



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, Family of Jane Kruse, Family of Annette LeForce

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, Loren Sampson

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

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

May 10, 2026

10:00am—Worship
Faith Formation
Fellowship Hour



“And Jesus said, “Come!” To all mothers and children, to the motherless and the childless; to all who long to be mothered, he said “Come.” Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn ;from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls.”

“Our mothers are often the ones who show us what faith looks like in practice: “I’m reminded of your authentic faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” 2 Timothy 1: 5

Matthew 23: 37: Jesus compares himself to a hen gathering her brood, indicating maternal protection.

God the Mother's existence can be clearly seen not only through the creation but also throughout the Bible – from the first chapter. “Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.’ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” In his own image.

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear
Last Sunday Attendance: 46 **Offering:** \$3,717.00

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

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Pastor's Email: millsm92445@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Office Maven—Erica Baker
Office hours by appointment

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



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

May 10, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Till I Had Children of My Own" - Olsen

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

**All: We are the people of God.
Together we are family.**

One: I am married, and single and in a covenant relationship.

**All: We are the people of God.
Together we are family.**

One: I was married, and in a holy union, and never married, and married twice, and widowed.

**All: We are the people of God.
Together we are family.**

One: I am older and younger, and in between, facing my first serious relationship, knowing the joy of love, enduring betrayal, tasting the grief of a dying partner.

**All: We are the people of God.
Together we are family.**

One: I am an only child, and have ten siblings and have raised two children and no children.

**All: We are the people of God.
Together we are family.**

One: I am part of a family, the human family, the family of faith, my family of origin, the family of my choosing.

**All: We are the people of God.
Together we are family.**

One: Let us worship God together.

**Opening Hymn:* "I Know Whom I Have Believed" #407

**Prayer of Invocation (based on Acts 17: 22-31)
(in unison)*

Lord God of heaven and earth, Creator of our world, and everything in it, yet as close to us as our own breath – holy is Your name. In You we live and move and have our being; we are Your children, the work of Your hands. We pray that Your Holy Spirit would move among us as we worship, opening our eyes to Your presence, opening our ears to Your Word. Receive the worship of our hearts and minds and bodies; may it be a pleasing offering to You. We pray in the name of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose death and resurrection we find life. 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 Mom

Songbirds Anthem "In This Very Room"

A Message for Today Mothering Sunday
Ruth, Hannah, Mary—
the mother of Jesus, Jochebed

Acts 17: 22-31

John 14: 15-21

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

As we gather in the presence of God, let us acknowledge and act upon the blessings we receive and the gifts bestowed upon us. Let us give generously, as we are able, to fund the ministry of this gathered body and the work of Christ's church in the world.

**Doxology - "Give Thanks" #359*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ
his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give Thanks.**

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**Righteous God, receive these gifts we offer
from our hearts and hands that they and we
might be of service in your kingdom and for
your glory. 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

Come, God gathers us for prayer, like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. Our God, loving, nurturing. In love, God saves and supports us, teaching us the way we should go. Trusting in God, we lift our prayers.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Beloved, you are known by God and received as you are – wonderfully and beautifully, but not perfectly made. Draw near to God who knows your limitations and loves you. Seek the Holy One who recognizes your faults and finds the good in you. Search for the Spirit who discovers you on wayward paths and redirects you. Receive the God who comes to you with peace, grace, mercy, and joy. Come to the One who will not reject or rebuff you but will renew and restore you in hope and love.

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 - "Open My Eyes, Lord" #491

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him,
And say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn:* "I Need Thee Every Hour" #476

**Benediction*

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us; may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us. May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

**Postlude:* "God, Give Us Christian Homes" -Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY We have finished with our study of David on Monday evening. Our next Bible Study will begin on June 1st and it is called "Growing Older & Wiser." "Wisdom does not automatically come with age, however, we can get wiser as we get older if we tap into the eternal wisdom of God." All are welcome!

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS is growing and we are excited to be able to provide special music this summer! Help us sing praises to the Lord and bring light to our summer services! See Lynn Gear for more info.

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 are back in full swing. Stop by and catch up with Pastor Margaret and enjoy some great drinks and coffee, all while supporting a cherished local business.

MAY LOOSE OFFERING goes to Bistro 163. It has come to my attention that some of you haven't been to Bistro 163. I'll take a group (road trip) on Wednesday, May 20th. Meet at St. John's at 11:30. RSVP to Pastor Margaret at 440-487-2549

MAY FOOD PANTRY ITEM is Mashed Potatoes.

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.