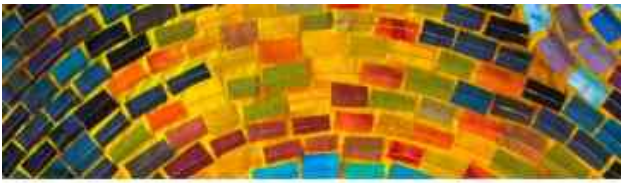
St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

October 4, 2026

10:00—Worship
World Communion Sunday





Global Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the United Church of Christ



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret Mills, Lynn Grear, Abigail Reed

Last Sunday Attendance: ? **Offering:** $2,000.00

www.uccelmore.org
https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore
https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore



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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



Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday with congregations around the world. It is a day when we mark the Christian practice of breaking bread with one another. It is a time for remembering that around the globe – in different languages, with different traditions and customs, in various forms of liturgy - the Lord's Supper is celebrated. World Communion Sunday is on the Christian calendar for a reason: it can and should be a time of profound Christian unity**,** marked by our shared celebration of the Lord's Supper. Jesus instituted the first such meal, and World Communion Sunday is a helpful way in which Christ calls us back together to celebrate the liturgy "in remembrance of me."



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

October 4, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" w/ "Jesus Loves Me"
- Wright

Lighting of the Candles

Gathering Words - An Invitation to All

Come and worship all you who love and serve the Lord - outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers, the young, old and in-between. Come as you are, for this is God's house - a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes. So whether you are worshiping here on site, or at home around your table...know that God's compassionate love is poured over you this day no matter where you are.

**Call to Worship (Japan)*

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.
All: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.
One: What do we find at today's table?
All: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.
One: What is not at today's table?
All: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.
One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.
All: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.
One: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

**Opening Hymn*: "O God of Every Nation" #626

**Prayer of Invocation (Australia) (in unison)*

We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service. We serve our God in this community and throughout every land. Let us serve by working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred. The Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us.

**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 Sory for All Ages **A Very Special Day**

Special Music **"Come to the Water" - Songbirds**

A Message for Today:
What Does It Take to Build Community? - Abigail Reed

Ephesians 2: 17-22

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

May the gifts that we bring reflect the generosity of the Creator's abundance and goodness. Thanks be to God.

**Doxology* - "I Sing Praises to Your Name" #660

I sing praises to your name, O Lord, praises to your name, O Lord
For your name is great and greatly to be praised;
I sing glory to your name, O lord, glory to your name, O Lord,
For your name is great and greatly to be praised.

**Prayer of Dedication*

One: Praise be to God who calls us to imagine and believe that another world is possible.
All: We praise the One who calls us into covenant with one another. Deliver these our gifts to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all our neighbors.
One: God of all times and places, remind us of the world as You intend it: free from hunger, poverty, violence, and oppression.
All: Embolden us, O God, to imagine and believe that another world is possible! 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

In love God created us, and in love God sustains us, day after day. So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to God, knowing that we are heard, and that God will respond. So be silent. Be still. Be aware. In your own heart the Spirit is at prayer. Listen and learn. Open and find. Heart-wisdom, Christ. And so we pray:

Pastoral Prayer

One: We pray for the people of Africa.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of Asia.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of the Pacific.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of Europe.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of the Middle East.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of North America.
All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.
One: We pray for the people of every place whose names we know – and those we do not.
All: May we be strengthened together as one body of Christ.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance (Bangladesh)

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a parent embracing you. God watches over you, guiding you each day. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen

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 - "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #489

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Communion

One: From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.
All: We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.
One: We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.
All: We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.
One: From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East –
All: We come as one people, gathered in Christ.
One: Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.
All: Christ welcomes us all.
One: Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. Some come with gratitude.
All: Christ welcomes us all.
One: Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.
All: At Christ's table, there is room for all.
One: Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.
All: We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share. We come to be made one.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

The bread and cup are shared.

One: The bread of life, given for all.
All: We receive with gratitude.
One: The cup of blessing, shared for all.
All: We receive with gratitude.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God of every nation and generation, gather us into the great company of your people – those who have gone before us, those who worship beside us, and those who we may never meet in this life. Until the day when every people and every nation are gathered into your eternal feast, keep us faithful to one another and to you.
All: Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace. One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn:* "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #698

**Benediction (Cuba)*

May God prosper you.
May your days be long and your nights serene.
May your friendships honor you, and your family love you.
May you eat at your table, and
may you be gathered into God's embrace
with a smile.

**Postlude:* "The Solid Rock" - Tornquist



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME ABIGAIL REED: Abigail currently serves as the Program Assistant for Global Ministries Child and Elder Sponsorship Program and their Mission Education and Communications team, as well as the UCC's United Nations Advocacy team. In these roles, she assists team leaders with initiatives that provide opportunities for people to engage in the organizations' work while connecting local congregations to the global community. Prior to this role, Abigail served three terms as a Global Missions Intern in South Korea working with youth and young adults.

It was from these opportunities of working within the wider church and experiencing the ways in which service has strengthened her relationship with the Divine that Abigail made the decision to pursue a Masters of Divinity in Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Along with this, she recently became a Member in Discernment through the Living Water Association of the Heartland Conference and is in the process of discerning her call to ministry.

WORSHIP RESOURCES: Our worship service this morning is from the A Global Table of Grace World Communion Sunday 2026 Worship Resource produced by the Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

NEXT WEEK OCTOBER 11 – Blessing of the Animals. If it's raining or has been raining, we'll bless the animals inside. Well, pictures of your animals.

FALL GATHERING: On October 25th, right after church, the Faith Formation team is hosting a trunk or treat event complete with hot dogs and a bouncy house. More information will be in the October Beacon but SAVE THE DATE.

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.

HONOR WORKERS: The next meeting of the Honor Workers will take place on Tuesday, October 6th at 6:00p.m. for the "Annual Anniversary Outing" at The American Table in Oregon. Call Judy Suto at 419-862-3675 for reservations.

SAVE THE DATE: CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER—The Annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner will take place on Saturday, October 17th from 4:00-6:00pm. Drive-Thru only, $15/meal, includes: chicken, biscuit and gravy, tossed salad, homemade cranberry sauce, applesauce, and pie.

LOOSE OFFERING: We have loose offering envelopes next to the offering plates by the doors. The loose offering that you put in the plates is not for our general operating fund but for our benevolent institutions. For October, the loose offering goes to Sunshine Communities.

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS: Practice is every Wednesday. Songbirds meet at 6:30pm and Handbells meet at 7:30pm. All who are interested are welcome!

PASTOR ON THE PORCH: See you in the Spring!

BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE COLLECTION: Thank you for your participation and for spreading God's Word!

PLASTIC BAGS: Keep them coming – we are well on our way to our second 250 lbs that will take us half way to our bench.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: We know Mondays can be long and you may not want to venture out again, but did you know you can join our Bible Study online? We offer Zoom participation, too! Just email Sharon Arndt at dsarndt@aol.com and she will send you the link!

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.

OCTOBER FOOD PANTRY ITEM is Deodorant Soap.

OCTOBER LOOSE OFFERING goes to Sunshine Communities.

2027 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE COUNCIL ROOM.

SUNSHINE COMMUNITIES (Northwest Ohio) is a non-profit based in Maumee, OH. Founded more than 75 years ago, it supports children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. They provide residential care (including campus homes and neighborhood group homes), vocational training, therapeutic and clinical care, recreation, and adult day services. Also part of the Sunshine Communities is Georgette's Grounds and Gifts - a fair-trade coffee and gift shop. Sunshine Studios offers a storefront of art and classes for the community, all while employing Sunshine artists with developmental disabilities who teach about and sell their art. Both Georgette's and the Studios can be found on Conant Street in Maumee.

GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER is holding a Harvest Festival and Fundraiser on Saturday, October 10 from 1-5pm. Celebration of family fun, food, and our future together! 406 W. Delaware Ave., Toledo, OH 43610.

RUMMAGE SALE! First Congregational United Church of Christ is hosting a rummage sale on Saturday, October 10, from 9:00am-3:00pm at 1158 Cleveland Rd in Sandusky, Ohio, 44870.

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, Family of Nate Walker (Pastor Margaret's great-niece Rebecca Goetz Walker's husband), Family of Steve Schneider, Rose/Scott families for the loss of a beloved wife to a rare form of cancer, Family of Nancy Weidner

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

Nursing Home/Rehab: Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, 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, 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), Nan Card, Jill Stinebaugh, Rosemary Acha, Rev. Jim Garner

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.*