



## *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 Hoson**



In February, we celebrated Transfiguration Sunday, a day centered on mountaintop experiences with God. In Exodus, Moses ascends the mountain and spends forty days in God's presence, returning radiant and transformed. In Matthew 17:1–9, Jesus and the disciples have a similar mountaintop encounter. These stories remind us that being in God's presence changes us.

In recent weeks, our congregation in Niles has had its own kind of mountaintop experience. We prayerfully entered the new year seeking God's guidance and felt the excitement of being transformed together. As a church, we chose to focus on becoming a community of Peace. A community is simply a unified group of people who share something in common. While we may differ in many ways, we have committed ourselves to the shared calling of bringing more Peace into the world.

During a visioning meeting in Niles, someone asked an important question: "What are we going to do about these words we chose?" That question lingered. How do we come down from a spiritual high and live differently in everyday life? How do we embody Peace beyond prayers and good intentions?

One powerful example comes from the Monks Walk for Peace 2026, a 2,300-mile pilgrimage from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington, D.C. Over 108 days, Buddhist monks walked through ten states to promote healing and compassion. They did not protest or resist; they simply walked. Along the way, they shared flowers symbolizing that seeds of Peace had bloomed in people's hearts. Crowds gathered in diverse communities, drawn together by a shared longing for hope.

The monks explained that their walking alone could not create Peace. But if someone encountered them and awakened to the Peace already within, that person might speak more gently, listen more patiently, and extend kindness to others. Peace would ripple outward heart by heart, moment by moment.

Perhaps that is our call in Niles: not grand gestures, but small, steady acts. To notice "something sacred" unfolding around us. To pay attention to glimpses of goodness and possibility. One step becomes two. And quietly, persistently, we become a community of Peace.

Peace, *Rev. Jennifer*

# PILLARS

FOR OUR CHURCH  
AND LIFE

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.

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.

## 2026 NILES COMMUNITY MEALS -THURSDAYS

Sponsored by the Churches of Niles All Are Welcome  
Please check the meal hours at each church!

January	NO MEAL
February	New Hope United Methodist Church, 21 Fairview Ave 4:30 – 6
March	Niles First United Methodist Church, 608 North Crandon 4:30 – 6
April	New Hope United Methodist Church, 21 Fairview Ave 4:30 – 6
May	Niles First Christian Church, 33 North Arlington 4:45 – 5:30
June	NO MEAL
July	NO MEAL
August	New Hope United Methodist Church, 21 Fairview Ave 4:30 – 6
September	St Pope John XXIII Parish, 381 Robbins Avenue 4 – 5:30
October	Niles First Methodist Church, 608 North Crandon 4:30 – 6
November	Niles First Christian Church, 33 North Arlington 4:45 – 5:30
December	St Pope John XXIII (Mt Carmel Church), 381 Robbins Avenue 4 – 5:30



So, we want and try something sort of new, on the third Thursday of our community meals month which is March 19th we want to have both a drive thru and a "let's eat and chat together" meal. We will offer the community to either still receive their meal in the drive thru or they can come in and eat, chat, pray or just be in the company of others.

We will be collaborating this with Niles New Hope, we will also have the Key Club helping us. I'm looking for anyone who wants to come in Thursday (this cannot be done on Wednesday due to AA Group) early in the day and just put table cloths on the table, no need to move tables, just the table cloth and a pretty centerpiece which I will provide. I just want them covered with table cloths to protect them and make the person feel comfortable and feel at home.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Rev. Jennifer or myself.

*Many Blessings, Patrice*



**A SNOW DAY AT CHURCH!!!**



We would like to thank everyone who participated in making the subs, ordering subs, and Bob Kish's hard work in making sure everything ran smoothly!! This ministry is very popular within the church and within the community. Just another way of getting our church and our love to feed people out there!

Again, **THANK YOU** church for always supporting the ministries of the church! Your support is so greatly appreciated!!

*Bob and Patrice Kish*



# Spring is (almost) here!



It is time for us to once again participate in the annual **Jackson Area Ministries seed collection!** This mission is so important because not only are we helping those in need, but we are teaching those in need to ***help themselves!***

We accept vegetable seeds of all kinds *except tomato seeds*. The germination cycle is too long to plant tomato seeds so tomato plants are purchased by JAM and given to the recipients with the other seeds.

They also appreciate if seeds for corn and bush beans are purchased in bulk!

## Types of Seeds

Beets  
Broccoli  
Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Corn  
Cucumbers  
Green/ Bush Beans  
Herbs  
Lettuce  
Melons  
Peppers  
Radishes  
Spinach/Greens  
Squash/Pumpkins  
Turnips  
Corn & Bush Beans in bulk

## We Help

Person who has lost jobs  
Senior Citizens  
Families on Low Income  
Families on Fixed Income

## Last Year's Report for 2025

2,529 Gardens  
35,300 lbs. Seed Potatoes  
44,700 Baking Potatoes  
20,700 Tomato Plants  
Donations from 14 states

If you don't want to shop for seeds, we always welcome cash donations.

I will be collecting through April 5<sup>th</sup>! There is a box located in the back of the sanctuary for your donations. As well as some flyer regarding the program. Any questions, please see Amy Anos, **(330)718-3717**.

*Thank You! Amy*

## **God's Gift of Humor**

"One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up; stood beside the little boy and said quietly. "Good morning, Alex." Good morning, Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" The pastor replied, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible, and trembling with fear asked, "Which service, the 8:00 or the 10:30?"

## **Easter's Glory** **By May Smith White**

I feel a kinship with this spring-swept day,  
Like birds that nest among the leafy boughs.  
Spring flaunts her beauty here in bold array,  
As earth keeps time with true unwritten vows.  
The countryside now burns with golden flame  
Since jonquil buds unfolded through the night;  
Their modesty calls forth no special fame....  
    Each gives it glorious color in delight.  
    Today I yearn to hold this spring anew,  
    To feel its free and brightly surging life,  
    Knowing God is always watching too,  
    Guarding our lives against all seeming strife.  
And now to hear once more the age-old story,  
The resurrection plan through Easter's glory.

*History Highlights*  
*By Nancy Malone (Church Historian)*

*(continuing the story of Katy Black's collection of plates)*

The unusual request from Katy Black who resides in Crawfordville, Florida.

For a number of years, Katy has been collecting Methodist Church plates and is attempting to contact each church. She has a plate done in green paint and showing "First Methodist Church – 1908 – 1951".

09 December 2002

Our church historian since 1995, Doris Bollinger, sent a letter to Katy Black, in response to her request for information about our church.

To quote Doris: "Give me a few days and I will have gathered information to send to you about the interesting history of our church. There will be no charge.

21 December 2022

Dear Mrs. Black,

The plate that you have, dated 1908-1951, is of the "Fourth Church". It was built in 1908 and was completely destroyed by fire on 01 October 1951.

Our "Fifth" and current church has been built on thirteen (13) acres on a hillside overlooking the city of Niles, Ohio.

Another note of interest is that President William McKinley was born in Niles.

His parents were active in the founding of the Methodist Church, which is the oldest church in Niles.

In April 2002, we celebrated our 188<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Thank you again for your interest in our Church. Please contact me, if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,  
*Doris Bollinger*

# RACHEL CIRCLE

Our meeting, 11 February, opened with a greeting, prayer and grace.

Eight (8) members and one (1) guest attended and enjoyed our homemade sack lunches. JoAnn Baugh, our hostess, served a delicious chocolate cake. Adorable gnome decorations were won by Reverend Jennifer Wellington and Pat Pfeifer.

In our business meeting, we were reminded that in March, we will prep for Community Meals on Wednesday of each week.

Our hostess for our March meeting will be Nancy Malone.

Rebecca Hanks gave the program reading two (2) Valentine stories from the "Good Old Day" magazine. Pictures were shared of when we were young. We attempted to guess who belonged to which picture. Rebecca will put the pictures into a collage and put it in the back of the church on Sunday to see how well the congregation can match the pictures to the ladies of Rachel Circle.

*Submitted by [Rebecca Hanks](#)*



**Pat Pfeifer is a 'winner'!!**

Can you guess who these babies are as woman today??

*Rachel Circle's Quiz*  
① Who are these women today?  
-hint at bottom of poster

*Linda Hayden, Joan Rice, Rebecca Jacobs*  
*Merridy Pope, Nancy Malone, Jennifer Williams*  
*Pat Phillips*  
*Kathie Hayley* ③ *Jo Ann Bough*

*to match*  
*Merridy Pope*  
*Jennifer Williams*  
*Joan Rice*

# Ladies of Rachel Circle





**PLEASE HELP DECORATE OUR WORSHIP SERVICES FOR  
EASTER WITH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS**

Please call your order in to the office, **330-652-1439**, or place orders in the offering plate or mail them to the church. Make checks payable to "Niles First UMC" putting "Easter Flowers" in Memo.

**PLEASE PRINT**

**Order Deadline is 08 March 2026**

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

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

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>No. of Plants</u>
Hydrangeas	\$ 16.75	_____
Easter Lilies	\$ 9.00	_____
Red Tulips	\$ 8.00	_____
Yellow Daffodils	\$ 8.00	_____
Purple Hyacinths	\$ 8.00	_____

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

**NOTE: Plants may be taken home after 11:00 am**

**Easter Sunday Service, 05 April 2026**

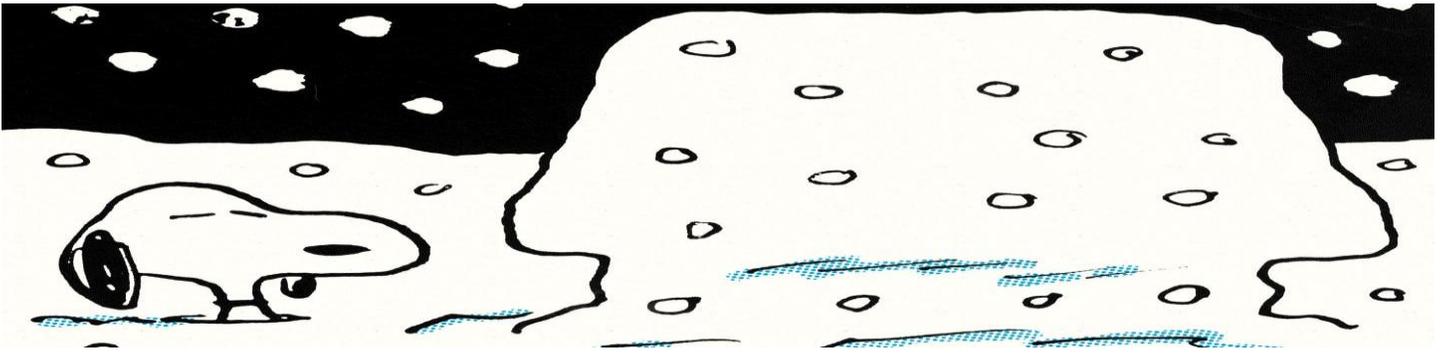
**PLEASE PRINT**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>Niles Com. Pantry</b> Items: Tuna, canned meat & chicken						
<b>1 Coffee/ Refreshments</b> 9:30 Service <b>Amy Anos</b>	<b>2 Terri Johnson</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Rev. Jennifer Wellington</b> Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Bran Duncan</b>
<b>8 Coffee</b> 9:30 Service  <b>Pat King</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 am <b>Board Mtg</b> 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> <b>Rachel Circle</b> 12:30 pm in <b>Good News Rm</b> Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Coffee</b> 9:30 Service <b>Kathie Hafely</b>	<b>16 Amy Anos</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 am	<b>18</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Tom Gudaitis</b> <b>Coffee</b> 9:30 Service <b>Rebecca Hanks</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 am	<b>25</b> <b>Carol Roberts</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	<b>26</b> <b>Debra Fink</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Coffee</b> 9:30 Service  <b>Joan Ries</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Quilters</b> 10:00 am				



*Niles First United Methodist Church  
608 Crandon Avenue  
Niles, Ohio 44446*