

# *St. John's United Church of Christ*

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

---

May 24, 2026

---

10:00—Worship  
11:15—Fellowship



**Leading Worship:** Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear  
**Last Sunday Attendance:** 42      **Offering:** \$1,355.00

[www.ucelmore.org](http://www.ucelmore.org)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore>  
<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>

The Day of Pentecost is here: the day when flames of faith dance in our hearts. The Day of Pentecost is here: the day when our babbling speech becomes the Good News for the world. The Day of Pentecost is here: the day when compassion is seared into our souls. The Day of Pentecost is here: let the people of God rejoice. Alleluia!

“The resurrection is a beginning. It is a seed being sown, a tune being composed which everyone now gets to sing.” N.T. Wright

“It is clear in Acts 2 that dreams and visions are not meant to be dreamt alone.” Theresa Cho

“Pentecost is specifically about the miracle of community. That’s what makes it a joyous occasion.” Keri Day

Holy Spirit, we come to you to be nourished, sustained, and empowered. Amen

Let the community, here and at home, come together in worship...



**Church Phone:** 419-862-3511

**Church Email:** [st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com)

**Pastor's Phone:** 440-487-2549

**Pastor's Email:** [millsm92445@gmail.com](mailto:millsm92445@gmail.com)

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



# The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

May 24, 2026

## **GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER**

*Prelude:* "God of the Ages" - The Bells of St. John's

*Lighting of the Candles*

*\*Call to Worship*

One: When we feel alone, when we feel rejected,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

One: When we feel drained and dried up, and we can't give anymore,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

One: When we are unsure of how to move or where to go or what to do,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, revive us, move in us, and encourage us on the journey of faith.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

*\*Opening Hymn:* "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" #326

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Spirit of the Living God, draw us together into the place where your Spirit awaits us. Guide us in your direction so that as we gather, we experience the unity that comes from shared hope and mutual understanding. Fill us with more questions than answers and open our minds to visions and dreams of a world transformed in your love and peace and infused with your hope and joy. For your name and glory, we pray for new life in you. 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.**

**MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE**

*Words of Remembrance*

*Songbirds Anthem*    **“Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones”**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

*A Story for All Ages*

**Tongues of Flame**

*A Message for Today*

**A Shout or a Whisper?**

Acts 2: 1-21

John 20: 19-23

*Hymn for Today*

**“We Are the Church” #550**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Invitation to the Offering*

Psalm 104: 27-28 states, “These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up, when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.” As your gathered body, we give and open hands and hearts to share the good things you have given to us. We give in abundance and in sacrifice so that all needs are met. Let us bring our gifts in thanksgiving and commitment to the church and 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)*

**Lord of wind and fire, of hope and mercy, we ask that you  
bless these gifts today. We praise you for them and ask that  
you cause them to be put to work for your kingdom. In  
Christ's name, we pray. 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, Holy Spirit. Come as Holy Fire and burn in us, come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within, come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness, come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance, come as Holy Power and enable our weakness, come as Holy Life and dwell in us, come as Holy Whisperer and help us listen, come as Holy Listener and hear us as we pray.

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Silent Prayer*

*Words of Assurance*

Body of Christ, the Spirit is with us as Comforter, Counselor, and Conscience. The Holy One will continue to demonstrate the way and amaze us with deeds of power and grace, strength and mercy, might and compassion. Receive the gift of new possibilities, unity in Christ, and transformation for the world through witness, justice 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: "Revive Us Again" #463*

*\*Benediction*

One: In our moments of chaos..

**All: God is with us.**

One: In our moments of calm...

**All: God is with us.**

One: In our moments of life..

**All: God is with us. Alleluia!**

One: Go, then, as Pentecost people, touched by fire, stirred by wind, to mend the world.

**All: Alleluia!**

*\*Postlude: "In Flanders Field" - Wells*



## *In Flanders Fields*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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!

**SONGBIRDS AND BELLS** Attention Songbirds and St. John's Bells: Our end of season party will be June 10 from 6-whenever at the Portage Inn. Come to relax after a well-sung and well-rung season!

**THANK YOU** Evan Shurtz and Bill Verbryke for the video for our anthem and for setting up and running the projector today.

**PASTOR ON THE PORCH RESUMES** – As in the past, on summer Thursday evenings, all who wish for some conversation and sometimes light refreshments gather on the parsonage porch from 7:00 until dark or the bugs drive us off. All are welcome beginning this Thursday, May 28th.

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES** – on June 7, we will recognize our graduates from high school or trade school, college, and graduate programs. Please give the following information to Erica either by email at [st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com) or by mailing it to P.O. Box 288, 448 Rice Street, or by bringing it to the office. Please submit a picture and a short bio including future plans, etc. Thanks.

**EVENING VESPERS ON JUNE 14** – many of you like outdoor services, many of you don't. This summer, I'm going to offer an evening service once a month on the parsonage lawn at 7:00. It will be a vespers type service of songs, scripture, brief message and prayer. Won't you join us on June 14th at 7:00 p.m. Children welcome!

**"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.

**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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

**MAY LOOSE OFFERING** goes to Bistro 163. We had a great lunch at Bistro 163 and will take a group again. Stay tuned.

**MAY FOOD PANTRY ITEM** is Mashed Potatoes.

## **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, David Netcher (relation to Jane Kruse)

**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, family of Don Claar

**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

## 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.

*The original (traditional) version of the **UCC Statement of Faith** was adopted in 1959 by General Synod and is widely regarded as one of the most significant Christian faith testimonies of the 20th century. The Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology was authorized by Executive Council in 1981.*