

## *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 ... Bob Bacha**

**Groundskeeper/Custodian.... John Hoso**



# The Advent Adventure

Advent can feel confusing when it comes to time. When I was little, lighting the first candle on the advent wreath, I asked my mother, “What are we waiting for?” She answered, “We’re waiting for Jesus to be born.” But I couldn’t understand why we were waiting for something that had already happened long ago.


Advent reenacts that past event as if it is new each year, yet it also points forward. In many churches, we regularly proclaim that “Christ will come again.” That future Advent hasn’t happened yet.

Beyond both the reenactment of the birth of Jesus and the recognition that there is an advent yet to come, there is still another advent that is yet more personal. Each year at this time, we remember once again to invite Christ into each of our hearts in a personal, ongoing way. Advent holds all of this at once: a memory, an experience, and a hope.

Christians have long wrestled with this tension. Scripture explores the mystery of God’s time and the difference between the world as it is and the world as it will be. We carry both realities: longing for peace in a warring world, awakening to liberation in the midst of injustice, and sensing God’s nearness even in ordinary work.

Perhaps we aren’t supposed to make sense of sacred time, of Advent and the multiple advents. Advent is much more than an arrival. It is more of a journey, an adventure, flowing with wonder, a mysterious winding way to the place behind the darkness where God’s love shines in the darkness. Let’s join hands and go there together.

Rev Jeff +



# PILLARS

## FOR OUR CHURCH AND LIFE

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

Barbara Caldwell

Minnie Blose

Audrey John

Shirley Harris

Dan Taneyhill

Maria Allen

Tony & Lolly Symcheck    Evie Rice

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??? **PLEASE** turn the information in to the secretary by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month by 10:00 am. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, the articles are due the following Monday. **PLEASE** sign your name on the article, in case there is a question about what you wrote.



**It's that time of year again. Get ready to order your Christmas Poinsettias. Complete the form found at the end of your Messenger. Return your form to the office by 10 December 2025.**

*Christmas Services will be held Christmas Eve, 24 December, at 7:30 pm. There will be "NO" services Christmas Day, 25 December.*





*Dear First United Methodist Church ,  
Thank you for generous donation of school  
Supplies. Your support is greatly appreciated.  
Niles Intermediate School*



Thank You~~I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for all the support I have received over the last year during my cancer battle. The calls, the cards, the prayers, the food and especially the LOVE, have made this journey much more tolerable. I thank God every day for the blessings of this church family as well as the immeasurable love and devotion of my family. I cannot begin to describe its impact. I hope that others facing similar life challenges can experience the love that has been shown and given to me. *Amy Anos*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank You~~Patrice and I would like to thank everyone who supported our Craft Show on November 8<sup>th</sup>. We could not have achieved the fantastic results that we did without the volunteers who donated, worked, prayed and attended this event. The \$1,129.97 raised will be used to fund our various Christmas endeavors. With a smaller number of Sunday worshipers, it is more difficult to collect items for Christmas. However, regardless of the cause or the goal, the Niles First United Methodist Church always comes through!! We may be small, but we are **mighty**!! Thanks again! *Amy & Patrice*



Hi Church Family!!

Sending a big sincere **"THANK YOU"** for support and prayers, Rev. Jennifer visiting at the hospital, phone calls and uplifting cards.

What a beautiful shawl Kathie Hafelly made....good job!!

Thanks to my wonderful "Uber Driver", Pat Pfeifer (a very good friend) for her time and kindness!

Times have been rough but God is with me----

*Thanks again!!*

*JoAnn Baugh ~n~ PeeWee*



*Look who celebrated their 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on 05 November 2025!!  
Let's give a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to  
Dan Taneyhill !!!*



*Dan and his daughter, Hope!*





We did it again!! The school supplies will be delivered in early November. I decided to wait to give our supplies to the schools because they were overloaded with supplies. But now, those supplies are running low so these will come in handy as kids will replenish!

Thank you for always supporting our church in making the kids happy and having what they need to get a good education!!

*With Love, Patrice*



It's the time of year to give thanks and be grateful.

"At Christmas"  
By Lyle A. Myers, Sr.

The wild storm raged throughout the night  
Covering the land with a blanket of white,  
And capricious winds in sudden shifts  
Piles the snow into grotesque drifts.

The city street and country lane  
Lay unmarked and perfectly plain,  
Cares of the world have seemed to cease,  
Everything is at rest in peace.

A changed world greeted the early sunrise,  
Not a cloud appeared in the skies,  
And the sun's bright rays on the new fallen snow  
Glittered and sparkled like a diamond's glow.

Peace and quiet was everywhere,  
Not a zephyr stirred the frosty air;  
Smoke rose from the chimneys like an ostrich plume,  
Filling the air with exotic perfume.

The Yule log glowed in the fireplace,  
Happy smiles wrinkled every face,  
For this is the wondrous time of year  
When hearts are light and Christmas draws near.





Arya and Zander Duncan dressed for Halloween!

*History Highlights  
by Nancy Malone  
(Church Historian)*

From the Sunday, 11 September 1977, Church Bulletin  
~~Johnstown Flood~~

Niles First United Methodist Church participated in a city wide community and ecumenical campaign to raise funds for relief work in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Mayor Arthur Doult, a member of our church, proposed the campaign with the cooperation of the Niles Clergy Association.

Nearly eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) was raised, plus non perishable food, bedding and clothing.

A daily offering of sixty dollars (\$60) from vacation Bible School, August 15 – 19, plus several personal donations were sent to the special Annual Conference Johnstown Relief Fund.

We continue to currently support our community to serve community meals, collect cereal for Niles Community Services, and feed the Niles High School band during football season.

**"God's Gift of Humor"**  
**By Amy Anos**

The chairman of the pastor search committee informed the congregation, "Next Sunday our visiting preacher will be the Rev. Joe Doaks. If you would like to see the other preachers, you will find them hanging in the vestibule.

Two small children were talking when the first asked the second one, "What kind of lights did Noah's ark have?" The second child said, " I don't know. What kind?" "Floodlights," answered the first child.

### **RACHEL CIRCLE --- November meeting**

We met in the Good News Room for a warm and cozy meeting. Ten (10) members and two (2) visitors (Merrily Rogers and Rev. Jennifer) were present.

Rebecca thanked the members for doing the prep work for the five (5) community meals in Novembers.

A decision was made to make donations to "needy causes" at our 14 January 2026 meeting.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, 10 December, at Giorgio's Restaurant at 1:00 pm for a Christmas party. JoAnn Baugh is taking reservations for anyone interested in attending. Her contact number is [330-544-5296](tel:330-544-5296). A delicious selection of cheesecake was provided by JoAnn for refreshments.

Pat Pfeifer presented a program of the beginning/history of Thanksgiving and included a song that is a favorite of the holiday. She then had us find answers to miscellaneous questions by looking them up in the Bible. WHEW!!!

#### **HOLIDAY SONG**

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God our Maker doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.



**RACHEL CIRCLE LADIES**







**RACHEL CIRCLE LADIES**





## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please complete the order form and place your order in the collection basket, or mail or bring the form with your check/cash to the church office. **Make checks payable to Niles First UMC, putting "Poinsettia Flowers" in Memo.**

**Deadline is 10 December 2025**

**6" Plants are \$8.50**

**Colors are Red, Pink & White**

**If you do not mark the form, your color will be "Red"**

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR OF PLANT \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF PLANTS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL COST \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given "In Memory of..." or "In Honor of..." (**please specify**)

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Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Niles Com. Pantry Items: assorted food						
	1	2 Terry Hamilton	3 Choir 12:15 pm AA 7:00 pm	4 Debbie Parsons	5	6
7 Rebecca Hanks Coffee/ Refreshments 9:30 Service 	8	9 Quilters 10:00 am Bd. Mtg. 6:00 pm Wendy Duncan	10 Rachel Circle 1:00 pm @ Giorgios AA 7:00 pm  Poinsettia deadline	11	12	13
14 Pat King Coffee 9:30 Service	15	16 Quilters 10:00 am	17 Choir 12:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Duane Hafely	18 Mac Hafely	19 John Johnson	20
21 Joan Ries Coffee 9:30 Service 	22	23 Quilters 10:00 am	24 AA 7:00 pm	25 Happy Christmas Day 	26	27
28 Arya Duncan Coffee 9:30 Service	29 Linda Duchnak	30 Linda Belcastro	31 			

*Niles First United Methodist Church  
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Niles, Ohio 44446*