

# *THE MESSENGER*

## *2025*



**NILES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
608 NORTH CRANDON AVENUE, NILES, OHIO 44446  
330-652-1439    OFFICE@NILESFIRSTUMC.ORG

*PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO*  
*Reverend Jennifer Wellington*

Worship with us.  
Sundays @ 9:45 am  
In house or Live stream  
In Ministry Together....  
Rev Jennifer Wellington  
Office Secretary.... Leona Krepps  
Organist/Pianist ... Bob Bacha  
Groundskeeper/Custodian....  
John Hosoi



## **FAMILY**

Jennifer is married to her wife, Amy, and has one (1) adult son, one (1) adult stepson, and two (2) adult stepdaughters.

## **EDUCATION**

- Wesley Theological Seminary --- M. Div.. 1996
- Miami University of Ohio --- B.A., 1992

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| • Brooklyn Memorial UMC                 | 2004-2007 |
| • Near West Side Partnership Ministries | 1999-2007 |
| • Oehlhoff                              | 1996-2004 |
| • Peoples Hope UMC                      | 1996-2000 |

## **VIEW OF MINISTRY**

I see my role as pastor in light of my own personal mission statement:

**To set people free to celebrate, seek and to serve.**

**TO SET PEOPLE FREE:** I believe that the love of God through the lived experience of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is more powerful than anything on this earth. People often find themselves held back or entrapped by so many things: self-doubt, guilt, addictions, poverty, and negative relationships. I want to help connect to the loving power of God that is already within them to find a way free from whatever holds them back.

## **TO CELEBRATE**

Part of being set free is learning to celebrate all that is good in this world. This includes the joy of worship, being part of a faith community, experiencing God's call in our own lives. It also means encouraging and guiding people to celebrate all that they are as unique creations of God.

## **TO SEEK**

Living a life of faith is not easy. We must continually seek to let the wisdom of God and power of our universal connections guide us. Seeking can include learning more about the Bible and the story of God's people who were continually seeking, failing, falling and renewing their search for how to be God's people. It means to be continually looking for God's action in our own lives, in the lives of those around us and in all creation. It also means to seek the Kingdom of God. This simply means trying to make things here on earth the way God would have them be. Some would call this heaven. I say that we do not have to wait to die to either create more heaven or hell on earth.

## **TO SERVE**

In my own faith journey, I have at times wandered from the path of living in a covenant community. Community is a place where our joined voices can communicate more strongly our songs of praise and our wails of sorrow. It is a place where I believe God's healing work is done most effectively through those who are gathered with a common desire to make this world and our lives better. Often times in my second and third careers as a mental health and addiction counselor I often advised that one of the best ways to get out of a slump of symptoms or the temptation to use is reach out a hand to someone else. The church is a place where we can look outside of our own lives and offer a helping hand to someone else in need. I truly believe that the United Methodist Church as a denomination has a strong theological foundation in mission that is more than just talking about Jesus but being the hands and feet of the Good News of the Gospel story.

**PLEASE NOTE – NEW SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**BEGINNING 06 JULY, SUNDAY, SANCTUARY SERVICES**

**WILL BE 9:45 AM**

**BEGINNING 13 JULY, SUNDAY,**

**SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAPEL @ 9:45 am.**

**COFFEE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE THE  
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.**



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 thinking of you card.

Barbara Caldwell

Minnie Blose

Audrey John

Shirley Harris

Dan Taneyhill

Maria Allen

Joe & Linda Salvaterra

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 newsletter. What would you like to read/see??? **Please** turn it in to the secretary by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** at 10:00 a.m. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on the weekend, the articles are due the following Monday. **PLEASE** REMEMBER IF YOU LEAVE SOMETHING FOR THE SECRETARY TO PUT IN THE BULLETIN INSERT OR NEWSLETTER, **PLEASE** SIGN YOUR NAME in case there is a question about what you wrote.



I would like to say a big Thank You to my church family for all their prayers and cards during my hospital stay and surgery. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

*God Bless, Nick Belcastro*





Flag Day in the United States is observed annually on June 14th and is a day to honor the American flag and its significance. It commemorates the date in 1777 when the Continental Congress approved the design for the first national flag. While not a federal holiday, it's a day of national observance, often marked by flag-raising ceremonies, parades, and other patriotic events.



**Independence Day**, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States which commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on 04 July 1776, establishing the United States of America.

## *FATHER'S DAY TABLE & SUMMER TABLE*

*BY ELAINE WALKER*





*The Sunday School Class displaying their  
"Team Jesus" T-shirts*



Pastor Shane Russo, Laila Allmon, Alexander "Zander" Duncan, Zoey Martin,  
Alexa Erwin, Joey Toth & Carmen Russo  
Celebrated their Confirmation on 08 June 2025.  
Laila Allmon was Baptized on 08 June 2025.



## *Rachel Circle~~*

The June 11<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Circle outing was to the Peter Allen Inn in Kinsman, Ohio for lunch at 1:00 pm. There were ten (10) members and four (4) guests in attendance. A very enjoyable day of fellowship and good food was had by all in attendance. A monetary collection was taken in remembrance of our member, Shirley Hunter, who passed away May 15, 2025. The money will be sent to the Girard Historical Society in Shirley's memory.

There will be no Rachel Circle meetings in July and August. The fall meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm at the church. Details of the meeting will be announced in the August church messenger and in a postcard to be sent to members.

Have a very enjoyable and pleasant summer. See you September 10th.

*Linda Belcastro*



The Members of Rachel Circle and their Guests.

Left side of the table is

JoAnn Baugh, Kathy Hafely, Evie Rice, Joan Ries, Nancy Malone,  
Merrily Rogers (guest) and Rebecca Hanks.

On the right side of the table is

Linda Duchnak (at the head of the table..is taking the above picture),  
Linda Belcastro, Marie Allen (guest),  
Pat Pfeifer, Debbie Fink (guest), Leona Krepps and Elaine Walker (guest)



*Rachel Circle Ladies/Guests*



## THE POEM THAT ONCE WAS US

A little house with three bedrooms, one bathroom and one car on the street.

A mower that you had to push to make the grass look neat.

In the kitchen on the wall we only had one phone,

And no need for recording things, someone was always home.

We only had a living room where we would congregate;

Unless it was at mealtime in the kitchen where we ate.

We had no need for family rooms or extra rooms to dine.

When meeting as a family those two rooms worked out just fine.

We only had one TV set and channels, maybe two,

But always there was one of them with something worth the view

For snacks we had potato chips that tasted like a chip.

And if you wanted flavor there was Lipton's onion dip.

Store-bought snacks were rare because my mother liked to cook,

And nothing can compare to snacks in Betty Crocker's book

Weekends were for family trips or staying home to play.

We all did things together, even go to church to pray.

When we did our weekend trips depending on the weather,

No one stayed at home because we liked to be together.

Sometimes we would separate to do things on our own,

But we knew where the others were without our own cell phone.

Then there were the movies with your favorite movie star,

And nothing can compare to watching movies in your car

Then there were the picnics at the peak of summer season,

Pack a lunch and find some trees and never need a reason.

Get a baseball game together with all the friends you know,

Have real action playing ball and no game video.

Remember when the doctor used to be the family friend,

And didn't need insurance or a lawyer to defend?

The way that he took care of you or what he had to do,

Because he took an oath and strived to do the best for you.

Remember going to the store and shopping casually,

And when you went to pay for it...You used your own money?

Nothing that you had to swipe or punch in some amount,  
And remember when the cashier had to really count?  
The milkman used to drive a truck and go from door to door,  
And it was just a few cents more than going to the store.  
There was a time when mailed letters came right to your door,  
Without a lot of junk mail ads sent out by every store.  
The mailman knew each house by name and knew where it was sent;  
There were not loads of mail addressed to "present occupant"  
There was a time when just one glance was all that it would take,  
And you would know the kind of car, the model and the make  
They didn't look like turtles trying to squeeze out every mile;  
They were streamlined, white walls, fins and "skirts",  
And really had some style!  
One time the music that you played whenever you would jive,  
Was from a vinyl, big-holed record called a forty-five  
The record player had a post to keep them all in line,  
And then the records would drop down and play one at a time.  
Oh sure, we had our problems then, just like we do today  
And always we were striving to find a better way.  
Oh, the simple life we lived, still seems like so much fun.  
How can you explain the game, "Just kick the can and run?"  
And all us boys put baseball cards between our bicycle spokes;  
And for a nickel, red machines had little bottled Cokes?  
This life seemed so much easier; slower in some ways.  
I love the new technology, but I sure do miss those days.  
So time moves on and so do we and nothing stays the same;  
But I sure love to reminisce and walk down memory lane.  
With all today's technology we grant that it's a plus!  
But it's fun to look way back and say,  
Hey look, guys, THAT WAS US!



## *History Highlights*

*By Nancy Malone (Church Historian)*


We thank Terry Hamilton for his service as greeter and usher for our church services.

A greeter welcomes those entering the church for Sabbath services and/or church events. The goal is to make each person who enters know that he or she is welcome here, feel as comfortable as possible, and receive what information they might need.

The greeters schedule for June 199 is as follows:

	CR.....Crandon Avenue entrance	
	WH.....Westley Hall entrance	
06 June	Chuck & Nancy Phillips	CR
	Esther Bunchy & Mary Straight	WH
13 June	Bob & Sue Bullock	CR
	Carrie Faith & Jeanne Winyard	WH
20 June	David & Heidi Moyers	CR
	Virginia Meckler & Gayle Thompson	WH
27 June	Charlotte Rankin & Mary Brown	CR
	Joe & Joyce Lukz	WH

# JULY 2 0 2 5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The Niles Community Pantry Items : Breakfast fruit bars						
		1 Quilters  Michael Haydu Our new minister is on board.... Rev. Jennifer Wellington	2 AA Mtg	3	4 	5 Ashley Hafely
6 Pat Pfeifer  Coffee @ 9:30	7	8 Quilters	9 AA Meeting  Heidi Moyers	10  Carol Rathburn	11	12  Mary Bond
13 Nick Belcastro  Lizzy Blair	14 Tyler Bowman	15 Quilters	16 Zander Duncan	17	18	19 Bryce Bond
20	21	22 Quilters	23 AA Meeting	24	25 Anna Jones	26 Barb Caldwell
27 Shirley Harris	28	29	30	31 Judy George		





*NILES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*  
*608 NORTH CRANDON AVENUE*  
*NILES, OHIO 44446*