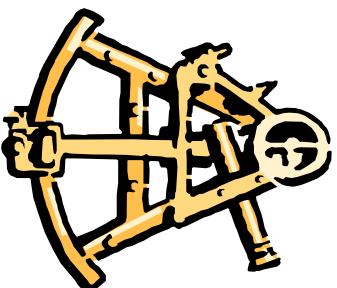


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287

 AUGUST 



THE NAVIGATOR

August, 2017

*From the
Pastor*



August, 2017

No Accidental Meetings

**“Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.”
(Isaiah 43:4)**

Dear Church Family,

If I was to introduce you to Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, the youngest of three children of an Albanian family born on August 26th, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia, you might wonder who is she? Never heard of her!

Let us go on a little and you will understand.

At the age of 18, she joined an Order in Ireland. It was here that she trained at the mother House of the Loreto Sisters. She eventually chose the name of Sister Teresa, in memory of *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*.

It was in December of the year 1928, that she began her journey to India.

On September 10, 1946, Mother Teresa had a life altering experience. She was on her way to Darjeeling for a retreat because of suspected tuberculosis. On her long train ride, God spoke to her and gave her a mission. In simple words...She was to follow Jesus into the slums and serve the poorest of the poor. She did not procrastinate but asked permission and received it from Pope Pius the XII.

Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity began their amazing outreach in 1952. I understand that in every one of their Centers around the world, above the Crucifix are written the words of Christ He spoke when on the Cross: “I thirst”. And so the Missionaries of Charity work among the poorest of the poor to serve Christ.

It is recorded that one time, Mother Teresa was visiting the Center of the Missionaries of Charity in London, England. As she was going around and talking to people she encountered also a homeless person who was living in a cardboard box house. She touched his hand and the man said to her, “It has been a long time since I have felt the warmth of a human touch.”

Our church is actively involved in Missions, here locally, nationally and internationally as well. We know from studying Missions and Evangelism that as Christians we the Church need to leave the comforts of the church and venture out and let people know what the above Scripture declares to *ALL. (*We saw this in a recent study on another modern day Missionary *Jackie Pullinger*)

“Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.” (Isaiah 43:4)

God is saying this to the WORLD in His Son JESUS. There are no accidental meetings for us as Christians; this perspective helps us realize that there are many hands to hold.

Visit with Hannelore Bathrick 7/24/17



Mrs. Hannelore R. Bathrick a member of our German Congregation here at the NPCUCC a dear friend will be moving to Germany in August. Please pray for *Hannelore* and her family during this big transition. *Hannelore* we are so glad we have met and we will stay in touch.

Together in Missions:
Attila Szemesi, Pastor

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.npccucc.org

The Florida Conference: United Church Christ publishes a newsletter "Celebrate Florida" every couple of months. It includes newsworthy articles submitted by the UCC churches in Florida. You may be interested in keeping informed of other churches and their activities.

Google the following: www.uccfla.org which brings you to the Florida Conference United Church of Christ webpage. Across the top of the page is a NEWS link. Click this link on and you will see "Celebrate Florida".

Do you prefer reading a hard copy? Patti prints each "Celebrate Florida" and leaves a copy in the church library. Enjoy!

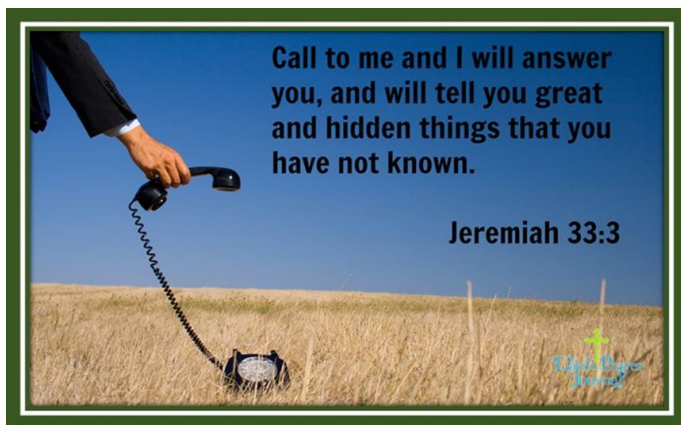


*No Matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are always welcome here!*

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



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, August 2nd. 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.

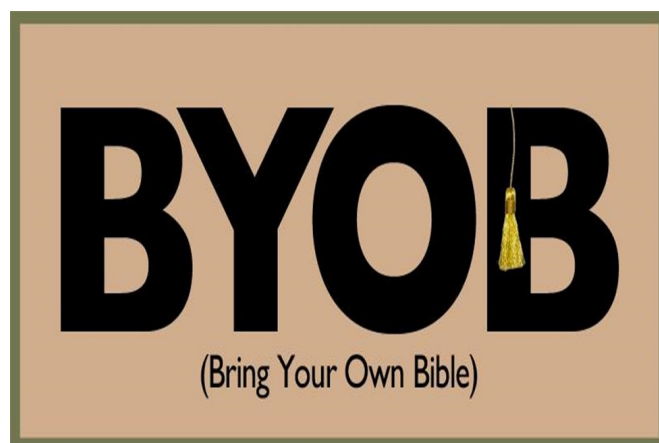
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

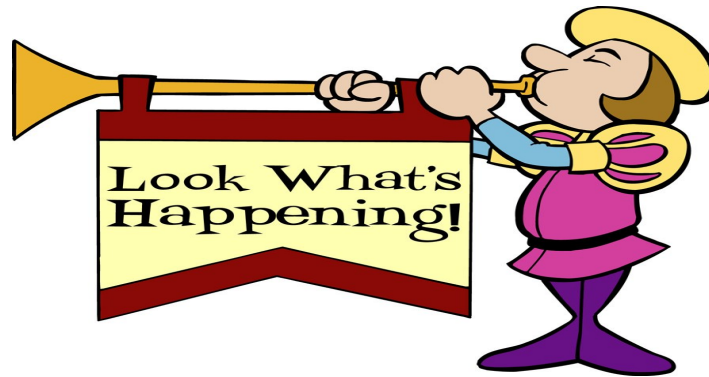
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



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



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



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

August 25	In Home Bible Study
September 4	Labor Day—Office Closed
September 10	Rally Day Sunday —Sunday School begins Adults and Children
September 10	Pot Luck Lunch
September 16	Prime Rib Dinner & Concert
September 18—21	Pastor Attila Haiti Mission Trip
October 7	Pumpkin's Arrive
October 7—31	Pumpkin Patch Open Daily
October 28	Golf Outing with Venice & St. Andrews UCC churches
October 28—Nov. 6	<i>In the Footsteps of Martin Luther</i> trip to Germany



**Maker Fun Factory
Vacation Bible School
June 26-30, 2017**

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make our 2017 VBS another successful year. Your generosity is always appreciated.

Our Mission Project this year was to make blankets and provide funds for a National Organization called Project Linus. With the help of Doug and Cindy Minich and Terry Hong, 5 blankets were prepared for the children to finish during their Kid Vid Cinema rotation. Thank you to Sophia Bonsky and Isabella Vlasjuk for working on the blankets with the kids. In addition, our campers brought in coins each morning and these donations will be given to a local chapter in order that they may be able to provide more blankets to seriously ill children in our local hospitals. In total, we collected \$389.96 to be donated. WOW GOD!

Thank you to Esther Sanborn and others who assisted with making our GUTSY Bears that were created in our Imagination Station. They were definitely a hit.

Pastor Attila has asked for volunteers to take 5 names from our list of VBS campers and teens. Then he has asked that every day for the next year you pray for them. Prayer does make a difference. There are ten names still on our list so we are still looking for two more volunteers. Do you feel God calling you??? If so, call or email the office.

Test your VBS Knowledge
Take our Trivia quiz and even learn some things!
Looking back at 14 years of VBS!

- 1/ Which Pastor started VBS here in 2004?**
- 2/ What was the first VBS that Mr. Mike took over as the “Creative Mind?”**
- 3/ Which program did Miss Patti and some of our staff do in North Port and then again in Venice two weeks later?**
- 4/ When did Miss Patti become Director of VBS?**
- 5/ What event was inspired by God’s Big Backyard VBS?**
- 6/ Who was Director in 2007?**
- 7/ Who was always first to volunteer every year? In what role?**
- 8/ We hosted a VBS Fun Shop Training for what year?**
- 9/ We attended a VBS Fun Shop Training as a group – where and what year?**
- 10/ Mr. Shane proposed to Miss Ally at which VBS? Who helped him and how?**
- 11/ When did Cooper make his first appearance? Who was our first Cooper’?**
- 12/ When did Pip join our church mouse family?**
- 13/ What are Miss Patti’s favorite sets?**
- 14/ What Dolphins were adopted in the Promise Island Mission Room?**
- 15/ When did we watch Pandas LIVE from China?**
- 16/ Who cut branches off the oak trees for our live indoor display for God’s Big Backyard (complete with crickets).**
- 17/ Which VBS had the kids putting paint on real fish and creating pictures in crafts?**
- 18/ Who made giant wood signs for our Trading Places Characters?**

- 19/ What Pastor ironed t-shirts for Great Bible Reef's last minute campers.
- 20/ Where did Mr. Mike go to find inspiration for Everest? Baobab Blast?
- 21/ Who preached from the top of the giant Lifeguard stand and castle turret?
- 22/ What youth leader started out as a brown squirrel? Can you still sing "Brown Squirrel, Brown Squirrel shake your bushy tale" ???
- 23/ Mother of 2017 Red group Mia helped at VBS doing what and when?
- 24/ Who led daily openings and closings at Great Bible Reef and God's Big Backyard?
- 25/ What VBS set was the backdrop for Louise Hall and Elbert Duvall's wedding?
- 26/ Can you put our VBS programs in the correct order?

Surf Shack
Baobab Blast
Discovery Canyon
Everest
Trading Places

Maker Fun Factory
Serengeti Trek
Pandamania
Promise Island
Kingdom Rock

Weird Animals
Great Bible Reef
God's Big Backyard
Camp Creation

Thanks for helping us reminisce – I hope you enjoyed learning a bit more about VBS here at North Port Community UCC.



From the Library

By request, “*Mere Christianity*” by C. S. Lewis has been added to the shelf. “*Mere Christianity*” has sold millions of copies worldwide. Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity’s many denominations, Lewis provides an opportunity for believers and non-believers to hear a powerful rational, case for the Christian faith.

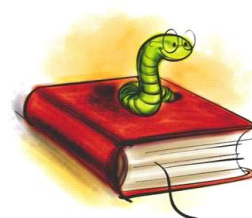
Another new addition is “*Hearts of Fire: Eight Women in the Underground Church and Their Stories of Costly Faith*”, with a forward by Gracia Burnham. These role models of faith and passion will inspire you to pursue Christ with heart aflame, no matter what the cost. This book written by the Voice of the Martyrs, a non profit, interdenominational organization dedicated to assisting the persecuted church worldwide.

Also, “*A Doctor in the House: My Life with Ben Carson*” by Candy Carson gives a rare look into the life of her husband. Thank you to Alden and Sharon Miller for this donation.



Sold here!

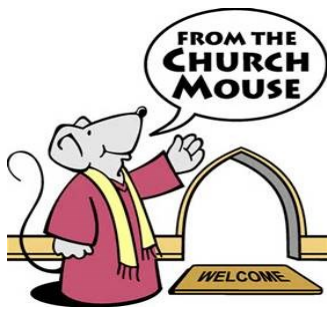
**Stop in the church office
during the week.
Great for gifts!**





**The church office
will be closed on
Fridays for the summer.**

**Wednesday,
July 26 and August 30
Grief Support Group
at 10:00 a.m.**



From the Church Mouse.....

The decorations are down. Pip and I are sad. We had a lot of fun again this year at the Fun Maker Factory VBS. We always enjoy seeing the happy kids, both biG and small. Sometimes the big kids with the gray hair (or no hair) are more fun to watch than the little ones. There were lots of gadgets and gizmos and plenty of things that moved and made noise. There were even some big gears that got moving too fast and came flying off. I don't think that was really supposed to happen. It is always nice to see familiar faces back every year. And of course, things wouldn't be complete without Yummy food! Till next month.....



Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip

DINNER AND CONCERT

September 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$20

Prime Rib Dinner & Concert:

Classical Vocal Soloist Alicia Bauer, singing beautiful songs
in English & German. Accompanied by Charles Wolf.

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

Office Phone Number: 941-426-5580
Reservation Deadline is September 11, 2017

***Come join us for good food and
a beautiful concert!
Everyone is welcome!***

Alicia Bauer, Mezzo-soprano

I completed my general education in Glatz, Schlesien and West Germany. It is not possible to equate the music education from Silesia and West Germany during the War years.

I was fortunate to have a music sponsorship after I immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1955 to Colorado Springs, Colorado, I studied voice that same year with Professor Irene Margolinski, a former Opera Soprano from Berlin, Germany. After Prof. Margolinski died in 1980, I transferred to my mentor, Josephine von Rittershausen Whaley, Operatic Soprano formerly from Munich, Germany.



I retained my musical tutoring from both instructors from 1955 to 1986.

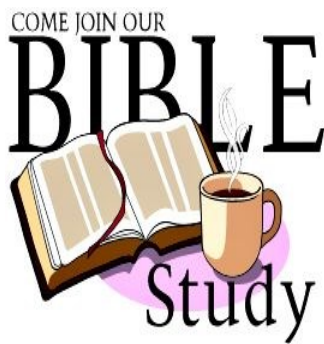
During these years I performed in Denver, Colorado, and Colorado Springs, at the Fine Arts Center on Dale Street, and for the American Music Society and the Colorado Springs Music Club. I have always sung solo, piano accompanied. Residing in Colorado Springs and Breckenridge, Co. I gave many solo benefit concerts.

When we moved to Prescott, Arizona. I continued Operatic and Golden Oldies performances locally and in the Arizona Opera House .

All my formal musical education was in the Classics; Schubert, Schumann, Wolf, Brahms, R. Strauss, Lehar, Puccini, Johann Strauss and American composers.

In 2011, we moved to Venice, Florida.

Alicia F. Bauer



In Home Bible Studies....

The August Evening Bible Study will be hosted by DJ Covert on Friday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Questions?? See Nancy Case



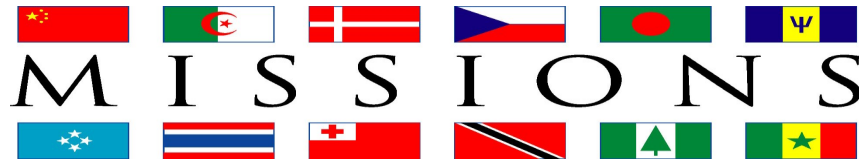
FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

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, August 13
Following worship
For a Pot Luck Lunch**

**Bring a Dish to Share and
stay and enjoy good food and fellowship
with friends and family.**



The Missions Committee recently voted to continue our support of the ECHO Intern Program for the church year 2017-2018. ECHO is grateful for our support and thanks us all for our generosity.

I have requested that another young intern be assigned to NPCUCC. We have not heard back from them yet. I'll be sure to pass on more information as I receive it. However, we will resume our ECHO Sunday reminder and the ECHO Jar which will be located on the goodies table during Coffee Time.

This year our support will focus on supplying the cost of health and life insurance for one intern for one month. We will also support the cost of international airfare to attend a conference at one of ECHO's Regional Impact Centers (a real live training and international experience for one intern).

Our goal this year is \$838.00. The Mission Committee feels that this is an appropriate goal considering our generosity last year. We came together and generously gave over \$900. THANK YOU!!

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

More Mission News.....

On Sunday, August 13, join us as we hear about the work that Face of Hope is doing in our Community.



Before I forget I would like you to check out the new look of the mission board. Thanks to Anne Bonsky for all the hard work and ink putting our board together with a new look.

Every month some of us attend the monthly Homeless to Home Luncheon and meeting. Each month, I will give you some information we collect at this networking event.

This month's tidbit of information:

Did you know that Habitat for Humanity now paints houses for folks who need assistance? What a wonderful addition to building new houses.



Please check out our VBS Trivia page located elsewhere in the newsletter. VBS here at NPCUCC began in 2004 and has continued ever since. We did a lot of reminiscing this past VBS. Let's test your knowledge of recent and past VBS' and see how much you know or remember—AND....how much you will learn about the many phases of our VBS. It's not just one week and it's not all about the kids—some facts about our own church members and friends might just surprise you! Answers are also provided somewhere in the newsletter.

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:

August 6	Neville Miles
August 13	Karen Knudsen
August 20	Mary Maples
August 27	Jeanie Doll

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

Average monthly attendance:

**May 2016—96
May 2017—111**

**June 2016—88
June 2017—108**



**Students
go back to school
August 14th.
Have a great year!**



RESPITE TIME NEWS

**It saddens us to report that the “A Special Time” program closed at the end of June. We thank you
For your support of this program over the
past 13 years.**

August Birthdays:

August 1	Nancy Case
August 6	Marvin Kelly
August 6	Kristin Padalik
August 9	Anne Bonsky
August 10	Corinne Kiefer
August 11	Tim Davis
August 21	Larry Swanson
August 25	Terry Hong
August 27	Kelly Winton
August 28	Doug Minich
August 31	Alyda Carpenter



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 August:



August 1	Tony and Boo Vance
August 2	Nick and Anne Bonsky
August 10	Ed and Patti Boger
August 12	Don and Jean Grim
August 16	Marvin and Jill Kelly

August:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

August 6

????

August 13

Don and Jean Grim

August 20

Larry and Donna Swanson

August 27

????



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.



Going on Vacation?
Be safe and return
soon—we'll miss
you!

Prayer Shawl
Ministry



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Attention knitters
and those who crochet!

There will be no Prayer Shawl meetings in August.

Trivia Answers:

- 1/ Pastor Evan Farrar**
- 2/ God's Big Backyard 2008**
- 3/ Great Bible Reef – Miss Patti, Miss Ally, Big Chris and Pat Hodgkins**
- 4/ 2008**
- 5/ Backyard Bash Community Fair**
- 6/ Sharon Miller**
- 7/ Ruth Long – Snacks – she made the BEST brownies ever!!!**
- 8/ Everest – 2015**
- 9/ Pandamania – in Englewood – 2011**
- 10/ Promise Island – the youngest campers held up signs that said
“Will you Marry Me?” during games**
- 11/ God's Big Backyard – Miss Ally and Miss Patti took turns being Cooper**
- 12/ Kingdom Rock**
- 13/ Baobab Blast and Everest**
- 14/ AJ (he was Big Chris' favorite dolphin) and Jax was popular with Becky's Rooney's Group**
- 15/ We watched the Pandas in the Mission Room at Pandamania**
- 16/ Thank you Don Grim for trimming all the oak trees for us. We enjoyed the crickets.**
- 17/ Camp Creation – our very first VBS**
- 18/ Ralph Rooney and Marvin Kelly**
- 19/ Pastor Glenn Swope did a good job ironing sheets**
- 20/ Mr. Mike went to SeaWorld's Penguin exhibit to get ideas for Everest and to
Disney's Animal Kingdom for ideas for the Baobab Tree**
- 21/ Pastor Joe LaDu loved the Castle and the Lifeguard stand.**
- 22/ Hannah Padalik**
- 23/ Melissa Samsel and Miss Ally were good friends in High School. Melissa helped
paint sets and was a Tour Guide for a few years.**
- 24/ Patti and Mike's son Chris – affectionately known as Big Chris to the campers – did
Openings and Closings – helped by Miss Ally and Miss Ginny.**
- 25/ Louise and Elbert got married on the set of Kingdom Rock.**

Correct order for our VBS Programs:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2004 Camp Creation | 2011 Pandamania |
| 2005 Serengeti Trek | 2012 Promise Island |
| 2006 Trading Places | 2013 Kingdom Rock |
| 2007 Great Bible Reef | 2014 Weird Animals |
| 2008 God's Big Backyard | 2015 Everest |
| 2009 Discovery Canyon | 2016 Surf Shack |
| 2010 Baobab Blast | 2017 Maker Fun Factory |

WHATEVER IS *true*,
WHATEVER IS *honorable*,
WHATEVER IS *just*,
WHATEVER IS *pure*...
IF THERE IS ANYTHING
worthy of praise,
THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.
P H I L I P P I A N S 4 : 8 , N R S V

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