

St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

July 19, 2026

10:00—Worship



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 44

Offering: \$2,602.00

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
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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



“The dream requires a total redescription of Jacob’s life defined by God’s promise.” (Genesis 28: 10-19a)

-Walter Brueggemann

“Just when we might imagine we were responsible for a holy quest for God, we discover ourselves searched for – and found!” (Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24)

-Patrick Willson

“We all see weeds, but we shouldn’t make it our business to separate them.” (Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43)

-David Lower

God of Jacob, who rested his head on a stone pillow and saw visions of your angels, be with us this day. Give us a vision of your presence in the midst of our strife. Give us courage and confidence that you are with us, calling us to be your loving people in the world. For we ask these things in Jesus’ Name. Amen





The Order of Worship

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GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Blessed Assurance" - Keveren

Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Words

God of surprises, we come here from the weariness of the week, from various triumphs, from fears and doubts. Open our hearts to receive your surprising message for all people. Gather us in to worship.

**Call to Worship*

One: The Holy One is in this place! Do we know it?

All: The Holy One has searched and known us, our path, and all our ways.

One: The Holy One is in this place! Such knowledge is too wonderful!

All: Wherever we go, Spirit goes with us! We cannot flee for God is there.

One: The Holy One is in this place! Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and we gather and wait in hope.

All: The Holy One is with us. Praise God!

**Opening Hymn:* "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #501

**Prayer of Invocation (based on Genesis 28: 10-19)*

One: God of our fathers and mothers – of all the generations who have come before us– holy is Your name.

All: We gather in Your presence with praise and thanksgiving for the faithful love You have shown toward Your people, for the many blessings You have given to us. Your promises are eternal, and they are backed by the honor of Your name. Thank you for Your faithful presence among us, even when we are not fully aware of it. Continue to reveal Yourself to us. Continue to guide us on the paths of life. Open our eyes to see You here among us; open our ears to hear Your Word. For surely, You are with us in this place. May your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together. For we are your people, called by your name. 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

The Ladder

A Message for Today

Dream!

Genesis 28: 10-19a

Psalms 139: 1-12, 23-24

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God blesses us that we might carry that blessing into the world. Let us bring our offerings with grateful hearts.

**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)*

**Holy One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and
your provision. Magnify them for your purpose and
grant us discernment to be caretakers of the resources
entrusted to us. 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

Bless each one according to the need that they have and
bring all to a closer walk with you. Hear us as we pray...

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Great news has come to us, dear friends. God, who is faithful and just, who cherishes us as we are, seeks restoration and healing for those broken places in our lives, forgives us, and loves us unconditionally. You are God's beloved ones. Receive that good news. Come, live in the light of 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: "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms" #496*

**Benediction*

May God our Creator,
Christ our Brother,
And the Spirit who gives us breath
bless you and keep you
this day and forevermore.

**Postlude: "On Eagles Wings" - Carter*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING: Since we are not passing the offering plates, you are invited to place your offering in the plates by the doors to the sanctuary. If you didn't have a chance as you entered, there are plates by the doors as you leave. Thanks for your giving.

LOOSE OFFERING: For many of us, the loose offering isn't something familiar. It began several years ago as a way to give to a benevolent institution on a regular basis. Council decides on the organization. If you have a suggestion for a location, please be in touch. May and June our loose offering went to Bistro 163. July and August we will be giving to Cherry Street Mission. In September and October – to Sunshine Communities. November we will give to Christy's and in December, to the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund. Information on these organizations will be in the September Beacon. We will share information on how to designate your giving to the loose offering if you don't have offering envelopes where the offering goes to the church. Stay tuned.

TRUE RD. CONNECTIONS AND A CHANGE OF PLANS WILL RETURN ON SEPTEMBER 20TH.

EVENING VESPERS will take place tonight at 7:00 on the parsonage lawn. We'll share scripture, songs, prayers and a brief message in an informal service. **BRING LAWN CHAIRS.**

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!

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.

JULY FOOD PANTRY ITEM is Mac & Cheese.

JULY LOOSE OFFERING goes to Cherry Street Mission. The Cherry Street Mission Ministries is a major faith-based non-profit in Toledo, OH., providing emergency shelter, meals and personalized care for the homeless, addiction recovery, and career training. Their main campus is located at 105 17th Street, Toledo. Thanks for your generous loose offering gifts.



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 Dolores Beck

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

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, Saundra 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), Rosemary Acha

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.*

