

THE MESSENGER

2025



NILES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
608 NORTH CRANDON AVENUE, NILES, OHIO 44446
[330-652-1439](tel:330-652-1439) OFFICE@NILESFIRSTUMC.ORG

Worship with us.
Sundays @ 10:00 am
In house or Live stream
In Ministry Together....
Rev. Shane Russo
Office Secretary.... Leona Krepps
Organist/Pianist ... Bob Bacha
Groundskeeper/Custodian....
John Hoso

Grace and Peace Niles First UMC,

As summer begins and schedules shift, we're invited into a sacred rhythm that often gets drowned out in our busy world: rest. In a culture that glorifies hustle and productivity, practicing rest is a countercultural—and deeply spiritual—act.

In Exodus 20:8, God commands, "*Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.*" Sabbath was never just about rules. It was a divine gift—space carved out for renewal, connection, and trust. By resting, we declare

that our worth does not come from how much we produce but from who we are as God's beloved.

This summer, what would it look like to reclaim that rhythm?

Rest doesn't have to mean a long vacation or a full day off (though those are beautiful when possible). It might mean taking a slow walk, saying no to one more obligation, or spending time with God in stillness. It might mean closing your laptop, turning off notifications, and being fully present with loved ones.

As a church, we often feel pressure to do more, grow faster, and stay busy. But what if our calling is to be faithful, not frantic? What if slowing down is part of how we love God well?

This June, we invite you to lean into Sabbath. Not as one more task, but as a grace-filled rhythm that helps us breathe deeply, trust more fully, and remember that God is God—and we are not.

Let rest be your act of faith. Let it be your resistance to a world that says your value comes from doing. In God's kingdom, your value begins with simply being. And that is enough.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Shane Russo

www.nilesfirstumc.org

www.gobe.church



*Remember the families and friends
of the following members
in your thoughts and prayers:*

15 May 2025 ---Shirley Hunter

19 May 2025 ---Joanne L. Canann

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

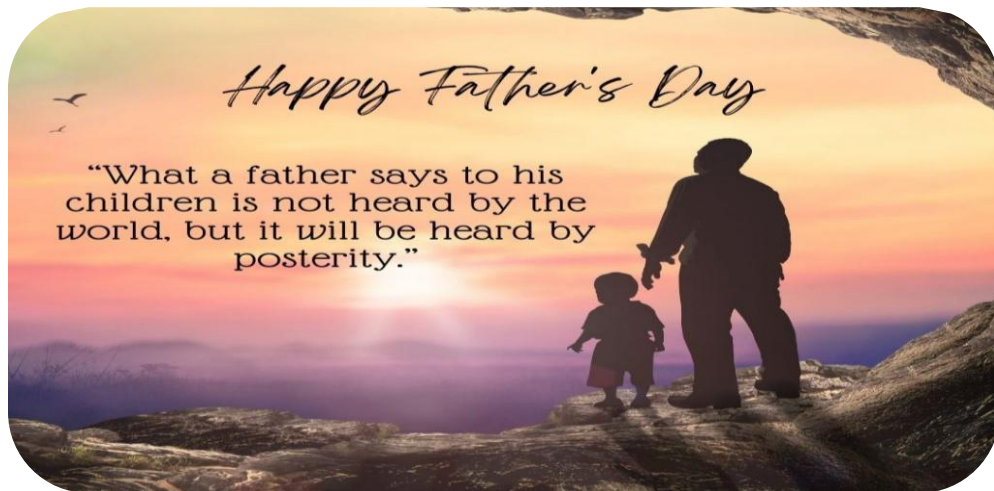
Evie Rice

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 **15th of the month** at 10:00 a.m. If the 15th 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.

Another beautiful table display by Elaine Walker for Mother's Day.





Father's Day, in the United States, is a holiday (third Sunday in June) to honour fathers. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth.

Noble fathers have noble children." "Any man can be a Father, but it takes someone special to be a dad." "It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was." "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

What does a father symbolize? A father often symbolizes protection, guidance, authority, and love within a family. He can represent a strong, reliable figure who provides for and nurtures his children. Additionally, in a broader sense, the concept of "father" can symbolize a source of life and creation, as well as a figure of divine authority.

History Highlights
by Nancy Malone (Church Historian)

Heritage Sunday Celebration

28 April 1999

Welcome	John Rutherford
Grace	Reverend Don Cooper
Dinner:	Cutting of the cake Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Hartman
Special Music	"Precious Moments" & "April Showers"
Performed By	Jo Ulery, Bernie Burriss and Mary Steib
Accompanied By	Bill Elliott
Remember When Members:	
	Frank Bassett 65 years
	Jane Holloway 72 years
	Evie Rice 55 years
	Betty Turner 72 years
	William Spowart 69 years
Presentation of pins to our 50 plus year members	
Comments	Reverend Doctor Dennis Hartman
Closing Prayer	Reverend David Bucey



~~THE NATURAL BEAUTY THAT SURROUNDS OUR CHURCH~~



"In Flanders Fields" is a war poem, written during the First World War by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae a Canadian physician. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. According to legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially dissatisfied with his work, discarded it. "In Flanders Fields" was first published on December 8 of that year in the London magazine called Punch. Flanders Fields is a common English name of the World War I battlefields in Belgium and France.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Memorial Day is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May.

Observed for: 157 years

Observances: Decoration of military graves with American flags

Significance: Honors U.S. military personnel who died in the service



2025

*Thanks to our veterans and soldiers who gave their lives
So we could live ours!*



John, Amy & Annmarie Anos **In memory of Charles & Ann Wright, Anthony & Marie Anos,
Roy & Martha Smith, Carmen & Virginia Caruso**

JoAnn Baugh **In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Hunter Families**

Barbara R. Caldwell **In memory of Loved Ones**

Cindy Disko **In memory of Carol & Bud Glunt
And Charlotte & Ray Rankin**

**David & Karlen Durisko,
Nether Family,
Mohn Family &
Cheff Family** **In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kistler,
Beki Mohn, Joanne Kistler, Betty Turner,
Jane Boas, Mr. & Mrs. Durisloo,
Mr. & Mrs. Swarney**

Karen Garcia **In honor of all veterans**

Kathy Hafely **In honor of all who served and are currently
serving our country**

Terry & Sharon Hamilton **In memory of Walter & Valeria Hamilton,
Arthur & Ada Linton**

Richard & Becky Hanks	In honor of our living loved ones
Bill & Linda Haydu	In memory of Loved Ones
Anna Jones	In memory of William A. Jones
Pat King	In memory of Ray & Thelma Richards (my parents)
David & Leona Krepps	In honor of family members who have served. In honor & memory of those men & women who serve(d)
Nancy Malone	In honor of our veterans
Pat Pfeifer	In loving memory of Bill Pfeifer & Ann Christine (our daughter)

Thank you to the above-mentioned church members who are sharing the red geraniums this Memorial Day Weekend in memory and honor of loved ones and friends.



Rachel Circle~~

The Rachel Circle Indoor picnic scheduled for May 21st was canceled due to the passing of our long-time member, Shirley Hunter. The calling hours and funeral were held on Wednesday and the Rachel Circle members attended Shirley's funeral.

The June 11th Rachel Circle meeting will be our last meeting for the summer. The members will have a lunch outing at the Peter Allen Inn in Kinsman, Ohio. Members are to RSVP to Linda at 330-652-1628 or Rebecca at 330-652-1597 by Monday June 9th. Members will be carpooling from the church upper parking lot. Postcards will be sent to circle members with further information. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. Please call Linda or Rebecca if you are interested in going to the Peter Allen Inn.

Have a safe and pleasant summer. Rachel Circle members will meet again in September.



Linda Belcastro



This little fellow visits most mornings on the window ledge of the Wesley Hall Library.



JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The Niles Community Pantry Items : Assorted Condiments						
1 COFFEE TIME 9:30	2	3 Quilters	4 AA Mtg	5	6	7 CHUCK PHILLIPS
8 COFFEE TIME 9:30 DICK BULLOCK	9	10 Quilters JEFF WALLACE REBECCA EDWARDS	11 Rachel Circle 12:30 pm AA Meeting	12	13 JUDY SHIELDS KAREN GARCIA	14 CHAD RIES SHAWN SPOWART 
15 COFFEE TIME 9:30 	16	17 Quilters	18 SCOTT GUDAITIS	19  Office is closed	20 	21
22 COFFEE TIME 9:30	23	24 Quilters CAROLYN LORENT NATHAN HAFELY	25 AA Meeting	26	27	28
29 COFFEE TIME 9:30	30 FRANK STARKEY					



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