

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

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

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June 14, 2026

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10:00—Worship

11:15—Fellowship



**Leading Worship:** Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear  
**Last Sunday Attendance:** 47      **Offering:** \$2,940.00

[www.ucelmore.org](http://www.ucelmore.org)

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

<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



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st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com

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

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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

“Sarah wasn’t the first member of her household to laugh at God.”

*Greg Carey*

“The prankster is God, through whom all things are possible.”

*Kirk Byron Jones*

“Jesus has inclined more than his ear to us. He has bent down, inclined the fullness of himself into our lives.”

*Brian Bantum*

“The psalmist tells us to rejoice. How can we?”

*Martin Marty*

“Matthew rightly sees a relationship between the authority of Jesus Christ and the mission of the church.”

*Kathy Grieb*

“God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the center, feed us, equip us and, having provided for us, look to a different harvest – a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us that our lives might bring glory to you.”

*John Birch*

“Holy One, surprise us with such delight that we will laugh in awe and joy!”

*Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay*



# The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

June 14, 2026

## **GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER**

*Prelude: "The Invitation" - Wells*

*Lighting of the Candles*

*Centering Words*

May our hearts be open this day to receive God's word for us. Give us courage and hope.

*\*Call to Worship (Psalm 100)*

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Group 1: Worship the Lord with gladness!**

**Group 2: Come into God's presence with singing!**

One: Know this! The Lord is God.

**Group 1: Know this! We belong to the Lord who made us.**

**Group 2: Know this! We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

One: So, enter God's gates with thanksgiving,

**Group 1: Come into the holy courts with praise.**

**Group 2: Give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.**

One: For the Lord is good;

**Group 1: God's steadfast love endures forever,**

**Group 2: God's faithfulness for all generations.**

*\*Opening Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" #22*

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**God who calls us, we are here, here to serve, and here to worship. We are here to sing and to pray, to let the word resound in us and the community to envelop us. We are here, O God, to know you and be known by you. We enter with thanksgiving and praise. We enter in safety of love and hope of peace. Holy One, we respond to your call. We are here. 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*

**Taking a Trip!**

*A Message for Today*

**Chosen**

Genesis 18: 1-14, (21: 1-7)

Psalms 116: 1-2, 12-19

Matthew 9: 35—10: 8

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Invitation to the Offering*

What shall we return to the Holy One for God's bounty to us? God calls us to live fruitful and faithful lives that witness to and spread the good news of the kingdom in the world. God provides for our needs abundantly so that all may flourish. May we use the bounty that we receive as gifts to share. Let generosity, trust, and hope guide us to support the ministry of this faith community and those in need beyond these walls.

*\*Doxology - "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #688*

**We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be:  
All that we have is thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**Faithful God, thank you for the gifts we receive and that we give. Bless them so that needs will be met, your beloved will experience communal embrace, and you will be honored and glorified. 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 bring our prayers to God with confidence knowing that we are heard.

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Silent Prayer*

*Words of Assurance*

We know that there is much work to be done; far more than we ever imagined. We are assured that God will walk with us as we answer God's call and work in God's world.

## *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* - "Into My Heart" #485

**Into my heart, into my heart  
Come in to my heart, Lord Jesus.  
Come in today, come in to stay,  
Come in to my heart, Lord Jesus.**

## **SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

*\*Closing Hymn:* "I Surrender All" #474

*\*Benediction*

As you go, proclaim the good news:  
the kingdom of heaven has come near.

May the love of God,  
the grace of Christ,  
and the Spirit's peace  
be with you always.

Go in peace! Walk in love!

*\*Postlude:* "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise" - Dearman

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**KENTUCKY MISSION EXPERIENCE:** On Friday of this next week, we will once again journey to the Southland Mountains of KY. We go to serve as we are needed at Lotts Creek School and in a home in the “holler.” We’ll share some reflections when we return. Next Sunday, Dave Ferguson will be the worship leader. Thank you Dave!

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** after service today!

**PASTOR ON THE PORCH** – 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.

**EVENING VESPERS THIS EVENING:** A service of songs, scripture, a brief message and prayer will be held on the parsonage lawn at 7:00 this evening. Children are welcome. Fixings for s’mores will be available.

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** We are 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.” All are welcome!

**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!

**“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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

**AA MEETING** is every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:00. We are so glad to have them meet in our Fellowship Hall.

**JUNE LOOSE OFFERING** goes to Bistro 163. When I'm back from KY we'll take another road trip to Bistro 163. Watch the bulletin and my TWRF for details.

**JUNE FOOD PANTRY ITEM** is toilet paper.



## **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.

**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, Roy Fields (Eric Huffman's grandfather)

**Hospice:** Dolores Neeb

**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), Mike (Susan Cole's friend's husband), 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.*

