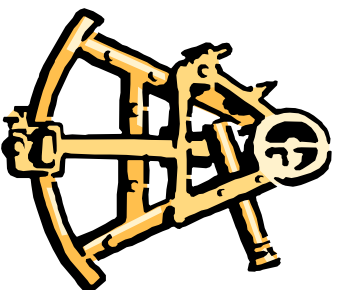


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

April, 2017

*From the
Pastor*



APRIL 2017

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and
just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse
us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)**

Dear Church Family,

We are just a few short weeks away from celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are still in the season of Lent. It is this season which helps us understand the Price Tag, The High Cost attached in order for us to have forgiveness of sins.

But how does it all happen? One thing not allowed is piling, hoarding, hiding, covering up and so on. I have seen throughout my travels in countries where recycling is at its very beginning stages, people simply picking a spot and dumping their garbage. It is not a pretty sight.

Eventually a sign will go up...No Dumping Allowed. Maybe you have seen it where people have put on several layers of wallpaper in a room. That too will only go so far and no more can be put over it. Sin is too big a burden to bear. Giving it up to God through confession on the other hand is a freeing experience. Sets us on new ground in our walk with God. Yes, sin is something we confess to God. We do that before communion for example. People have come up to me and said: "Please take a longer period of silence while we confess our sins, I need more time."

It is really quite simple, but it did cost Jesus everything! He paid for forgiveness with His life. So here are three steps to take when sin happens.

- We right away without procrastination...
ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN, ASK GOD TO PURIFY US AND RENEW US , AND ACCEPT THE FORGIVENESS.**
- We can take God by His word which he gave to us in Jesus.**
- Here it is again...
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)**

Here is a special encouragement to those that are struggling with temptation, trials and doubts. Jesus was tempted and understands where you are at!

Finding a good Christian Counselor, and being accountable to a fellow Christian is the thing to do.

Thank you to ALL for your dedication, hard work and service here at the church. We are thankful. We could not do ministry without your help.

Please pray for the following event!

**Easter Community Outreach on Saturday, April 8th.
We begin with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and start our outreach at 10:00 a.m. Our goal: To reach 200 households right here in North Port.**

Please read the newsletter carefully for all the details regarding Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

ENJOY the selection of photos taken at recent church events!

**“Amish Grace”
Movie Event
03-15-2017**



**Lenten
Soup Supper
03-15-17**



Farewell Event for Esther Sanborn 03-18-17



Visit with Don and Jean 03-20-2017



Together in Mission/HE IS RISEN: Pastor *Attila Szemesi*/NPCUCC



Changes in our church office....

Welcome Marlene!

When you call the office or stop in you will be greeted by our new office assistant, Marlene Janeway. Marlene began her duties on Monday, March 20th. She works Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon. Her responsibilities and duties are assigned by Patti, our Office Manager.

Patti's hours will be changing starting on April 24th. She will be working the following hours:

Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

She will be off on Tuesday and Friday.

Patti's hours will be adjusted when there are evening meetings, memorial services etc. If you have any questions, please see Patti and she will be happy to answer them.

We invite you to stop in to meet Marlene and give her a warm NPCUCC welcome.

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



Dinner and Theater
Friday, May 13th
5:00 p.m.

Join us as we enjoy a delicious spring dinner of Baby Back Ribs or Chicken, homemade baked beans and coleslaw, beverage and dessert. Then, following Dinner we will be entertained by our own Jack Rabito in "Give Em Hell Harry".

Tickets will be on sale on Sunday mornings and also in the church office during the week.

**Tickets are \$20 for adults
\$10 for children 10 and under.**

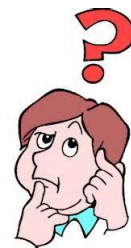
Proceeds will go to the General Fund.



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

The Long Range Planning Committee has had two meetings and is excited to think about our church's future and goals.

Hopefully, you all have completed the recent brief survey handed out at church. If you have not, please see a member of the committee or leave a note in the office to our attention. Members are David and Lynn Sanford, Patti Boger, Jeanie Doll, Neville Miles, Cindy Minich, Norma Beach, Barbara Mervine, Bob Case, and Becky Rooney. We value your opinion.





Join us for our Soup and Bread Simple Supper and Lenten activity on April 5th.

Come at 5:00 p.m. and enjoy a Simple Supper. Soup and Bread will be provided. Then stay from 6:00 to 7:00 to hear about the History of Music by our Organist, Charles Wolf. A Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.



Sunday, April 9

Worship and Cantata

Thursday, April 13

**Maundy Thursday
Dramatization &
Communion 7:00 p.m.**

Friday, April 14

**Good Friday Services:
Noon and 7:00 p.m.**

Sunday, April 16

**Easter Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.**



Our Mission Moment on April 9th will be Dawn Jones from the North Port Fire Department speaking about the File for Life Program, and Richard Berman discussing hurricane preparedness.

Norma Beach, Missions Chair

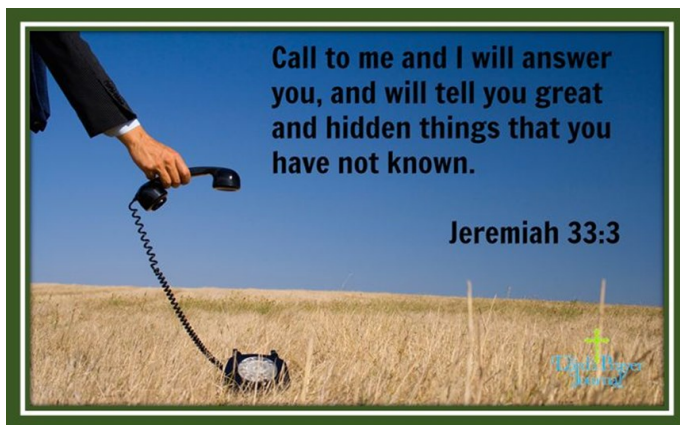


*No Matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are always welcome here!*

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



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, April 5 at 8:30 a.m. at Olde World Restaurant. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

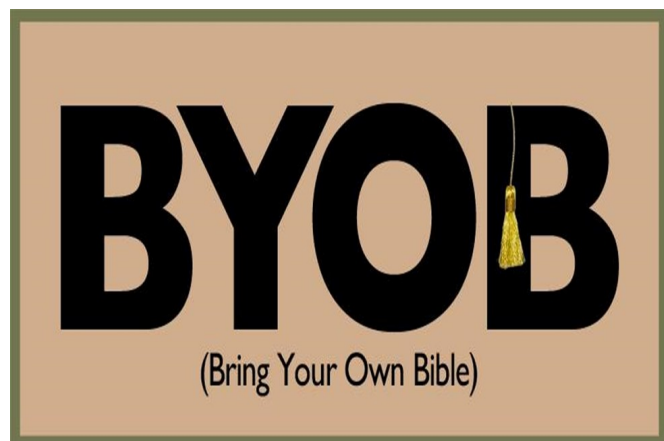


**Prayer Line:
941-426-5580**

(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.**



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

COME JOIN OUR

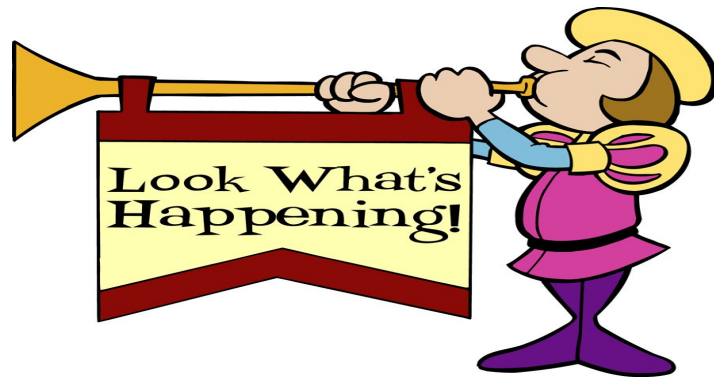
BIBLE

Study

In Home Bible Studies....

March 30	6:00 p.m.	@Case's
April 27	6:00 p.m.	@ Edwards'
May 17	6:00 p.m.	@Rooney's
June ??		

Questions?? See Nancy Case



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

March 31	Moses Dramatization in Wauchula
April 5	History of Church Music
April 8 April 8	Breakfast and Community Outreach UCC Three Church Golf Outing
April 9	Palm Sunday Cantata
April 13	Maundy Thursday Drama & Communion
April 14	Good Friday Services (noon and 7:00)
April 16	Easter Sunday Celebration
April 17	Office Closed
April 22	German Service with Potluck Here
April 26	Grief Support Group
April 30	Congregational Meeting
May 9	North Port Election in Decker Hall
May 13	Dinner/Theater Here



Seasonal Rental Home Wanted:

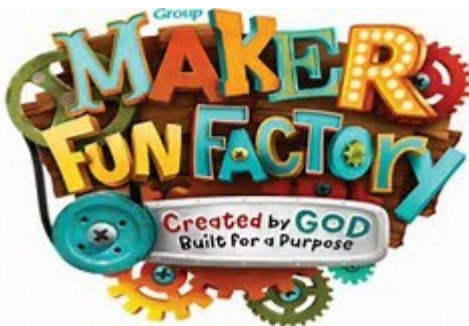
Two senior adults with a small quiet dog are needing a home to rent for February –April, 2018. Contact information for this couple is available through the church office.

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Annual Congregational Meeting for North Port Community UCC has been called by the Church Council for Sunday, April 30, 2017 immediately following the morning worship.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive all annual reports, elect officers, and approve the 2017-2018 budget, and any other business to be presented.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Maker Fun Factory
Vacation Bible School
June 26-30, 2017
8:30 a.m.—12:00 noon**

**Ages 5—the completion of grade 5
We'll be looking for Campers and Staff
VERY SOON!!!**



UCC WOMEN

Women of the Church All women are invited to the April 19th meeting of the UCC Women. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at ten and have lunch after the meeting. Each person brings a sandwich which will be cut in fourths to offer a variety of choices. The committee will supply the salad and dessert. It's a wonderful chance to get to know others and plan for our next year. Hope to see you on Wednesday, April 19th.



THANK YOU GRAMS! Comments and 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 prior to the Sunday morning 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 Your Grams and sign your name to let us know who to discuss it with. Anonymous comments and suggestions are disposed of and not shared.



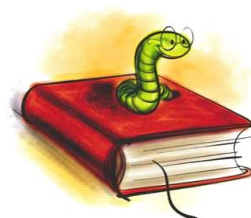
Library Committee

New books to the fiction shelf are two books by the popular author Karen Kingsbury. *“Fifteen Minutes”* and *“The Chance”* continue to be the inspirational stories that she is well known for.

On the non-fiction shelf is *“Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story.”* The book is filled with fascinating case histories and of Dr. Carson’s faith and genius that make him one of today’s greatest life-givers.

On the Christian Education shelf is *“Live the Story”: Short Simple Plays for Churches”*. Included are plays for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Thank you to all who have donated items to the church library. Questions or suggestions see Becky Rooney.



**New Address:
Esther Sanborn
53 Harbour Chase
New Haven, CT 06519**

**Why not drop her a card to welcome her
in her new home.**



**Sold here!
See Doug Minich or
stop in the church office
during the week.
Great for gifts!**



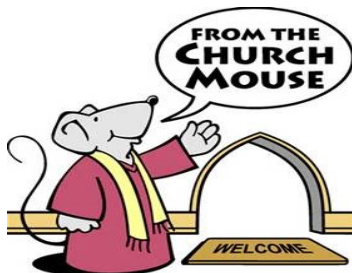
**The church
office will be
closed on
Monday,
April 16 for
Easter
Monday.**

Summer Special Music!

**Do you sing?
Do you play an
instrument?**

**We are looking for
volunteers to provide
Special Music while our
Choir is on Summer
break.**

**See our Organist, Charles
Wolf, to volunteer.**



From the Church Mouse.....

We are well into Lent and Pip and I have been enjoying lots of yummy soup and bread every week. Such good cooks we have around here. We hear lots of talk about reaching out to our neighbors. Perhaps Pip and I could invite other local mice to stop in and say hi too. Heard the lady in the office talking to someone the other day about mice and round silos. Guess he's got some mice friends too. Pip and I will be around for all the activities coming up. This is a busy time of year. Happy summer to all those snowy birds that are Beginning to fly north. We'll miss you. Be safe and return soon.

Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip



RESPITE TIME NEWS

Volunteers: Hang on to your March *Navigator*. Patti put the summer schedule in that issue. For those who missed Respite Mission Sunday, here are the names of the year 'round volunteers:

**David DeRonde
Ingrid Massaro
Bob Kelly
Donna Swanson
D.J. Covert
Norm Augustine
Karen Knudsen
Marjorie Passika
Lisa Williamson
Nancy Case**

Snowbird Volunteers:

**Bill and Maggie Palmer
Dee Krusz
Arline Hughes**

Thank you to all the Respite Time volunteers (also known as *A Special Time*) .



**Wednesday, April 26
Grief Support Group
at 10:00 a.m.**

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:

April 2	Betty Van Tassell
April 9	Jeanie Doll
April 16	Lynn Sanford
April 23	Karen Knudsen
April 30	Mary Maples



Average monthly attendance:

February 2016 – 186
February 2017 – 180

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



RESPITE TIME NEWS

Are you a 24 hour a day care giver for a loved one? Would you like a break or someone to talk to? If so, contact “A Special Time” at (941) 268-4976.

NPCUCC Dates for Respite Time

April 28
May 26
June 23
July 21
August 18
September 15
October 13

April Birthdays:

April 1	Alden Miller
April 1	Charles Wolf
April 3	Mary Jane Schaeferle
April 5	Wes Bates
April 9	Geri Habenicht
April 11	Dick Beach
April 12	Ann Schaffner
April 15	Dave DeRonde
April 24	Noreen Feller
April 25	Winona Vannoy
April 26	Lola Van Woert
April 29	Dee Krusz



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 April:

Neville and Barbara Miles—April 4



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.

APRIL:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

April 2	Barbara Gordon
April 9	Patti Bourque/Anne Smith
April 16	UCC Women
April 23	Bob and Nancy Case
April 30	Karen Knudsen



**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.



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



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**Attention knitters
and those who crochet!**

**Join us for prayer, knitting and fellowship. Tuesday,
April 11 and 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
Questions? Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**

HAPPY EASTER

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: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Monday-Friday

Patti Bourque, Office Manager

