

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

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March 8, 2026

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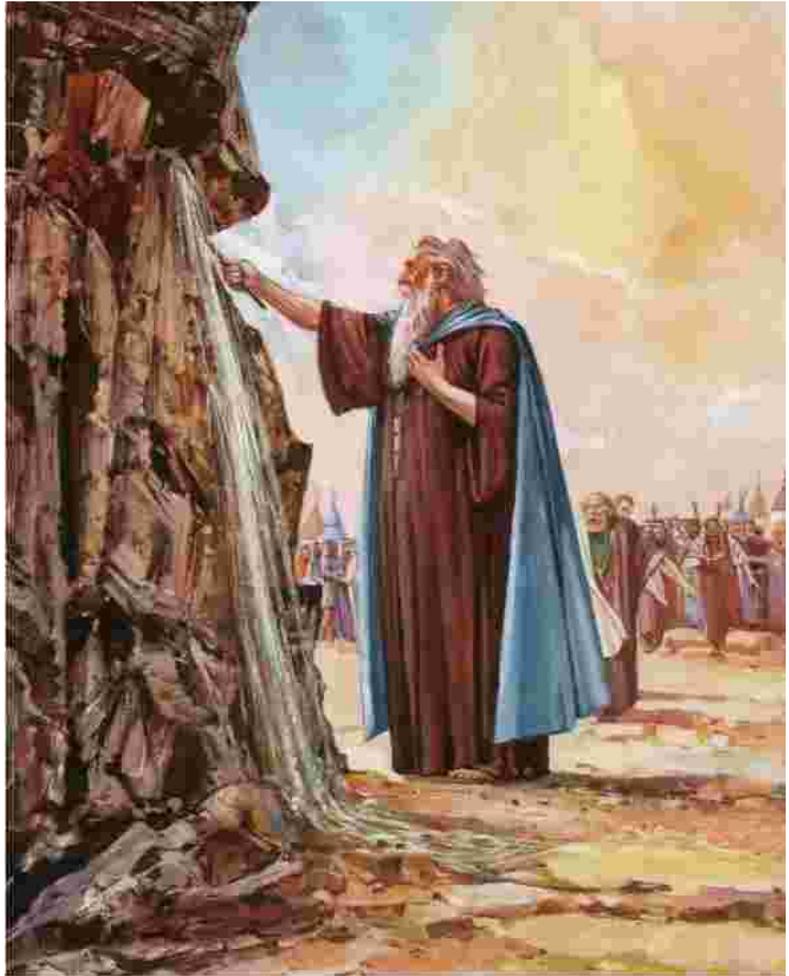
10:00am—Worship  
11:15am—Fellowship  
The Third Sunday in Lent

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us  
make a joyful noise to the rock of our  
salvation! Let us come into his presence  
with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful  
noise to him with songs of praise!

*Psalm 95: 1 - 2*

From the soil of mistakes, we harvest  
lessons of wellbeing, watering our roots  
with the wisdom of experience.”

*Dr. Prem Jagyasi*



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

**Last Sunday Attendance: 39    Offering: \$4,204.00**

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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  
**Church Email:** [st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com)  
**Pastor's Phone:** 440-487-2549  
**Pastor's Email:** [millsm92445@gmail.com](mailto:millsm92445@gmail.com)

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



# The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

March 8, 2026

## GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude:* "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" w/  
"I Stand Amazed in the Presence" by Tornquist

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

One: We've come to worship God,  
who makes streams flow from rock,  
who turns the parched earth into springs  
of water,  
who sends rain from heaven  
and makes the wilderness blossom and  
flourish.

All: **As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,  
so we thirst for You, O God.**

One: Come, let's worship our life-giving God,  
who pours out living water on all who  
thirst.

*\*Opening Hymn:* "Where Cross the Crowded  
Ways of Life" - #591

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**God of our hearts...here we are! We've come  
with thirsty hearts, praying that your Word will  
satisfy us. We come with aching hearts, pray-  
ing for good news to comfort us. We come  
with overflowing hearts, praying for a chance  
to share your love. You, who know our hearts  
and hear our prayers, be with us now in this  
hour of worship. 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 Woman at the Well

*A Message for Today:*  
Living Water for Every Soul

Exodus 17: 1-7  
John 4: 5-42

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Invitation to the Offering*

In today's gospel, Jesus says to his disciples,  
"others have labored and you have entered into  
their labor." How might God be inviting you to en-  
ter into the labor of those who have gone before  
you in this community of faith? How might our of-  
ferings be both gratitude for and participation in the  
visions of our ancestors and the dreams they  
couldn't even imagine? Through our offerings, let  
us enter into their labor.

*\*Doxology - Oh Bless the Gifts*

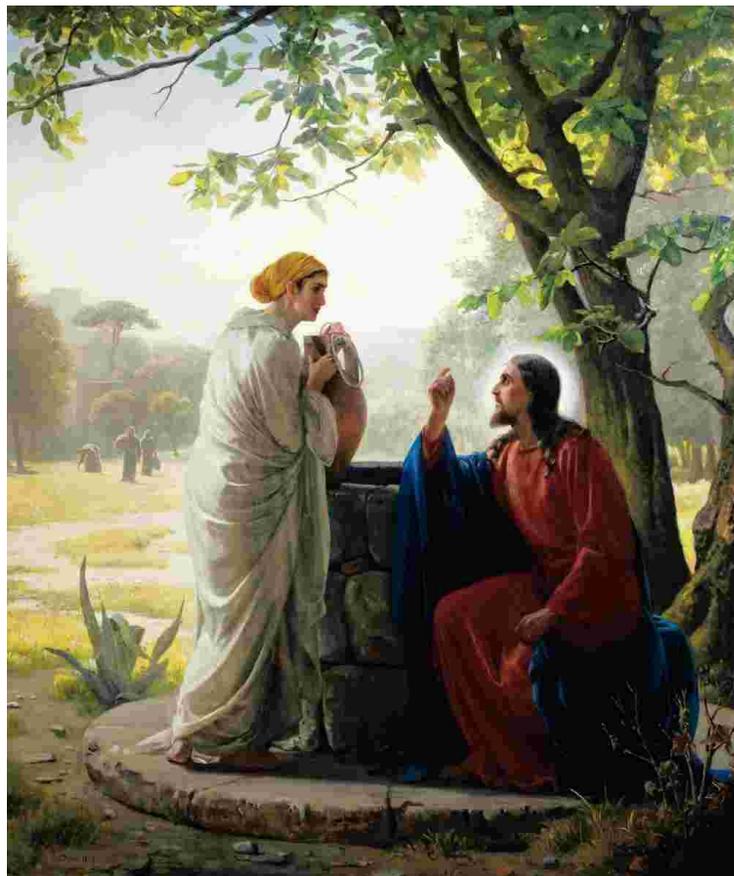
**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;  
And bless the work our hearts have planned.  
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;  
The rest, O God, is in Your hands.**

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

**O Lord, you are our God; we are the people of  
your pasture, the sheep of your hand. As you  
have fed us by your mercy, may it be our daily  
bread to do your will; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen**

## WE SHARE OUR COMMON LIFE

*Announcements and Concerns may be emailed to:*  
[st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## SENT FORTH TO SERVE

\*Closing Hymn "Rain Down" #444

### *\*Benediction*

The hour is coming and is now here.  
Go forth to worship the Lord your God  
in spirit and in truth,  
in all that you say and do.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
springing up like living water,  
fill your heart, and flow through your life.

\*Postlude "In the Garden" with "Knowing You  
(All I Once Held Dear)" by Tornquist

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THIRD LENTEN MEAL AND MEDITATION** will take place on Wednesday, March 11th. The Songbirds and St. John's Bells will be providing the meal of shredded chicken sandwiches, salads, chips, desserts and drinks. The meal will be served at 6:00, hymn singing at 6:45, and a time of meditation and reflection based on Sanctuary 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.

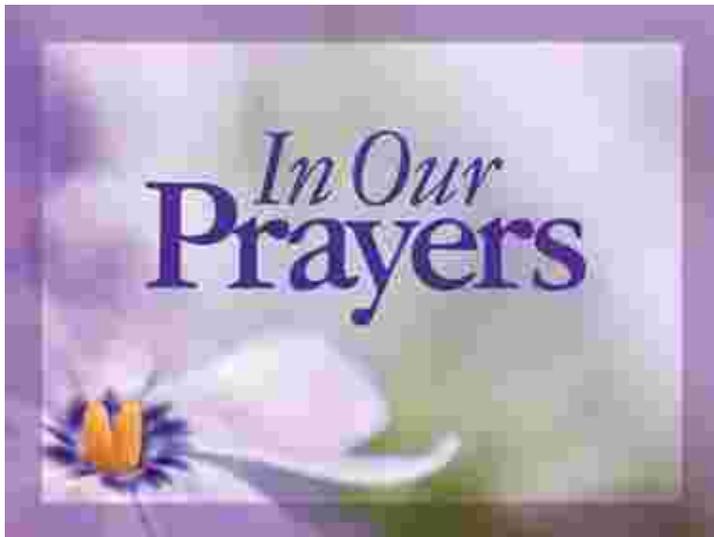
**HOME COMMUNION:** If you wish Pastor Margaret to bring communion to your home, please call 440-487-2549.

### **UPCOMING LENTEN EVENTS:**

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.

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



## **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](http://thebackbaymission.org) or talk with Shirley or Pastor Margaret.

### **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

**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), Bob Kuhlman

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

