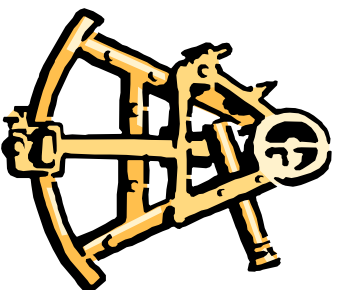


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

December, 2017



*From the
Pastor*



**December, 2018
THE BEST GIFT AGAIN!**

Dear Church Family,

Every year so it seems we hear from retailers and consumers WHAT the best gifts to give are. Every year it seems to be some new exclusive item. The one that just simply has to be on the Christmas shopping list. It is a good strategy to a successful business to get the word out about the best that they have to offer.

The best gift for us Christians is the birth of JESUS, the Messiah our Savior. This will not change, ever! This is the best gift of all. I decided to write down some of the scripture highlights telling the story of the arrival of this great gift.

Read it and enjoy it!

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 1:18/ESV*)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! (*Luke 1:39-42/ESV*)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” *(Matthew 2:1-2/ESV)*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” *(Luke 2:8-14/ESV)*

MAY WE ALL EXPERIENCE THIS GREAT JOY THAT THE SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR US! THIS WAS, IS AND ALWAYS WILL REMAIN THE BEST GIFT OF ALL.

Coming up on Saturday, January 20th our 3rd Annual Grief Seminar. More information will follow, soon.



I have selected a few photos of recent events here at the NPCUCC, for you to enjoy!



**Homeless to
Home
Networking
event at Heron
Creek in
North Port
(11-21-2017)**

**Getting the Sanctuary ready for Christmas! (11-27-2017)
Thank You.**



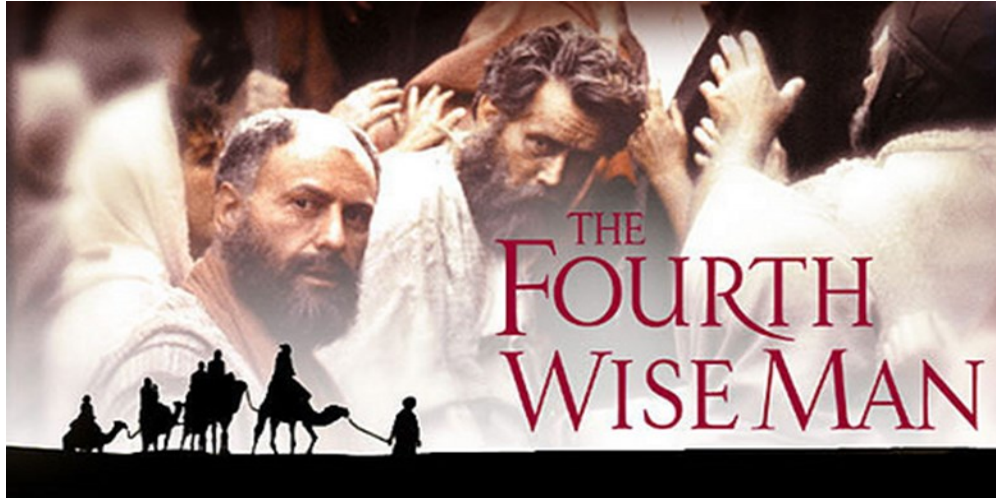


Getting the Sanctuary ready for Christmas! (11-27-2017)
Thank You.

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



He gave the greatest gift of all.

**THE GRIPPING STORY OF ONE MAN'S
UNSTOPPABLE SEARCH FOR THE
TRUE MEANING OF LIFE.**

Don't miss it!

**72 Minutes in Length – not rated
Concession Stand**

FREE MOVIE EVENT

**Saturday, December 2, 2017
3:00 p.m.**

**North Port Community U.C.C.
3450 South Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL. 34287
Please call 941-426-5580 to RSVP**

Join Us! Breakfast with Santa



December 9, 2017
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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



Breakfast:
\$5 for adults; Children 5-12 \$3.00
Children under 5 free

Bring your camera and have
your picture taken with Santa!

Children may also shop for
affordable gifts in our
Santa's Workshop.



Free craft area for children



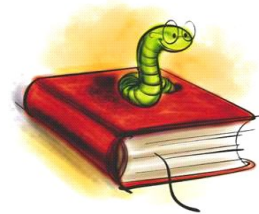
From the Library....

The church library has many holiday books for all ages. There are books for crafts, stories of love and giving, and many to read to your grandchildren!

There is even a book on the history of Santa Claus as well as books on the true meaning of Christmas. The books are scattered on the end of the shelves for you to see.

The Library Committee:

**Sandy McKean, Rebecca Brown
and Becky Rooney wish everyone
a Merry Christmas and blessings
for the New Year!**



Breaking News.....

Of course, Santa will be here for our annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 9th, but also.... we will have a special guest here!

Corrine Kiefer will be bringing her special little dog, "Pepe le Pew" all decked out in his special Christmas finery to meet and greet children of all ages! Thank you "Pepe" (and Corrine) can't wait to see you!





Women of the Church

The annual Christmas party this year will be hosted by Norma Beach in her home on Wednesday, December 13th. Please bring 3 dozen cookies for our homebound and nursing home family. Norma is preparing a Christmas ham. Those attending, please bring a dish to share (salads, Jello, potatoes, desserts, etc.) And don't forget your \$5 gift for the gift exchange. It is sure to be a fun time for all!

It's that time again to work on our annual Christmas for the Homeless project. Needed items, are t-shirts, underwear and socks.

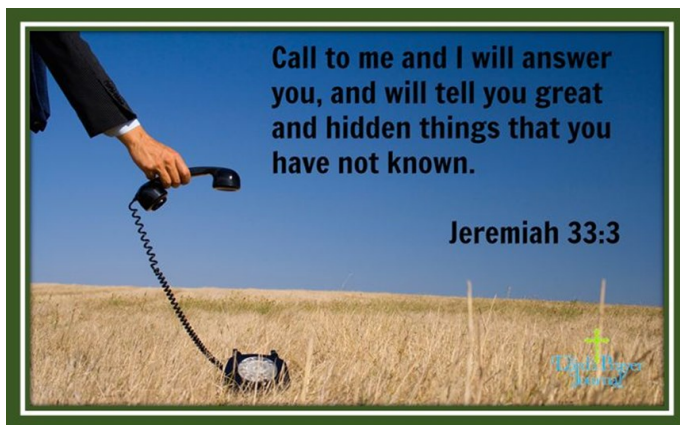


Thank you to all who helped with the Rummage Sale in any way—Another great success!

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



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, December 6. 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.

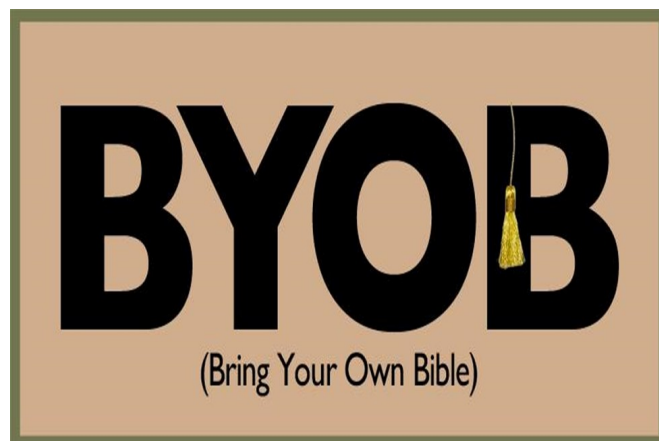
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

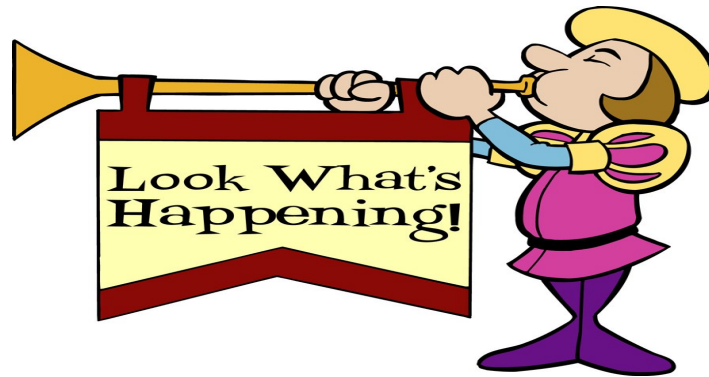
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



*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!

December 2	Movie — “The Fourth Wise Man”
December 9	Breakfast with Santa
December 9	Auditions for Lion, Witch, Wardrobe
December 17	Choir Cantata during worship
December 23	German Service 3:00 p.m.
December 24	Sunday Morning Service 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.
December 25	Merry Christmas!
January 20	Grief Seminar
February 3	Dementia/Alzheimer’s Seminar
February 8	UCC Women’s Annual Tea
February 24	Play: Lion, Witch, Wardrobe



**Plan now to
Audition!**

The church Drama Team, "The Message Players " of the North Port Community United Church of Christ are presenting "*The Lion, Witch, and The Wardrobe*" on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

This full stage production of C.S. Lewis's endearing fable is the first staged drama being offered by the church in a continuing effort to bring live theater and the Dramatic Word to our church family and the lives of those in the community.

Open auditions for the play will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Decker Hall.

Looking for children age 8 and older and Adults!!!

*****PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE ABOVE TO ONLY ONE DAY OF AUDITIONS! *****

Rehearsals will begin the week of January 8, 2018. Every effort will be made to accommodate cast members school schedules.



ASAP!!!!!!

**We are looking for 7 more people
to sign up for our
NPCUCC Bus Trip to
Holy Land in Orlando
and Cocoa Beach**



Tuesday, February 27—Thursday, March 1, 2018

Contact Margaret Cook at 231-679-0598.

Your \$75 deposit is now due.

**Call Margaret for information
on where to send your \$75 deposit.**

Flyers with complete information are in the Narthex.



**Thank you notes and letters have been
received from friends and members of
NPCUCC:**

**“We wish to thank everyone for their kindnesses and love
during our adjustment of Doug's brother's accident and
passing. Richard will be missed. Blessings to each of you.”**

Doug and Cindy Minich



From the Church Mouse.....

'Tis the Season that this church mouse and family just love.....Did you notice my nice new scarf? T'was made by the prayer shawl ladies last year! Lots of activity going on around in the big room these days. Trees and decorations and lots of lights going up all around the place. Hard working folks getting us all decorated. Getting our little ornament all ready to put on the tree too. Look to see if you can find it! Movie night is just around the corner and the perfect time to find some things to nibble on. Popcorn, yummmmm. Mrs. Mouse and Pip and I are getting excited for the man in the red suit and the yummy breakfast coming up real soon. That man in the kitchen really knows how to cook good stuff!!! Love all the little kids running around laughing and having such fun. Heard there's another special guest this year. Not sure how that little dog will like mice. Hope he doesn't find us peaking out underneath the tree and try to chase us. Merry Christmas to all.



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,
December, 12 & 26 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.



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.



Sold here!

**Stop in the church office during the week.
Great for gifts!**

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.”

Average monthly attendance:

October 2016: 114
October 2017: 122



**The Church Office
Will be closed on
Monday, December 25th
Christmas Day!**

Merry Christmas to all!

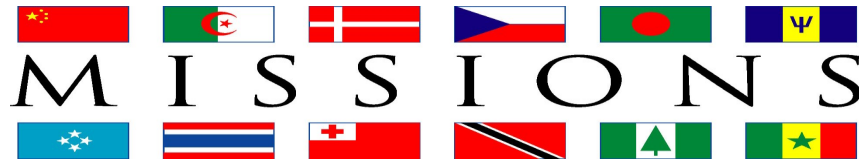
Lay Readers:

Dec. 3 Jeanie Doll
Dec. 10 Betty Van Tassell
Dec. 17 Lynn Sanford
Dec. 24 Cindy Minich
Dec. 31 Neville Miles

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



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



Our Mission for the month is our annual Christmas for the Homeless project. As in previous years, we are preparing our gifts for the Homeless within our community. Included in our gifts are toiletry items, underwear, socks, t-shirts, hats, etc. Please bring in your donations of underwear, socks, t-shirts, etc. right away so we can get everything packaged up in time for Christmas.

Also.....

The Annual UCC Christmas Fund offering will be received on Sunday, December 24th. A special envelope for your donation will be in the bulletin that Sunday. This fund, which is for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund, provides resources for our retired ministers. Please give generously!

We are still collecting Box Tops for Education, however we are sorry to report that we are no longer collecting Campbell's Soup Labels.



ECHO, Mission to the World

Recently, Alden and I had the privilege of meeting Jack Olson, his wife Abigail and their two little boys, Jarah and Eliam. Jack gave us a golf cart tour of the ECHO farm sharing with us the extensive damage from Hurricane Irma. It was heartbreaking to see so much devastation, yet so heartwarming to see the tremendous progress that has been made in recovery. God is so good! It could have been much worse!



Jack had just returned from his mission trip to Thailand for the ECHO Asia Agricultural and Community Development Conference. He reports— ***“It was wonderful”! He helped run the ECHO conference there and heard a number of fine speakers, visited the seedbank and partner villages. “It was good to see the research and training I am receiving here (at ECHO) having an impact on the communities there.” AND, he met Meg (our representing intern of last year) while there.***

Thank you to all who have and will support our Intern Program mission project this year. Jack and his family will be visiting with us in February 2018. We look forward to hearing from him personally.

By Sharon Miller for the Mission’s Committee

News for the Homeless to Home Luncheon

This month's "NEW" information that was picked up at the monthly Homeless to Home Luncheon relates to persons who are uninsured and can't afford prescriptions or doctor's visits.

There is a Good Samaritan Pharmacy and Health Services, Inc. program that operates in Nokomis. They provide a Free Walk-in Medical Clinic and their pharmacy dispenses FREE medications to pre-approved clients .

Their information is listed below:

**2502 N. Tamiami Trail
Nokomis, FL 34275
Sorrento East—Gate #3
Corner of Giotto Road and Rt. 41**

Phone: 941-445-5687

**Apply online or in Person
www.goodsamrx.org**

We have a flyer in the office that we can copy for you during the week if needed. Please call to request a copy if this is something you would be interested in.

December Birthdays:

Dec. 1	Angela Stolting
Dec. 3	Jeanie Doll
Dec. 3	Landon Livingston
Dec. 4	Hannah Padalik
Dec. 5	Annalisa Williamson
Dec. 5	Gregory Williamson
Dec. 5	Connie Szemesi
Dec. 5	Gary Tallman
Dec. 13	Dave Sanford
Dec. 15	Boo Vance
Dec. 22	Grace Johnson
Dec. 25	Sophia Bonsky
Dec. 25	DJ Covert
Dec. 28	Alex Szemesi
Dec. 29	Marian Holsinger
Dec. 30	Louise Hall
Dec. 31	Anne Smith



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 during December.

Dec. 6	Jim and Barbara Mills
Dec. 7	Gary and Nadyne Tallman
Dec. 17	Bob and Nancy Case
Dec. 21	Larry and Jeanie Doll
Dec. 23	David and Andrea St. Onge

December

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Dec. 3	Agnes Bushey
Dec. 10	Delores Edwards
Dec. 17	Arline Hughes
Dec. 24	Barbara Mervine
Dec. 31	Patti and Ed Boger



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.

Join us! Invite your friends and neighbors!



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17th
10:00 a.m.



7:00 p.m.
December 24th



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