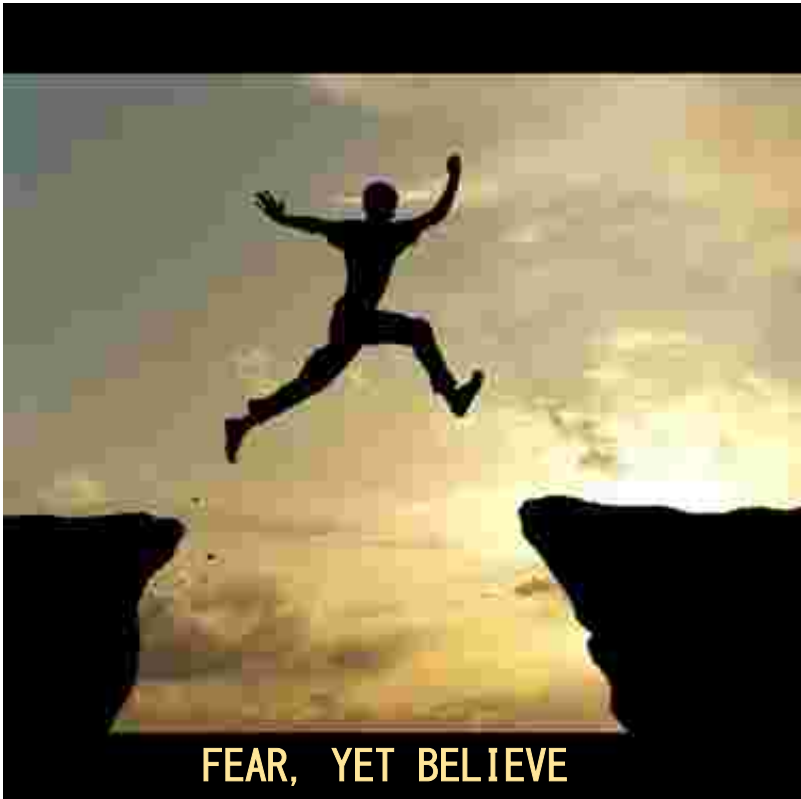


St. John's United Church of Christ
-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

June 21, 2026

10:00—Worship



Leading Worship: Dave Ferguson, Lynn Gear
Last Sunday Attendance: 48 **Offering:** \$4,930.00

www.ucceImore.org
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCEImore>
<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCEImore>



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Church Email:

st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com

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

“No one is ever outside God’s grace.” Kirk Byron Jones

God, help us to tell simply and clearly the promises of your love and care that we have received in secret so that our brothers and sisters who live in doubt and fear may trust you as well, through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Merciful and Compassionate God, thank you for listening. Amen



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

June 21, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Faith of Our Fathers" - Hayes

Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Words

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

**Call to Worship*

One: To those who creep toward the kingdom

All: God says welcome.

One: To those who rush toward the kingdom

All: God says welcome.

One: To all of you, however you come, in speed or sloth,

**All: God says welcome to the door and arms that
are always open wide.**

**Opening Hymn:* "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #458

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**We are your disciples, Lord. How we want to be like
you! We are your servants, Lord. How we want to serve
like you! Take our minds: enlighten them. Take our
hearts: awaken them. Take our hands: enliven them —
not that we might be made great through you, but that
you might be made great through us!**

**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

Fear, Yet Believe

Genesis 21: 8-21

Psalms 86: 1-15

Matthew 10: 24-39

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Because we need not fear tomorrow we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions to the work of the church. Do not be afraid for your well-being. Thank you for giving generously in the name of the One who gave everything for us.

**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)*

Holy God, who gives life, nourishment, and strength to all creation, we thank you: for the community of faith you have built, for your servants who have held fast to you through centuries, for the teachings and witnesses of our ancestors, for the gospel's welcome to all in need, for the healing that comes from your watchfulness. Bless these gifts that all may be nurtured in truth. In Jesus' 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

God of the covenant, your compassion reaches beyond the mere making and keeping of promises. Teach us to listen to one another with your heart, as we know you listen to us as we pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Listening God, we acknowledge that you know us. You are familiar with our attitudes, behavior, and character. You ground us in the fertile soil of your love. Yet, we confess that at times, we feel rooted in sand. We observe our life circumstances, and hope may collapse under despair, fear may overcome courage, and uncertainty drives out faith. Help us, O God, when we cry out and when we don't. Speak to us so that your message drowns out any other voice, including our own, that believes less for us than your promises offer. Do a new thing in us, for us, and through us. We are assured of all this through Jesus who taught us to pray saying...Our Father

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:* "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" #728

**Benediction*

As you leave this place, leave fear behind, leave with a glad heart, leave with conviction that all people you meet in the coming days are beloved of God as you are, also. Rejoice and give thanks.

Now may the Lord bless you,
guide you, hold you, guard you,
and make you bold to live a life of
Trust and deep joy.
Go in peace.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAINBOW GIRLS CLOTHING DRIVE Reminder that Lynn's garage door is open from 9AM to 8:30PM every day (except when raining) for drop-off bags for the Rainbow Girls Clothing Drive. Clothing in bags, small housewares in boxes. 413 Toledo Street, Elmore. Or if you need pick up, just call Lynn 419-680-6196. Thanks!

KENTUCKY MISSION EXPERIENCE: Brian, Abbey, Abbey's friend Phoenix, Kaitlyn, Belinda, Heather and your pastor left St. John's at 8:00 on Friday morning with equipment from last year stored in the parsonage basement, boxes of school supplies from Frannie's house, and stuff we need for the week of work and play. We'll meet the other 10 participants down there for supper prepared by Marsha. Our total this week will be 19 – a good number. I'll send a TWRF from Lotts Creek to let you know what we're up to. So – stay tuned...

THANK YOU TO DAVE FERGUSON for leading our worship this morning. I know how much he enjoys sharing worship with you and I know how much you enjoy his worship and message. Thanks, Dave.

EVENING VESPERS: Our next try for an evening vesper service on the parsonage lawn will be Sunday, July 19 at 7:00 p..m. A service of songs, scripture, a brief message and prayer will be offered. S'mores might just be in the picture. Children welcome.

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.

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY: Please contact Erica Baker at 419-680-4740.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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.

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.

Prayers from the Congregation: Lilly & Skylar for struggles at home

Bereavement: Roy Fields (Eric Huffman's grandfather)

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

Nursing Home/Rehab: Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Sharon Crozier, Elizabeth Reiners (Pastor Margaret's aunt)

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, Liliana Rankin (relative of Pastor Margaret)

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.*

