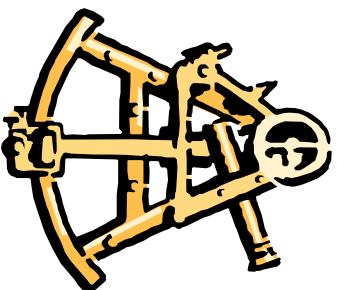


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# **THE NAVIGATOR**

## **January, 2018**

*From the  
Pastor*



**JANUARY 2018**

**Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)**

**Dear Friends,**

**Our health is a very important thing, worthwhile protecting. I have heard people say that if we don't have our health we have nothing! There is much truth in that statement because we are unable to enjoy anything around us if we don't have good health.**

**God created our bodies intricately and wonderfully as the Psalms declare. Corinthians says that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We do realize that as Christians and followers of Christ we have a God given mandate and responsibility to take good care of this body that God has given us. It makes good sense for we only have one.**

**Now, of course, there are health concerns that many people have that are so out of their control that one can do "nothing" about it; but there is a difference between that and outright abuse or neglect of the body.**

**There is a restaurant in Tempe, Arizona called "The Heart Attack Grill". Their slogan reads: "Taste ...Worth Dying For" and that is because it serves foods that are bad for you-actually artery clogging. On the menu you can order a greasy hamburger with four (yes, 4) half-pound patties. The name of the burger very befitting is "Quadruple Bypass".**

**Their fries “Flatliner Fries” are deep fried in lard (yes, lard - I was not aware that they still use that stuff). This restaurant refuses to serve anything healthy. I don’t have anything against a good burger from time to time; however, I do realize more than ever before what a treasure our health is and we do want to take good care of the body God has given us.**

**We (Norma Beach) have asked several Health care professionals to speak to us about health related subjects. The one hour event will take place here at our church on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Please invite others to this important event. This is FREE of charge and a perfect start for a new year. One of the Speakers is State-appointed Dr. Debbie DeMaria. She will be speaking about medications, treatments related to dementia and state procedures.**

**Please keep in prayer our upcoming Grief Seminar taking place here at the church on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Ty Morgan counselor and spiritual care director with Cornerstone of Hope will be our guest speaker.**

**He will also preach at our Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. on January 21<sup>st</sup>.**



**Please RSVP for our annual Grief Seminar today by  
calling: 941-426-5580**

**Enjoy the following images I selected for you, taken  
at recent church events.**



**Santa's Breakfast (12-09-2017)**



**UCC Women's  
Ministry Event  
(12-13-2017)  
Thank you for  
your hospitality  
Norma and  
Richard.**





**UCC Clergy Training Event in Orlando (12-11-2017)**

**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](mailto:npcuccpastor@frontier.com)  
Please Visit our Website: [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org)**



**Pastor Attila will be on a  
UCC Florida Conference  
Mission Trip in Haiti  
January 29 –February 1st.  
We look forward to  
hearing about his trip  
when he returns.**



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

**Tickets will be on sale soon**  
**Call 426-5580 for more info**



**Auditions for “The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe” (12-09-2017) presented by Jack Rabito director of our Arts and Drama Ministry here at the NPCUCC.**

**Rehearsal Schedule for the play:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>5:30—7:30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 20</b>	<b>noon—2:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 22</b>	<b>5:30—7:30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 27</b>	<b>noon—2:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 29</b>	<b>5:30—7:30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 3</b>	<b>noon—2:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 5</b>	<b>5:30—7:30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 10</b>	<b>noon—2:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 12</b>	<b>5:30—7:30</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>5:30—7:30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 17</b>	<b>noon—2:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 19</b>	<b>5:30—8:30</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 20</b>	<b>5:30—8:30</b>

## Upcoming Events:

**You will soon be learning more about our exciting “Faith Builder Event” otherwise known as our First Church Wide Retreat. The planning committee of Sally Rutledge and Doug Minich have been working with Pastor Attila to provide a great opportunity for our church family. The dates this year will be April 12-14. Due to scheduling conflicts with the retreat conference center, we were unable to schedule it earlier in the springtime. We will work on an earlier date for 2019 to accommodate more of our seasonal members and friends. Watch your bulletin in early January for an opportunity to sign up.**



### **Singles Dinner Group Note New Time and Location!**



**Singles are invited to meet for dinner at the Olde World Restaurant on January 11 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Louise Hall at 941-423-2213 for reservations or info.**



# FREE GRIEF SEMINAR

## YOUR GRIEF ONE DAY AT A TIME

*He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety."*

- Job 5:11



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: TY MORGAN

Charles Ty Morgan is a counselor and spiritual director with Cornerstone of Hope. Ty has several years of experience running support groups and counseling individuals to promote healing. Led by God Ty has accepted a calling to specialize in healing grief and nurturing spirituality. As a bereavement counselor Ty has developed a passion and unique skill set to provide hope to the grieving. He received his B.S. in Human Development and Family Science from Bowling Green University and completed his Graduate work in Social Work at Cleveland University. Ty is also a devoted husband and proud parent of 3 children.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKER: ALYDA CARPENTER

## JANUARY 20, 2018

8:30AM - REGISTRATION

9:00AM - BREAKFAST

9:30AM - 3:30PM - SEMINAR

12NOON - LUNCH

### NORTH PORT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3450 S. Biscayne Drive • North Port, FL 34287

[www.northportucc.org](http://www.northportucc.org)

Please visit us on Facebook

RSVP TO (941) 426-5580 OR  
[NORTHPORTUCC@JUNO.COM](mailto:NORTHPORTUCC@JUNO.COM)



## JOIN US

and find practical  
**HELP AND SUPPORT**  
in your time of  
**LOSS AND LONELINESS.**



A CENTER FOR GRIEVING  
CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS

### OPTIONAL:

Bring a framed picture of your  
loved one and honor their  
memory and light a candle.



Flyer sponsored by

[kays-ponger.com](http://kays-ponger.com)

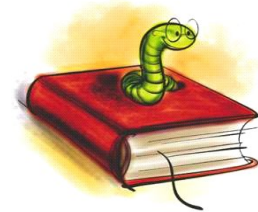




**From the Reading for Renewal List is “Valley of the Moon” by Melanie Gideon. This book is a deeply suspenseful novel that offers powerful and perceptive considerations about the passage of time....or is there something more out there?**

**A book written by our former conference Minister is “Blessed are the Crazy: breaking the silence about mental illness, family & church” by Sarah Griffith Lund. The author takes the lid off mental illness in this raw, honest look at her father’s battle with bipolar disorder, the helpless sense of Déjà vu as her brother struggles with his own mental illness, and serving as spiritual advisor for her cousin, a mentally ill man executed for murder. Through the challenges of despair, she shows how churches can be safe havens for people who have brain diseases and for their loved ones.**

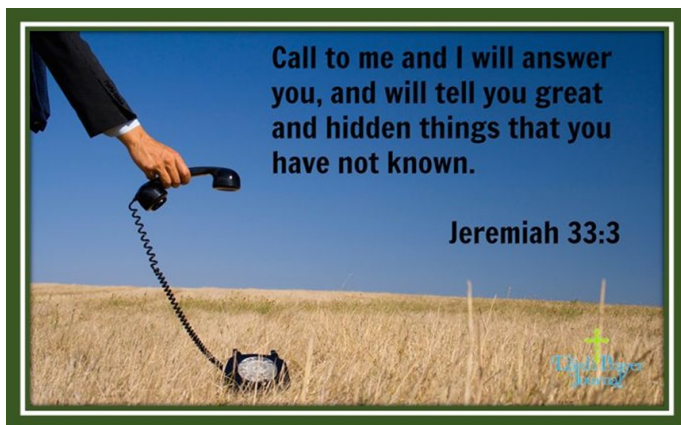
**Thank you to those who have given recent donations to the church.**



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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, January 3. 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.

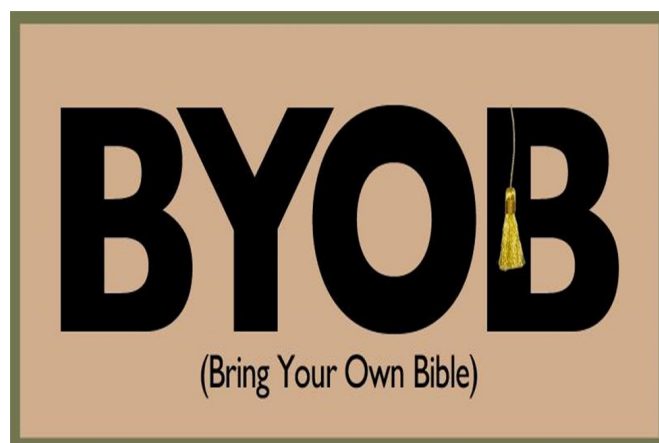
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

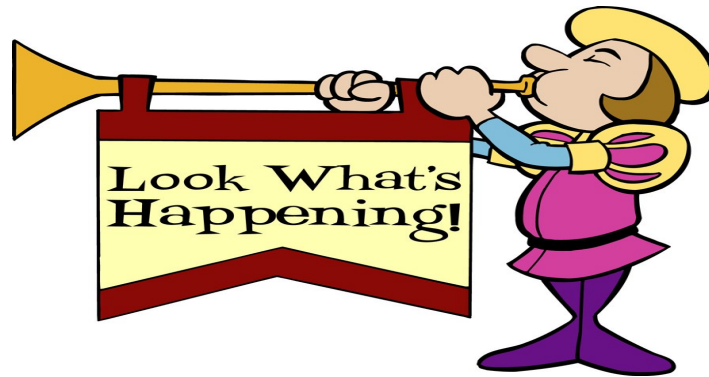
**Bible Study  
Every Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.  
Bring a lunch  
If you wish.**



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



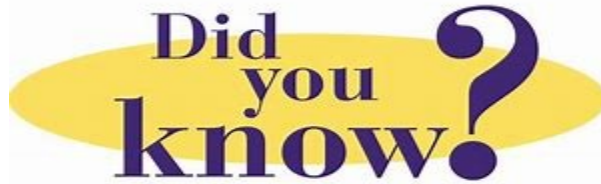
**Join us on Wednesday morning for  
Morning Prayer  
7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.**



## **UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!**

<b>January 20</b>	<b>Grief Seminar</b>
<b>Jan. 29-Feb. 1</b>	<b>Pastor Attila in Haiti</b>
<b>February 3</b>	<b>Dementia/Alzheimer's Seminar</b>
<b>February 8</b>	<b>UCC Women's Annual Tea</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Play: Lion, Witch, Wardrobe</b>
<b>Feb. 27-Mar. 1</b>	<b>Holy Land Bus Trip</b>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Movie Event/Dinner</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Easter</b>
<b>April 12-14</b>	<b>Church retreat</b>






**March 9, 1969 is the founding date of NPCUCC.**

**That means that March 9, 2019 will be our  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!**

**Quite a milestone for our church.....So, what that means is that we will need to celebrate the first 50 years. A planning committee is needed.**

**Were you here when the church celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? Do you like planning parties? Do you have experience or ideas of how we could/should celebrate? If so, please contact the church office to volunteer to be on the committee.**

**Yes, it's still a year away, but we do need time to plan. Council has begun talking about it, so this is in the very early stages. We'd love to have your help. Many thanks in advance – we're waiting for your phone call.**

Dates on our calendar:	
 <b>Women of the Church</b>	<b>Jan. 10, 11 Soup and Sandwich fundraiser</b>
	<b>Jan. 17 Meeting</b>
	<b>Jan. 31 Fashion Show meeting</b>
	<b>Feb. 7 Set up for Tea</b>
	<b>Feb. 8 Tea</b>
	<b>Feb. 21 Meeting</b>



**From the Church Mouse.....**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! It has been quite busy around here. Were you here to see the jolly man in the red suit and his lady friend? Lots of happy, smiling faces, lots of pictures and a great time by all with yummy food. Pip and the Mrs. and I loved the yummy eggs and bacon. Pancakes were great too. All the lights and trees look great, especially at night when no one is around we like to scamper over the button things and turn them on. How the place glows....Heard lots of pretty music the other day. A good job by the people who sit up front in their green suits. Everyone liked it a lot. Loved the night with all the singing and candles. We were hiding in all the pretty red flowers – thanks for not stepping on us. Had a special visit from out of town mouse relatives—what yummy fun! Till next year – enjoy.**

**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,  
January, 9 & 23 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.  
Questions? Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**



**Food  
Collection**

## **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, January 1 & 15  
New Years Day  
& Martin Luther King Day**



## **Dine to Donate!**

**Please continue to take your vouchers  
to Perkins each time you dine there.**

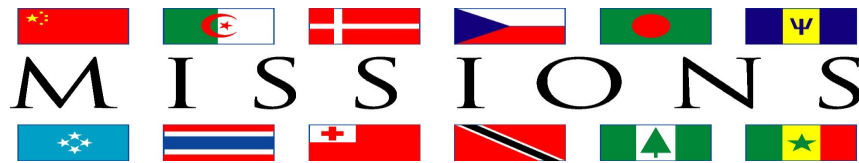
**Perkins will collect the vouchers and quarterly send us a  
check donating 10% of the subtotal of everyone's bills.  
A win/win for everyone. We appreciate your support  
of this program.**

**Average monthly  
attendance:**

<b>Nov. 2016</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Nov. 2017</b>	<b>140</b>

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





**Our January Mission of the Month is Holy Joe's Café.**

**Holy Joe's Café was started over ten years ago by the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, Connecticut. (former church of Ingrid Massaro and Angela Stolting).**

**They began in 2006 when the church learned that a chaplain at a Baghdad airbase was trying to create a café for the soldiers. Under the inspired direction of a deacon from the church, several coffee providers were contacted for donations, crates of coffee were sent overseas, and a new ministry was born.**

**Today, Holy Joes distributes coffee for chaplains in 47 countries around the world. Holy Joe's also sends coffee to chaplains at 63 US bases where soldiers returning state-side can continue to find a bit of home and relax with a cup of coffee. "A cup of coffee is the conduit" referring to the way coffee brings service men and women in contact with a chaplain.**

**On the first Sunday of each month a special container is on the beverage table to receive your donations to this wonderful mission for our military men and women. We thank you for your support.**



# December Birthdays:

Jan. 6	Cathy Skyles
Jan. 7	Shirley May
Jan. 18	Patti Bourque
Jan. 18	Roberta Zych
Jan. 20	Sharon Mooney
Jan. 26	Sue Luther
Jan. 27	Thomas Van Bergen



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 January.

Jan. 2	Ray and Joan Bentley
Jan. 5	Bob and Rebecca Brown



# JANUARY

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

Jan. 7	Marilee Taylor
Jan. 14	Sheryll Norris
Jan. 21	Becky Rooney
Jan. 28	Linda Reese



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:

Jan. 7	Karen Knudsen
Jan. 14	Mary Maples
Jan. 21	George Hamilton
Jan. 28	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](mailto:northportucc@juno.com)**

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

**[www.northportucc.org](http://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**