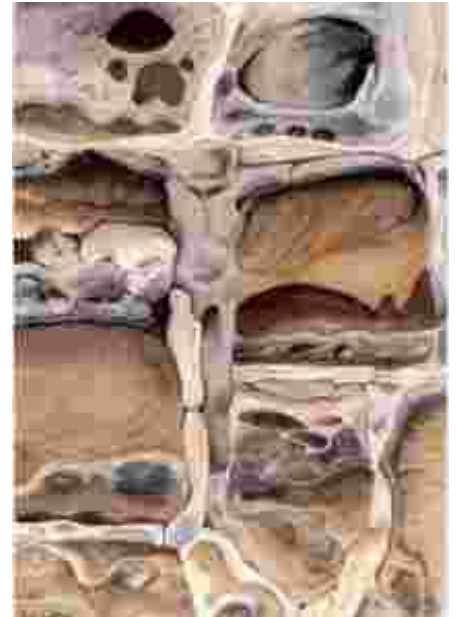
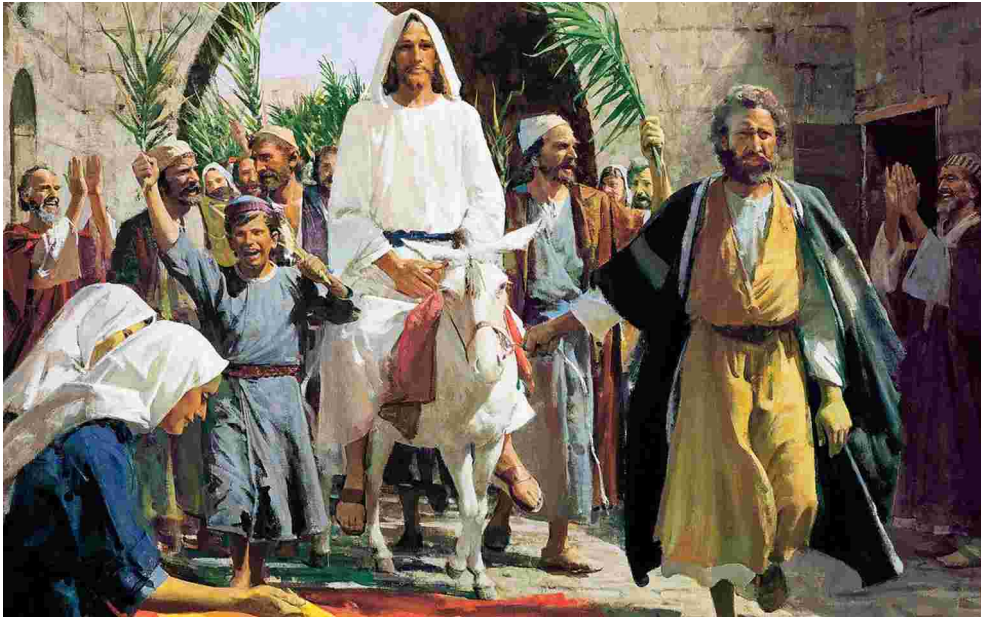


St. John's United Church of Christ
-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

March 29, 2026

10:00am—Worship
Palm Sunday



“The only community prepared to face the cross and receive redemptive power is a people that lament. The social and political significance of Lent is precisely this lament – the ability to open oneself up to the pains and needs of the world.” Jennifer McBride

“The crowds surged into Jerusalem for the celebration of the Passover. This was the high, holy time – a time when something wonderful could happen in the lives of believers. They came offering sacrifices and prayers, bringing their hopes and dreams, their burdens and sorrows. All these were mingled together with the aromas of incense and sacrifice – smoke billowing toward heaven - toward God.” Nancy C. Townley

“Humble and Triumphant God, help us to understand strength and power in your name.”
UCC Weekly Seeds

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 43

Offering: \$2,000.00

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 29, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Hosanna" by The Bells of St. John's

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Jesus entered into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey,
seeking to transform the people.

All: People gathered from everywhere to wave palm branches and praise him as royalty.

One: Jesus enters our lives humbly,
seeking to transform our hearts and lives.

All: Let us worship Jesus Christ together, and receive him into our presence. Hosanna in the highest!

**Opening Hymn:* "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" #268

**Prayer of Invocation*

All: O Lord, you rode on.

One: You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,
you rode through the shouts and past the praises,
receiving the praise that you deserved,
but not confusing our praise in your presence for your purpose in coming.

All: O Lord, you rode on.

One: You rode towards the controversy and the cost,
you rode towards the curses and the cross,
receiving the stripes you didn't deserve, to give us a reward we couldn't earn.

All: O Lord, you rode on.

One: You rode through the tomb and the grave,
you rode through our time and space,
ascending to a throne that will never decay,
a priesthood that will never pass away,
a life of love that will always remain,
and hearing us even now as we pray.

All: O Lord, you rode on.

One: We remember the journey you have taken as we commit ourselves to walking in the same way.
Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need as we follow.

All: In your name we pray, 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:

"Wave the Palms"

A Message for Today:

Two Donkeys

The Songbirds

The Rejected Stone

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21: 1-11

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Let our hosannas to the one who brings liberation take form in our offerings.

**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 (in unison)*

God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ. 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: Lord Jesus, as we come to this worship entering the last week of your earthly life, hear us as we pray for a deeper spiritual connection with you. We will continue to walk with you on this most difficult of journeys. Draw us close to you as we pray.

All: Hear our prayer!

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

The bad news is...no matter what you do or don't do, these lush, shiny, green palm leaves are going to eventually wither, dry, and turn brown. But the good news is...no matter what you do or don't do, the tireless, relentless, limitless love of God always remains, unshakably 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.

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* "Let All Things Now Living" #22

**Benediction*

Lord, just as we have entered Jerusalem with you, be with us in all the Jerusalems we will be facing. Guide our steps. Encourage our hearts. Give us abundant faith to follow you. For we do not know what the future will hold for us, but we are assured that whatever happens, you are with us! We will follow you boldly to the cross and beyond. For God's promises are good and true. We are God's beloved children. Go in peace. Walk in love. Amen

**Postlude*: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" by Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK: Thursday, April 2nd - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.; Friday, Good Friday - you are invited to be in a time of meditation from noon to 3:00 in the sanctuary; Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at 7:00 on the parsonage lawn, Easter Worship at 10:00

BAKE SALE BENEFITING AMERICAN LEGION & SPONSORED BY ELMORE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY will take place at 10:00am on Saturday, April 4th at Ory Park before the Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30.

BYOP! BRING YOUR OWN PLANT/FLOWER before Easter Service on Sunday to decorate the altar.

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS ARE BACK TO REGULAR REHEARSAL TIMES on Wednesday nights: Songbirds 6:30-7:30 and Bells 7:30-8:30. :)

HONOR WORKERS will be having a Memorial Service 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.

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

MARCH LOOSE OFFERING goes to the Elmore Food Pantry.

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

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK EVENTS:

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 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, Timothy (Mothman) Phillips in NICU and his family

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

Bereavement: Family of Jerry Beck, Family of David Reimer

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

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, Ken Moore, 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, 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), John Brindley (Erica Baker's father), Kayla (Branden Rizzo's sister), Matt Karlovec

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 5th 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.

