

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

June 28, 2026

10:00—Worship
11:15—Fellowship



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear
Last Sunday Attendance: 30 **Offering:** \$1,000.00

www.ucceImore.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

Christ has no body on earth but yours..
No hands, no feet, no eyes.
Yours are the feet that walk to do good.
Yours are the hands that reach out in blessing.
Yours are the eyes that look with compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

"I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you
ought to be."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

God, help us to follow you in love today and every day.
Amen



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

June 28, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" - Keveren

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 to live with grace and love.

**Call to Worship*

One: I lift my eyes up to the mountains,
from where does my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

One: We look not to the mountains or valleys,
even heaven or earth,

All: For God is found among us.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

All: God is here among us.

One: Come, let us worship the God of Creation,
the God of People, the God of Community

**All: Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is the way.
Let us worship together in faith.**

**Opening Hymn: "Joy to the World" #179*

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all, in the name of Jesus we pray, 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

Matilda

A Message for Today

Though the Mountains May Fall

Psalm 121

Psalm 139: 1-18

Luke 1: 46-55

Revelation 21: 1-6

A Song for Today

"Though the Mountains May Fall"

(lyrics can be found on the last page)

-Dan Schutte

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God is still creating and providing. Let us honor the continued and new gifts of God's generosity by bringing forth a portion of what we receive so that all needs will be met. Let us participate in the realization of the kingdom through offering material resources to the Body of Christ.

**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)*

Generous God, may the gifts we bring provide for our community and neighbors, both near and far. Bless our time, talent, and treasure for your glory and your kingdom. 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, in you we have new life. In you, we have a faithful companion. Yet, difficult moments confront us with the limits of our trust in you. We struggle to release control so that we might participate fully in your plan without fear, hesitation, or resistance. Help us, O God, to be your faithful servants who trust you even through the tests and trials of life. May we know the assurance and peace of your eternal love. Hear us as we pray to you.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

One: Behold, there is a new heaven, a new earth and a new city, where the river of life flows, where the tree of life bears fruit in every season. This heaven, this city, this river, this tree are a vision of your life reborn, restored, and renewed.

All: Thanks be to God!

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:* "Silent Night! Holy Night!" #186

**Benediction*

As we leave this place, let's not forget: there is no where we can go where God is not. Everywhere we go, God goes before us. From the deepest valley to the highest mountain, from the heights of joy to the depths of despair – wherever we find ourselves, God is already there.

So go in peace for we do not go alone. Love and serve God and your neighbor.

**Postlude:* "We Give 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!

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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

“Though the Mountains May Fall”

- Dan Schutte

Refrain

Though the mountains may fall and the hills turn to dust,
Yet the love of the Lord will stand
As a shelter for all who will call on His name.
Sing the praise and the glory of God!

Verse 1

Could the Lord ever leave you? Could the Lord forget His love?
Though a mother forsake her child, He will not abandon you.

Refrain

Verse 2

Should you turn and forsake Him, He will gently call your name.
Should you wander away from Him, He will always take you back.

Refrain

Verse 3

Go to Him when you're weary; He will give you eagle's wings.
You will run, never tire, for your God will be your strength.

Refrain

Verse 4

As He swore to your fathers, when the flood destroyed the land;
He will never forsake you; He will swear to you again.

Refrain

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 your 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.*