St. John's United Church of Christ

-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

November 8, 2026

10:00—Worship
Faith Formation
11:15—Fellowship



Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret Mills, Lynn Grear

Last Sunday Attendance: 48 **Offering:** $5,040.00

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



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Pastor's Phone: 440-487-2549
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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



“Coming from a place of humility instead of entitlement, and recognizing that you are blessed enough to get the chance to do something, can change everything.” Janette Coron

“The cure to every disaster is humanity in the world.” Neymat Khan

“There is a level of fulfilment that comes with serving God with sheer excellence, even when facing the mountains of this world.” Gift Gugu Mona

“Love your neighbor, even if they don’t look like you, think like you, love like you, pray like you, speak like you, or vote like you. Love your neighbor. NO EXCEPTIONS.” Jesus

“I give thanks for the gift of life this day and for the privilege of loving you by serving others. Give me an opportunity to grow in right relationship with you by promoting justice in the world today through my life, my choices, and my witness. Amen” Feasting on the Word



The Order of Worship

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GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Prelude: "How Great Thou Art" - Eklund

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 or somewhere else…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: Are you awake? Are you alert?
All: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
One: Do you see opportunities for ministry?
Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?
All: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.
One: Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.
All: Christ has extended the invitation:
let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

**Opening Hymn*: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" #344

**Prayer of Invocation (in unison)*

Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving. We invite you to inhabit our praise as we honor your precious name. Bind us together and refresh us as a community with justice and righteousness overflowing like a stream. Open our minds and hearts to be receptive to your still speaking voice. Make yourself known among us. You are our God, and we are your people. 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 **Be Prepared!**

A Message for Today **We Will Serve**
Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78: 1-7
Matthew 25: 1-13

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

God has given us good and generous gifts out of abundant love. People do not face need because creation is insufficient. When we share the resources of creation, we proclaim our faith and trust that God provides more than enough for all of us to flourish. We bring forward our gifts in faith and hope.

**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)*

Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to you. Accept these offerings as a testament to our love, faith, and hope. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for you in this world. Magnify them for your glory and to meet needs. Expand our reach and glorify your name through our giving. 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

Through the week of stress and demands, we come to you this day, O Lord. Awaken us again to your loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you have called us and sustained us. And so, may we quiet our hearts, leave the noise of the week behind, and open our minds and spirits as we come to you, God, in prayer. Make us ready to be of service to you…

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Beloved, when we turn toward the Holy One, we find the Holy One has turned toward us. The God of compassion and grace will meet us in all our hopes, and will bring strength and power in all our struggles. Receive God's forgiveness and invitation to embrace a new way going forward.

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.

SENT FORTH TO SERVE

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

**Benediction*

May God who creates, redeems, and sustains,
keep you fervent in faith, cheerful in hope,
brimming in justice, and overflowing in love.
And the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Go in peace. Walk in love.
Go and serve the Lord your God in all that you do.

**Postlude:* "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" - Founds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Now by Zoom only. The deer are running! Email Sharon Arndt at dsarndt@aol.com for more information.

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.

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.

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY ITEM is Peanut Butter.

NOVEMBER LOOSE OFFERING goes to Christy's Corner Café.

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

Hospice: Dolores Neeb

Hospital: David Brimmer, Heidi Holub

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

At Home: Joanne Busdeker, Carlton Giesler, Doris Klaustermeyer, 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, Melissa Ellerton (friend of Dick Kuhlman)

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.*