



The Messenger

NILES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
608 N CRANDON AVENUE, NILES, OHIO 44446 330-652-1439

Worship with us.

Sundays @ 9:30 am

In house or Live stream on our Facebook page.

In Ministry Together....

Rev. Jennifer Wellington

Office Secretary.... Leona Krepps

Organist/Pianist ... Andrew Yaksich

Groundskeeper/Custodian.... John Hosokawa

Stop Explaining Your Absence

By Rev. Jennifer Wellington

There is a quiet ritual in church life that no one teaches, yet many of us seem to learn: apologizing for missing worship. It happens in emails, in the grocery store, and in conversations after church. People often feel they need to explain why they weren't there.

Please don't.

Over the years, I've come to believe these apologies usually aren't about church at all. They're about guilt. And guilt is a poor motivator for worship.

I don't keep attendance, and I don't need an explanation. More importantly, I don't want guilt to be what brings you through the church doors. Worship is an invitation, not an obligation. It's a place to encounter God's love, not earn it.

Life is beautifully complicated. Sometimes your soul is nourished in a sanctuary. Sometimes it is restored by a quiet morning with family, a walk in the woods, caring for someone you love, or simply getting the rest you desperately need. My hope is that you are paying attention to what brings you joy, what cares for your soul, and what helps you love God, your neighbor, and yourself more deeply.

When you are here, we are grateful. Your presence enriches our worship and our community. And when you are away, know that you are still loved, still prayed for, and still part of this church.

So let's end the ritual.

Come when you can.

Come when the Spirit nudges you.

Come when your heart is drawn.

And when you cannot, simply live your life without apology.

Worship is not a performance. Attendance is not a report card.

There will always be a place for you here.





Remember these pillars of our church, who no longer can attend and sit beside you at service, with a telephone call or perhaps a birthday card or a thinking of you card.

Maria Allen	Claudia Baytos	Barbara Caldwell	Shirley Harris
Audrey John	Evie Rice	Tony & Lolly Symcheck	

Please contact the office for correct addresses and/or telephone numbers.

To make your Messenger more interesting.....If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter....the birth of a grandchild (great), wedding, graduation, birthday celebrations, anything that is important to you, **PLEASE** do not hesitate to contact the office. **THIS IS YOUR MESSENGER!!** What would you like to see/read??? Turn the information in to the secretary by the 15th of the month by 10:00 am. If the 15th falls on a weekend, the articles are due the following Monday. Sign your name on the article, in case there is a question about what you wrote.

You Are My Guest in Thought
By Mary Dawson Hughes

Once a day, and sometimes more,
You knock upon my daydream door,
And I say warmly, "come right in,
I'm glad you're here with me again!"
Then we sit down and have a chat,
Recalling this, discussing that,
Until some task that I must do
Forces me away from ----
Reluctantly I say good-bye,
Smiling with a little sigh,
For though my daydreams bring you near
I wish that you were really here ----
But what reality can't change
My dreams and wishes can arrange ----
And through my wishing you'll be brought
To me each, a guest in thought.

**In Loving memory of one so special,
who's light we lost too soon.....**

**JOANN BAUGH
April 1943-July 2026**



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS
(Nancy Malone/Historian)

“Sailing with the Stars”
11 August 2004

This day trip by bus will begin at 6:30 am in the church parking lot. There will be a rest stop enroute at the Buckhorn Travel Center, Harborcreek, Pennsylvania.

We will then stop to tour Our Lady of Victory Basilica Shrine in Lackawanna, New York.

Our second stop will be a Two Hour Lunch Cruise “Sailing with the Stars” – Grand Lady Boat.

You will enjoy a full costumed live impersonation of your favorite Las Vegas Superstars.

Our last stop will be to visit and shop at an old Five and Dime Store in East Aurora, New York.

We will end our day with a dinner stop (cost not included) enroute home.

We should return to Niles about 9:15 pm.

The cost per person is \$71.00.

For reservations, contact Mary Alice Neiss, 330-652-5513.

Ladies of "Quilts from the Heart"

Quilts from the Heart started in 2006 as Project Linus a non-profit organization. Volunteers sew quilts, crochet handmade blankets to comfort seriously ill or traumatized children. They later changed their name to Quilts from the Heart leaving Project Linus but continuing to do the same work. Lap quilts for nursing homes, pillow cases, fleece blankets for cancer patients and walker bags were added.

The group consists of beginning sewers to very talented quilters. They meet every Tuesday from 10 am – 2 pm at the Niles First United Methodist Church. The Quilts from the Heart started quilting/sewing in 2015 at the Niles First United Methodist Church. The ladies bring their own personal sewing machines from home getting together to laugh, tell stories about their families and make quilts that have touched so many lives. Many of the ladies take home projects to finish on their own personal time,

The demand for quilts is growing! Hey, we are always looking for new sewers (both men and women). If you are interested in quilting and looking for *camaraderie*, consider joining this group. Come and visit and speak with the ladies....talk with Ruth Parker.





8 Blessings of God

1. I have a home.
2. I ate today.
3. I have a good heart.
4. I wish good for others.
5. I have water to drink
6. I am content.
7. I am trying to be better.
8. I am breathing.

Dear God, thank you for the simple blessings we often forget to notice. Hopefully this message reminds you to be grateful and keep faith.

~~God's Gift of Humor~~

"A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his members. At one house, it seemed obvious that someone was home, but no one answered his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed at the next worship service, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10'. Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 reads, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid for I was naked.' "

Mark Your Calendars!

On Sunday, September 20, we will be hosting an International Dinner in Bauman/Fellowship Hall beginning at 11:30 AM.

If you enjoy preparing and sharing a special ethnic dish, we would love for you to participate. Please let Patrice or I know if you would like to contribute a dish. The success of this event depends on having a wide variety of foods representing different cultures and traditions.

I will be bringing my signature Pastitsio (Greek lasagna) as well as Spanakopita (a savory spinach & cheese dish made with phyllo dough). And if you're lucky, there may even be some homemade Baklava!

As in previous years, tickets will be available for purchase and may be redeemed for a serving of any of the delicious dishes offered at the event.

The International Dinner will replace the Craft Show we have held over the past two years. Proceeds from the dinner will support our Christmas charity initiatives.

We look forward to enjoying an afternoon of great food, fellowship, and community together! For further information, please contact Amy Anos at **330-718-3717**.



August 2026

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Niles Com. Pantry Items: Peanut Butter & Jelly						
						1
2 Coffee 9:30 Service Danielle Miles	3	4 Quilters 10:00 am	5 AA 7:00 pm	6	7 Arya Duncan	8 John Anos Lisa Blair
9 Coffee 9:30 Service Kathie Hafely	10	11 Quilters 10:00 am	12 AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm	13	14	15
16 Coffee 9:30 Service Rebecca Hanks Richard Hanks	17	18 Quilters 10:00 am	19 AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Coffee 9:30 Service Arya Duncan	24	25 Quilters 10:00 am	26 AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Justin Hafely "WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY"	27	28	29
30 Coffee 9:30 Service Amy Anos	31					



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