

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

March 1, 2026

10:00am—Worship
The Second Sunday in Lent
Communion



“Always be like water: Float in the times of pain or dance like waves along the wind which touches its surface.” Santosh Kalwar

“Water does not resist. Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress. Water is not a solid wall, it will not stop you. But water always goes where it wants to go, and nothing in the end can stand against it. Water is patient. Dripping water wears away a stone. Remember that, my child. Remember you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does.” Margaret Atwood

Teacher, grant us new life and help us to recognize the kingdom. Amen

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear

Last Sunday Attendance: 52 Offering: \$1,595.00

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

March 1, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" - Berry

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship (based on John 3: 16)*

One: For God so loved the world;

**All: The sparrows, the mountain lions,
the fish and the people.**

One: For God so loved the world:

**All: in success and failure,
in sickness and health,
in mediocrity and extraordinary.**

One: For God so loved the world;

**All: Enough to become one of us,
enough to suffer along with us,
enough to offer new life for us.**

One: For God so loved the world;

All: Let us worship God!

**Opening Hymn:* "How Great Thou Art" - #51

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Holy One, in Micah 6:8, you say, "O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what God requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Today we choose to walk humbly with you. We choose to live by water and your Holy Spirit and to follow your lead. Help us to hear you clearly, for we do not want to walk by pride or self-sufficiency, we want to walk with you. In Jesus' 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:

Windblown

A Message for Today:

A New Creation

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Psalm 121

John 3: 1-17

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

For the loving of the world, we bring these gifts.
For the flowing of the water, these hearts.
For the coming of the kingdom, these lives.
We bring whatever gifts we have to love the world
like God did in giving God's Son.

**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*

**Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only
these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep grati-
tude – for your call on our lives, your guidance
in the baptismal journey that begins with water,
and for blessing us that we may be a blessing
to others. Accept what we bring for your own
good purposes. In Christ we pray, 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: Through these prayers, God, help us to turn
to you this Lent; Jesus change our hearts; Spirit,
guide our steps and illuminate our path with your
lively wisdom, a firm hope, a fervent charity, and a
great love.

All: Hear our prayer!

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Praise God who hears us, forgives us, and frees us inviting us to embrace the grace that goes on and on like water, an unending cycle of new life. Amen

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

"I Come to the Cross" #251

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace;
I come to the cross where you died in my place.
Out of my weakness and into your strength;
Humbly I come to the cross.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

In our bodies, water. In this bread, these grapes, water. All water is a part of all water everywhere. As a part of one another, of this earth, of the Living Water that brings new life, all are welcome at this table.

Communion Hymn

"As We Gather At Your Table" #695

Breaking Bread Together

Please hold the bread until everyone is served. The inside ring of the communion tray is grape juice. You may drink the wine/juice as you are served.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

O Jesus, our beloved, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out into the world, ambassadors of your hope and peace. Walking on this Lenten journey of repentance and new creations, we are thankful for each step you take with us. Amen

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn* "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #261

**Benediction*

As you go out from this place hold close to your heart this promise: there will be wellsprings to quench and cleanse and lead you to new life. You are already born of water and the Spirit. Beloved and blessed. Like the river that always finds its way to the sea, there is a way to be made toward the kingdom that we can only make together. So may God's blessings flow in, among and through us.

May God keep you by sunlight and moonlight;
may Christ encompass you with love;
and may the Holy Spirit empower you with new life.;
now and forever.

**Postlude* "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" - Mitchell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND LENTEN MEAL AND MEDITATION will take place on Wednesday, March 4th. The Faith Formation children and adults will be providing the meal of pizza, salad, dessert and drink. The meal will be held at 6:00, hymn singing at 6:45, and a time of meditation and reflection at 7:00.

SONGBIRDS will rehearse 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.

HONOR WORKERS will meet again March 10 @ 7:00 PM to learn about the "Barn Quilt Trail" with Martha Jess. Hosted by Glenneth Elkins and all are welcome to take part in this very interesting program!

"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.

MARCH LOOSE OFFERING will continue to be sent to the Village for their fund to help those in need to pay their utility bills.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

HOME COMMUNION: If you wish Pastor Margaret to bring communion to your home, please call 440-487-2549.

UPCOMING LENTEN EVENTS:

3/04: Lenten Meal & Meditation (Faith Formation)
3/11: Lenten Meal & Meditation (Songbirds & Bells)
3/18: Lenten Meal & Meditation (Jim & Dawn Wilburn)
3/25: Lenten Meal & Meditation (Jim & Dawn Wilburn)
4/02 @ 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday service
4/03 from 12:00pm-3:00pm—Good Friday Reflection
4/05 @ 7:00am: Sunrise Easter Service
@ 10:00am: Easter Worship

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY All are welcome to join us Monday evenings at 7:00 in person or on Zoom. All are welcome and we are studying the life of David.

FEBRUARY BEACON & ANNUAL REPORT have been sent electronically and there are a limited number of printed copies of each on the back counter.

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!

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

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

Nursing Home/Rehab: Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Lois Rymers, Bob Kuhlman (Genoa Care)

At Home: Joanne Busdeker, Carlton Giesler, Doris Klaustermeyer, 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, Rachael (neighbor of Sue Applegate), Becky Truman, Jennifer and Joe Shamy, Sandra Shaffer, Russ Krumnow, Jim Krumnow, Jim and Jane Garner, 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), Sue Applegate, Mary Ann Zolman, Phyllis Brimmer (Deb Ferguson's mother), Brittany Lewis (Lynn Gear's granddaughter)

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

