



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 Hoso

An Invitation to Slow Down

By Rev. Jennifer Wellington

On my recent trip to Spain, I was given a rare and sacred gift: time set apart. Time for reflective retreat, days of deep silence, and the physical and spiritual journey of pilgrimage along El Camino de Santiago and into the Valley of Silence. Sharing this experience with my wife made it all the more meaningful, and it is something for which I will always be deeply grateful.

Even now, I sense that the full weight of what I experienced has yet to settle. I suspect it will take time before I can fully articulate how this journey has shaped my soul, but as I prepare to step back into the rhythms and responsibilities of everyday life, one lesson rises clearly above the rest: **Slow down.**

I don't know about you, but I've come to recognize how much of my life is spent rushing—from one commitment to the next, chasing deadlines, checking off lists, and constantly feeling as though I am falling behind. Too often, the expectations I struggle to meet are the ones I have placed upon myself.

On the Camino, the pace was different. Walking mile after mile, there was no rushing—only the steady rhythm of one step after another. In the silence, I began to notice things I often overlook: the sound of the wind, the texture of the path beneath my feet, the little birds calling out to me, the quiet movement of my own thoughts and prayers. In slowing down, I discovered not emptiness, but fullness.

While I know it will take time to fully understand all the ways this journey has impacted me, one truth is already taking root: a slower life is not a lesser life. It is a more attentive, more present, and perhaps a more faithful way of living.

So as I return to the familiar pace of daily life, I carry this question with me—and I offer it to you as well: Where might God be inviting us to slow down? In that same spirit, as a small gift, if you've read this far, reach out to me—the first person to call, text, or email about this "gift of slowing down" will get to choose the hymns we'll sing in June! I am looking forward to what God will guide you to pick.

My hope is that we can learn together to walk—not rush—through the days we are given.

Buen Camino,

Rev. Jennifer Wellington



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

Maria Allen

Evie Rice

Tony & Lolly Symcheck

Please contact the office for correct addresses and/or telephone numbers.

Daniel R. Taneyhill Sr. 1937-2026



We bid farewell to Mr. Daniel Robert Taneyhill Sr., a man of gentle demeanor, hardworking, unwavering affection and enduring joy. May he rest in peace as we honor a life filled with purpose, love of family, faith and a mind that is now free in the hands of God.

MOVING TO THE CHAPEL

We are moving into the Chapel on May 3rd and will stay there until December 6th. As you know, we want to utilize all the space we have in this beautiful church.

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 15th of the month by 10:00 am. If the 15th 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.

Hey, let's do something special!!! So, do you remember what year you started coming to this church?? We haven't done this in a long time, and I think it's time we do a little celebration of everyone and share how long you have attended Niles FUMC and share some great memories that you have. Starting April 12th, I will have a little questionnaire, just a small one of questions about the years you have been attending. I want to celebrate you and our church this year and make known of all our members who have supported, cared and prayed for this church over the years!

Thank you and many blessings - Patrice

You're Invited Please join Heidi and David Moyers in celebrating the graduation of their son, Andrew Moyers, from Liberty High School. The party will be held on Saturday, June 13th from 2:00– 5:00 at Churchill United Methodist Church in Liberty!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

We finished our seed collection on March 31st for the Jackson Area Ministries Green Thumb Project!

I am delighted to say that we collected 124 seed packets! I am so grateful for this church family and your continued generosity!

This ministry provides a way for us to help others less fortunate but also to teach them how to help themselves! Again, thank you for supporting this very worthwhile ministry! *Amy Anos*

RACHEL CIRCLE

Our circle met in the Good News Room on 08 April at 12:30 pm with eight (8) people in attendance.

After a delicious sack lunch and much conversation, we had a short business meeting. We completed our arrangements for our event outing at the Hartville Kitchen and Theater on 21 May.

We received a thank you note from Arya Duncan for our contribution for her trip to Disney World with the Niles Band. She plans to show pictures and tell us about her trip at our June meeting.

Our meeting was just after Easter, so the program was about past Easters and how things have changed. However, the message is still basically the same....Jesus died for our sins and rose to victory on the third day. This is good news and our calling is to share it with our world!

Submitted by, Rebecca Hanks

Our beautiful altar area on Easter Sunday!!





What is Memorial Day?

A day of remembrance, reflection, and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice made by service members through out American history.

Historical Background ~~ Memorial Day traces its roots to the years following the Civil War, when widows/mothers/etc. began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers.

On 25 April 1866 in Columbus, Mississippi, "The Ladies Memorial Association" (a lady's group) decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Memorial Day was originally called "Decoration Day", celebrated 30 May 1868. Flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

Federal Holiday ~~ After World War 1, Memorial Day became a day to honor not only Civil War casualties but American military personnel who died in all wars.

In 1971, Congress officially declared Memorial Day a federal holiday and observance was moved to the last Monday in May.

Moina Michael who was inspired by John McCrae who wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields", wrote a poem on 9 November 1918, in response called "We Shall Keep the Faith". The opening line of "In Flanders fields the poppies blow / Between the crosses row on row," – Moina Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in the war.

Moina Michael was a professor at the University of Georgia and taught a class of disabled servicemen. Realizing the need to provide financial and occupational support for these servicemen, she pursued the idea of selling silk poppies as a means of raising funds to assist disabled veterans. In 1921, her efforts resulted in the poppy being adopted as a symbol of remembrance for war veterans.



Our Church welcomes Spring in all its beauty!!



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

(NANCY MALONE/HISTORIAN)

Hats off to Mom was celebrated at 6:30 pm on 07 May 2003 at the Niles First United Methodist Church.

Greeters were MaryAlice Neiss and Gladys Morrison. Guests were welcomed by Kathie Hafely and Sharon French gave the invocation before dinner.

Linsey Harris paid tribute to mothers and Rhonda Harris paid tribute to daughters, and the men of our church family served dinner.

The program "Just the two of us" was enjoyed with Bill Smith on the keyboard and Jane Christopher as vocalist.




The closing song "Edelweiss" was sung by all in attendance.

A special thanks was extended to John Johnson for the program cover illustration. And, our church "Hot Lady" Gladys Morrison was thanked for the display of her beautiful hat collection.

God's Gift of Humor

The pastor decided to skip church one Sunday morning and go play golf. He told his assistant he wasn't feeling well. He drove to a golf course in another city, so nobody would know him. He teed off on the first hole. A huge gust of wind caught his ball, carried it an extra hundred yards and dropped it right in the hole, for a 450-yard hole in one! An angel looked at God and said, "What'd you do that for?". God smiled and said "Who's he going to tell?"



	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Niles Com. Pantry Items: Assorted Condiments						
					1	2
3 Amy Anos Coffee 9:30 Service (Chapel)	4	5 KEVIN PARSONS Quilters 10:00 am	6 Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	7	8 	9
10 Pat King Coffee 9:30 Service 	11	12 Quilters 10:00 am	13 DAVID HAMILTON Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	14 JOEY TOTH	15	16 
17 Arya Duncan Coffee 9:30 Service	18	19 Quilters 10:00 am	20 Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	21 Rachel Circle Event	22	23
24 Joan Ries Coffee 9:30 Service	25 	26 Quilters 10:00 am	27 PAT KING Bible Study 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	28	29	30 PATRICE KISH
31 Rebecca Hanks Coffee 9:30 Service						



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