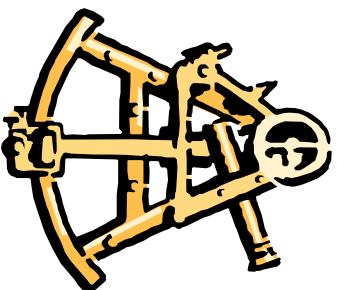
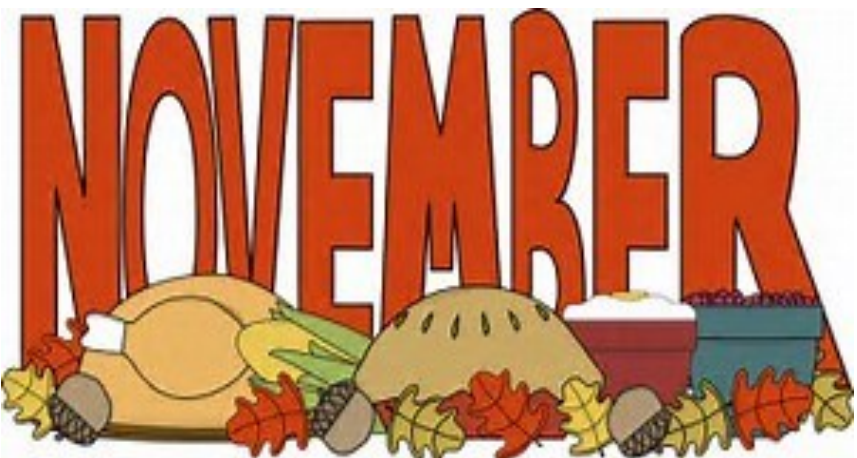


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

November, 2017



NOVEMBER 2017

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

(Psalm 136:1-2)

A CARDBOARD BOX PILLOW!

Dear Church Family,

Blessings to you and your loved ones in this Thanksgiving Season.

Sometime ago as I was getting ready to leave the house to drive to Church, I heard on the radio this this most amazing prayer of a woman. This lady had lost everything in a Hurricane - her house in shambles, her car lost, and worst of all separated from loved ones.

She did not even have a place to lay down her head at night; other than a piece of cardboard box. As she laid down with utter devastation surrounding her and the pain of not having her loved ones with her, she offered up this prayer to God. (The best I can recall).

“Lord, thank you for the house and although it is destroyed I thank You that I could enjoy it with my family for so long. That it was our home, where we celebrated together many happy occasions. Thank You for the many memories that bind me to this place. Thank You for the people that you have given me, my family and friends that enrich my life. Thank You for the car that I had that took me places...”

As we celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends in the comfort of a nice place that we call home - as we drive in our car and as we lay our head down at night on a nice clean pillow - WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

The GOD of gods and the LORD of lords IS WITH YOU! We pray for all who are in need of shelter!

Events coming up at the NPCUCC:

We welcome our NEW MEMBERS on Sunday the 19th of November. The service is followed by our Thanksgiving Potluck and a time of fellowship.



On Saturday December 2nd at 3:00 p.m. we will show a wonderful *movie. Perfect as we prepare our hearts for the arrival of our Savior. Invite Family & Friends. 72 minutes in length/ NOT RATED!

***(With Concession Stand)**



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!

Invite your friends

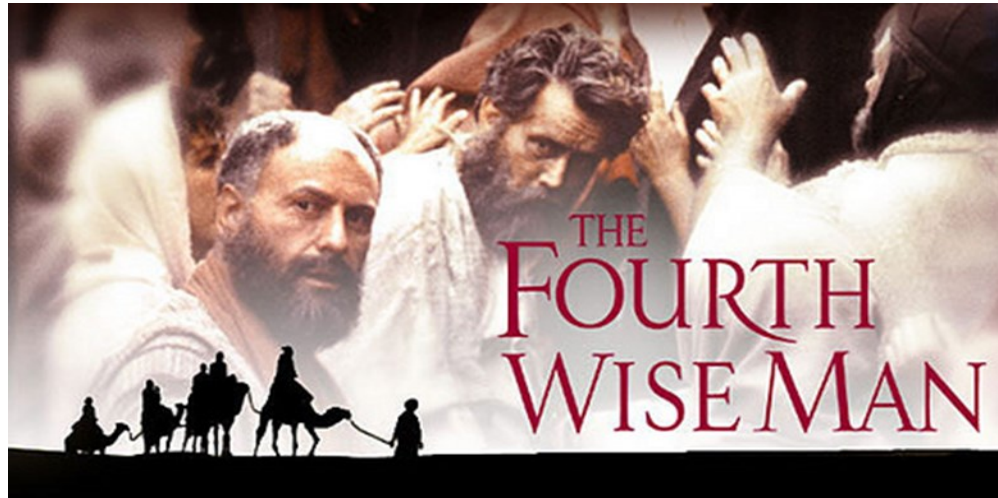
**Pumpkin Delivery Day at the NPCUCC!
10-08-2017—Thank you for your help.**



**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.npcucc.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**

Save the Date 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

Perkins Thanksgiving Pie Order Form

Deadline to order is Wednesday, November 15



We will place the order for you with Perkins.
You fill out the order form below.

Return the order form with your payment to the church. If paying by check, please make the check payable to NPCUCC.

You also choose the date and time you wish to **pick up your Pie AT PERKINS.**
We will provide you with a pick up slip to take to Perkin's.

I would like to order the following Pie/Pies: # of Pies

Heath Crunch Cheesecake	\$15	_____
Banana Cream	\$13	_____
Caramel Apple	\$13	_____
Cherry	\$13	_____
Chocolate French Silk	\$14	_____
Coconut Cream	\$13	_____
Homestyle Apple	\$11	_____
Lemon Meringue	\$13	_____
Peanut butter Silk	\$14	_____
Pecan	\$13	_____
Pumpkin	\$10	_____
Pumpkin Cream	\$12	_____
Wildberry (no sugar added)	\$13	_____
Oh My! Poke Cake Pie	\$14	_____

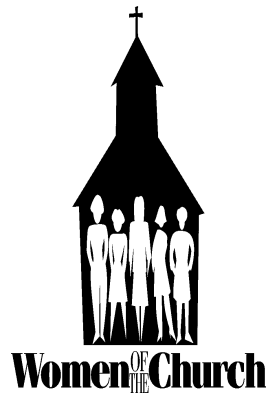
I will pick up my pies:

Tuesday, November 24	Time:	_____
Wednesday, November 25	Time:	_____
Thursday, November 26	Time:	_____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you for participating. The church will receive a donation from Perkins for each pie ordered.



Fall is here, northern friends are back and Women's Fellowship is going into full swing.

In October we made \$445 on our Soup and Sandwich sales and received two thank you letters for their lunches and wanting to sign up for the next time.

Our breakfast is November 1st at 8:30 at Olde World Restaurant. Please come and join us. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Please join UCC Women at their November 15th meeting. The business meeting will begin at ten. We will be making scrapbook pages for the women of the church following the meeting. Each person is asked to bring flat items for their page that represent your life, your interests and likes. Pages will be kept in a binder. Feel free to bring your own scissors, glue, etc. or share those available. Lunch will follow this activity. Bring a sandwich to share.

Rummage Sale—November 17 and 18—see info on the next page.

It is time to think about our homeless folks. "No one should be without a Christmas gift."

Our gifts for the homeless contain the following items: t-shirt, underwear, socks, toiletry items such as travel size shampoos, lotions soaps, combs. We also include toothpaste and a toothbrush which we have donated from local dentists. We appreciate your support. "Giving" - it's a wonderful feeling.



**TIME TO CHECK YOUR
HOUSE AND START
GATHERING YOUR
DONATIONS!**

**Bring Items on November 16
between 8:00 a.m. and noon.**

**Sale is on November 17 and 18
from 8:00—1:00 p.m.**

**Helpers are always needed on
any day you have available.**

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast
on Wednesday, November 1. Check the sign up
sheet in Fellowship Hall for more details.**

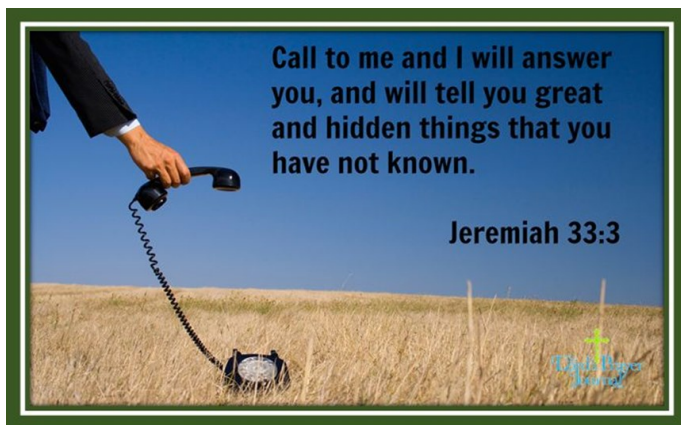
SOLD OUT!



**Chicken Parmesan Dinner
and Comedy By
Lemon Bay Players**

Saturday, November 4th





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

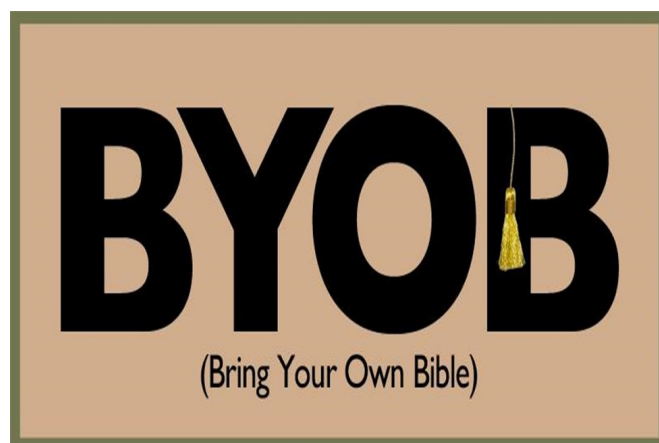
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

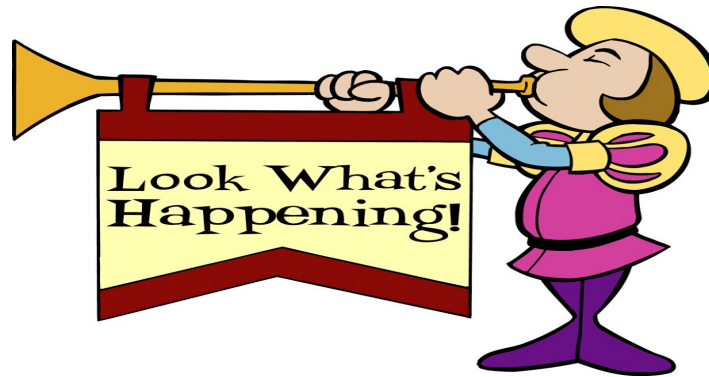
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



*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!

November 4	Dinner/Comedy Lemon Bay Players
November 16-18	Rummage Sale
November 19	Thanksgiving Pot Luck
November 23	Thanksgiving Day—Office closed
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!



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

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and flowers! I have planned on coming to church several times but just didn't make it. It seems that I just can't get sleep when I need it. Today I'm coming and sure hope to continue if possible.

Bless you all!!! Love, Merle Ramsey

First, I want to thank each of you for the prayers during my time of illness. Secondly, I loved the prayer shawl from the ladies. It was so soft to cuddle with and comforting during my hospital stay. Last, but not least, I am thankful for the warmth and love I feel every time I walk through the doors of this church. Cindy Collins

NPCUCC Members, Pastor Attila and Patti, This note and my thanks have been a long time coming. The joint members card, other cards and notes and Pastor Attila's call. I know your thoughts and prayers are with me. All have been greatly appreciated in this very difficult time. Chemo and radiation treatments have been more difficult and stressful than expected....My thanks and love to all. Karen Murphy (Editor's note: Karen is not up for visits just yet, but cards would be great!)

Letters have also been received from Esther Sanborn and Shirley Bowen. They are on the bulletin board in the church office for all to read.



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.

*****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.

Following the production of *"The Lion, Witch, and The Wardrobe"* the Message Players will be working on the rights to perform a Dramatization of the life of C.S. Lewis. Dates for this production will be announced at a later date.





NPCUCC Thanksgiving Potluck

**Sign up now for our
Thanksgiving Potluck lunch
following our morning worship
On Sunday, November 19th.**

A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please let us know how many are coming and what you are bringing. We hope you will join us as we count our blessings.

IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR

**NPCUCC Bus Trip to
Holy Land in Orlando and
Cocoa Beach**



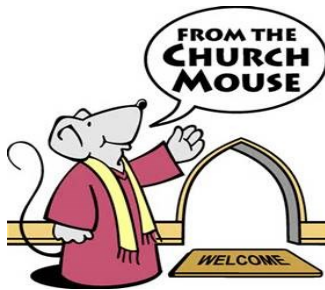
Tuesday, February 27—Thursday, March 1, 2018

Plans have been made for motor coach transportation to the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, the Morse Museum, Tiffany Chapel, Gatorland, and the Cocoa Beach Pier.

Cost is \$275 per person—lodging and 4 meals are included. Flyers with detailed information are available through the church office or in the narthex of the church.

Please sign up NOW in Fellowship Hall to let us know you are interested.

**Grief Support Group
Wednesday, November 29th
at 10:00 a.m.**



From the Church Mouse.....

It has been a busy month for sure. Pip and I were out helping unload the pumpkins from the truck when it arrived. Actually we just helped move some of the hay as the pumpkins were a bit too large for us little church mice. We did sneak some burgers and hot dogs though when the truck was unloaded and no one was looking. We've enjoyed watching the folks come and choose the "perfect" pumpkin and seeing all the church folk relaxing under the tree. It's been a bit rainy, but fun to see people still buying pumpkins in the rain. Next it will be time for turkeys and then the man in the red suit will be coming to visit before long. Busy, busy times around here for sure.

Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip





**Thank you to all who helped with
our Pumpkin Patch in any way:**

**Unloaded Pumpkins
Worked at the Patch
Purchased a Pumpkin**

**Many thanks for all
Your support on behalf
Of our church!**

**A final accounting of how we did will be reported in next
month's Navigator as well as the Sunday bulletin once
everything is tallied up.**



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**Attention knitters
and those who crochet!**

**Join us for prayer, knitting and fellowship. Tuesday,
November 14 & 28 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
Questions? Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**





It's time to start thinking about Christmas! Yes, it really is.....

Christian Education's Mission Project Operation Christmas Child is now winding down. Please return your shoe boxes on November 5th.

Ornaments for our Church Tree

It is time once again to bring in your family Christmas ornament for our large church tree. We will need them brought in by November 19 so they can go on the tree right when it is put up. If you left yours last year, it's still here, so you don't need to do anything. Please bring them in—mark your name on them and leave them in the Narthex. We hope EVERY member and friend of our church will have an ornament on the tree.



And don't forget to put Saturday, December 9th on your calendar and plan on being here for our annual Breakfast with Santa. Santa will be here to greet the children, then they can shop in our Santa's workshop area or make free crafts.

But remember, this event is not just for children and their families—it is for EVERYONE! Breakfast is great for the young and the young at heart, so come and enjoy! See the flyer on this event located within the newsletter.

THANK YOU GRAMS!

Comments & Suggestions

Did you know that our Thank You Gram program was started over ten years ago by a former pastor as a way to uplift and offer praise and thanks? When received, they are posted on the screen during the announcements the following week.

Thank You Grams are not intended for comments and suggestions. Any Thank You Grams received that do not offer praise or thanks are disposed of and not shared.

Comments and Suggestions are always welcome, but must be signed. If you feel strongly enough to make a comment or suggestion, please write them on something other than our Thank You Grams and sign your name to let us know who to discuss it with. Anonymous comments and suggestions are disposed of and not shared.



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.”

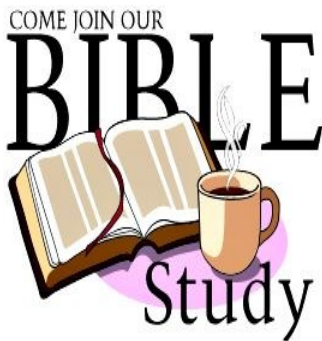
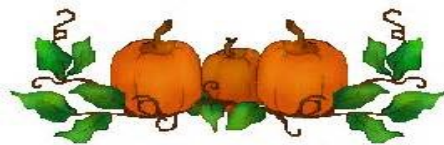
Average monthly attendance:

September 2016: 81
September 2017: 98

Lay Readers:

Nov. 5	Neville Miles
Nov. 12	Cindy Minich
Nov. 19	Karen Knudsen
Nov. 26	Mary Maples

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

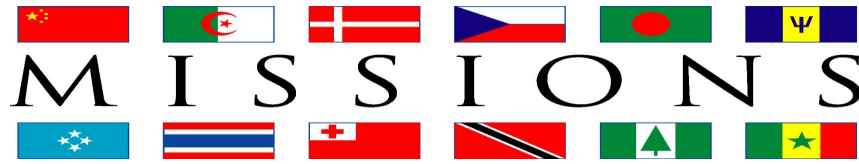


In Home Bible Studies....

The November In-Home Bible Study will be held on Thursday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Gary and Nancy Mithoefer. See Nancy Case for more information.



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



ECHO Mission Report and Update

Recently we received a special *Thank You Report* from Meg Robel. Here are some excerpts from her report ...



"Thank you for your prayers and support during my time in Thailand & Cambodia. I was blessed to have been able to work at ECHO's regional conference in Thailand before heading to Cambodia!"

"During my time in Thailand I got to visit ECHO's Seedbank and see how the seed growing and saving processes I learned during my ECHO Internship in Florida are practically implemented in rural areas! With over 20 nations represented at ECHO's conference, it was incredible to see the way God is using this organization to reach so many who were previously un-reached, to fight malnutrition, and to open up roads to the Gospel that were previously closed."

Health Clinics in Cambodia

"During our 5 days of clinics we were able to reach out to nearly 300 patients in 5 different rural communities that

largely lacked running water, electricity, and consistent access to healthcare."

"Among the many diseases that we diagnosed during the week were: HIV, Hepatitis, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Hypertension, Diabetes, Scabies and case after case of malnutrition. Many of these diseases, without follow-up healthcare, are sadly pretty disheartening conditions. This is when we were especially grateful for the hope of Christ that we were able to share with these 300 patients, as each had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and be prayed with after receiving care."

"A definite highlight of the trip was getting to return to the village of Neareay and learn more from the Boniao family who work with Moringa, Chaya, and other nutritious and medicinal plants in their community. Their approach to community health is inspirational, and the stark contrast of the health of the people in their rural village, vs. the many other villages we visited, was incredible."

"Words cannot express how thankful I am for the support I have received through prayer and generous donations to make this work possible. God is so good, and I am so thankful for what He is doing globally through both ECHO and Mission to the World." - Meg Robel

Thank you, North Port Community UCC, for your continuous support to the ECHO Intern program. Presently, the total of donations given this year for the Intern Program is \$162.00

**By Sharon Miller
for the Missions Committee**

More Mission News.....

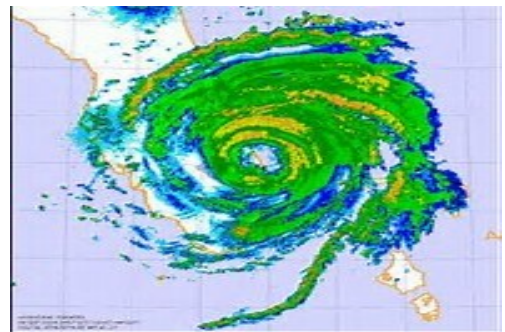
Our Mission this month is our own Prayer Shawl group that meets twice a month. They gather on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone who is interested in the program is invited to join them at any time.

What a wonderful mission bringing comfort to those at a time of illness, following surgery, or any other time in a person's life that they just might need a little warmth and comfort.

Did you know that these shawls are prayed for as they are made as well as by Pastor Attila. We celebrate the wonderful ministry of this dedicated group.

Disaster Relief

This Hurricane season has been unbelievable and definitely one for the record books.



Following Hurricane Harvey, we set up a Disaster Relief Jar in the narthex to collect monetary donations. Right on the heels of Harvey came Hurricane Irma which hit a bit too close to home for all of us. Then, if that were not enough, Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico.

(continued next page)


The Church Council met and discussed how to disperse the funds collected and the following was decided.

\$100	Red Cross
\$100	UCC Disaster Relief Fund for Harvey victims
\$100	UCC Disaster Relief Fund for Irma victims
\$100	UCC Disaster Relief Fund for Puerto Rico

In addition, we will keep our Disaster Relief Fund open and continue to collect funds, so the next time a Disaster hits and we want to respond, the funds will be ready and waiting for us to send without delay. To make donations to this ongoing fund—place your donation in the offering plate at any time and be sure it is clearly marked for our Disaster Relief Fund. We thank you for your recent support and for your continued support.

We also received a request for clothing for a particular family in St. Croix that was effected by the hurricanes. Your generosity was phenomenal. Great job! To continue making donations, please see our Choir Director, Kim Campos, for more information on the needs of this family.



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY	
 Food Collection	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.

Be Prepared for the next Hurricane

Many of us found that we were not very well prepared with our Hurricane Disaster Plans once we learned that Hurricane Irma was headed our way. We all need to put our plans in place now, so we will be ready the next time something begins to threaten our safety.

Many of us, myself included, headed to a shelter for the first time ever. Some of us had good experiences, others were not as satisfied.

In the past our church tried to pair up folks who needed a place to go with folks who were willing to take people in. Hurricane Irma reminded us that this is not a good plan as many who “normally” stay and would take folks in, decided Irma needed to be taken seriously, and evacuated.

Back in 2005 following Hurricane Charley, our church Disaster Preparedness plan was created. Following Irma, our Trustees will be reviewing and updating our plan.

Thanks to Norma Beach, we now have in the church office applications for “Sarasota County People with Special Needs.” From what I understand, persons fill out the form and send it to the County. They would then know that in the event of another Hurricane, you would need a place to go and need transportation to get there. This is especially important for our elderly and those in mobile home parks. Even if you are not sure you will ever need to use this program, it is a good idea to be signed up BEFORE just in case.

Call the church office and we'll mail a form to you.

November Birthdays:

Nov. 1	Bob Case
Nov. 1	Delores Edwards
Nov. 11	Mina Sundeen
Nov. 13	Madeleine Bonsky
Nov. 14	Mike Bourque
Nov. 17	Lynn Sanford
Nov. 21	Neville Miles
Nov. 21	Kathy Stysick
Nov. 24	Sharon Miller
Nov. 30	Wilma Hobbs



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 November.

Nov. 12	Harold and Jeanne Perry
Nov. 15	Howard and Grace Johnson
Nov. 28	Doug and Cindy Minich



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. We received a check this month in the amount of \$54.45! Thanks.

November

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Nov. 5	Dorlis McKinney & Louise Cooper
Nov. 12	Barbara Mervine
Nov. 19	Lola Van Woert
Nov. 26	Doug and Cindy Minich



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.



Give Thanks
For all your
Blessings!

**Our clocks "fall
back" one hour on
Saturday night!**





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