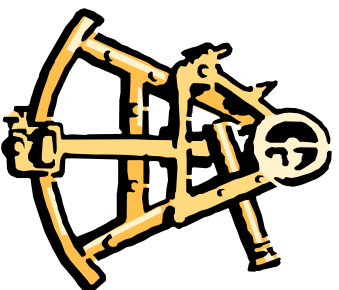


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



April



THE NAVIGATOR

April, 2018

*From the
Pastor*



APRIL 2018

The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message.

And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

Matthew 28:8-10/NLT

Dear Church Family,

On Good Friday something good happened although it was hard to look at. Did you ever have to take a detour? Take another way to get to your destination? Jesus paid the price for our sins and through him we have entrance into the presence of God once again. Human kind has lost fellowship with a Holy God through the actions of the first Adam, (Genesis) but now through the second Adam (Jesus) we have reconciliation with God. (Romans 5:14-19)

It came at a high price however and we have to take a look at that reality before we arrive at the empty tomb. In other words no Easter Joy without Good Friday truth.

No detour possible here. This is how Max Lucado describes it to us: "Clavary is not a mental trip. It is not an intellectual exercise. It's not divine calculation or a theological principle. It's a heart splitting hour of emotion. Don't walk away from it dry-eyed and unstirred, don't just straighten your tie and

clear your throat. Don't allow yourself to descend to Calvary cool and collected. Please...pause. Look again. Those nails in those hands. That's God on the cross. It's us who put him there."

And that is why when the women in our text recognize that it is Jesus, they bow down in worship of Him. What he had promised was fulfilled. There were many uncertainties waiting for them but Jesus was by their side and He would go with them all the way. What did he promise to them before he went back to heaven?

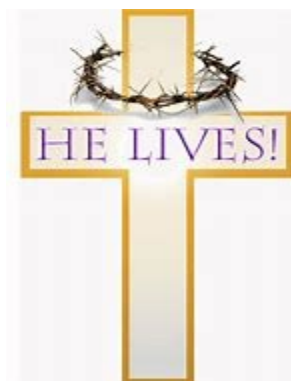
And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

Our upcoming events:

Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. with Communion

Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Resurrection Sunday at 10:00 a.m.



Please keep all of our Services and ministry outreaches here at our church in prayer.

**A few Selected Images from our Faith Builder Trip to the
“Holy Land Experience” and our Christian Movie Event
and dinner.**



02-28-2018 Faith Builder Trip (The Holy Land Experience)



Dinner and fellowship after the movie. (03-10-2018)

**Together in Mission:
Pastor *Attila Szemesi*/NPCUCC**

**Pastor Attila is in the office
Monday — Thursday
To schedule an appointment, Call the office—426-5580**

**Email:
npcuccpastor@frontier.com
Please Visit our Website: www.npccucc.org**

Annual Congregational Meeting



CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting for North Port Community United Church of Christ has been called by the Church Council for Sunday, April 29, 2018, immediately following the morning worship.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive all annual reports, elect officers, and approve the 2018-19 budget and any other business to be presented.

Annual Reports are due no later than April 8 and report booklets will be available on Sunday April 22nd for you to pick up and read carefully prior to the Annual Meeting on the 29th.



NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE

Saturday, April 14th

**Chicken Piccata Dinner
Followed by a Special Program
“How to Keep Yourself Safe!”**

**\$20 per person
Tickets are now on Sale**

Guest Speaker Brian MacNeel

Topics covered during his presentation:

- **What targets you as a potential victim?**
- **What steps can you take to make a burglar avoid your home?**
- **What is the most effective way to protect the glass in your home?**
- **Where are you most vulnerable?**
- **What should you do before and during a purse snatching and mugging?**
- **Is a stun gun a good defensive weapon?**
- **How do you protect yourself when traveling to hotels and motels or on vacation?**
- **How do you protect yourself from identity theft?**
- **What time of day do most burglaries occur?**
- **What are the chief complaints with Home Security Systems?**
- **How can a cell phone save your life?**

**North Port Community
1st Annual Faith Builder
Church Retreat**



**Thursday May 3—Saturday May 5
DaySpring Conference Center,
Parrish, FL
“A Sacred Place set Apart...”**



**Plans are falling into place nicely for our church retreat.
Reminder that final payments are due by April 4th.**

**Please check out the transportation sheet on the metal stand
for those who are willing to drive and those who wish to
carpool with someone.**

**Sign up sheets for zip lining, canoeing, snacks, etc. will
follow.**

**Questions??? See Sally Rutledge, Doug Minich, or call
the church office.**



**The Church Office
will be closed on
Easter Monday, April 2nd**

Singles Dinner Group



Singles are invited to meet for dinner at the Olde World Restaurant on April 12 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Louise Hall at 941-423-2213 for reservations or info.



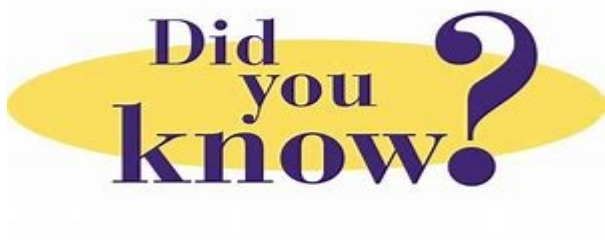
**Join Us
And invite your friends and neighbors**

**Palm Sunday
March 25—10:00 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service
March 29 -7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday Services
March 30—7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday
April 1—10:00 a.m.**



**Or should we ask...
Did you notice?**

Did you notice the new banners on the walls of the sanctuary? Well....they're actually not new.

Two years ago in January 2016 Council established a Banner and Paraments Fund in preparation for the celebration of the church's 50th Anniversary which will be March 2019.

Funds were collected over a period of time and as banners have become available at clearance prices, we have been picking them up a few at a time. We want to match the banners to our liturgical times of the year to coincide with the medallions that hang in the windows on the parking lot side of our sanctuary. We picked up most of them a year ago, just in time for Holy Week. (You may remember seeing them at that time). They have been sitting on the top shelf of the bookcase in the office since then. There are still a couple more to get to have all the correct liturgical seasons and as they go on clearance we will add them as well. But rather than keeping them on top of the bookshelf, don't you think they look nice on the walls?

We hope you enjoy our new look.





**Join us at
Shipwrecked VBS**



**June 18-22, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**North Port Community UCC
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287
941-426-5580
Email: northportucc@juno.com**

Ages 5-completion of grade 5



**Stories
Cool Crafts
Yummy Snacks
Fun Games
Lively Music**

Space is limited. Registration Closes When Full.

Memory Garden and Walkways

Do you know we have them?

I have been a member here for over 27 years and would like to talk about our Memory Garden and its walkways which are located to the left of the Church, in between the two buildings. It was started by the church when Pastor Richard Merrick's beloved wife Sarah passed away suddenly and the Garden was created, named and dedicated to her memory.

The Garden is a place where Ashes can be placed when a loved one dies. Their name goes on the Memorial Plaque hanging on the side wall of the Sanctuary. A fee of \$150 is charged for placement of the ashes in the Garden and the name on the plaque (or just the name on the plaque if you don't wish to place the ashes). If you would like more information about this, please call the church office and ask to speak with Patti. The fee is used to provide Perpetual Care of the Memory Garden.

The garden has changed over the years as storms such as Hurricane Irma have created some damage. My family and I redesigned the Garden several years ago and put in the brick walkways.

We have two walkways: The first was put in to honor church members and their families, either past or present. The second walkway was added to honor military veterans, police officers and firefighters who risk their lives protecting us.

I invite you to buy a brick and help us to continue the tradition! Bricks are \$50 each and they are sold at any time. Please see the display in the Narthex. I painted a picture of the Garden and it is hanging in the Narthex as part of the display.

The process is simple and easy – pick up a form, fill in what you want on the brick. You are allowed up to 3 lines with a maximum of 14 letters or spaces per line. Submit your form with a \$50 check made payable to the church. The bricks are ordered and when they come in, they are placed in the appropriate walkway.

So, again, I invite you to consider buying a brick to help us continue the tradition!

**Thank You
Sandy McKean**



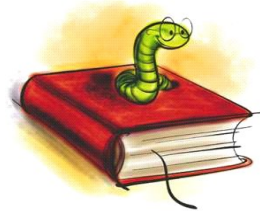
Two books were added to our grief support collection. The first is *“Reflections of a Grieving Spouse”* by H. Norman Wright. The author reveals how to count on God for strength and hope.

This is a compassionate and practical guide for surviving the loss of the one you love.

The next book *“Surviving the Loss of a Child”* by Elizabeth B. Brown is a book supporting grieving parents. Discover how you can go on living and reclaim hope in your heart.

Another new book is *“Right People, Right Place, Right Plan: Discerning the voice of God”* by Jentezen Franklin. Should I take the job? Marry that person? Move to the city?

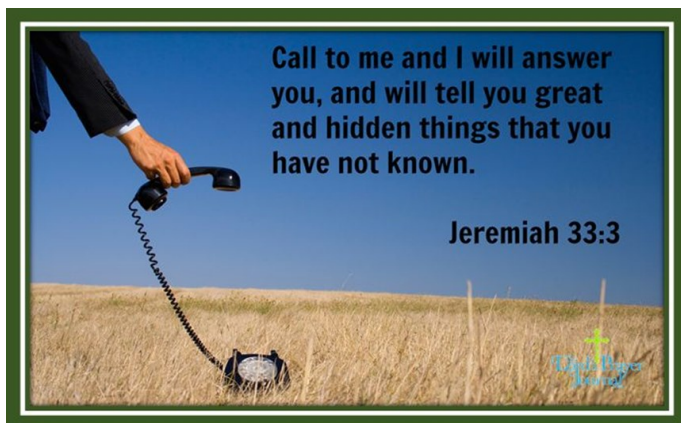
Questions are endless, but God has bestowed an incredible gift in the heart of every believer that gives sure and certain answers. The author reveals how, through the Holy spirit, you can tap into the heart and mind of the Almighty.



**Start your day with
Breakfast, Friends
And good conversation!**



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, April 4. Check the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for more details.



Call to me and I will answer
you, and will tell you great
and hidden things that you
have not known.

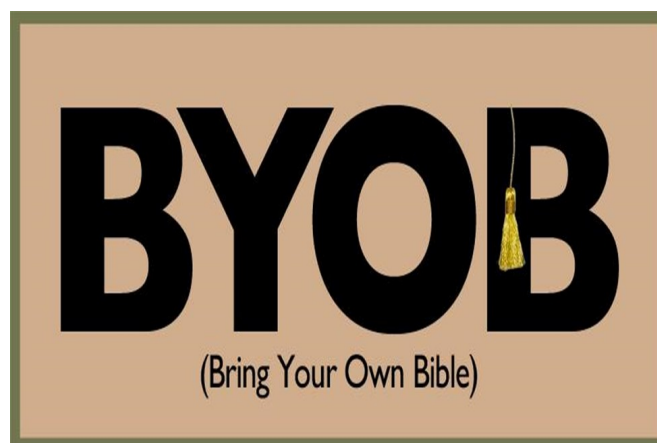
Jeremiah 33:3

**Prayer Line:
941-426-5580**

**(If you get the answering
machine, please call back)**

(*This is not a counseling line but a prayer line).

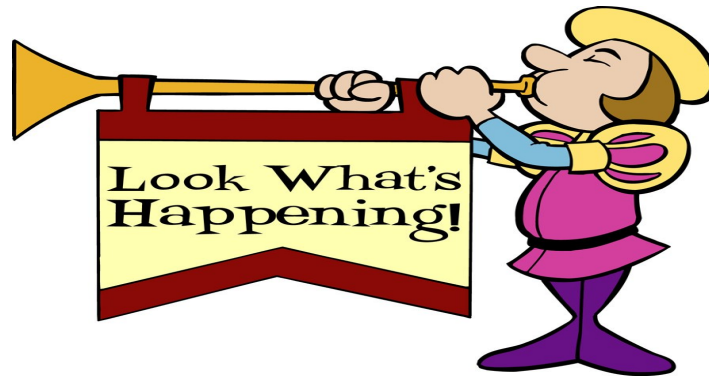
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



*No Matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are always welcome here!*

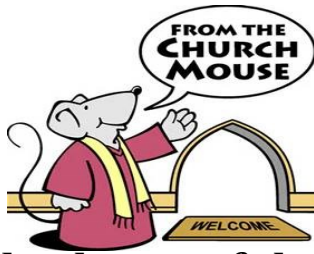


**Join us on Wednesday morning for
Morning Prayer
7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.**



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

March 22—24	Rummage Sale
March 25	Palm Sunday/Receive New Members
March 29	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00
March 30	Good Friday Service 7:00
April 1	Easter 10:00 a.m.
April 6	Passion Play Wauchula
April 14	Chicken Piccata Dinner & Speaker on Safety
April 29	Congregational meeting
May 3-5	Church retreat
May 20	Pentcost
June 18-22	Vacation Bible School



From the Church Mouse.....

What fun Pip and I had on the bus trip to Orlando. We stowed away under the back seat of the bus when no one was looking. Little did we know that's where they kept all the goodies to feed all those hungry travelers! Pip and I felt like country mice going to the big city. I think Pastor Attila and that man with the bald head may have spotted us once. I know that lady from the office who sat in the back saw us, but none of them said anything so we didn't get left behind. A great trip, especially when we got to see Jesus and all the disciples and Jesus' friends. Easter is next with lots and lots of things going on in the big room. Am sure we'll be seeing you around. Happy Easter!

Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**Attention knitters
and those who crochet!**

**Join us for prayer, knitting and fellowship. Tuesday,
April 10 & 24 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions?
Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Remember the 2nd Sunday is our Collection of Food for those who are hungry. We alternate months, going to Salvation Army and Face of Hope.

**Celebrating
50 Years
of Ministry!**

As you have been hearing about for several months now, our church will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in March of 2019. That is now 11 months away! We have a few “Indians” who stepped forward to volunteer, but no “Chief” yet. Remember, call the church office if you’d like to help us plan this event.



Dine to Donate!

Please continue to take your vouchers to Perkins each time you dine there. Perkins will collect the vouchers and quarterly send us a check donating 10% of the subtotal of everyone’s bills. A win/win for everyone. We appreciate your support of this program.

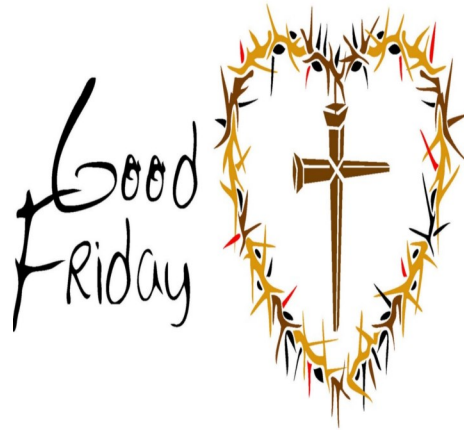
**Average monthly
attendance:**

**February 2017—180
February 2018—191**

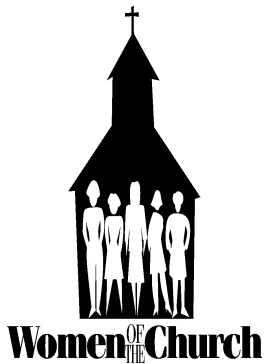
**Large enough to serve you;
small enough to know you.**



March 29
7:00 p.m.
Communion



March 30
7:00 p.m.



UCC Women wish to thank everyone who helped with the rummage sale.

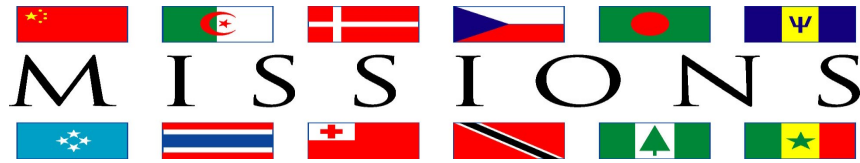
Our April meeting will be a week early to accommodate those heading north. Please join us on April 11th at ten for a meeting and lunch. Bring a sandwich to share.

All are welcome at any time.



Mission Focus for April

Our Mission focus for the month of April will be the File for Life Program and Hurricane Preparedness. You will hear more about these programs on April 15th.



ECHO, Mission To The World

What a pleasure it was to welcome Jack Olsen to our church on February 11th. We also met his wife, Abigail and their two little sons, Jarah and Eliam.

Following the video about ECHO's Intern Program, Jack spoke to us explaining what being an intern at ECHO has meant to him as he prepares for mission service in the future. He also shared his experience in Thailand at the ECHO Asia Agricultural and Community Development Conference, including the fact that he met Meg (our representing intern of last year).

He is hoping to be able to extend his stay at ECHO in the coming year. Then, at some time in the future, they hope to serve in Africa.

We, as a church, have set our goal for ECHO's Intern Program at \$838. Currently, we have collected \$510.35 toward this goal. We are \$327.62 short of our goal. There is still one more month to help us reach our goal by April 30th.

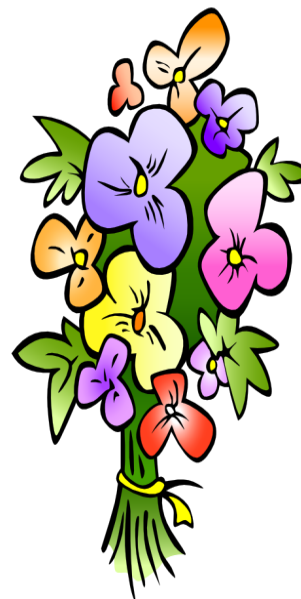
We thank you for your support of this mission outreach project. Thank you for your thoughts, gifts and prayers.

Sharon Miller, for the Missions Committee

April Birthdays:

April 1	Alden Miller
April 1	Charles Wolf
April 3	Don Lytle
April 3	Mary Jane Schaeferle
April 4	Tom Phillips
April 5	Wes Bates
April 10	Linda Reese
April 11	Dick Beach
April 12	Ann Schaffner
April 15	Dave DeRonde
April 25	Winona Vannoy
April 26	Lola Van Woert
April 29	Dee Krusz

Happy Birthday



Has a month passed and you did not see your name? Let us know, we'll be happy to add you to the list. Call the church office and let Patti know.



The following members and friends will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in April.

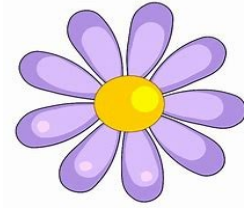
April 4 Neville and Barbara Miles



APRIL

ALTAR FLOWERS:

April 1	Mary Jane Schaeferle
April 8	Patti Bourque & Anne Smith
April 15	Agnes Bushey
April 22	Bob and Nancy Case & Doris Santella
April 29	DJ Covert

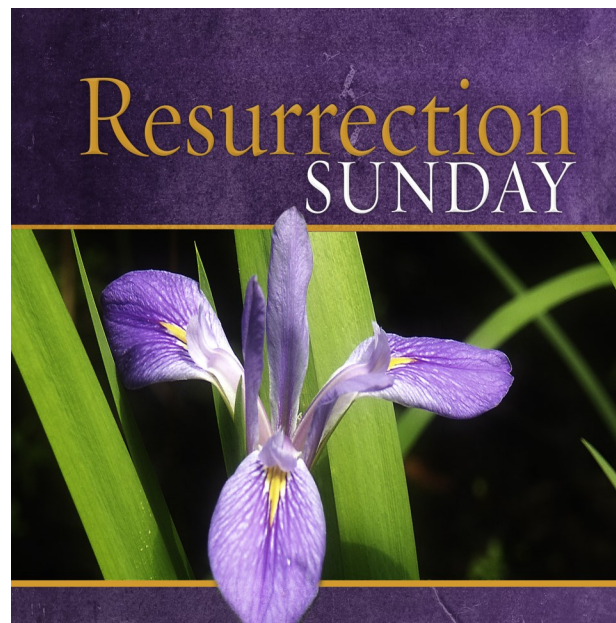


Thank you to:
North Port Natural Florist
Your “Green” Florist
13632 Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34287
426-1197

For providing us with our flowers every Sunday.

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?
DID YOU REMEMBER
YOUR CHURCH?

Our NPCUCC Vision:
“NPCUCC is a welcoming
congregation that
celebrates the diversity of
our members but focuses
on what we as Christians
have in common in order
to nurture growth and
healing.”



Join Us
Sunday, April 1—10:00 a.m.



NORTH PORT COMMUNITY U.C.C.

Rev. Attila Szemesi, Pastor

3450 S. Biscayne Drive

North Port, FL 34287

Phone: (941) 426-5580

Fax: (941) 426-7370

E-mail: northportucc@juno.com

******CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE******

www.northportucc.org

Visit us on Facebook

Check us out on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZOJIYvzmRjXqkRjYki-Gpw>

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Closed on Friday

Patti Bourque, Office Manager

Terry Hong, Office Assistant