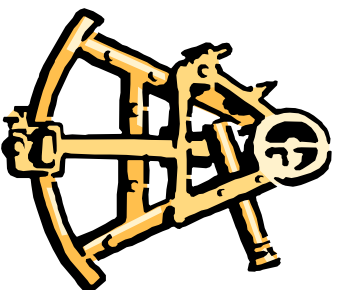


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

March, 2018



*From the
Pastor*



MARCH 2018

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him shall not be lost, but should have eternal life. You must understand that God has not sent his Son into the world to pass sentence upon it, but to save it—through him. Any man who believes in him is not judged at all. It is the one who will not believe who stands already condemned, because he will not believe in the character of God’s only Son.

John 3:16-18/ J.B. Phillips

Dear Church Family,

I hope you are doing well. According to the meteorological calendar, spring begins on March 1.

I would like to share a few thoughts with you from our new Adult Bible Study theme, “25 Ways To Win With People.” This new study will begin very soon. We meet regularly every Sunday morning from 8:15-9:15 a.m. Join us as we discuss, learn and study based on the Word of God.

Here are some thoughts from this study.

- Your relationships can only be as healthy as you are. Good relationships begin with knowing who we are.**
- All of us have anxieties and certain insecurities. The decisive thing is what we do with them?**

The knowledge that we gain about ourselves can turn sour or turn good.

- **Being a “winner” comes down to one thing- understanding our value and the value of others around us.**
- **Have we owned our value? The Scripture from John 3 describes the great value that God has placed upon us.**

Here are few ways of owning and understanding our value...

- ♦ **RECOGNIZE** your value. No matter where we have been, what we have done or where we stand right now... we don't lose our value in God's sight. Just as long as we turn to Him and ask him to forgive, heal and restore us.
- ♦ **ACCEPT** your value despite the fact that we all have what we and others call 'issues'. These Issues are real and we have to work on them with the guidance and the help of God.
- ♦ **INCREASE** your value. We are a diamond in the rough ...God keeps shaping us into a gem. We don't stand still as Christians. We desire to maximize and fix and change the things that need changing.
- ♦ **BELIEVE** in your value, God already does.

REMEMBER: Our relationships can only be as healthy as we ourselves.

Haiti Mission Trip 2019: Several of you have shown interest in joining us on our Mission trip to Haiti next year. Please contact me or the church office to find out more details regarding this upcoming trip.

You can see a full report about our UCC Florida Conference trip to Haiti by watching it on YouTube (February 4th service).

**A new home for a family!
(Dedication of the newly built home 02-01-2018)**



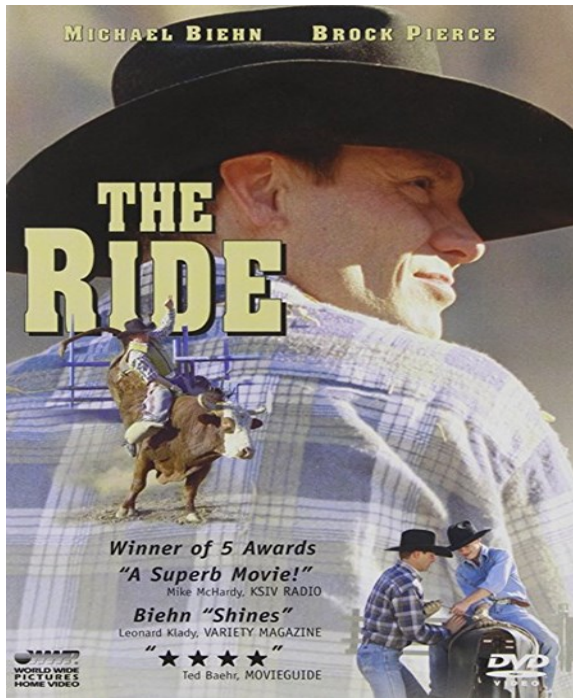
The New Home! (02-01-2018)

Our church hosted the Annual Meeting for the German Congregations in Florida on Tuesday the 20th of February. The German congregation here at our church is the newest member of this Association. Thank you to Mrs. Erika Scott (cook), Ingrid Massaro, Angela Stolting, Norm Augustine, Mathilde Morgenroth and Lisa Williamson for their service during this event. The hospitality and the food were exceptional. Here is what Pastor Michael DeLong from Naples had to say about the event: “Thank you and your German congregation again for their exceedingly wonderful hospitality today! Please express my appreciation to everyone!” I agree with him and I am thankful to all of you for your service and ministry.



(Deutsche Kirche Florida) 02-20-2018

I would like to highlight just one of our upcoming events here at the NPCUCC:



**Movie & Dinner
March 10, 2018
Our FREE Movie starts
at 4:00 p.m.**

**"A has-been cowboy is
given a second chance at
the hands of an
unexpected teacher."**

**Rated: PG
Length: 101 Minutes**

**You are also invited to join us for
Dinner following the movie.
Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.
Tickets for Dinner: \$10
(Please call the office for your Dinner ticket)
Phone: 941-426-5580**

Please pray for all of our ministries here at the NPCUCC.

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



The Story of Jesus

Friday, April 6

In Wauchula

**\$35.00 per person
includes ticket and
Transportation.**

**Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.
We have extended the Deadline to
sign up until March 11th.**

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

March 10th

Join us for our next movie event



“THE RIDE”

4:00 p.m.—Free

**You are also invited to join us for dinner
following the movie.**

Meatloaf Dinner and Strawberry Shortcake

Following the movie at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets for dinner are \$10.

They are now on sale.



**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...”**



Your Deposit for the church retreat is now due. Due to the office being closed when the deposit was due—your \$50 deposit per person should be turned into the church office or placed in the offering plate no later than Sunday, March 4th clearly marked on the envelope “Church Retreat”. Checks should be made payable to : NPCUCC.

The Final payment for the retreat will be due April 4th.

We have scheduled an informational meeting for those going to the retreat for Sunday, March 11th following Coffee Hour. Please plan to stay that day to get information you will need to know.

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 March 8 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Louise Hall at 941-423-2213 for reservations or info.



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

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.



Join us on Wednesdays during Lent

**February 21st Simple Supper 5:00
followed by Study from 6:00 to 7:00**

Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

**Save the Date
Monday, April 9th**

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

\$20 per person

RADA Clearance Sale....

Our church began selling RADA a few years back. We have sold quite a bit, but it has become too problematic to order just one piece every now and then. So.....We will be having a RADA Clearance Sale of the items we have purchased for folks who later changed their minds, and the items in our sample case. The Sale will be Sunday, March 18th during Coffee Hour. Check it out on the 18th. We just might have what you're looking for.

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!

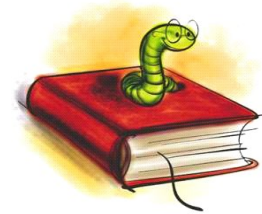
**Thank You
Sandy McKean**



More donations from Lola Van Woert include *“Miracles of the Bible”* and *“Beneath the Cross: The Stories of Those who Stood at the Cross of Jesus”*, both published by Ideals and beautifully illustrated.

“Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance” by Charles R. Swindoll has also been added. As the author says, ‘travel far back in time and meet the man in the land of Uz who will soon emerge from print on an ancient page into a modern-day hero in your heart.’ Also by Charles Swindoll is *“Getting Through the Tough Stuff.”* We all face tough times through our lives. Read how God helps you with your struggles.

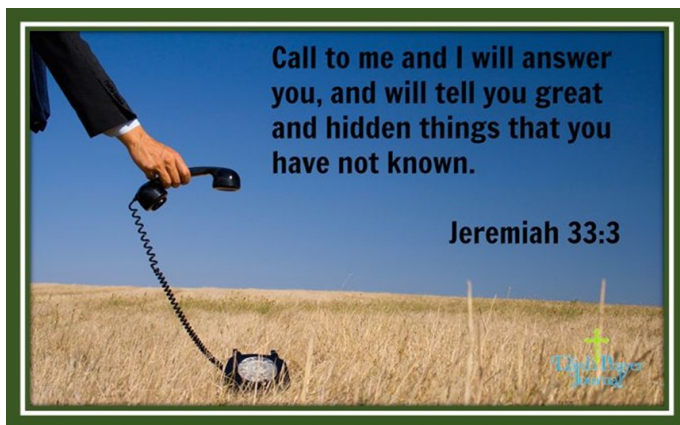
Also, *“Evidence for Christianity: Historical Evidence for the Christian Faith”* by Josh McDowell is a book that answers many doubts Christians have.



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



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

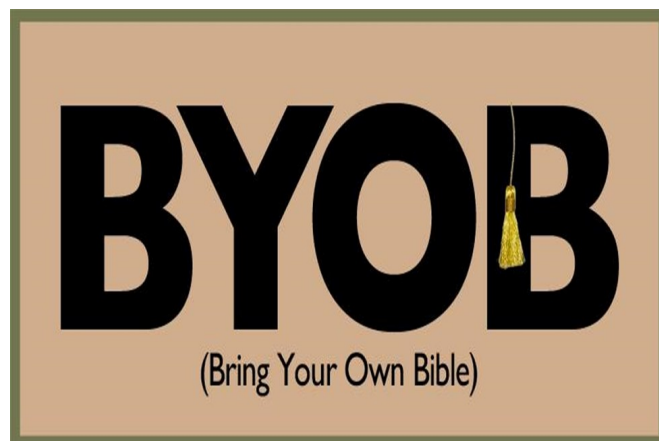
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

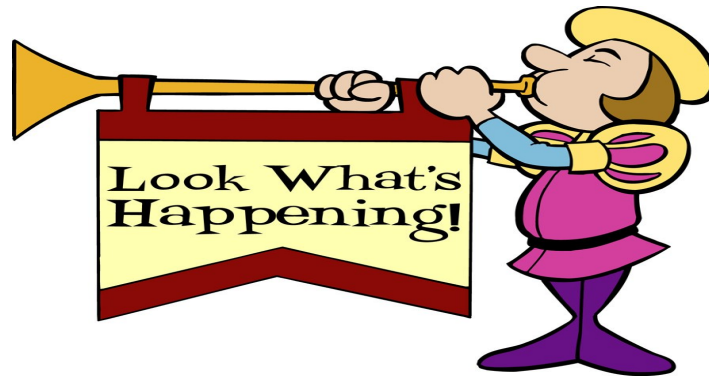
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



*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.**



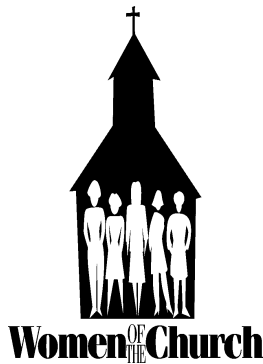
UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

March 4	Pot Luck Luncheon
March 4	New Member Class
March 7, 14 & 21	Simple Supper and Bible Study
March 10	FREE Movie Event “The Ride”
March 10	Meatloaf Dinner and Strawberry Shortcake following the movie—\$10
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 29	Congregational meeting
May 3-5	Church retreat



**Time to Change
The clocks again!**

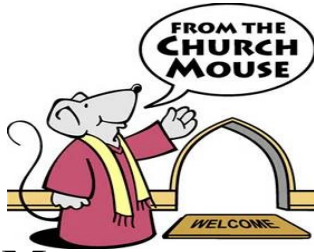
**Saturday, March 10th
Move your clocks
Ahead one hour!**



Dates on our calendar:

March 7	Women's Breakfast 8:30 at Olde World Restaurant
March 21	Meeting
March 22	Rummage Sale Set Up
March 23-24	Rummage Sale





From the Church Mouse.....

All the ladies drinking their tea was a fun day here in the big rooms. Mrs. Mouse came and nibbled on some yummy fruit and bread. She hoped to win some prizes, but she wasn't very lucky. The men looked all nice in their white shirts and ties. Maybe next year Pip and I can help too. The fancy stuff is all gone and now there is snow and mountains. Brrrr... Guess the ground hog was right that there would be more winter. Pip and I will have our front row seats to watch for the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. And of course all that snow makes us want to eat soup every Wednesday. Busy, busy, busy.....

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,
March 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.



**Join Us
Sunday, March 4th
Following worship
For a Pot Luck Lunch.
Please bring a dish to share!**



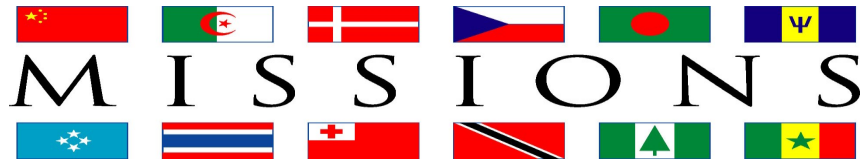
Dine to Donate!

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:

**Jan. 2017—159
Jan. 2018—180**

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



March's Mission: UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on March 18th. A special envelope will be in your bulletin on that day. Plan now to be generous with your gift.



March Birthdays:

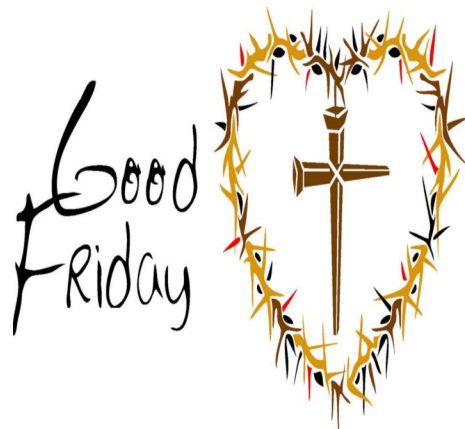
March 1	Clint Van Tassell
March 6	Allison Dougherty
March 6	David St. Onge
March 10	Mary Ann Dunlap
March 12	Barbara Gordon
March 17	Larry Doll
March 17	Mary Alice Pollard
March 18	Sandra Van Bergen
March 22	Harold Perry
March 22	Doris Santella
March 28	Patti Boger



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.



March 29
7:00 p.m.
Communion



March 30
7:00 p.m.

MARCH

ALTAR FLOWERS:

March 4	Mina Sundeen
March 11	Lola Van Woert
March 18	Tom & Sandra Van Bergen
March 25	Mary Ann Anderson

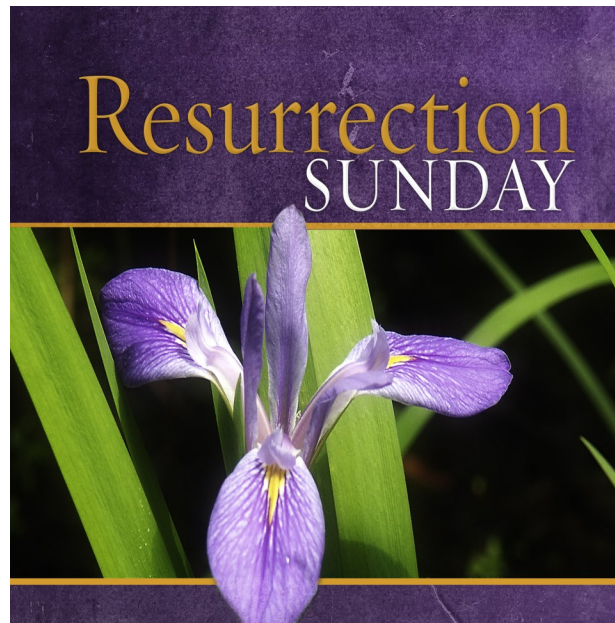


Thank you to:
North Port Natural Florist
Your "Green" Florist
13632 Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34287
426-1197

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.**

I AM THE *Resurrection*
AND THE *Life*,
Believeth HE THAT
IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD,
YET SHALL HE
Live.
~JOHN 11:25

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