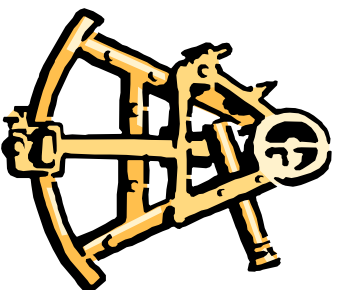


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

February, 2018



*From the
Pastor*



FEBRUARY 2018

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. *(Hebrews 12:1-2)*

Don't Panic!

Dear Church Family,

The Olympics are fun and exciting to watch. I especially enjoy the winter Olympics. These competitions as we see them unfold on the screen can motivate us to stay on course and run the race of life with PERSEVERANCE as the book of Hebrews puts it. Indeed perseverance can make all the difference.



(Donald Miralle/Getty Images)

There is such a story that comes out of the 2006 Winter Olympics. Norway's Frode Estil, who took a fall early on at the start of the 30 Kilometer Men's Pursuit Race. He still was able to finish strong and win the silver medal. Frode Estil continued in the race despite a broken ski. He was eventually able to replace it and finish the race in victory.



(Donald Miralle/Getty Images)

Amazingly he did not panic or give up, but continued because he kept his eyes on the prize — the medal.

Life can discourage us, break us down and even break our hearts...In fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, you and I will be able to win in 2018 one step and day at a time. Don't panic when life is hard; but with endurance and faithfulness, turn to Jesus. Ask Him to give you the strength for the journey. Don't give up on the impossible circumstances in your life. Pray without ceasing for your family, friends, health issues and financial breakthroughs.

Dear Friend whatever weighs hard on your heart and mind today, bring it to God and He will make a way and open the doors wide for your personal victory!

Enjoy some selected images from our 3rd Annual Grief Seminar. THANK YOU to ALL who helped, we are thankful and we could not have done it without your support. We are making a difference.



Please read our newsletter carefully for the many upcoming events here at our church. I am just highlighting one.

Please pray for our Drama Ministry and this exciting upcoming event here at the North Port Community UCC.



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



(Additional Grief Seminar Photo)

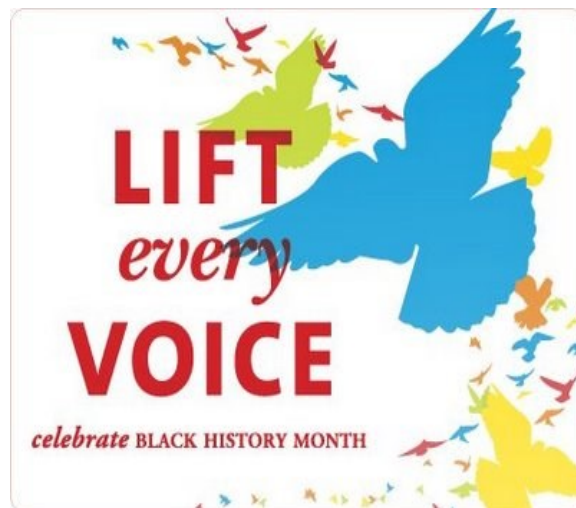
**Pastor Attila is in the office
Monday — Thursday
To schedule an appointment, Call the office—426-5580**

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



Ash Wednesday

**February 14
7:00 p.m. Service**



**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...”**



The details have been finalized and we are now ready to start taking reservations for our first church retreat.



SPACE IS LIMITED - We can only accept a maximum of 40 participants this year, so it will be important to sign up early if you wish to attend.

The price for the retreat will include accommodations for 2 nights lodging and six meals – Dinner on Thursday, 3 meals on Friday and 2 meals on Saturday.

**Double Occupancy - \$200 per person
Single Occupancy - \$275 per person (limited rooms available)
Children - \$75 per person**

There are just a few rooms which have bathrooms included. Others rooms will require 4-6 persons to share hall bathrooms.

SIGN UP NOW ON THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE LARGE METAL STAND. A \$50 deposit per person should be turned into the church office no later than February 28th. Final payment is due April 4th. Checks should be made payable to “NPCUCC Church Retreat”.



An informational gathering for those attending will be held in early March to go over additional details.

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

Singles Dinner Group
Note New Time and Location!



Singles are invited to meet for dinner at the Olde World Restaurant on February 8 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Louise Hall at 941-423-2213 for reservations or info.



**Lenten
Worship
Schedule**

Simple Supper & Study
February 21, and
March 7, 14, 21
Supper 5:00, Study 6:00

Palm Sunday
Choir Cantata
March 25—10:00 a.m.

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

Good Friday Services
March 30—noon and 7:00

Easter Sunday
April 1—10:00 a.m.



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
Saturday, February 24th
7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10.00 - now on sale!

Call 426-5580 for more info





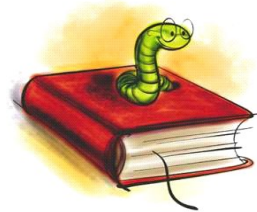
Lola Van Woert has donated many items to the church library. For those who enjoy reading fictionalized stories about people of the Bible, author D.S. Lliteras has written a trilogy involving the characters sorrowing the crucifixion of

Christ. The first novel is *“The Thieves of Golgotha”*. It is the dramatic portrayal of two felons and their final days: Nikos and Barabbas. Their story will forever change the way we understand the meaning of the crucifixion.

“Judas the Gentile” is the next book telling of the conflicted nature of his relationship with Jesus.

Third in the series is *“The Silence of John”*. Jesus died in the company of women and in the presence of the disciple, John. This story tells of the love, sorrow, and loyalty of the women present.

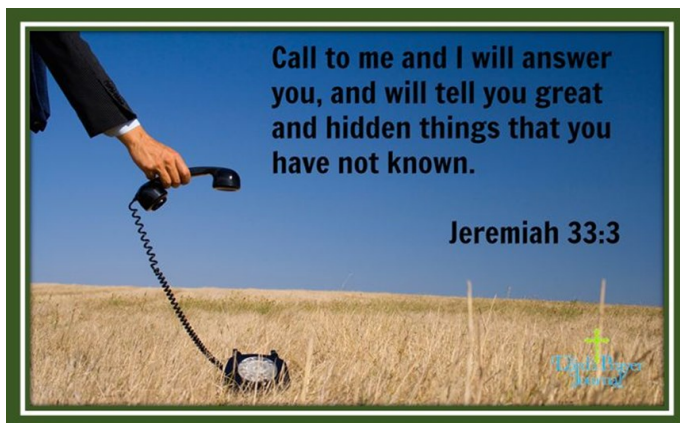
Thank you Lola!



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



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, February 7. 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.

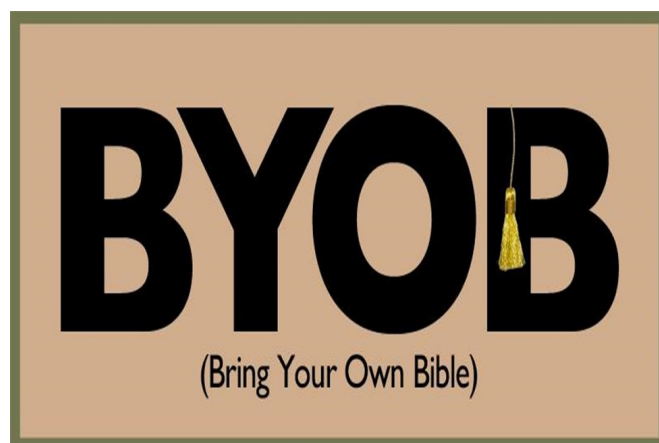
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

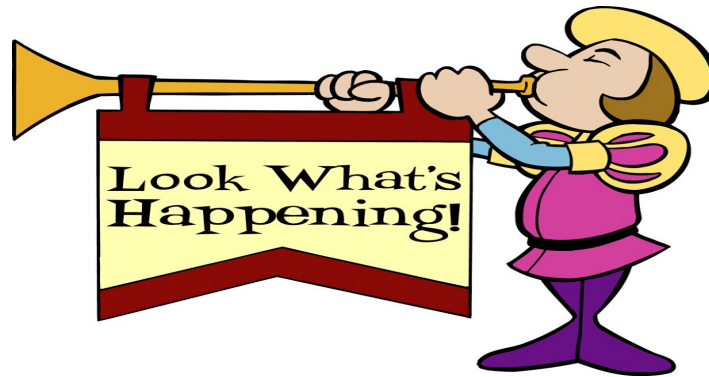
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



*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!

Jan. 29-Feb. 1	Pastor Attila in Haiti
February 3	Dementia/Alzheimer's Seminar
February 8	UCC Women's Fashion Show
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.
February 21	Simple Supper and Bible Study
February 24	Play: Lion, Witch, Wardrobe
Feb. 27-Mar. 1	Holy Land Bus Trip
March 4	New Member Class
March 7, 14 & 21	Simple Supper and Bible Study
March 10	Movie Event - "The Ride"

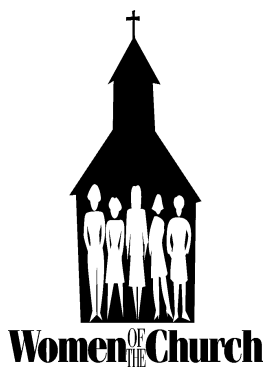


March 9, 1969 is the founding date of NPCUCC.

**That means that March 9, 2019 will be our
50th Anniversary!!!**

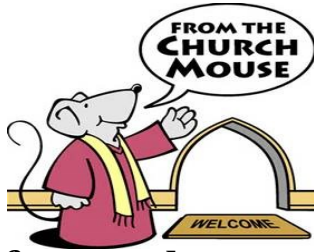
We're still looking for persons interested in planning an event to celebrate. Yes, it's still a year away, but we do need time to plan. Please call the church office to say you'd like to help plan this celebration.

Dates on our calendar:



Feb. 7	Women's Breakfast 8:30 at Olde World Restaurant
Feb. 7	Set up for Fashion Show
Feb. 8	Fashion Show
Feb. 21	Meeting
March 7	Women's Breakfast
March 21	Meeting
March 22-24	Rummage Sale





From the Church Mouse.....

All the big trees have gone away and the pretty lights have been packed up for another year. We will miss them, but hear lots of other things are coming in their place. People keep talking about Tea and Lunch and Lions and Witches and things. Everything keeps moving around this place. Hope the lion and the witch won't mind some little mice checking out what's going on. We know we have to be careful not to scare the women when they're having their tea and lunch because they are not too fond of little mice. It's good to see more of our snowy birds back again. Hope everyone stays healthy—it's not easy this year!

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,
February 13 & 27 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.



**The Church Office
will be closed on
Monday, February 19
In recognition of
President's Day**



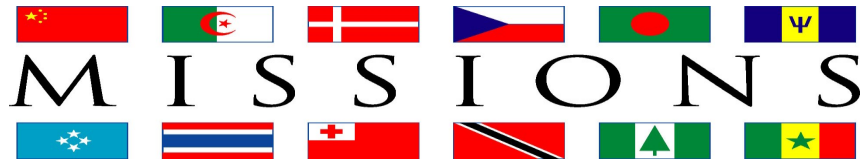
Dine to Donate!

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:**

Dec. 2016	141
Dec. 2017	170

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



February's Mission is our ECHO Intern Program.

As you remember, Jack Olsen, is our Intern Representative for this year. One of Jack's favorite Bible passages is John 1:1-18. For a while he has been working on memorizing it.

Verse 14 says "...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth".

Jack and his family are scheduled to visit us here at NPCUCC on Sunday, February 11, 2018. He will speak to us personally and share with us his experience of being an intern at ECHO. He will also share with us their dreams and plans for the future as they leave ECHO in May 2018.

We, as a church have set as our goal for the church year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$838. This amount is to cover the cost of health and life insurance for one month for one intern and International airfare to attend a conference at one of ECHO's Regional Impact Centers. Currently, we have only collected \$319.35 so we still have quite a way to go in order to reach our goal by the end of April.

Thank you for your support of this mission outreach project. Thank you for your prayers.

Sharon Miller, for The Missions Committee

February Birthdays:

Feb. 8	Emily Louke
Feb. 9	Margaret Cook
Feb. 12	Don Grim
Feb. 19	Agnes Bushey
Feb. 25	Gene Maples
Feb. 25	Barbara Mervine
Feb. 27	Marge Bates
Feb. 28	Lois Harris
Feb. 28	Howard Johnson
Feb. 28	Sally Rutledge
Feb. 28	Tony Vance

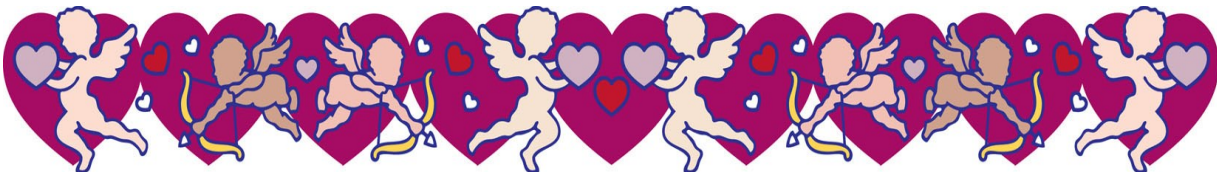


Has a month passed and you did not see your name? Let us know, we'll be happy to add you to the list. Call the church office and let Patti know.



The following members and friends will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during February.

Feb. 6	Louzan and Delores Edwards
Feb. 9	David and Lynn Sanford
Feb. 14	Larry and Sue Luther



FEBRUARY

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Feb. 4	Patti and Ed Boger
Feb. 11	Dave and Lynn Sanford
Feb. 18	Bob and Nancy Case
Feb. 25	Barbara Mervine



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.

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."

Lay Readers:

Feb. 4	George Hamilton
Feb. 11	Lynn Sanford
Feb. 18	Mary Maples
Feb. 25	Jeanie Doll



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



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