

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

May 3, 2026

10:00am—Worship
Communion



“The opposite of Love is not Hate, but Fear. Love and Fear are two competing energies in the wisdom and life of Jesus.” Ed Bacon

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen

Holy God, prepare us and equip us to do the works you have called us to do. Amen

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear

Last Sunday Attendance: 38

Offering: \$1,280.00

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

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Pastor's Email: millsm92445@gmail.com

www.uccelmore.org
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore>
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The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

May 3, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" - Berry

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary. In You, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

All: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in your hands. Strengthen us in your righteousness.

All: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

One: Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

All: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

**Opening Hymn:* "He Leadeth Me" #499

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a beloved community for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart. Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit.

**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

GPS

A Message for Today

Trust

Acts 7: 55-60

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

A Song for This Time

"I Would Be True"

**I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Generous ones, you bear the image of the Generous God, who has provided for all needs and gives good gifts. We have accepted the invitation to share, sacrificially and from abundance, resources needed in this community and by our neighbors throughout the world for the glory of God. May we bring our gifts forward at this time.

**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)*

Generous God, may the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear. Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of the needs among and beyond 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

Chosen of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls you from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from helplessness into resolve. God has given you capacity for strength and compassion. The Holy One journeys with you. Grace is available for you. Know that your prayers are met and amplified by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven.

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 - "Sanctuary" #482

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and Holy, tried and true;
With Thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

Communion Prayer

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

Please hold the bread until everyone is served. Inside ring of the communion tray is grape juice. You may drink the wine/juice as you are served.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

We thank you once again for this meal, this day, this gift of resurrection. Send us out into your world to be the presence of love and hope to all who despair and fear, that all may have life, and life abundant. Alleluia, alleluia, amen.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn "We Are Called to Be God's People"*

#580

**Benediction*

May God fill you with hope and expectancy so you'll be fully assured that God is more involved in your story than you can imagine. May you know – in the deepest places of your soul – that Jesus is working in ways you cannot see. Trust him with your whole life. Go in joy to love and serve the Lord.

**Postlude: "The Solid Rock" - Tornquist*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS is coming to an end for the season! Unless...you have an idea for summer music! If you're interested, please see Lynn Grear.

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. Pastor Margaret missed you last week! See you soon!

MAY LOOSE OFFERING goes to Bistro 163

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: 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