

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

May 17, 2026

10:00am—Worship

What a glorious vision! Jesus gave the glorious promise of an Advocate! Then he ascended to God! What joy there must have been in the hearts of the disciples. May God find such joy in our hearts and spirits! Prepare us, Lord, for the mighty works you place before us.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

Holy and Communal God, may we be one in You and in the world so that the world may have life. Amen



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 61

Offering: \$3,975.00

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

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



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

May 17, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Awesome God" - Mullins

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 68)*

One: Let God rise up! Sing to God, lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds - the Holy One - be exultant before God.

All: Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

One: Let God rise up! Ascribe power to God, full of majesty and power.

All: Let the righteous be joyful, let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

One: Let God rise up! Awesome is God in the sanctuary, who gives power and strength to the people.

All: Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy! Blessed be God!

**Opening Hymn: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #319*

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Lord of amazing visions, our Companion and Source, shower us with your presence, shelter us in your sanctuary, shield us with your peace. Open our receptivity to your word, wisdom, and way. May our worship honor your name and draw us nearer to you and to our neighbors. Prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. Be glorified in our midst as we exalt your Many Names. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. 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

Superpower

A Message for Today

One

Acts 1: 6-14

John 17: 1-11

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Our commitments in the world are tangible and spiritual. Let us bring our whole selves to contribute to the kingdom of God, including material resources, as a faithful act of hope, trust and companionship in this community and 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)*

Glorious God, everything that is given to us rains forth out of the abundance of your love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these gifts and our lives together that all we are and all we offer give glory to you; in the name of Christ, who is the way, truth, and life. 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

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God, bless us with a word of life this day to restore, support, and strengthen us as we seek to be one with you. Hear us as we pray...

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Although you have not stood on the mountaintop to see his ascension to God, yet believe in the love and power of Christ who taught you how to be faithful and joyful disciples. Rejoice, and believe in him who came that you may have abundant life. New Creation in Christ, the resurrected life is yours. We place our hope in the assurance that, in Christ, all things are made new. Change is possible. The world we seek is ours to build, nurture, and sustain. God has given us grace and authority as well as a Companion to make a difference in the world. Receive these gifts freely as they are given.

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: "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"
#323*

**Benediction*

One: When you leave this place today, go into the world with peace: the world needs peace desperately. Render to no one evil for evil: there is too much evil in the world already. Meet evil with your strongest good. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone; love may not be all we need, but we all need love. Love and serve the Lord. Rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the blessing of Almighty God - the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit - be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen and Amen!

**Postlude: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
- Eklund*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENTECOST is next Sunday. It is customary to wear red symbolizing the power, love, and fire of the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles. Orange and yellow may also be worn to complement the red, also representing fire and energy. Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY UPDATE! Our next Bible Study topic has changed because the books were on backorder. We will be studying Proverbs: "Life is about choices. How should we lead our families, how should we manage our finances, how should we handle relationships? God's Word provides the answers. The study will begin on June 1. All are welcome!

ZOOM SPEAKER on Saturday, May 23rd at 3:00 p.m. Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future is presenting Dr. Randi Pokladnik who will speak on "Will Resource-Hungry Data Centers Devour Ohio?" The program usually lasts about an hour and a half. Since we are called to care for the earth and our environment, this will be a powerful presentation. To register, contact Pastor Margaret.

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.

"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.



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: 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