

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

Bereavement: Jerry Beck

Hospitalized: Sharon Crozier

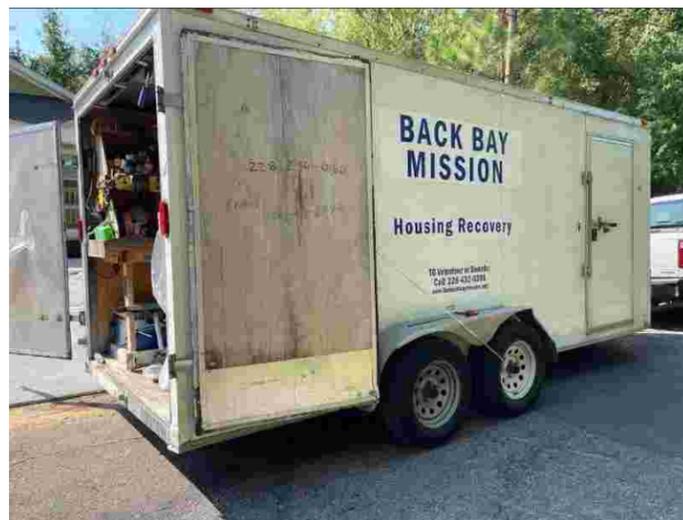
Nursing Home/Rehab: Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Lois Rymers

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,), Jennifer and Joe Shamy, Sandra Shaffer, Russ Krumnow, Jim Krumnow, Jim and Jane Garner, Loren Sampson, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom Crozier, David Reimer, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Kim Applegate, Briann, Rosemary Acha, Don Brimmer (Deb Ferguson’s brother), Sue Applegate, Mary Ann Zolman, Phyllis Brimmer (Deb Ferguson’s mother), Bob Kuhlman, Mike (Susan Cole’s friend’s husband), Debbie Woody (Helen Shaneck’s niece)

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

BACK BAY MISSION
BILOXI, MS

The time is drawing closer when we will embark on our 4th pilgrimage to the United Church of Christ’s mission on the Gulf Coast (the Back Bay) in Biloxi, MS. Back Bay Mission has seen a great deal of change over the 100 years of providing help and hope to the unhoused and hungry as well as in the rebuilding of homes damaged by hurricanes or for lack of funds to repair their homes. Shirley Hensel and I will be going to represent St. John’s, Belinda Lentz travels with us from St. John’s in Dover, several folks will be joining us again from St. Paul’s in Oak Harbor as well as a few from the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, Mass. You are invited to join in this week of mission that you will never forget – we feed the hungry, work on houses, staff the food pantry, and so much more. We drive down in two days stopping in Nashville to visit with Andra Moran. The dates are April 24th through May 2nd. The cost is \$250 plus sharing the cost of the rental vehicle and the overnight stay in motels as well as the food we prepare at the mission. For more information about Back Bay, go to thebackbaymission.org or talk with Shirley or Pastor Margaret.



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

March 15, 2026

10:00am—Worship
The Fourth Sunday in Lent



“When Jesus ate with outcasts and sinners, a table set in the midst of deep brokenness became an altar where healing occurred.” Barbara Brown Taylor

“Healing is about more than a well-functioning body.” Norm Wirzba

“Beth Scibienski walked through her church’s neighborhood and asked, ‘Where does it hurt?’” Carol Howard Merritt

“The health-giving gestures of a physician’s hand derive from the more ancient ritual of the priestly blessing.” Tom Long

“We need the words of the apostle Paul: ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.’ We need a renewed commitment to listen to Jesus Christ.” (on Ephesians 5: 8 - 14) Scot McKnight

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear
Last Sunday Attendance: 41 **Offering:** \$2,139.00

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 15, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"
-St. John's Handbells

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart.

**All: Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

One: Once we lived in darkness, but now—
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.

**All: Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

**Opening Hymn:* "The Lord's My Shepherd,
I'll Not Want" #86

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Open unto us, hope for our despair.
Open unto us, dreams for our dread.
Open unto us, courage for our fear.
Open unto us, vision for our skepticism.
Open unto us, wisdom for our confusion.
Open unto us, love for our hates.
Open unto us, Your heart for our hearts.
O God, as we worship today, open unto
us. 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: **The Blind Man and Jesus**

Anthem from Songbirds **"Look To The Cross"**

A Message for Today: **What Do You See?**

Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Maybe today you're spent. Maybe it feels like
you've nothing else to give. Maybe you are emp-
tied out, bent over, barely making it. Maybe you
feel like dirt, dust, ashes. Beloved, do you not
know what the Holy can do with dust? Even from
spit and mud, God creates new dreams and new
visions. So let us discover what abundance
emerges when whatever we have finds its way into
the hands of grace.

**Doxology - "Alleluia" #316 vs. 4*

**I will praise Him, Alleluia,
I will praise Him, Alleluia,
I will praise Him, Alleluia,
I will praise Him, Alleluia.**

**Prayer of Dedication*

One: Into a world desperate for signs of hope,
All: let these gifts arrive as beacons.

One: Into communities working for signs of
freedom,

All: let these gifts unlock shackles.

One: Into hearts searching for signs of com-
passion,

All: let these gifts offer tenderness.

One: Into each breath yearning for signs of
new life,

**All: let these gifts come as possibility
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 on this Lenten journey; Jesus change our
hearts; Spirit guide our steps and illuminate our
path with your wisdom, hope, and love.

All: Hear our prayer!

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

One: The psalmist assures us that God's good-
ness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all
the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, re-
ceive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life
in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**All: We will live as children of the light for
Christ shines on us.**

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 for-
give 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.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn* "Praise the One Who Breaks the
Darkness" #93

**Benediction*

Go peaceably, looking upon the hearts of others.
Live in Christ's light, even in the darkest valley.
Trust that Christ is able to open your eyes,
enabling you to walk by faith in his name.

May the love of God pursue you,
the light of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you;
as you dwell in the house of the Lord
your whole life long.

**Postlude* "Irish Blessing" - Old Gaelic Tune

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JERRY BECK'S FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS: this
afternoon, visitation from 2:00-4:00 with the service at
4:00 at Crossers in Elmore.

FOURTH LENTEN MEAL AND MEDITATION will
take place on Wednesday, March 18th. Jim and
Dawn Wilburn will be preparing the meal of mac and
cheese. The meal will be served at 6:00, hymn singing
at 6:45, and a time of meditation and reflection based
on An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the East-
er Story by Rachel Billups.

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

HONOR WORKERS will be having a Memorial Ser-
vice by Claudene Kuhlman on April 14 at 7:00pm.
Hostess is Ruth Weis.

"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.

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

UPCOMING LENTEN EVENTS:

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.

AA MEETING is every Thursday evening from 7:00 -
8:00. We are so glad to have them meet in our Fel-
lowship Hall.

**OH LORD!
LET ME SEE.**