, Moses and Elijah showed up. It broke the barrier between heaven and earth for Jesus was the one who could belong to both at the same time. A citizen of heaven, a citizen of earth.” Sara Lowe

“The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply. Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?”
Marilynne Robinson

“God places us in the world as his fellow workers - agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world.” Desmond Tutu

“Transfiguration might be about learning to see ordinary things in extraordinary ways.” Amy Frykholm

“Holy One, teach us to wait for you, for one another, and for the moment. Amen”
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay



*Gathering Music: Dixie Flyers
Loren Lohr's Dixieland Band*

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 40 Offering: \$5,331.00

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

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The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

February 15, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "O When the Saints Go Marching In"

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Come to me and wait, I will give you instructions and commandments.

All: We come to you and we wait, to see and hear what you will say.

One: In days past, I wrote on stone tablets, but now I write my words upon your heart that you may teach them.

All: We offer our hearts to receive your words and what we learn, we'll teach others.

One: Heaven is open above you and the kingdom is within you.

All: Wherever we go, the kingdom comes.

One: Yes, the call of the Holy One has brought us together, to worship and to holy wonder.

All: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

One: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

All: As we worship, may we be transformed!

**Opening Hymn:* "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" #504

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world.

**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:

Love Wins
(Ed Mills & Lily Robison)

A Message for Today:

Transfigured & Transformed

Isaiah 24: 12-18

Psalms 99: 6-9

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Our God has revealed to us a law and a love that leads us into becoming God's own daughters and sons. And so we have gratefully given from that which has first been given to us, our lives, our talents, and our possessions. Let us sing our doxology as our gifts are brought to the altar.

**Doxology - Oh Bless the Gifts*

**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hands.**

**Prayer of Dedication*

God of mountaintops and valleys, be our vision of you clouded or brilliantly clear, we faithfully add our gifts to those being given all around us. Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured into your presence in the world. 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

Moses went up the mountain and waited forty days and forty nights while the Holy One gave him the words that brought life to the people. Let us give thanks that God waits with us no matter how long and transforms us in the waiting.

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

"O How He Loves You and Me" #270

O how he loves you and me,
O how he loves you and me.
He gave his life—what more could he give?
O how he loves you, O how he loves me,
O how he loves you and me!

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn* "O When the Saints Go Marching In"
(insert)

**Benediction*

May the holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.
May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love.
May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart.
And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.
Blessings on you all as you go in peace and walk in love.

**Postlude* "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
(New Orleans style) by Shackley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS TONIGHT at 7:00pm! All are welcome.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW: Today is the deadline to get your comments to Brian on our suggestions for changes in the constitution.

BURNING OF LAST YEAR'S PALMS TO BE USED ON ASH WEDNESDAY: Right after church, depending on the weather, we will burn the palms in the driveway.

UPCOMING LENTEN EVENTS: 2/17 @ 5:30pm: Pancakes at the Parsonage; 2/18 @ 7:00pm: Ash Wednesday service; 2/22: Receiving New Members; 2/25: Lenten Meal & Meditation (Honor Workers); 3/4: Lenten Meal & Meditation (Faith Formation); 3/11: Lenten Meal & Meditation; 3/18: Lenten Meal & Meditation; 3/25: Lenten Meal & Meditation; 4/2 @ 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday service; 4/3 from 12:00pm -3:00pm: Good Friday Reflection; 4/5 @ 7:00am: Sunrise Easter Service & @ 10:00am: Easter Worship

FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY: King Cakes will be featured. What is a King Cake? King Cake is a cinnamon-roll-like, iced pastry tradition, often decorated in purple, green and gold (representing justice, faith, and power), and eaten at Mardi Gras to honor the Three Wise Men's arrival in Bethlehem. The oval shape represents a king's crown and the unity of different faiths. A small plastic baby, symbolizing the infant Jesus, is hidden inside, bringing the finder luck and the responsibility to host the next party. Thanks to John and Carol Bock for providing today's party.

SONGBIRDS will meet after the Lenten services on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15. **BELLS** will meet after Sunday services beginning March 1 from 11:15-12:00.

SHROVE TUESDAY OR FAT TUESDAY OR PANCAKES AT THE PARSONAGE, Tuesday, 2/17: It's the day of preparation and feasting before the 40 day period of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter. Many people indulge in pancakes as a way to use up rich and indulgent ingredients like eggs, milk, butter and sugar before the fasting period begins. Pancake indulgence will begin at 5:30 and will last until the pancakes are gone. Bacon and orange juice will be provided. If you wish other drinks, you may bring your own. Also, if you like other items in your pancakes like blueberries or chocolate chips – feel free to bring them as well.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 2/18, 7:00 p.m. We will observe communion and the imposition of ashes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

HONOR WORKERS will meet again March 10 @ 7:00 PM to learn about the "Barn Quilt Trail" with Martha Jess. Hosted by Glenneth Elkins. All are welcome. Call Glenneth at 419-855-7805 for more information.

"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.

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 Our next Bible Study begins February 16th. Its focus is on the life of David. He records his weaknesses and struggles but also was a man of great faith. Everyone is welcome to join us Monday evenings at 7:00 in person or on Zoom.

FEBRUARY BEACON & ANNUAL REPORT have been sent electronically and there are a limited number of printed copies of each 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!

Prayers from Congregation: Cal Jennings, Andrew Barringer (diagnosed with ALS), Timothy (Mossman) Phillips in NICU and his family

Hospitalized: Sharon Crozier

Bereavement: Family of Vern Patton, Cathy Willey

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, Phyllis Brimmer (Deb Ferguson's mother)

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

