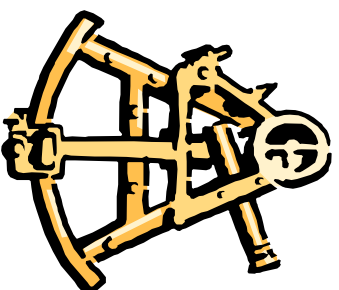


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

October, 2017



October, 2017

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Central Doctrine!

Dear Church Family,

It is that time of the year again, Reformation Sunday is quickly approaching. Last year we studied the life and times of German Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will celebrate Reformation Sunday on the 22nd of October.



Pastor *Wilfried Wassermann* from the Martin Luther Congregation in Orlando will be our guest speaker.

The day of Reformation goes back to October 31st, 1517. On this day Martin Luther (Originally Luder/ according to the German dialect) posted his famous 95 thesis on the Wittenberg Castle Church door. It brought a stone into rolling that not only changed the Church but revolutionized society as well.

Luther raised such controversy that he was considered by some to be the devil's product.

The Diet of Worms condemned him as a “demon in the appearance of a man.”

The Reformation was based on Luther's intense study of the Word of God. He translated first the New Testament from the original Greek (Koine/Koinῆ dialect) into German in eleven weeks. It was printed in 1522. This is the so called “September Testament.” It was very popular in Protestant areas. It consequently made a large contribution to the development of a Standardized written German. He later translated the Old Testament which was printed in 1534.

Here is a quote by Martin Luther about Ephesians 2:8-9

“Now the article of justification, which is our sole defense, not only against all the force and craft of man, but also against the gates of hell, is this: that by faith only in Christ, and without works, we are pronounced righteous and saved.” (Martin Luther)

This was a huge revelation for the average believer. They did not have to earn God's love and fight their way through to please God; but in and through Jesus Christ we are justified and saved. God's love came to us freely and is not earned through our deeds. This came at a high price for Luther, who first fought and struggled through all of this alone. We are Protestants today because individual believers like Martin Luther and countless others “protested” against corruption and false teaching within

the Church. In 1521 at the Diet of Worms Clergymen of his time challenged Luther's teaching as heresy but his answer reveals it all. This is what he said to his accusers:

"Here stand I. I can do no other. God help me. Amen"

And God did. Let us give thanks again in this 500th Anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation. It is clear that we cannot be satisfied with one Reformation long ago. Instead we follow the motto of the 16th Century Reformation

**"REFORMADA, SEMPER REFORMANDA"-
REFORMED ALWAYS REFORMING.**

That is our call today and in times to come.

With that in mind, "Sola Scriptura"

Enjoy a couple of pictures selected from church life here at the NPCUCC.

Visit with Corinne and Pepe (08-31-2017)





Adult Sunday School Class (09-17-2017)

**Class takes place every Sunday in Decker Hall
(8:30-9:15 a.m.)**

**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**



The women of the church are invited to our fall meeting and lunch on Wednesday, October 18th in Fellowship Hall at ten a.m. We will be discussing the upcoming North Port Community UCC Women's activities. All are welcome at any time.

Please bring a sandwich to share. The committee will add sides and beverages.

We will sign up for the November 16-18 rummage sale and prep for our November activity (making personal scrapbook pages for women of the church). Please join us for all or part of this event.

It is time for the semi-annual church rummage sale. Please start gathering donations of clean, sellable, gently used items. Household items, toys, books, decorations, tools, sporting equipment, and clothes are appreciated. All unsold items will be donated. Thank you for your help.



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



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

**Saturday, November 4th
Tickets \$20**



Watch your Sunday Bulletins for more details.



NPCUCC Thanksgiving Potluck

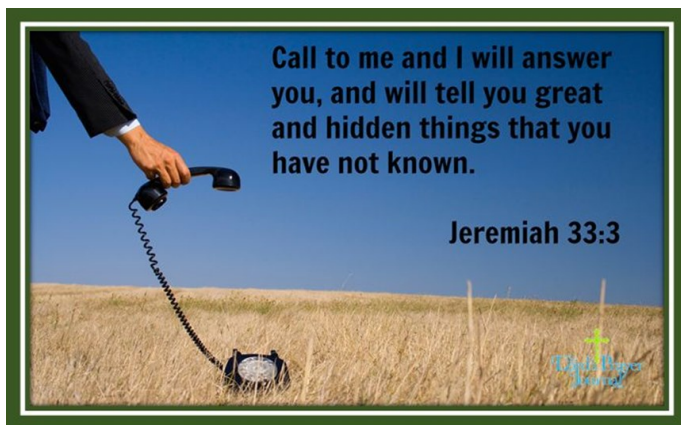
**Save the date of Sunday,
November 19th for a Thanksgiving
Potluck lunch following our
morning worship.**

**Details still need to be worked out, but for now, save
the date and plan to be with us that day as we count
our blessings.**

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast
on Wednesday, October 4. 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.

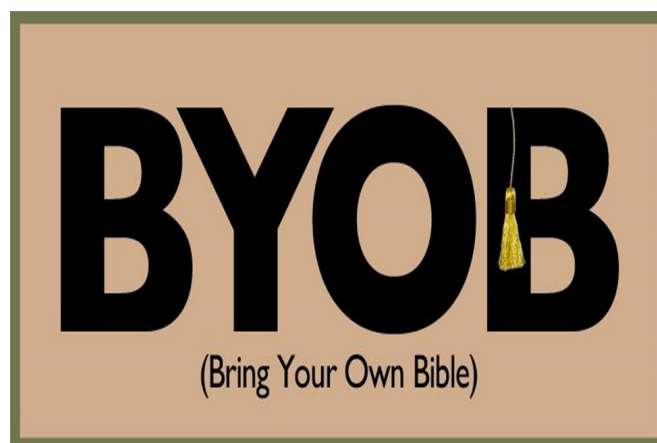
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

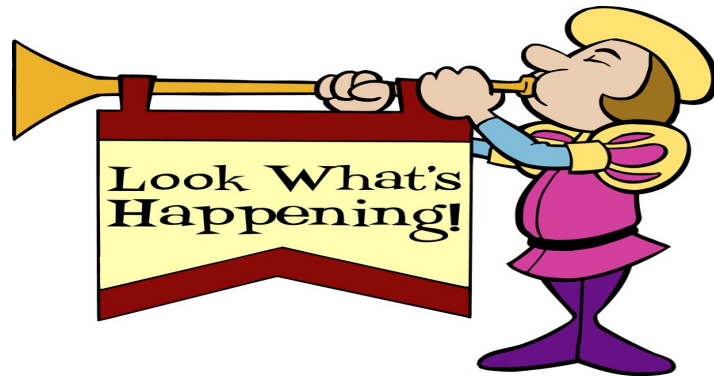
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



*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!

October 7	Pumpkin's Arrive
October 7—31	Pumpkin Patch Open Daily
October 22	Celebrate Reformation
October 28	Golf Outing with Venice & St. Andrews UCC churches
November 4	Dinner/Comedy Lemon Bay Players
November 16-18	Rummage Sale
November 19	Thanksgiving Pot Luck
November 23	Thanksgiving Day
December 9	Breakfast with Santa
December 9-10	Auditions for Lion, Witch, Wardrobe
December 17	Choir Cantata



In the Mail Bag....

We received word recently that Nova Shover, NPCUCC's remaining Charter Member passed away in Ohio.

Meg Robel sent the following note of thanks:

Dear North Port UCC,

Thank you so very much for your generous support of my mission to Cambodia! I am so blessed to be able to do this work and extremely grateful for your support that helps make it possible!

**Prayers and blessings to you all,
Meghan Robel**

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**Attention knitters
and those who crochet!**

**Join us for prayer, knitting and fellowship. Tuesday,
October 10 & 24 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
Questions? Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**



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 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Decker Hall and on Sunday, December 10th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. also in Decker Hall.

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.





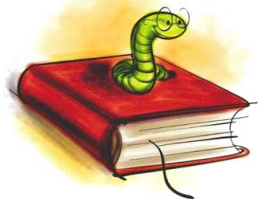
From the Library

The Library Committee is happy to announce a gift from the UCC Women to purchase books. This year it was decided to choose only three books from the Reading for Renewal List sent to us by the Florida United Church of Christ Women and the remaining funds to be used for books recommended by the Pastor.

The non-fiction title selected is “*A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper*” by Betty Mae Tiger Jumper and Patsy West. This inspiring autobiography is the story of the most decorated member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

One of the fiction selections is “*Harmony*” by Carolyn Parkhurst. “Every child has the potential to break a parent’s heart. In this gripping, timely novel, the author follows a family as they give up everything to build a community that will allow both their daughters to thrive and reveals the healing power of love.

The entire list of this year’s Reading for Renewal Program is on the library shelf. Most titles can be obtained through the Sarasota Library System.



Sold here!

**Stop in the church
office during the week.
Great for gifts!**



**Wednesday,
October 18
Grief Support Group
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Note: We will meet in
Decker Hall this time.**



From the Church Mouse.....

Well we had a bit more excitement around here than this little church mouse and his family could handle with that big storm of wind and rain. It was pretty scary for us little guys. Our little mouse family hunkered down and waited out the storm as best we could it was dark and quiet around here with everyone gone into hiding or going away to escape the storm. For the most part we were very lucky that the only things damaged at the church were trees and things. Folks are all okay and the damage could have been a lot worse. We have been blessed indeed!

Heard there will be pumpkins rolling into town very soon. Guess that means fall is here and cool weather is on the way.....Until next month – keep safe. We'll be seeing you at the Pumpkin Patch.

Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip





**It's our 2nd Annual
Pumpkin Patch!!!!**

**Coming to NPCUCC
October 7—31**

It's time to volunteer!

**Help unload the Pumpkins on
Saturday, October 7th at 8:00 a.m.
once the Pumpkins are
unloaded, we'll have a cookout
For all who helped.**



Proceeds will go to our General Fund.



**Sales Start
Once the Pumpkins arrive**



**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.

**We still 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.



**So Others Can Eat!
Saturday, October 21st**



Our Turning Point Youth Group again this year is putting a little twist into Halloween Trick or Treating.

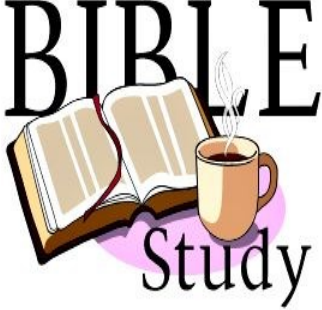
Their theme is “Trick or Treat, So Others Can Eat!” The Youth group will gather at the church on Saturday, October 21st, dressed for Trick or Treating. They are inviting church members to stop by the church between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. and donate non-perishable food items for those who are hungry in our community. While they are waiting for folks to arrive, they will be helping at the Pumpkin Patch and enjoying their own Halloween activities outside.

In previous years they came to your homes, but coordinating transportation became an issue, so they are hoping you will come to them this year.

Any questions, see Miss Ally or call the church office.



COME JOIN OUR



In Home Bible Studies....

The September Evening Bible Study will be hosted by Bob and Nancy Case on Thursday, September 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Questions?? See Nancy Case



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



**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

Sunday, October 1



**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.

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.”**

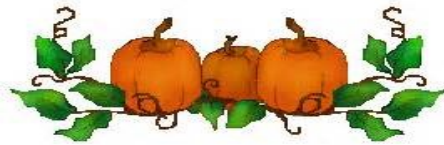
**Average monthly
attendance:**

**August 2016: 82
August 2017: 111**

Lay Readers:

Oct. 1	Mary Maples
Oct. 8	Karen Knudsen
Oct. 15	Jeanie Doll
Oct. 22	Betty Van Tassell
Oct. 29	Lynn Sanford

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

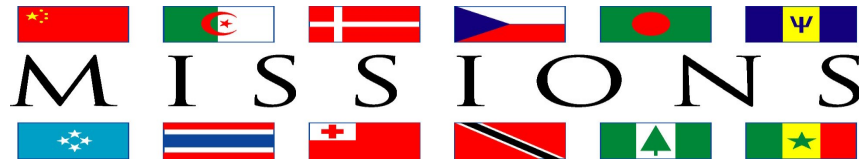


MARK YOUR CALENDAR
NPCUCC Bus Trip to
Holy Land in Orlando and Cocoa Beach

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.
Sign up in Fellowship hall to let us know you are
interested.**



Some time ago, I told you that just as soon as I received the name of an ECHO intern that would represent ECHO to us for this year, I would let you know.

Well, let me introduce Jack Olsen! Jack spent his childhood in Australia and Fort Myers, FL where his parents worked in missions and ministry. Jack graduated from Berry College with a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy. Jack, his wife Abigail, son Jarrah along with their second son, Eliam, born September 1st, have been living in Rome, Georgia where Jack has been working with the college students as an employee of Barry College's farm.

Jack works in the Monsoon Region at ECHO farm and he cares for the chickens and the ducks on the farm. He is working to increase their flock sizes by incubating eggs and he has also been working on a research project developing a chicken feed using things exclusively grown on the farm.

Jack and his family are contemplating their plans after leaving ECHO in May. They are hoping to use the training from ECHO overseas, probably in Africa. Jack requests prayer for direction and wisdom on deciding their next step. There will be more information to share in the future.

Sharon Miller, for the Mission Committee

More Mission News.....

Operation Christmas Child sponsored by our Christian Education Department is the Mission focus for October. You will be hearing about the Shoe boxes for children overseas. Also, we are very excited to be having Becky and Andy Carlson here with us in worship on November 5th to tell us of their experience this past year actually having the opportunity to distribute the boxes to the children! What an amazing experience this must have been. We can't wait!

Disaster Relief

As many of you are aware, since the devastating hurricanes have hit this past summer, we have placed a Disaster Relief jar in our narthex. It will be determined by Council at their October meeting just how these funds will be distributed and how we can best address this ongoing need.

There are many agencies out there who are providing Disaster Relief, including our own United Church of Christ Florida and National Office.

There are many, many places for these funds to go. At the time the jar was placed out, we only knew about Hurricane Harvey. Now we have Hurricane Irma which hit our very own state and our immediate neighbors in Arcadia, Naples, Fort Myers, the Keys, etc., and then Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico and other areas.

Again, It will be discussed at our October Council meeting, but in the meantime, continue to place your donations in the jar as you are able.

October Birthdays:

Oct. 5	Mary Maples
Oct. 5	Jeanne Perry
Oct. 6	Randy Cook
Oct. 8	Rebecca Brown
Oct. 13	Kim Campos
Oct. 18	Cindy Minich
Oct. 28	Marjorie Passika



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 October:

We have no anniversaries being celebrated this month!



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.

October:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

October 1	UCC Women
October 8	Marie Doran; Don and Jan Lytle
October 15	Barbara Mervine
October 22	Sheryll Norris
October 29	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.

Mark your Calendar

**Golf Outing with
Venice UCC and
St. Andrews UCC**

**Saturday
October 28th**

**See Mike Bourque
To sign up
Or call the church office!**





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