

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

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April 12, 2026

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10:00am—Worship  
Fellowship

"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." African Proverb

"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." William Carey

"Yahweh's people dance for joy; O come before the Lord. And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound. Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountains high. Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing, 'Alleluia.'" Daniel L. Schutte

"O Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth. May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen"  
April Fiet

"Holy One, send us as you sent our spiritual predecessors to spread your good news. Amen"  
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay



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

**Last Sunday Attendance:** 58

**Offering:** \$2,645.00

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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 Maven—Erica Baker  
Office hours by appointment

**Church Phone:** 419-862-3511  
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[www.uccelmore.org](http://www.uccelmore.org)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore>  
<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



# The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

April 12, 2026

## GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude:* "Indescribable" with "Morning Has Broken"  
by Tornquist

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

One: Sing a new song!

**All: A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth.**

One: Sing praises to our Still-Laughing Easter God.

**All: Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.**

One: We believe in God, who made us in God's image.

**All: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.**

One: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

**All: He had the last laugh on evil when He rose from the dead.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with God and Jesus.

**All: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!**

One: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you have the last laugh in this world.

**All: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ.**

*\*Opening Hymn:* "Come, Let Us Praise the Lord" #9

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Gracious and Eternal God, you are the one who calls us together and the one who sends us out in the world. Remind us, as we gather, how good it is to dwell with you and one another. Stir our hearts to love boldly, freely, and joyfully. Let us praise you with our whole lives and magnify your name by our works. We bless and honor you, O Faithful One, from generation to generation and from community to community. Speak to our spirits and receive our 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

*In Laughter:* Some funny stories & laughter

*In Song:* Joy of the Lord...

*In Word:* 50 Forgotten Days: So I Send You

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

*In Mission:* Here I Am, Lord #559

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Invitation to the Offering*

Through Christ, we receive "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." (1 Peter 1: 4) Let us express our gratitude to God by sharing the gifts we receive. Let us bring our material offerings for tangible ministry to spread good news in our community and world.

*\*Doxology - "Alleluia" #291*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, Give praise to His name!**

*\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**Gracious One, may these gifts be a blessing to those in need, a source of hope for those in despair, comfort for those who grieve, encouragement for those who doubt, a balm for those in pain. May our generosity reflect our gratitude and our giving be another source of praise. 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: Will you join me in prayer as we enter the Easter Season.

**All: Hear our words. Hear our hearts. Hear our prayer.**

### *Pastoral Prayer*

### *Silent Prayer*

### *Words of Assurance*

Beloved, the Redeemer of our souls meets us in our doubts, uncertainty, and questions. When we call, God responds. When we do not call, God remains present with us. Receive the grace of God to trust the Holy One with our struggles, pain, and brokenness. Have life in the name of the One who came to us, comes to us, and will come to us again and again.

### *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 trespasses/ sins/debts, as we forgive those who trespass/ 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*

"He is Lord" #305

He is Lord, he is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

## SENT FORTH TO SERVE

\**Closing Hymn* "Joy to the World!" #179

### \**Benediction*

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.  
May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.  
Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun!

Go in laughter, go in grace.  
Keep the Lord in your heart  
and a smile on your face.

\**Postlude*: "The Bells of Easter" by Ritter

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MARY ANN ZOLMAN** is finally off the prayer list, long after her recovery, but Erica finally got it together. :)

**SONGBIRDS AND BELLS** will take a break this month and resume practices on Wednesday, April 29th.

**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.

**APRIL LOOSE OFFERING** goes to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

**APRIL FOOD PANTRY ITEM** is Soup.

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

**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.

**RAINBOW GIRLS** Today we once again welcome the Rainbow Girls from Genoa and Lotus Assemblies. Every Assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls shall observe, on the Sunday nearest April 6th of each calendar year, its anniversary. Rev.W.Mark Sexson, a minister in the Christian Church and a Master Mason, is the founder of our organization. He found that there were Masonic organizations for men, women, and even boys (Demolay) but nothing for young girls. Rev. Sexson changed that by writing the initiation ceremony, basing the lessons on God's promise that He would never again destroy the earth by flood by placing His Rainbow in the clouds. The very first initiation of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls was held on April 6, 1922, in McAlester, Oklahoma with 171 girls. We have since grown and become the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, having Assemblies not only in the United States but all over the world - countries like Brazil, Paraguay, the Philippines, Guam, Scotland, United Kingdom, and Australia, just to name a few. Welcome girls and adults!

## **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](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, Timothy (Mothman) Phillips in NICU and his family

**Hospice:** Dolores Neeb

**Bereavement:** Family of Jerry Beck, Family of David Reimer, Family of Don Brimmer, Family of Debbie Woody, Family of Lois Rymers

**Hospitalized:** Loren Sampson

**Nursing Home/Rehab:** Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, 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, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom Crozier, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Kim Applegate, Briann, Rosemary Acha, Phyllis Brimmer (Deb Ferguson's mother), Bob Kuhlman, Mike (Susan Cole's friend's husband), John Brindley (Erica Baker's father), Kayla (Branden Rizzo's sister), Matt Karlovec, Tracey Floyd

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

