

St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

July 5, 2026

10:00—Worship
Communion



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Gear

Last Sunday Attendance: 42

Offering: \$1,960.00

www.ucelmore.org

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

<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



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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

“Psalm 145 proclaims the reality of a God who is on our side, who favors us, and whom we love and obey in grateful response.” Maria Mallory White

“Rest is often viewed as a privilege rather than a necessity.” Joann Lee

“What yokes need to be broken today? How do they compare and contrast with the yoke Jesus offers?”
Brian Hiordahl

“When we hear Jesus gentle call to come dance his dance, we quickly translate that call into burden.”
Bradley Schmeling

“For a Christian, freedom means being the one whom God intends us to be.” Verity Jones

“God of all nations and all peoples, bless us as we gather in your name. Be with us in this time and place. Amen.”
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

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GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Battle Hymn of the Republic" - Hammer

Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Words

We gather together in the name of the One who bids us come. We gather together to hear the words of the One who is love. We gather together to sing praises of the One who teaches peace. Come, let us worship.

**Call to Worship*

One: Hear this invitation from Jesus..."Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out even on religion?

All: Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.

One: I'll show you how to take a real rest.

All: Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it.

One: Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

All: I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.

One: Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

**Opening Hymn:* "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" #345

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Merciful God, we gather together to offer You our praise and thanksgiving for the unfailing love You have shown toward us. We are eager to feel your healing touch for our wounded spirits and weary souls. Flood our lives with your peace. Shine your light of joy in our souls this day. Be with us as we hear your words of inspiration and healing. Guide our hearts and spirits as we seek to be witnesses to your redeeming and reconciling love. In Jesus' name, we offer this prayer. 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

Are You Tired, or Sad, or Afraid?

A Message for Today **An Address, An Invitation, A Promise**

Zechariah 9: 9-12

Psalm 145: 8-14

Matthew 11: 15-19, 25-30

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God gives gifts beyond measure. God gives with abundance and generosity. God has provided for every need and invites us to ensure equitable, faithful, and mutual sharing so that no one needs to experience a lack of resources. Let us bring forward what we have given from our abundance to honor God's faithfulness and to demonstrate trust in God's provision.

**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)*

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts, but empower us to give in mutual measure so that all needs are met. Bless these gifts and amplify their impact as a witness to your goodness and so all may flourish in your name. 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

Holy One, we come before you from different perspectives. Some come in a spirit of celebration. Others bring lament and despair. All of us benefit from the power of transformed lives, individually, relationally, and communally. We pray in the assurance that new life is available. We ask for the strength, courage, and persistence to seek your kingdom, peace, justice and righteousness in any and all circumstances and for all people and creation. Hear us as we pray.

Pastoral Prayer

"Open My Eyes, That I May See" #480

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

One: Come to the Lord, all of you. There is healing and rest in the Lord. You are given love and peace by God for all of your days.

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 - "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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

You don't have to be perfect
You don't have to be pure
You don't have to be righteous
You don't have to be sure
You just need to be hungry
You just need to be fed
You just need heaven's manna
You need to need the bread...

Communion Prayer

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

Please hold the bread until everyone is served. Inside ring of the communion tray is grape juice. You may drink the wine/ juice as you are served.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for the witness we cannot forget and the mission of justice you have made our own. Thank you for the gifts of Holy Communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" #729*

**Benediction*

God, who has given you rest and peace, will go with you as you leave this place. Feel the healing love of God in your life. Bring the good news of God's love to all whom you meet. Go in peace. Walk in love. Amen

**Postlude: "America" - Berry*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 12th - Kendra German will be with us to provide special music. It's been too long since we had her with us. I know you'll want to be here!

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: 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.*