

2021 THE MESSENGER



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

Worship with us.
Sundays @ 10:00 am
In house or Live stream
In Ministry Together....
Pastor Shane Russo

Office Secretary.... Leona Krepps
Director of Music....BilliJo Byram
Organist/Pianist ... Bonnie Hamer
Groundskeeper/Custodian....
John Hoso

Grace and Peace Niles UMC,

³⁸ While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his message. ⁴⁰ By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So, Martha came to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me."

⁴¹ The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. ⁴² One thing is necessary. Mary has

chosen the better part. It won't be taken away from her."

(Luke 10:38-42)

We are about to enter the holiday rush of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. Many of us are going to be the Martha of our family. Make no mistake, we often would not have anything nice without the Marthas in our lives. Somebody has to care enough to want to make our gatherings great! It's okay to want nice things. Some of the best memories we have come from the gatherings born of the efforts of our Marthas.

But, just as Jesus reminds us in the story, when we focus on him, everything else becomes secondary. It's not that getting everything ready is unimportant. It's just not as important as **WHY** we are gathering.

This year's gatherings are going to feel different than last year's. With many of us vaccinated and feeling safer, we are going to want to go full throttle back into the way things used to be. On the one hand, that's a good thing. We want that sense of normalcy. On the other hand, much of what became normal was unhealthy and rightly deserves to pass into memory.

So, as you gear up for the holidays, pay attention to where your focus is. Is it the peace and love of Jesus or is it the hustle and bustle of preparation? Don't forget to sit and rest at the feet of Jesus a little each day. It really is the better part! *Pastor Shane Russo*

~~FINANCES FOR October 2021~~

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Invoices | \$ 5,041.00 |
| Payroll | <u>\$ 4,437.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 9,478.00 |
| Income (Tithes and offerings) | <u>\$ 8,270.00</u> |
| MINUS | \$ 1,208.00 |

LITURGISTS
FOR THE MONTH OF December 2021

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 05 Evelyn Rice | 19 Joan Ries |
| 12 Angela & Carmen Russo | 26 Peggy Sampson |

Patrice is looking for **counters** to help count the offering after service on Sundays. It will take approximately 30 minutes, after service, so you can enjoy your day. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know! Thanks!

We are still looking for individuals to assist with delivering **Trumbull Mobile Meals**. Currently, we have five (5) volunteers but would like to have more. We will be delivering in the Niles area, and you can volunteer for one (1) day a month or more if your schedule allows. Meals are picked up at Handel's on Youngstown-Warren Rd. at approximately 11:00 AM, and then it takes about 1-1 1/2 hrs. to deliver the meals. Training will be done at the church.

This is a very needed service to our community to supply food to seniors who may be unable to get their meals otherwise. The Covid pandemic and "Snowbirds" going to Florida for the winter have reduced the volunteer list. Please contact the office or Peggy Sansom, **330-766-7964**, with any questions.

I know it is hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner, so it is that time of the year when we begin collecting cereal for **Niles Community Services Christmas** food baskets. NCS plans on filling 1,500-1,600 baskets this year. Last year we graciously donated 150 boxes to assist in this endeavor. We would like to meet or beat last year's donation, so when you are out shopping, please think about picking up some cereal to donate to this project. Cereal can be brought to the church and placed on the table in the Sanctuary. Cereal should be in boxes; no bags and any kind are welcome. We will collect the cereal until December 12th. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Sansom at **330-766-7964**. or Joyce Bowman at **330-652-7604** . Thank you for your support in helping families in our area.

As the holidays are approaching, which I can't believe, I have been asked if I am making **Snickerdoodle bread and pumpkin rolls** again. Well of course I am 😊, I will have order forms out for Thanksgiving and Christmas in the weeks to come. Thank you! *Patrice*

We would like to recognize our staff for the hard work that they do to keep the church going. We will start collecting for the **Staff Gift** on November 7th. The last day to give will be December 12th. Envelopes will be available, please mark your check in the memo line, staff gift. Any questions, please contact Patrice. Thank you!

The **Rachel Circle** meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall on 10 November 2021. There were twelve (12) ladies in attendance. Pat Pfeifer was in charge of the program entitled, "The Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month, referring to the end of World War 1. Pat gave each lady a red poppy to represent the veterans who have served and died for our freedom. An inspirational reading of the poem, Flanders Field was played to end the program.

In the business portion of the meeting, it was decided the Wednesday meeting of 8 December will be held at Giorgio's Restaurant at 1:00 pm. Postcards will be mailed to members with an RSVP date on the card. All ladies of the church and guests are welcome to attend.

The distribution of the mission money collected during the past year will be decided at the 12 January 2022 meeting. If there are any questions, please call Linda at **330-652-1628** or Becky at **330-652-1597**. *Thank you, Linda Belcastro*

Sunday, 31 October, was a rival Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cleveland Browns. Ed Fair, Lay Leader, and Pastor Shane Russo was opening "Joys and Concerns", he mentioned the upcoming game and invited him for a picture. As Pastor never been a Browns fan, I am a Browns jersey and gave it to the Steelers won 15 – 10.



football game between the Cleveland Browns. Ed Fair, Lay wore Brown jerseys to church. As Ed "Joys and Concerns", he mentioned the Pastor Russo to come stand beside got nearer to Ed, Ed said, "I have Steelers fan!" Ed then took off the Pastor Russo as a gift. As a side note,



Three (3) members from our church participated in a class, "Opening Ourselves to Grace!" This class was held 5th and 6th of November at Boardman UMC. Jackie Moyer, Deborah Fair, and Edward Fair participated in the two (2) day class covering John Wesley's theory of grace.

Our beautiful Thanksgiving table decoration, done by Elaine Walker, located in the Narthex.



Pastor often says how important your giving is, not just to keep the lights on and to heat the church but to help the church continue to grow and help out the community. Below are pictures of our brand-new fridge and freezer. Thanks to you and your generosity, we were able to purchase them. The original fridge and freezer, well, they have served their purpose for many, many years and could no longer be fixed. With having these new appliances, we are able to continue to have our Community Meals and other events to help out others. Again, thank you, we are truly grateful for each and every one of you.



The Men's Club would like to Thank everyone who ordered subs! We sold 240!! The money raised will go to help with Community Meals, camperships, and various community activities. We will have our annual Super Bowl sub sale in February! Stay tuned for details. Thanks again, *Bob Kish*

Bob Kish



Bill Haydu, Bob Fink, Nick Belcastro

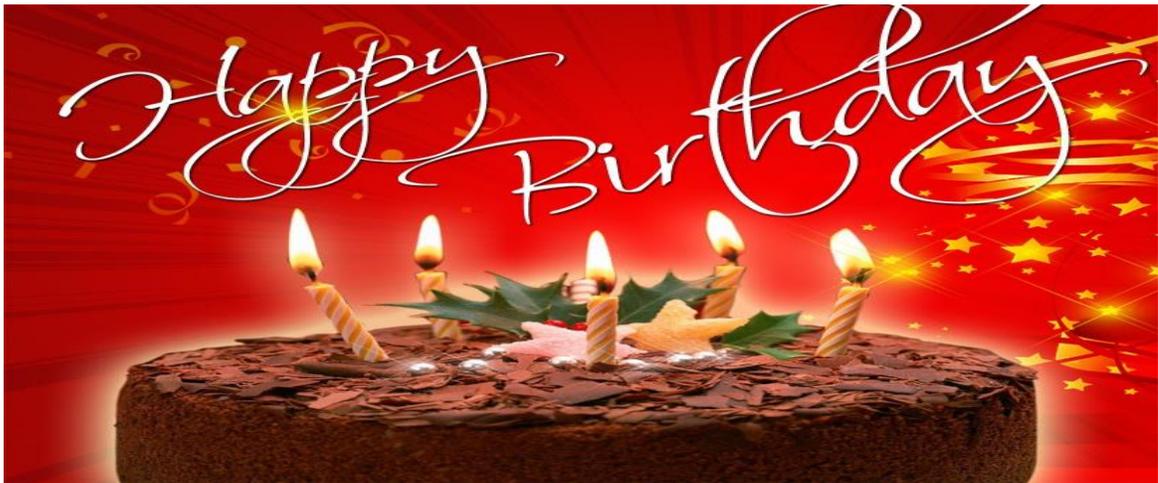


Bob Fink, Richard Hanks, Nick Belcastro



Terry Hamilton





02 Terry Hamilton

04 Linda Jones

Debbie Parsons

09 Daniel Roberts

Wendy Duncan

11 Ann Wright

Carmen Russo

15 Anthony Symcheck

16 Bob Lucas

17 Pam Lorenzetti

17 Duane Hafely

18 Mac Hafely

19 John Johnson

29 Linda Duchnak

30 Linda Belcastro



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | 1 10:00 am Prayer Team 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7  | 8 10:00 am Prayer Team 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 10:00 am Prayer Team 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 <i>Happy First Day of Winter!</i>  | 22 10:00 am Prayer Team 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir | 23 Office Closed | 24 Office Closed 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Services |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31  | |



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please complete the order form, with your check for \$8.00 per plant ordered. Place orders in the mail or bring form and check to the church office. Make checks payable to Niles First UMC putting "Poinsettia Flowers" in Memo.

Deadline is 05 December 2021

Plants are \$8.00

There is one color "RED"

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

NO. OF PLANTS: _____ TOTAL COST \$ _____

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

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608 North Crandon Avenue
Niles, Ohio 44446