St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

November 1, 2026

All Saints Day
10:00—Worship
Communion



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret Mills, Lynn Grear

Last Sunday Attendance: 47 **Offering:** $1,965.00

www.uccelmore.org
https://www.youtube.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

“Those who remain faithful ultimately find comfort in the presence of the one who is both lamb and shepherd.” Austin Crenshaw Shelley

“In life, death, and resurrection, nothing is lost – no one is lost.” Paul Lutter

Paul points to Jesus and says, “Look, the Lamb of God.” But here’s an interesting thing. In the gospel, the word translated “Lamb” is one Greek word (amnos), but the word used in Revelation is a different one (arnion). And it’s not a simple matter of roughly alternating between two synonyms to describe the same entity; I count 28 instances of Lamb in the book of Revelation, and in Greek each one is arnion. And arnion doesn’t just mean “lamb.” It’s something more like “lambkin” or “little lamb.” One interpreter even translates it as “Fluffy.” Victoria Lynn Garvey

“As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you; you alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you! I want more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy; you alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye. You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield; you alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you! You’re my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king; I love you more than any other, so much more than anything! You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield; you alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.” *As the Deer*, words and music by Martin Nystrom

Creator of the Multitude, be present among us as we gather. Let us worship you in praise and thanksgiving, in spirit and in truth, in season and out of season. May our souls reach toward you and our hearts burn as we encounter you afresh. Renew our minds through your word and our spirits through our praise. May your name be magnified and glorified in our assembly, and may your path become clearer for all who follow you. Amen

The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

November 1, 2026

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "For All the Saints" - Limbaugh

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… know that God's compassionate love is poured over you this day no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

**Call to Worship*

One: The joy of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.
One: Today we give thanks to God for all souls who have de parted this life in faith and love – many of whom remain especially dear to your hearts.
All: Thanks be to God, for those whom we have loved dearly but are out of our reach for a short while. We remember.
One: We remember, O God…
All: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.
One: We remember, O God…
All: The gentle strength of grandmothers,
the warm presence of grandfathers,
the loyalty of friends,
the kindness of strangers,
the joy of children,
the sacrifice of parents.

One: We remember, O God…
All: The supreme love of Jesus,
the blessing of his Spirit,
the reminder of his words,
the sharing of his suffering,
the glory of his resurrection
shown forth in the lives of his disciples,
young and old, dead and living,
articulate and silent, strange and familiar,
brilliant and ordinary.
One: We remember in every time and place
the saints of God who have shown us the
Lord. And as we remember…
All: surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..
let us worship God with joy.

**Opening Hymn*: "Rejoice in God's Saints" #531

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*
One: In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
All: we come to be your people, O God.
One: Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
All: we come to be your people, O God.
One: Filled with saintly determination yet
mindful of our human limitations,
All: we come to be your people, O God.
One: Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
All: we come to be your people, O God.
May we truly become your people today. 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 Family Album**

Anthem Songbirds **"As the Deer" - The Songbirds**

A Message for Today **Saintly Determination**
Revelation 7: 9-17
Psalm 34: 1-10, 22
1 John 3: 1-3
Matthew 5: 1-12

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

The Holy One has shaped creation so that every need may be met, love may abound, and we might be strengthened in community with one another. Let us demonstrate our participation in the kingdom of God through worshipping the Holy One through the giving of gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Let us bring our gifts forward at this time.

**Doxology* - "We Praise You, O God" #726 vs 1

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion, our tribute we bring;
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison)*

Holy Love, we pray that you receive these gifts. Bless those who have accepted the call to generosity and those entrusted with the responsibility of these offerings. May your church be enlivened and our people nurtured in care through these tangible expressions of our love of you and neighbor. 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

For the peace and unity of the saints, trusting in the promise of grace, let us come before God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Beloved, transformation is possible with the help of God. Receive the grace, courage, and strength the Holy One offers to remove barriers and erect bridges. God is with us on this journey. Listen to the Spirit who guides and binds us in love and truth.

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 - "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" #490

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Remembering

We remember those who have gone before us into God's eternal realm this past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

Marilyn Dreyer	January 11, 2026
Cathy Jean Willey	February 5, 2026
Gerald Clarence Beck	March 13, 2026
David Reimer	March 24, 2026
Lois Jean Rymers	March 31, 2026
Jane Ella Kruse	April 26, 2026
Annette Hilda Villhauer LeForce	April 26, 2026
Jason Sobb	June 11, 2026
Dolores Ann Beck	July 5, 2026
Nate Walker	July 31, 2026
Steven H. Schneider	August 19, 2026
Nancy Weidner	September 16, 2026
Elizabeth McKenzie Reiners	October 30, 2026

Breaking Bread Together

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 (in unison)

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ: from child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom…we thank you for this time, this meal, this remembrance. Amen

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn:* "Rise Up, O Saints of God" #590

**Benediction*

Rejoice and be glad and spread the love of God, the peace of God, and the sweet communion of God wherever you go. Amen

**Postlude:* "Praise Him! Praise Him!" -Crosby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION MINISTER: Rev. Dr. Jon Komperda will be installed this afternoon as the next association minister for our association. Please keep him and our association churches in your prayers as we look to new visions for our work together.

HONOR WORKERS: The next meeting of the Honor Workers will take place on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00pm. Join Barb Schwartz for a lesson in flower arranging!

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 November, our offering goes to Christy's Corner Café.

SONGBIRDS AND BELLS: We will return to our regular rehearsal times on Wednesdays. 6:30 for Songbirds, 7:30 for Bells.

PLASTIC BAGS: Now that we have publicity around town, we should get to our second 250 lbs which will take us half way to our bench quicker. Keep those plastic bags coming.

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!

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

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.

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY ITEM is Peanut Butter.

NOVEMBER LOOSE OFFERING goes to Christy's Corner Café.

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.

FaCT (Faith Communities Together for a sustainable future) RECORDING AVAILABLE: The speaker, Dr. Noreen Herzfeld, Director of the Program in Benedictine Spirituality and the Environment, was our October Speakers Series guest and spoke on AI and the Environment. It was recorded and sent to all of us who registered. It is a powerful, faith filled, and scientifically accurate program that, given the Data Centers all around us, is timely. I have a copy and would like to share it with you on the stage during the fellowship hour in November. Stay tuned.

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, Family of Elizabeth Reiners (Pastor Margaret's aunt—Uncle Robert's wife)

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

Hospital: David Brimmer, Paul Holewinski

Nursing Home/Rehab: Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Zoe Moore, Sharon Crozier

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, Rachael (neighbor of Sue Applegate,), Jennifer and Joe Shamy, Saundra Shaffer, Russ Krumnow, Jim Krumnow, Jane Garner, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom 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.*