

St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

August 9, 2026

10:00—Worship

11:15—Fellowship



Leading Worship: David Ferguson, Lynn Gear
Last Sunday Attendance: 28 **Offering:** \$1,770.00

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



“Holy God, in the beauty of your shalom, and in the glory of your presence, all barriers are lowered: we come to worship and revere our glorious God, who enriches the lives of God’s own people and speaks peace into the hearts of all faithful people.”

-Joan Stott (based on Psalm 85)





The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

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GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "I Believe" -Roberson

Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Words

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate, God, the merciful, holy, blessed:

Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep. As we gather, lift us into consciousness of your presence. Change us, move us, mold us for the better; so that, at the sound of your voice, at the call of our name, we will never be the same. May our worship do this and so much more.

**Call to Worship*

One: O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name.

All: Make known God's deeds among the people.

One: Sing of God's abiding love, grace, compassion, and justice

All: Rejoice in God's redemptive power.

One: Seek the Holy One's presence, strength and wisdom.

**All: Remember God's wondrous works.
Praise God.**

**Opening Hymn: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" #470*

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Loving and Wonderful God, you make a home for us. You provide us shelter and sanctuary. You embrace us and uphold us. You come to us and go before us. We come to you now. We search for your presence in this world, in this community, and in this gathering. Let us connect with you and be reminded of the path of full and flourishing life you offer. Let us connect with one another and be reminded that your kingdom comes in us and through us for your glory. 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

?

A Message for Today

Believe

1 Kings 19: 9 - 18

Psalms 85: 8 - 13

Romans 10: 5 - 15

Matthew 14: 22 - 33

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God gives gifts freely and abundantly so that all will be well and whole. God provides and empowers us to participate in providing for one another. There is enough for all. Let us join in the Creator's holy, wondrous, and abundant generosity in sharing the gifts we have claimed.

**Doxology - "O Bless the Gifts"*

**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.**

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

Giver of perfect gifts, refine these offerings and our hearts so that they may bear fruit. Bless each of us with the joy of gift giving and help us to know the good that our generosity lends to the world in your Holy and Precious 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

God knows our hearts. God has knitted our innermost being and knows our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey into a new awareness of God's presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you. Hear us as we pray...

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Inheritors of the kingdom, rest assured that the Holy One's love knows no bounds. Rest assured that God will companion with us when the struggles life presents overwhelm us. We are all capable of confronting hard things and doing the hard work of restoration through recognition, repair, and reconciliation. God is with us on the journey... helping us to carry the burdens and reducing the load. Be made new in Christ Jesus.

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 - "People Need the Lord" #568

**People need the Lord, people need the Lord;
When will we realize people need the Lord?**

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn:* "Stand By Me" #495

**Benediction*

May the God who loves you
give you the strength and compassion
to love our neighbors tangibly
to protect the vulnerable, marginalized, and threatened
to make space for the stranger
to embrace our siblings
Go, in peace, to redeem the pain of the world
through ordinary and extraordinary acts of love and hope.

**Postlude:* "We Believe in God" -Amy Grant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A HEARTFELT THANKS... to Dave Ferguson for leading worship this morning and to Becky Busdeker for serving as a liturgist.

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.

RAINBOW GIRLS CLOTHING DRIVE finished up on Saturday, August 1st. We delivered a total of 9,507lbs of clothing and the Girls made \$1,686.76! The Genoa & Lotus Rainbow Girls thank everyone for their generous donations. We will do this again next year!

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!

"OFFICE HOURS" at Christy's 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.

AUGUST FOOD PANTRY ITEM is canned veggies.

AUGUST 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

Hospital: Jill Stinebaugh, 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 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.*

