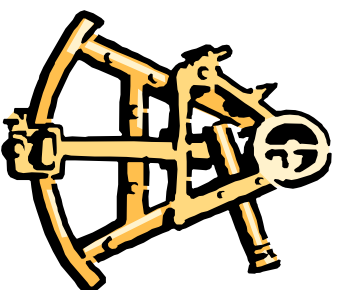


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# **THE NAVIGATOR**

## **October 2018**

*From the  
Pastor*



## GOD SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE

**“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, His one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.” (John 3:16) Eugene Peterson – The Message**

**Dear Church Family,**

**It is our hope that you had a nice and relaxing summer. We look forward to many wonderful ministry opportunities here at the North Port Community UCC in this upcoming season. The above scripture is one of those famous Sunday School memory verses. Many of us know it by heart. Reading it in this paraphrased translation, opens it up even more to us. God spoke, speaking the language of mercy, loving-kindness. A language that we all can understand. Regardless of our native tongue. It can be a most frustrating experience to be in a country where we cannot understand what people are saying. Maybe you have experienced that before.**

**It was hard for you to communicate with others and you were often misunderstood. It made you feel insecure and vulnerable. You were happy to be home again. Speaking about home, it is a wonderful feeling to be home. John 3:16 is an invitation to come home. Just like the Prodigal Son heard the words his Father (God) and returned home God speaks clearly through His Son Jesus. His words speak volumes about His great love to us and we can read a first hand account about it in the Word of God.**

**Why not open YOUR Bible today and so discover that God truly does speak your language. The language of mercy and loving-kindness.**

**Talking about the Bible, we are celebrating our Protestant heritage once again on Reformation Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> of October) during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Don't miss it.**



**Israel Trip 2019 – we have 30 spots available for individuals to join us on this amazing journey to the Holy Land. Baptism in the Jordan River, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Bethlehem, Garden of Gethsemane, Bethesda, Jerusalem, Holocaust Museum and much more will be on our itinerary. For a detailed brochure please call us 941-426-5580. Deadline to register is November 4th, 2018.**







**Family Movie Event here at NPCUCC  
November 10<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 p.m.**

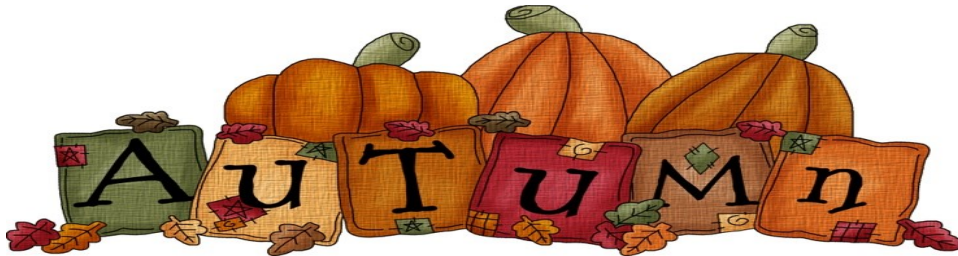


**Thank you for your continued support of Holy Joe's Café. We were able to send another shipment of 50 pounds of coffee to our troops just a few days ago. Now we are up to a total of 155 pounds. Your generosity is making a difference.**



**Mrs. Dorothy Hewes**  
**Celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. See a**  
**video clip of the visit on our**  
**Facebook page.**

**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.npccucc.org](http://www.npccucc.org)**



## **Haiti Mission Trip 2018:**

**We are sorry to report that this trip was canceled.  
We do continue to support the Be Like Brit ministry.  
Perhaps we will be able to go at a later date.  
Check out the Be Like Brit website for more  
Info about this mission: [Belikebrit.org](http://Belikebrit.org)**

**Be assured that even though we can't take them personally,  
our VBS t-shirts and our mission donations  
are still going to BLB!**



**Deadline to be a part of this  
Trip to Israel in September 2019 is November 4th.  
Sign up now!**



**It's our 3rd Annual  
PUMPKIN PATCH!**

**The Pumpkins are coming  
on October 12th!**

**Now it is time to volunteer!**

**Help unload the Pumpkins on  
Friday, October 12th at 4:00 p.m.**

**Once the Pumpkins are  
unloaded, we'll have a cookout  
for all who helped.**

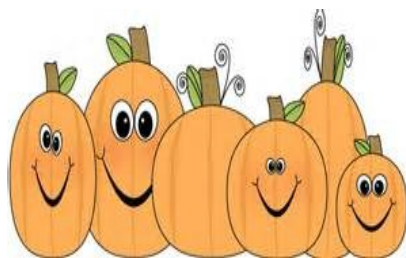
**Please Sign up to Help**



**Proceeds will go to our General Fund.**



**Sales start on Saturday, October 13  
and will be open every day through October 31.**



**Daily Shifts:**

**11:00—1:00**

**1:00—3:00**

**3:00—5:00**

**5:00—7:00**

**We need two persons to work each shift.  
The sign up chart is in the Narthex.**

**We will need lots of help. If everyone does their part, it  
shouldn't be a burden for anyone, so please volunteer.**

**Questions??? See Patti or Terry in the church office.**

## **Singles Dinner Group**



**Singles are invited to meet for dinner October 11 at 5:30 p.m. Check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to find out the location or call Louise Hall at 941-423-2213 for location, reservations or info.**

**Average monthly attendance:**

**July 2017—101**

**July 2018—92**

**August 2017—111**

**August 2018—94**



**Join us for Pot Luck lunch  
October 14th**

**Bring a dish to share  
and enjoy good food and fellowship.**



## **Gifts from Retirement Plans**

**The simplest planned gift of all, and the most tax efficient, is made from a tax-deferred retirement plan: 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans and individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Left as part of an estate, tax-deferred assets will be subject to income tax and possibly other forms of taxation. Where qualified, however, naming North Port Community United Church of Christ as a beneficiary of a retirement plan allows the gift to pass directly to the Church free of any taxes.**

**This is also one of the easiest gifts to put in place. In most cases, simply go to the web site of the trustee or custodian of the plan and change the beneficiary designation. Like a bequest from a will or trust, the gift may be a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the plan assets.**

**To designate NPCUCC as a retirement plan beneficiary, you'll need NPCUCC's tax number. You may call the church office for this information. Please consider sending us a copy of your beneficiary form for our records.**

**Regards,  
Douglas Minich  
Board of Trustees, Chair**



## **Hurricane Policy**

**It's Hurricane Season, so REMEMBER:  
Our church policy for closing the church  
in the event of a storm is—**

**Anytime hurricane conditions are predicted for a Sunday morning, including the possibility of winds high enough to prevent emergency workers from being on the roads, services will be canceled. So.... If on Saturday night, hurricane conditions are being predicted for North Port, you may know that Sunday services are canceled—even if conditions are improved on Sunday morning.**

**“When possible” our calling committees will make phone calls, but please do not rely solely on a phone call. Bottom line: Be Safe!**



**Need a place to go during a Hurricane?  
Do You have a Plan?**

**- hurricane -**

**Be sure to fill out an application for  
“Sarasota County People With Special  
Needs”. Copies are available in the church office.**

**The time to make a plan for where to go in the event of a hurricane is NOW, not when one is just a few days away. This will give you and your family peace of mind knowing that you have a plan should the need arise.**

Faith is making yesterday a stepping stone.



**1969-2019**

**Half a century of memories! Please share some of yours with us as we prepare to celebrate our church's anniversary. We've come this far by faith: a thankful people serving a faithful God for fifty years. Remind us of times, events, people that have helped shape NPCUCC.**

**Memory items may be mailed to or left at the church office (Fiftieth Committee, 3450 S. Biscayne Drive, North Port, FL 34287). The recollections (emails or videos) may be sent to [northportucc@juno.com](mailto:northportucc@juno.com). Send one or send several (as you think of them).**

### **Read "Celebrate Florida"**



**It is a publication from the Florida UCC. Articles are submitted every two months from UCC churches throughout Florida. It is newsy, colorful and interesting. A hard copy is printed for our church library. You can read the interactive internet copy by going to [www.uccfla.org](http://www.uccfla.org) and clicking on the Celebrate Florida link. A new edition comes out November 1st.**



### **Change of Address:**



**Mary Williams  
Town Village Tulsa, Apt. 334  
8222 South Yale  
Tulsa, OK 74137**

**Do you use....?**



**Our church, North Port Community United Church of Christ, has its own Facebook page.**

**To get there, include the name of our church in the search Facebook bar. When the church's page appears, click "like". This will include you on any future church postings and activities.**

**You don't need to post personal items to receive these postings. The NEAT thing is you can "share" our services, missions, and activities with all your friends and they in turn with their friends. It is the perfect way to spread the GOOD NEWS from our wonderful church family throughout North Port and beyond!**



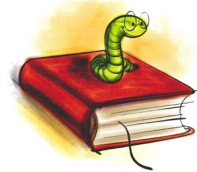


***“7 Women and the Secrets of Their Greatness”*** by Eric Metaxas includes Joan of Arc, Susanna Wesley, Hannah More, St. Maria of Paris, Corrie Ten Boom, Rosa Parks, and Mother Teresa. The author reveals how the

**extraordinary women profiled here achieved their greatness, inspiring readers to lives guided by a call beyond themselves.**

**A fiction book, *“Martha: A Novel”* by Diana Wallis Taylor tells of her life marked by her responsibilities to her family. Follow Martha as she navigates the complicated worlds of family, faith, and love.**

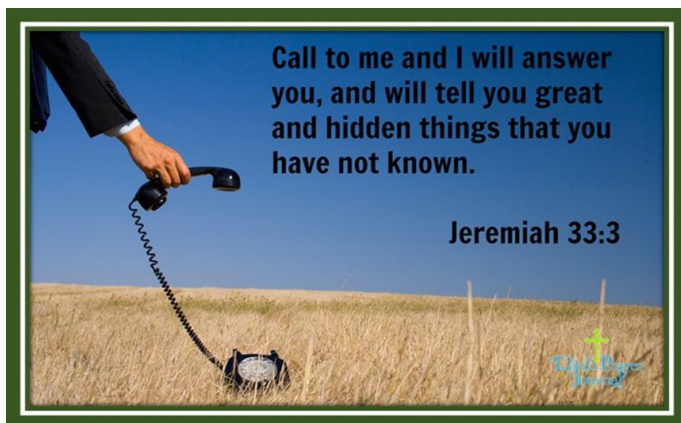
**Also new is *“Through My Father’s Eyes”* by Franklin Graham with Donna Lee Toney. This tribute for his father covers Billy Graham’s life. “When you read or hear that Billy Graham is dead, don’t you believe a word of it! I shall be more alive then than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.**



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



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

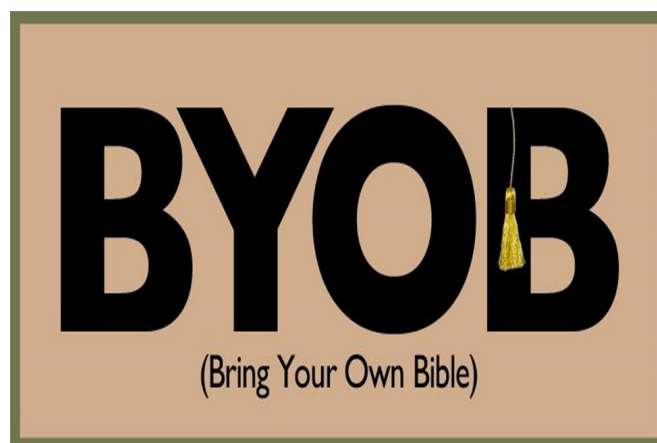
Jeremiah 33:3

**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.**

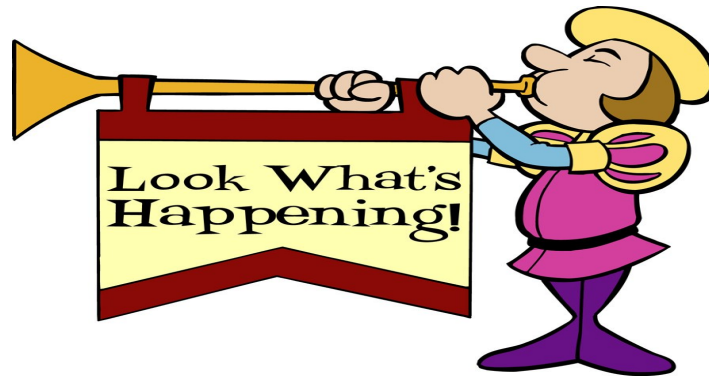


*No Matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are always welcome here!*



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





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

<b>October 12</b>	<b>Pumpkins Arrive</b>
<b>October 13—31</b>	<b>Pumpkin Patch is Open Daily 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>October 28</b>	<b>Reformation Sunday</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>Deadline to sign up for Israel Trip</b>
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Election Day</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Movie</b>
<b>November 15-17</b>	<b>Rummage Sale</b>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Pot Luck</b>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>Choir Cantata</b>
<b>December 15</b>	<b>Breakfast with Santa</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.</b>



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

**Summer is over and now it is time for autumn. The Sunday school youngsters are back meeting again. What nice treats there were on the first day. Pip and I really liked the “corn on the cob” and those refreshing drinks with the ice cream. This sure is a nice place to hide out.**

**We hear lots of talk that those big round orange things will back on the grass out front very soon. We liked seeing all the people come and check them out. The kids really had fun picking out just the right one. Maybe Mrs. Mouse, Pip and I will sign up on that board and you will see us out their helping.**

**From the sounds of things our quiet summer is over and it is going to be very busy around the big building very soon. Blessings to you all.**

**Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip**



*Prayer Shawl Ministry*



## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

**Attention knitters  
and those who crochet!**

**Prayer Shawls are on hold for now. Watch for info in your Sunday bulletin for the next meeting date.**



**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.**



**Sunday  
October 7th  
Join us!**



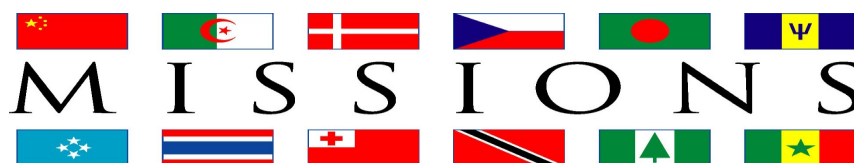
## **Dine to Donate!**

**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.**

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







## ECHO Mission Update

As you remember, our ECHO Mission Project this year is to support the seed bank in Asia. ECHO operates four Regional Impact Centers around the world to bring agricultural resources to small-scale farmers - one in Chiang Mai, Thailand, one in Arusha, Tanzania, one in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and a long-term research project in soil science near Modimolle, South Africa.

Why put a seed bank in Asia when we have such a fine seed bank here at ECHO? Due to the region's vastness, its enormous population as well as uneven economic growth, Asia remains home to 2/3 of the world's poor.

**DID YOU KNOW** - More than 600 million Asians live in absolute poverty (that is less than \$1 a day).

**DID YOU KNOW** - Growth in rice production, Asia's staple, has slowed and rice production areas are in decline.

It makes sense to put a conscious effort into introducing other sources of food plants, and to put seeds, information and agricultural expertise and training right where it is needed the most. Right now the Asian Seed Bank in Chiang Mai, Thailand, stocks 83 varieties of edible plant seeds that grow well in that region of the world. In June 2018 the staff distributed a total of 193 free trial seed packets and 100 grams of bulk seed to 8 people from 5 countries. They are meeting a real need in Thailand. (continued next page)

**ECHO continued:**

Currently, the Asia Impact Center is relocating their seed bank operation 4 hours closer to the Impact Center Headquarters. This will make it easier to staff the seed bank and train the local people. The local people will learn how seeds are collected, cleaned, dried, packed and stored.

Our "mission dollars" this year will go toward the seed bank project in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Thank you in advance for what you can do to support this worthy ECHO project.

**Submitted by Sharon Miller, for the Mission Committee**

**Operation Christmas Child**

**Start planning now to participate in our the Operation Christmas Child Mission sponsored by our Christian Education Department.**

**On October 14th you will hear more about our annual project of putting together "shoeboxes" with Christmas gifts for children in other countries.**

**Also on October 14th we will receive our monthly Noisy Coin Offering with October's coins going toward Operation Christmas Child.**

**Details will follow, but boxes need to be filled and returned to the church in early November, so when you are out shopping start looking for items to fill your boxes.**

## **More Missions.....**



**We have started a new Mission called “Discovering Each Other”. Each Friday 3 or 4 women take china tea cups, tea pot and cookies and go visit someone from our congregation. The hostess provides us with hot water and we just take some time to visit and enjoy a cup of tea. We have learned about their families, hobbies, interests, etc. So far we have visited 7 persons.**

**Let us know if you’d like us to bring tea to you by calling the church office. OR....if you’d rather come to our house for tea, we can do that too. Just let us know—it can be your house or ours!**

## **Neighbors In Need 2018**

**Our Annual Neighbors In Need Offering will be collected on Sunday, October 7th—World Communion Sunday. This UCC Mission supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S., including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC’s Justice and Witness ministries. A special envelope will be provided on October 7th for you to use. Please give with a grateful heart.**





## October Birthdays:

October 5	Mary Maples
October 5	Jeanne Perry
October 6	Randy Cook
October 8	Rebecca Brown
October 13	Kim Campos
October 18	Cindy Minich



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 in October.

Tom and Sandra Van Bergen  
October 29th



# OCTOBER

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

October 7	Marie Doran
October 14	Sheryll Norris
October 21	Barbara Mervine
October 28	Tom and Sandra Van Bergen



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.



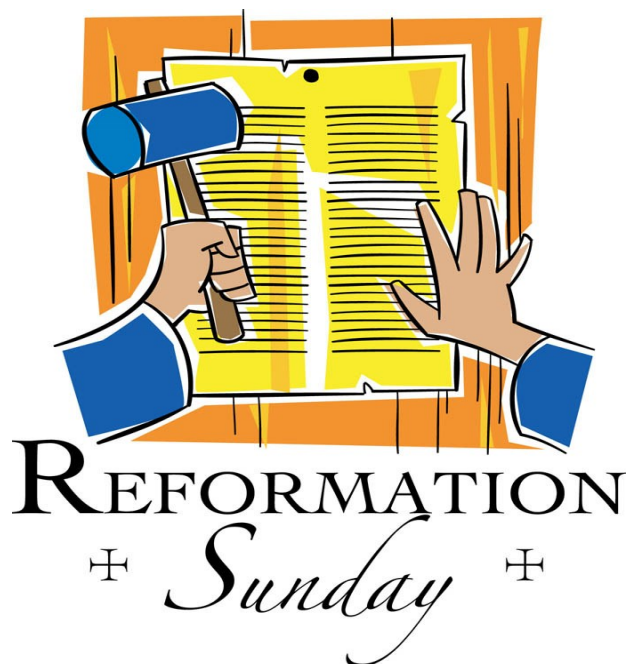
## Ink Cartridges

We are no longer collecting ink cartridges.  
Thanks for your donations in the past, but  
we don't need them any more.

**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."



**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 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday**

**Closed on Friday**

**Patti Bourque, Office Manager**

**Terry Hong, Office Assistant**