

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

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

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July 12, 2026

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10:00—Worship

11:15—Fellowship



**Leading Worship:** Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

**Last Sunday Attendance:** 44

**Offering:** \$2,094.00

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

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

<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCEImore>



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**Church Email:**

[st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com)

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

**Pastor's Email:** [millsm92445@gmail.com](mailto: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

“He spoke to a few who heard, some who were entertained, others who passed by, some who said “No” and others who said, “We hate you.” He just planted – and he wants his disciples to do likewise. We are all planters and we need to plant. Let us freely plant with our words and actions. Be prodigal with the news of God’s grace.”

God Pause

“God is faithful. God is with us. That is assured. What is less assured is this: Are we with God? Are we in or are we out?”

Kathryn Z. Johnston

“God is faithful. God is with us. Our victory in God is assured. But God still calls us to be the good soil.”

Kathryn Z. Johnston

Lord, it’s no small task to plant your seed in what we say and do in every aspect of our lives, yet you urge us to do so. Holy Spirit, inspire us and guide us as we go, sowing your seeds of grace. Amen



# The Order of Worship

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## **GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER**

*Prelude:* "Amazing Grace" with "I Could Sing Your of Your Love Forever" - Tornquist

*Lighting of the Candles*

*Gathering Words*

We gather for the soil of our lives to be nourished with goodness, courage, hope and love so that we may grow in God's word and in God's way. Come, let us worship.

*\*Call to Worship*

One: You are the sower, O God, we are the seed.

**All: God's word is being sown in our lives this day with the promise of new growth.**

One: You are the Lover, O God, we are the beloved.

**All: God's love blossoms in our lives with a beauty greater than the lilies of the field.**

One: You are the healer, O God, we are the healed.

**All: God's healing flows through our lives with every beat of our heart.**

One: You are the Potter, O God, we are the clay.

**All: God's hand fashions us to shine with the glory of Christ's light.**

One: Come! Let us worship the one who sows us in fields of love.

*\*Opening Hymn: "Rain Down!" #444*

*\*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

**Great Sower, cast us like seeds upon the winds of your mercy, that we may grow in fertile ground. Keep our lives from stony pathways, where the heat of life's cares and strife strip our strength and vitality. Protect us from thorny gullies, where the snares of life's worries and fears block the sunshine of your Spirit. Land us safely in rich soil, Great Gardener, and bless us with the kiss of gentle rain, that our faith may increase and our joy may be complete. 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*

**Soil and Seeds**

*A Message for Today*

**The Rose (True Rd. Connections)  
Kendra German**

Isaiah 55: 10-13

Psalm 65: 1-8 (9-13)

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

*Special Music*

**A Change of Plans  
- Devin Frank, Kendra German**

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

### *Invitation to the Offering*

Like a field ready for harvest, our lives bear the marks of God's love and care. May we, who bear the fruit of God's labor, rejoice as people who have been blessed with a bounty not of our making. With love and thanksgiving, let us bring our tithes and offerings for planting the seeds of God's Word in our world.

*\*Doxology - "All Things Are Yours" #687*

**All things are Yours! We make that true  
When we return our gifts to you.  
And so we give and so we share,  
In Christ's strong name expressing care.**

*\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

**Master Gardener, as you have sown our lives in a rich and fertile soil, may we bear much fruit through our giving. With these offerings, may your realm be brought to earth, as we plant seeds of hope in the fields of life. Bless our gifts and our ministry, that the world may reap a harvest of generosity and love. 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*

You opened your mouth and uttered a word and creation sprang forth in abundance. Let us open our mouths and hearts in praise, that we may bear fruit in every season and be satisfied by your goodness, for you, O God, are the source of all growth; your grace abounds forever. Hear us as we pray:

*Pastoral Prayer*

## *Silent Prayer*

### *Words of Assurance*

One: Here's the Good News! God is never going to stop showering us with love...all the time, everywhere...always for us. God hears your cries and heals your wounded hearts. God is preparing you for good things to come. Place your trust in God who has always loved you and will always love you.

**All: Hallelujah! 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 - "This Is a Time to Remember" #579*

**This is a time to remember the greatness of the Lord;  
God has faithfully led us as promised in the Word;  
God has bountifully given the grace like freshening rain;  
God has so lovingly pardoned and made us whole again.**

## **SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

### *\*Closing Hymn: "For the Fruit of All Creation" #723*

#### *\*Benediction*

Go into God's world with joy, telling of the good news of God's abundant, lavish love for all creation. Go to be a witness to all the miraculous possibilities for hope and peace. Go in peace! Walk in love!

### *\*Postlude: "Amazing Grace" - Tornquist*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY** we are grateful to have True Rd. Connections, Kendra German (daughter of Julie Webb Leist and granddaughter of Margaret and Hayes Webb), bringing us the message. And to Devin Frank and Kendra, A Change of Plans, for sharing special music with us. Thank you!

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING** will be July 15th at 7:00pm. All are welcome!

**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!



## **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.

**JULY LOOSE OFFERING** goes to Cherry Street Mission.

**JULY FOOD PANTRY ITEM** is Mac & Cheese.

## **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:** Family of Roy Fields (Eric Huffman's grandfather), Family of Dolores Beck

**Hospice:** Dolores Neeb

**Hospital:** Rosemary Acha

**Nursing Home/Rehab:** Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, 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, 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 & Sharon Crozier, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Kim Applegate, Briann, 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 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.*

