

# 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....**

**Organist/Pianist ... Bonnie Hamer**

**Groundskeeper/Custodian....**

**John Hoso**

Grace and Peace Niles UMC,

Have you heard of the spiritual practice of “praying the Scriptures?” I love this practice. Praying the Scriptures is when you read a passage, meditate on it a bit, then intentionally pray using the words and ideas that come to mind as a result. I LOVE praying on the Psalms. Sometimes, I write them down. I wanted to share one with you. The following is a prayer based on Psalm 15. May it be a light to you, both illuminating the way and exposing the dark places.

“God, I want to live under your tent. I want to be secure in your love. I want a mountaintop experience. Give me the strength and desire to make the climb. We don’t just get to the mountaintop. We must make the journey there. Thank you for not making me climb alone.

I want to be blame free. Your Spirit makes clear when I am not and comforts me in those moments. Bring healing and restoration to those on the receiving end of the actions of which I

am guilty. I want to do what is right for you and those around me.

May your Spirit guide my tongue and empower me to speak truthfully and sincerely. Words can do more damage than most physical weapons. I do not want my words to hurt myself or others.

I miss my friends. May your Spirit remind me that doing no harm to them is just the first step. I want to love them. May my neighbors know no insult because of me. Please reveal to me how I have caused them harm so that I can repair it if possible.

God you despise wickedness but do not destroy the wicked. Instead, you seek to change them into people who honor and love you. You seek to change them into people who love your creation as much as you do. When I have been wicked, change my heart to be more like you.

I have made promises. Honoring promises and being honest with others is important to me. But I am not perfect. Forgive me for my broken promises. Give me the strength of will to forgive those who break their promises to me.

I want to give without expectation of getting back. If someone needs from me, may I remember you gave everything and expect no payment. You have called us to be givers, not lenders. May I be a giver.

The innocent are vulnerable, especially to those that seek to harm them. May I never be swayed to hurt an innocent person. May I never be swayed to hurt anyone.

God, guide my footstep along the path of mercy and justice that you have paved. Please don't let me stumble but be with me to pick me up if I do. Amen."

*Pastor Shane Russo*

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**WORSHIP INFO** ~~ Beginning 03 October 2021 - Masks are required for anyone, 2-years old and above, while worshipping or interacting with others in the building. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. You may also watch services on our live stream beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please continue to stay healthy and practice social distancing. Thank you for your understanding.

*LISTENING TOUR TIMES & PLACE*

**(sign-up sheets are located on the table in the Narthex)**

03 October 2021	11:00 am	Good News Room
17 October 2021	11:00 am	Good News Room

**~~FINANCES FOR August 2021~~**

Invoices	\$ 5,395.00
Payroll	\$ <u>4,640.00</u>
Total	\$ 10,035.00
Income (Tithes and offerings)	\$ <u>9,242.00</u>
<b>MINUS</b>	<b>\$ 793.00</b>

**LITURGISTS**  
**FOR THE MONTH OF October 2021**

03 Joan Ries                                  17 Peggy Sansom  
10 Angela/Carmen Russo    24 Leona Krepps  
31 Linda Belcastro

*Bible Study will start on Sunday, 03 October, at 9:00 am in the Good News Room with Pastor Shane.*

*Prayer Team will start on Wednesday, 06 October, at 11:00 am in the Good News Room with Ed Fair.*

Pastor appreciation day is Sunday, 10 October, we would like to show our new Pastor how much we appreciate him and his willingness to teach us the word of God. If you would like to give, please write in memo on your check "Pastor Appreciation". The deadline is Friday, 08 October. Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Patrice Kish at **330-718-7134**.

**The Community Outreach and Missions Committee** would like to express their deepest appreciation to everyone who donated school supplies and money to purchase items for this school year. We were able to fill four (4) back packs with all the necessary supplies for four (4) primary children, plus donate supplies to all four (4) schools in Niles and to Prospect Elementary second grade in Girard. Thank you again for supporting this project that helped many children in our community.

The 08 September **Rachel Circle** meeting was held in the church Fellowship Hall. There were fourteen (14) ladies in attendance. The program was presented by Pastor Shane Russo on what experiences in his life led him to the ministry with a question-and-answer session afterward. A very nice afternoon was had by all ladies in attendance.

The 13 October Rachel Circle meeting will be our annual hot dog roast. It will be held at the home of Linda Belcastro, 120 Mill Creek Road, Niles. The meeting will start at 5:00 pm. A very interesting program will be given by Todd Hanks on his three (3) week hike on the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. Please bring a lawn chair if possible. All ladies of the church and guests are cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP to Linda (**330-652-1628**) or Becky (**330-652-1597**).

Also, 15 October is the fall hike. Meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am and bring a sack lunch. If you are interested in attending, please let contact Linda. *Linda Belcastro*

# PRAYER LIST

Revised Sept. 2021

PASTOR SHANE RUSSO 330-540-1677  
PEGGY SANSOM 330-766-7964

## BRANCH #1

**Joyce Bowman**  
330-652-7604 (H)  
330-770-5788 (C)



**Sharon Hamilton**  
330-652-0366



**Joyce Lukz**  
330-544-0015 (H)  
330-507-3348 (C)



**Marilyn DeCesare**  
330-349-4457



**Ann Wright**  
513-752-0577  
(daughter's phone no)



**Amy Anos**  
330-726-0672

## BRANCH #2

**Merrily Rogers**  
330-360-1585



**Judy George**  
330-652-6925



**Carol Rathburn**  
330-647-2214



**Barb Caldwell**  
330-652-6117 (H)  
321-271-7440 (C)



## BRANCH #3

**Kathie Hafely**  
330-544-1607



**Donise Smith**  
330-652-2001



**Edward Fair**  
330-240-4003



**Phyllis Gudaitis**  
330-544-1649

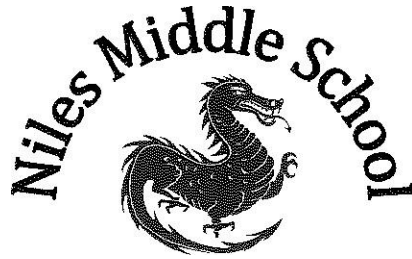


1. If you cannot reach your contact, leave a voicemail or text and CALL ON to the next person.
2. Calls need to be short and precise (example: "medical healing" or physical healing).
3. Any questions, contact Pastor Shane or Peggy Sansom.

Sam Reigle  
Principal, 41 1 Brown St.

Leah Marsh  
Assistant Principal (330) 652-5656

Brian McConnell  
Dean of Students [www.nilescityschools.org](http://www.nilescityschools.org)



NilesOhio 44446

(330) 652-9158-Fax

August 25, 2021

Dear Niles First United Methodist Church Members, Peggy Sansom, And Joyce Bowman,

On behalf of the Niles Middle School staff and students, I wanted to take this opportunity and thank you for your generosity and support of our Dragon Pantry. This generous donation of school supplies that we have received from you and the church congregation is greatly appreciated. The school supplies that you have provided will support our students at Niles Middle School, who are greatly in need of these items. Your kindness will go a long way towards giving a child the opportunity to feel valued within their Niles School community.

GO DRAGONS !

Sincerely,

Sam Reigle  
Principal, Niles Middle School

Leah Marsh  
Assistant Principal, Niles Middle School

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*From Niles Primary School ~~~*

*Thank you for the donation  
of backpacks and supplies!*





Back by popular demand the Men's Club will be having a **Fall Sub Sale!!** We will start taking orders 26 September. There will be a small table in the back of the Sanctuary with the order forms. If you have any questions, please contact Bob or Patrice Kish **330-718-0446 or 330-718-7134**. Last day to order will be 31 October with pick up 06 November in Bauman Hall from 9:00 am til noon. This fundraiser has helped many groups within the church and the community. We appreciate all of you and **THANK YOU** for your support.

Many of you know September was our month for **Community Meals** and we had five (5) Thursdays. It made for such a long month of meals. But it was worth it! The need is out there and our church members, our friends and family reached out and helped in such a way that we could fulfill the need of many. I don't have a final number because at the time you are reading this, we will still have 2 more meals to serve. But so far, we have served 416 meals. This ministry is near and dear to a lot of us. I will have another article next month to let you know our final total along with a heart wrenching story of gratefulness. Thank you—*Patrice Kish*

*~~Beautiful fall table located in the Narthax done by Elaine Walker.~~*



Dear Parishioners:

For years, the Niles First United Methodist Church Family has celebrated "All Saints Sunday", the first Sunday of November. This year "All Saints Sunday" will be celebrated on Sunday, 07 November. It will be a special time to thank the Lord for our Church members and family members who have entered Paradise in the past year.

During the service, your loved one's name will be read aloud, and a bell tolled in remembrance of them. At this time, as well, we would like family members or friends to come forward and light a candle signifying that the light of their and your love still burns brightly.

We are also requesting that you might be willing to offer one or two pictures that we can share on our main screen. You may bring those to the office or e-mail them to Leona Krepps, Church Secretary, [office@nilesfirstumc.org](mailto:office@nilesfirstumc.org) by Tuesday, 26 October, before noon.

Thank you for considering this special worship service as we honor the Lord by remembering our loved ones.

Currently, we are requesting that masks be worn. You may also watch services on our live stream beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please continue to stay healthy and practice social distancing. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office, **330-652-1439**.

In Christ Service,  
Blessings,

*Pastor Shane Russo*

Pastor Shane Russo

**The Gift of Life** (Clay Harrison) ~~~





The gift of life is ours today, to mold and shape like blocks of clay. Each day unveils an open door, that wasn't open there before. The gift of life is ours today, to use before it ticks away. Like sand within an hourglass, for this day too is soon to pass. Our yesterdays have all been spent; they can't be saved or sold or lent. The gift of life is ours today, to worship, work or rest and play. The hours pass so quickly by, we sometimes laugh and sometimes cry. There is so much we need to do if we would have a dream come true. Who knows which day will be our last before it fades into the past? Our time is precious, come what may --- The Gift of Life is Ours Today!



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|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 03 Jane Albright   | 08 Nicholas Parsons | 24 Bonnie Hamer |
| 05 Bill Jones      | 11 George John      | 25 Hanna Bond   |
| Karen Zavasnik     | 13 Shane Hafely     | 29 Becky Hanks  |
| 07 Ed McKenzie     | 15 Jon Bowman       | 30 Diana Hafely |
| 08 Kathleen Nelson | 17 Joan Ries        | 31 Reva Weddell |





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<b>3 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>  Bible Study 9:00 am Listening Tour @ 11:00 am	4	5	6 Prayer Team @ 11:00 am Choir @ 6:00 pm	7	8	9
10 Bible Study 9:00 am 	11 	12	13 Prayer Team @ 11:00 am Rachel Circle @ 5:00 pm Choir @ 6:00 pm	14	15	16 
17 Bible Study 9:00 am Listening Tour @ 11:00 am	18	19 Leadership Meeting @ 6:00 pm	20 Prayer Team @ 11:00 am Choir @ 6:00 pm	21	22	23
24 Bible Study 9:00 am <hr/> 31 Bible Study 9:00 am 	25	26	27 Prayer Team @ 11:00 am Choir @ 6:00 pm	28	29	30

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