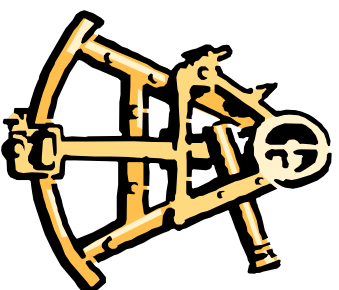
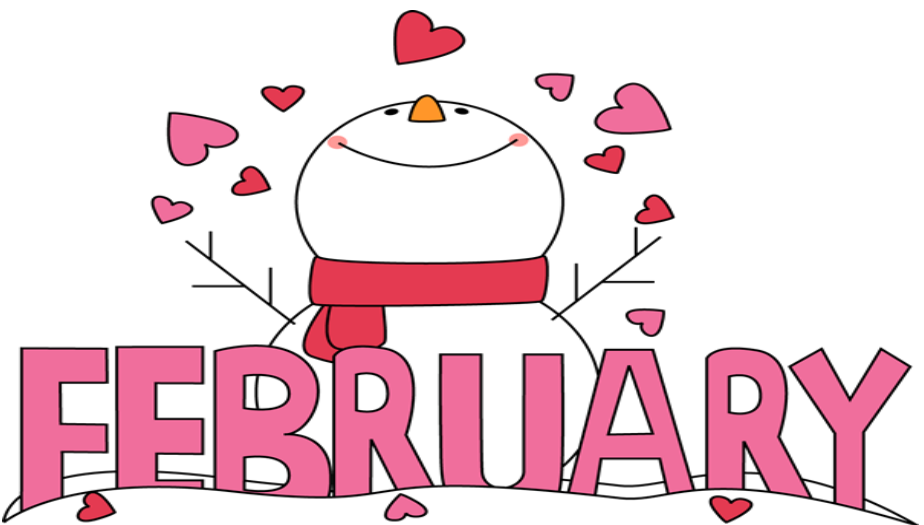


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

February, 2017

*From the
Pastor*



February, 2017

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good

News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Dear Church Family,

It is our hope that you are having a good day. Paul wrote the words printed above to the Christians in Philippi. Why? Because he wanted them to know how much he appreciated them and their efforts in working together for the cause of sharing the good news about JESUS. His words are kind, encouraging and they have an impact on the reader. "God will not stop building you up" Paul declares. Paul goes on and lets them know: "What God starts HE finishes." There are no half jobs that carry HIS signature. This was true in Paul's relationship with the Philippian church and it is true in our day to day relationships as well.

There is no time to waste, the days run so quickly and so we too are reminded today to tell those God has placed us in relationship with: "I love you and I appreciate you, you are a blessing and I want you to know how important you are to me!" When we spend time with someone regularly these words might be left unsaid simply because we are

around each other all of the time. Why don't we stop today, slow down and make an effort to let them know how important they are to us. Let us not assume they know, for they need to hear it too. ("Familiar acts are beautiful though love" Percy Bysshe Shelley). Maybe when we see a person struggle in an area, we can ask God to show us a creative way, to encourage them with something visible, tangible. In the process they and we ourselves will find assurance once again in the truth that the good work which God has started in them and us, HE will also finish and complete. Let us be encouraged today in this truth of the Bible, it is addressed to us!

Upcoming Events:

Thank you for your prayer support regarding these events.

Next **NPCUCC German language service** on Saturday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m.

NPCUCC Healing service on March 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Next Movie event **'Amish Grace'** an inspirational true story in forgiveness. Don't miss it!

"The Life of Moses" our Church Trip on Friday, March 31st

Please read the Newsletter carefully for additional information regarding these and many other events.

I would like to express personally my gratitude to Patti for doing such a wonderful job with our NEWSLETTER every month. A ministry of excellence. THANK YOU!

We as a family would like to express our gratitude to you for your very generous Christmas gift to us. We do not take your kindness for granted. THANK YOU to all of you for your gifts and cards. May the LORD bless you and yours abundantly.

Please see a few photos taken at recent NPCUCC events. ENJOY!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



2nd NPCUCC Grief Seminar



***Home Bible
Study Groups
started
01-17-17**

**(*Please call the church office 941-426-5580 to get CONNECTED
and find out about time and location
of our next study)**

**Thank you to all for your help and generous support. We could
not do Ministry here at the NPCUCC without you.**

**Together in Mission:
Pastor *Attila Szemesi*/NPCUCC**

**Help us Spread
the Word...**



Change is coming in our Church Office and we'd like you to help us spread the word.

In January our Personnel Committee agreed to hire a part time Office Assistant to work with our Office Manager. This new person would work 15 hours per week – Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Duties would include answering phones, greeting and screening visitors for the Pastor and Office Manager. Additional duties would include copying, handling routine requests and other duties and responsibilities assigned by our Office Manager.

Knowledge and experience with Word, Publisher and PowerPoint are necessary.

Our goal is to have this position filled and in place by mid-March. Interested persons should send a resume to: NPCUCC, 3450 S. Biscayne Drive, North Port, FL 34287 – Attention: Office Manager.

**Pastor Attila is in the office
Monday — Thursday
To schedule an appointment, Call the office—426-5580**

**Email:
npcuccpastor@verizon.net
Please Visit our Website: www.npccucc.org**



THE STORY OF MOSES

Join us, Friday, March 31st as we take a trip to Wauchula to see the story of Moses come to life. Watch....as Moses delivers the slaves from bondage and Jesus saves mankind from sin and death.

Tickets will be \$35 which will include your admission and transportation.

Plans are to meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. We will stop for an early dinner on the way (Paid for by each individual). We will return very late—around midnight. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. The money for Tickets and Transportation will be collected at a later date.

Can't make the 3:30 departure time and are willing to drive yourself. Contact the church office and we can let you know how that will work.

**SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
DEADLINE to sign up is February 19th.**

If you have questions, please contact the church office at 426-5580.



Quilt Raffle for Spring Fashion Show



Alyda Carpenter was given this beautiful, embroidered handmade quilt by a friend when her husband, Carty, passed away last year. The friend asked her to donate it to the NPCUCC in honor of Carty and to use it as a fundraiser. So, Alyda donated it to the UCC Women to have for a raffle at this year's Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Raffle tickets will go on sale at the Spring Luncheon and then will be available for all worshipers on Sunday, February 19, 26 and March 5th.

The tickets will be 3/\$10. The proceeds will go to UCC Women's mission projects such as The Prayer Shawl Ministry, for which specialty yarns are needed. Carty was most appreciative of his shawl during his sickness. Alyda still uses the warmth of that shawl to comfort her.





Mary Ann Anderson, President of the UCC Women and Committee Members for the Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show Rona Hunnisett, Arline Hughes, Terry Hong, Maggie Palmer and Lorraine Wuolo display items for their Gift Basket Raffle.



**Spring Fashion Show
Luncheon & Tea**

Thursday, February 16

**See Flyer elsewhere in your
newsletter for full details.**



Ash
Wednesday



Service
March 1 at 7:00 p.m.



Join us for our Soup and Bread Simple Supper and Lenten activities beginning on March 8th through 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 for something special. See the list below. You must sign up for each week so we know how much soup to prepare. Sign-up sheets are on a clipboard in fellowship hall. The dates are:

**Wednesday, March 8
Wednesday, March 15
Wednesday, March 22
Wednesday, March 29
Wednesday, April 5**

**Healing Service
Movie – Amish Grace
Devotional Study
Devotional Study
History of Music by
Organist, Charles Wolf**

**Sunday, April 9
Thursday, April 13**

Friday, April 14

Sunday, April 16

**Worship and Cantata
Maundy Thursday
Dramatization &
Communion 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Services:
Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Service**



**It's Time to Sign up
to be part of our amazing trip
to Luther's Germany to be part of the
500th Anniversary of the Protestant
Reformation! Register online by
February 13 and receive an Early
Registration Discount. Questions???
Please call the church office.**

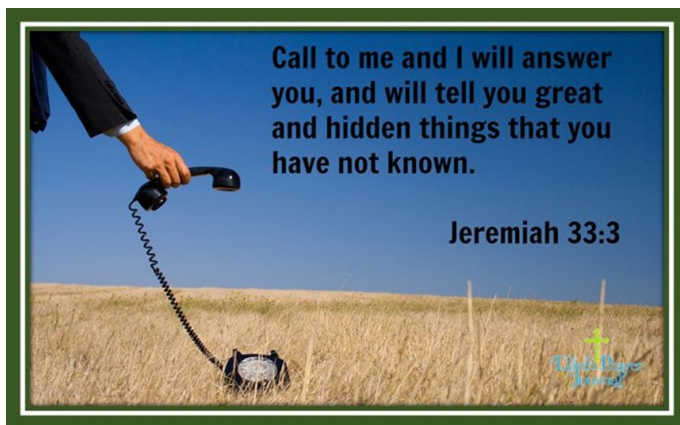


*No Matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are always welcome here!*

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast
on Wednesday, February 1 at 8:30 a.m. at Perkins.
A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.**

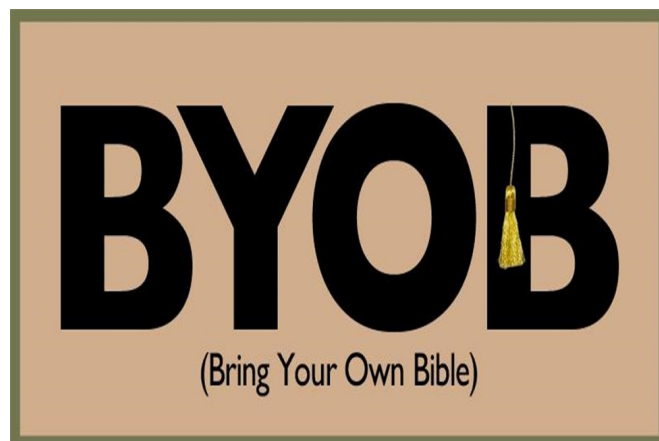


**Prayer Line:
941-426-5580**

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

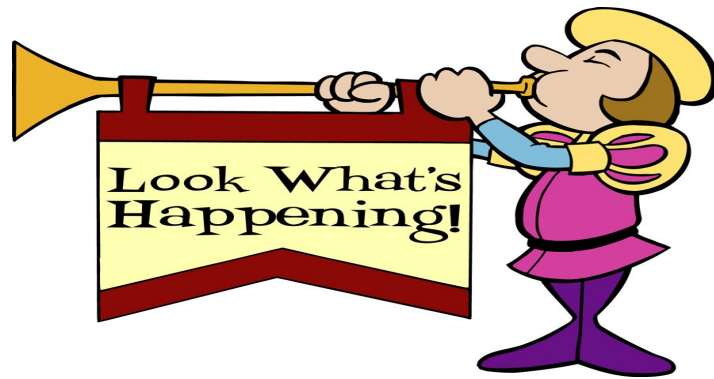
(*This is not a counseling line but a prayer line).

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



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

<p>COME JOIN OUR</p> <p>BIBLE</p> <p>Study</p>	<p>In Home Bible Studies....</p>		
	Feb. 9	6:00 p.m.	@Minich's
	Mar. 30	6:00 p.m.	@Rooney's
	April ??		
	May 11	6:00 p.m.	@Case's
June ??			
<p>Questions?? See Nancy Case</p>			



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

January 31 & Feb. 1	Church Directory Photos
February 16	Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show
February 20	President's Day—Office Closed
February 25	German Service Here
March 1	Ash Wednesday
March 8	Soup & Bread Simple Suppers begin
March 8	Healing Service
March 14	Election in Decker Hall
March 15	Amish Grace Movie
March 22 & 26	Devotional Study
March 23, 24, 25	Rummage Sale
March 31	Moses Dramatization in Wauchula
April 5	History of Church Music



Thank you to ALL the Grace Notes Ringers

As I prepare to relocate to CT to be with my eight year old grandson, I am filled with thanks to each of you for a wonderful time. I am taken back to 2013, when Patti first asked me if we could re-establish a Bell Choir after a few years of absence. I was unable to do it that year, but in 2014 we tried again. With God's will, we have rung 18 times since the day we began on December 8, 2014 with eight faithful ringers! I'm not sure I can recall all who rang but I will try to list each person because without each of you as part of the instrument, I could have done nothing! I am truly amazed at what we have accomplished through your faithful attendance, dedication and hard work!!!

Patti and Ally were my mainstays along with Diana, Donna, Sandy, Boo, Chris, Martha, Hannah, Carol, Anne, Dawn, Ron, Nancy, Cindy, Mary Alice, Lorraine, Betsy, Kim and Brent. (Forgive me if I have left anyone out.) We had a workshop which helped us with our knowledge and technique, and we acquired and have played our Hand Chimes. As I turn this over to Brent, I am saddened to be leaving you all, but know this is God's will for me.

The amazing Grace Notes ringers first rang for the service on 2/22/2015 with my arrangement of Amazing Grace. We then rang almost every month after that. Other pieces were Blest Be the Tie, O Master Let Me Walk With Thee, Beautiful Savior, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Spirit of the Living God, Now Thank We All Our God, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Joy to the World, Lead Me Lord, A Festive Peale, How Great Thou Art, Ode to Joy, Canon by Pachelbel, Great is Thy Faithfulness and He is Born the Divine Christ Child. Some pieces and situations were a bit of a challenge, but it has all made many wonderful memories, but more importantly MUCH praise to our God! Thanks to each of you for making the Grace Notes a beautiful instrument of Praise.

Esther Sanborn

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.



**The church Office will be closed:
Monday, February 20**



**Valentine's Day
Tuesday
February 14**



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



UCC WOMEN

Upcoming Activities:

Wednesday, February 1 & 22

9:00 a.m.

Sleeping Bags for Homeless

Wednesday, February 15

10:00 a.m.

Meeting and set up for Luncheon

Thursday, February 16

Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show

12:00 noon

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

March 23, 24, 25

Spring Rummage Sale



Our February mission is Holy Joe's Cafe. We will have a Mission Moment at the beginning of our service on February 12th and an opportunity to make donations toward this worthwhile cause.

Norma Beach, Missions Chair



The last of the photos will be taken on January 31 and February 1st. Next we will work on the address and phone number portion for the back of the book. We still anticipate the Directories to be completed and to you by Easter. If you will be gone back north by that time and wish to have us mail your copy to you, we will ask you to provide the postage. Otherwise we will hold on to your copy until you return in the fall.



Job Openings at ECHO

ECHO in Fort Myers has two positions open at this time. They are listed below. For more information contact ECHO at 239-567-3342 or check out their website at WWW.ECHONET.ORG. There are Job Descriptions for both positions also available in our church office.

**Executive Assistant
—Full time**

**Retail Associate
—Part-time**



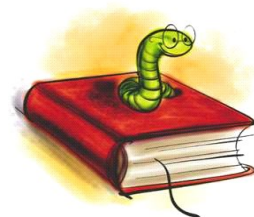


Library Committee

New to the library is “*Vanishing Grace*” by Philip Yancey. In his earlier book “*What’s So Amazing about Grace?*” (also on the shelf), the author issued a call for Christians to be as grace-filled in their behavior as they are in declaring their beliefs. He now returns to this vital subject, asking why Christians continue to lose respect, influence, and reputation in our modern culture. Yet people everywhere still thirst for grace. How can Christians present truly Good News amid the changing landscapes of our time? The author explores how grace can bridge the gap between Christian faith and a world increasingly suspicious of it.

Also new is “*The Lost Books of the Bible*”. Although they were not included in the New Testament, the beautifully written stories are an excellent source of early thought and expansion.

“*When ‘Spiritual But Not Religious’ Is not Enough*” by Lillian Daniel was one of the books discussed by the adult Sunday School Class. Humorous and sincere, this is a book about people finding God in the most unexpected places.



celebrate
BLACK
history **MONTH**

**Follow our NPCUCC News
on the internet!**

Go to uccflorida.org, click on the link Celebrate Florida in the left hand column and read about our activities. You can send our news to your friends and check out other UCC church news in Florida.



You may also view a hard copy of Celebrate Florida while visiting our church library in Fellowship Hall.

Are you connected to our North Port Community United Church of Christ Facebook page? You do not have to reveal anything about your personal self to read and like our page. By viewing it and liking it, we spread our news to so many people. Plus you get to view some neat messages and photos!



Everyone is so busy around here Pip and I can hardly keep up. We were sorry to see the trees and pretty lights taken down. They were so nice. Can't wait for them to go back up next year.

There have been lots of meetings and things going on in the big room and the food room. We especially enjoyed the popcorn, soda and movie. Hope they do that more often. From all the talk we hear, I don't think it will be slowing down any time soon. Did notice I had to put on my scarf. Lost my hat, will have to get another one from the ladies. It's been a bit cold for us church mice. Keep warm!

**Ye Olde Church Mouse
& Pip**



Meg, A Blessing To All!



What a wonderful moment it was when Meg stood before us, thanked us for our support of ECHO's Intern Program, and shared with us her dreams about returning to Cambodia after leaving ECHO. Her internship at ECHO ends at the end of February.

She summarized outstanding and memorable moments and experiences that she has had over the past 14 months as an ECHO intern. She spoke so warmly of her faith journey and of her desire to follow God's will in her life. Pastor Attila prayed a special blessing on her and we presented her with a prayer shawl as a special parting gift. What a powerful day it was!

If you missed being there on Sunday, please tune in and view the service on You Tube.

The donations in the ECHO Jar on Sunday were astounding and heartwarming! The contributions totaled \$318!! We are so pleased and thankful to all who participated so generously! Thank you, thank you!

**Sincerely,
Sharon Miller
for the Mission Committee**

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:

Feb. 5	George Hamilton
Feb. 12	Karen Knudsen
Feb. 19	Lynn Sanford
Feb. 26	Mary Maples

Average monthly attendance:

December 2015—144
December 2016—141



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

February 24
March 24
April 28
May 26
June 23
July 21
August 18

February Birthdays:

Feb. 8	Emily Louke
Feb. 9	Margaret Cook
Feb. 12	Don Grim
Feb. 19	Agnes Bushey
Feb. 25	Gene Maples
Feb. 25	Barbara Mervine
Feb. 27	Marge Bates
Feb. 28	Lois Harris
Feb. 28	Howard Johnson
Feb. 28	Sally Rutledge
Feb. 28	Tony Vance



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 February:

Feb. 6	Louzan and Delores Edwards
Feb. 9	Dave and Lynn Sanford
Feb. 14	Larry and Sue Luther
Feb. 24	Ken and Carol Pratt



FEBRUARY:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Feb. 5	Paul and Terry Hong
Feb. 12	Dave and Lynn Sanford
Feb. 19	Ed and Patti Boger
Feb. 26	Barb Mervine



**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,
February 14 and 28 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
Questions? Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**



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