

St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

May 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday
10:00—Worship



**TRINITY
SUNDAY**

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear
Last Sunday Attendance: 31 **Offering:** \$3,630.00

www.ucelmore.org

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCEImore>

<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCEImore>



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Pastor's Phone: 440-487-2549

Pastor's Email: 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

“Human beings enjoy a special relationship with God and to the rest of the created order. Unlike all other elements of creation, human beings are made in God’s image and are bestowed with authority and stewardship over the earth. Jesus gives his followers as an additional responsibility; to make disciples of all nations; and the church gives us another; to baptize new Christians “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. On Trinity Sunday, we remember our responsibilities, delight in the trust that God has given us, and pray for guidance to complete our tasks with faithfulness.” Robert Blezard

“The greatest feat is the ability to cultivate all the attributes of the Divine Trinity in order to stay balanced, utilizing the Divine Power, Divine Love and Divine Intelligence to achieve enlightenment.” Master Del Pe

“Voice, Body, Spirit, we acknowledge your presence gathering us together as your church. Today, we join in worship. May we encounter you anew. We find a good place in you and with one another. You have made us in your image and enabled us to be in community with you, O God, as people called to service, justice, and caretaking. Let your name be praised. Let us receive your word, Let us embrace and live your truth. Amen”



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

May 31, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "They'll Know We Are Christians" with
"Bless Be the Tie" -Tornquist

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship*

One: Let us shape a space for The Three:

All: the Spirit as breath of life

One: the Bread as food of heaven

All: the Love in relationship.

One: Let us shape a space that tangles all three
through our life and our worship
held in relationship and met here.

**All: Let us shape a space for the many faces
of God woven together and revealed
in each of us.**

One: On this Trinity Sunday
Let us shape a space to be
found together in worship.

**Opening Hymn:* "All Things Bright and Beautiful" #30

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Eternal God, your Spirit moved on the waters – and there was light, your first creation. Your Spirit moved on the water of our baptism – and again, there was light in our souls and hearts. From the time you fashioned the heavens and the earth from a formless void, O God, your creative energy has done marvelous works, all around us. Let your holy light shine on us today, as we remember your creation and our special part in it. And may your creative Spirit be at work in our hearts and minds today as we worship you and, always, as we strive to live in obedience to your will. 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

A Message for Today

Message In a Bottle

It's All Good

Genesis 1: 1-2; 4a

Psalm 8

Matthew 28: 16-20

Song for Today

“Father, I Adore You” #143

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Generous God, just as you provided for all our needs in your creative acts, you have made us caretakers of your good creation. Let us accept the call to faithful discipleship, the opportunity to trust in your provision, and the generous nature you have embedded in us.

**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, receive our gifts as acts of participation in your continuing creation. 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

Brothers and sisters, let us lift up our prayers, for our God hears them, every one. The God who made earth and heaven, sea and desert, meadow and mountain, flower and redwood, snake and spider; the God who blessed and placed every creature in an interdependent web of creation, this God listens to our prayers, every one. Brothers and sisters, let us lift up our prayers.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Beloved, the God of Many Names has declared you good. You need not seek perfection. Creator has called you as a co-worker in the continual progressive acts of shaping the beloved community envisioned. Christ has called you to spread the word and make disciples. Spirit has given you breath for the journey. The Creator, Christ and Spirit are with us in all things.

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: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" #136*

**Benediction*

May God's creative Spirit be with us in our hearts
and minds as we leave this place to return home.
May God's creative Spirit help us to see with new wonder
the splendor of your creation all around us
and inspire us to preserve and protect us.
And may we go forth in the name of the God of many names
to make disciples of all nations.
We will baptize and teach them of our God,
remembering that Jesus is with us to the end of the age.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

**Postlude: "Be Thou My Vision" - Tornquist*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY Our next Bible Study, 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!

SUMMER CALL FOR MUSIC It's summer time and we would love to have special music during our services. If you, or someone you know, would like to provide special music during a service, please contact Lynn Gear (419-680-6196) and schedule a Sunday! Thank you!

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 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

“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.

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.*

