

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

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April 26, 2026

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10:00am—Worship  
Faith Formation  
11:15am—Fellowship

**The Divine Shepherd**

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in the right  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

Psalm 23, NRSV Translation



**Leading Worship:** Rev. Dr. Elaine Bast, Lynn Gear

**Last Sunday Attendance:** 37      **Offering:** \$2,550.00

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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 26, 2026

### GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

One: Praise God for the signs of new life.

**All: Praise God for all we can do together.**

One: Praise God for the life and ministry of Jesus.

**All: Praise God for all who share that ministry today.**

One: Christ came to offer us abundant life.

**All: We are here today to claim that gift.**

*\*Opening Hymn: "To God Be the Glory: #66*

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Let us hear your voice today, O Shepherd. Call our names and claim us as your own. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Comfort those who suffer pain and loss. Assure all who are afraid. We have known your goodness and mercy in so many times and places. We open ourselves now to receive those gifts again. Unlock within us the barriers that keep us from recognizing and appreciating all the evidence of your love that surrounds 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

*Scripture*

**Acts 2: 42-47  
John 10: 1-10**

*Sermon*

**Testimony and Promises**

*Statement of Faith*

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.



Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #72

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Invitation to the Offering*

\*Doxology - "We Give Thee But Thine Own"  
#688, vs. 1

**We give thee but their own, whate'er the gift  
may be:  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord,  
from thee.**

\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**We know the joy of hearing your voice calling  
us into your care. Nothing frightens us as you  
guide us into a life of blessing and abundance.  
It is with gratitude that we offer these gifts so  
that your love and work can be shared with  
others. 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*

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Silent Prayer*

*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 king-  
dom, the power and the glory, for ever and  
ever. Amen.**

*Prayer Response*

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord) #490

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.  
Amen.

## **SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

\*Closing Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #458

\*Charge

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** We have two more weeks of focusing on the life of David, and then we will take two weeks off before we resume on May 25th.

**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** will resume on May 7th when Pastor Margaret returns.

**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.

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

