

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

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April 19, 2026

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10:00am—Worship  
Easter 3A



“There’s more to getting to where you’re going than just knowing there’s a road.” Joan Lowery Nixon

“What does Jesus do after the resurrection? Take a walk.” Kirk Byron Jones

“Appearing to two nobodies going nowhere is an interesting choice.” Debbie Blue

“Jesus has inclined more than his ear to us. He has bent down, inclined the fullness of himself into our lives.” Brian Bantum

“Holy Mystery, reveal yourself to us in unexpected places on our journey. Amen”

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

**Last Sunday Attendance:** 48

**Offering:** \$2,670.00

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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  
**Church Email:** st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com  
**Pastor’s Phone:** 440-487-2549  
**Pastor’s Email:** millsm92445@gmail.com

[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 19, 2026

### GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude:* "Christ Lag in Todesbanden" (In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay)" - J.S. Bach

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

One: We need your presence on the long road, Lord.

**All: The road between fear and hope, the road between the place where all is lost and the place of resurrection.**

One: Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus, we are in need of your company!

**All: Jesus comes to us and walks with us even now.**

One: In the holy word, in the music, in the prayers, he is present with us. Open our hearts to the Lord. Help us really be ready to receive him into our lives.

**All: Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power, let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour.**

*\*Opening Hymn:* "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #71

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Loving God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence, revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And, may that love burn brightly like the sun cutting through the gloom of the storm to inspire us to go on with renewed hope and spirit. 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*

**Who Is This?**

*A Message for Today* **Take a Walk! Keep Going!**

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

Luke 24: 13-35

*A Hymn for This Time*

**"Just a Closer Walk With Thee" #504**

**Vs. 1 and Refrain**

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Invitation to the Offering*

Like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have. They offered their company, their table, their bread. We offer our love, our devotion, our gifts. As their eyes were opened, may our eyes be opened to God's holy presence, now and always.

*\*Doxology - "Alleluia" #291*

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

*\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**God of great gifts: this morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks. With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! We dedicate these gifts to meet the needs of our community and manifest your love in us. 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*

Our God is gracious and compassionate toward us! It is God who makes things right. God bends down to listen when we pray, and reaches out to save us. And so we can bring our prayers before our God with confidence, knowing that God hears us when we pray.

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Silent Prayer*

### *Words of Assurance*

Beloved, the Holy Spirit continues to be our present companion. When we seek them, the Spirit responds with wisdom, hope, and peace. Be encouraged that the Holy One awaits to meet us where we are in order to journey with us to where we could be for the glory of God and the good of the world. The promises of God are always true. God is with us, in the resurrection of Jesus, in our journeys, in our lives. Praise be to God.

### *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* "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"  
#589

### *\*Benediction*

It's time to go, friends! Set your foot on the path of service and reconciliation. Bring God's love and peace to all whom you meet. Look for the many ways in which God has blessed your journey. Go in confidence that Christ walks with you, each step of the way. Amen

*\*Postlude:* "Antiphon 1" - Marcel Dupre

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**KAY MOONEY COX** grew up in Fremont, Ohio, attended Oberlin College, Andover Newton Theological School, Union Seminary in Virginia, and Graduate Theological Union and UC in Berkeley. She spent thirty-six years moving 19 times with her husband's career as a naval officer in the submarine service. They returned to Fremont. She has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren in Bettsville, Columbus, Maryland, and Mexico. Kay has been organist in numerous churches and schools. She was UCC pastor for 6 years in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and 20 years at Marblehead.

**OUT OF OFFICE** Pastor Margaret and Shirley Hensel will be working at our UCC mission at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. from April 24th - May 2nd. Rev. Dr. Elaine Bast will be our guest worship leader next Sunday.

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

**HONOR WORKERS** will hold the "Members and Guests Dinner" on May 12, 2026 at 6:30pm at the American Legion Post 279 in Elmore. The program is "Jive with the 50s & 60s" featuring the Open Hearts. It is hosted by the 2025-2026 Officers. To make reservations, please call Shirely Hensel at 419-862-3493.

**"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. 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 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

**Nursing Home/Rehab:** Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Sharon Crozier, Jane Kruse

**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, Loren Sampson

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