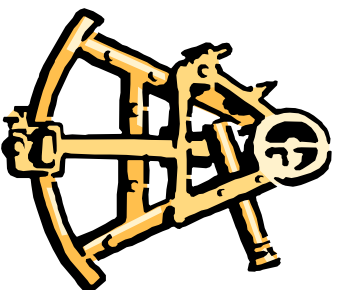


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

January, 2017





January, 2017

**Seek His will in all you do, and He
will show you which path to take.
(Proverbs 3:6)**

Dear Church Family,

We are living the last few hours of 2016 as I write these words. As you read this we have already entered the New Year or are about to enter it. I am not sure what your past year has been like? Most likely you have had success and failure, triumph and trial stand side by side. At any rate as we look back and think about the year that's now behind us and look into the new one ahead we can take the advice given to us by the writer of the book of Proverbs to acknowledge God in all our ways and in the process find Him ever faithful by our side. Meaning make God part of daily life, our relationships, all our planning, achieving and working.

The way we think, the way we act and the way we treat other people. What a joy it is to know we have God go ahead of us and be by our side showing the way which we must walk. A wonderfully almighty God we serve who is with us though the ups and downs the thick and thin. There isn't a situation that you can't discuss with him. We all know the reality that some things we just can't open up about to just anybody but to our best friends only.

“What a friend we have in Jesus” are the familiar words to a great hymn we sing in church and that is the reality we

are privileged to point toward as a ministry and with our individual lives. You have the most faithful friend who was by your side this past year and when the unexpected happened He was faithfully with you to be your provision. Your manna on the road. This is a news we are called to share with anyone who is willing to listen. God will still be our manna in 2017 and all the days of our life. A few years ago my family and I went to see the Narnia movie “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader”. If you haven’t seen it please do so, (maybe we can show it here in our church soon as one of our future movies). We saw it in 3D. The visual effects are one thing but the spiritual message based on C.S. Lewis’ book, was clear and absolutely wonderful. In the movie there is a character that goes through a drastic transformation from being a negative hard to get along with type person to pleasant, fun and kind. From being selfish to selfless. As he was asked what was it like to be transformed? He put it this way: “Painful, but it was a good kind of pain.” Precisely because the end result was God changing him for the better. I look forward to the LORD leading us this coming year and having his way within and around us!

Thank you for all your faithful work and service here at the NPCUCC; we couldn’t do what we do without your help!

Please pray for the following events and ministries!

Join us for our light lunch and power point presentation on the trip to Luther’s Germany on Sunday, January 8th at 12:00 noon. A Faith Journey’s representative will be present via Skype. This is a good time to get more details and ask questions. Please RSVP.

*** Please pray, join and invites others to our 2nd Grief Seminar to be held here at the church on Saturday the 14th of January. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Ty Morgan from Cornerstone of Hope in Independence, Ohio. This is an event specifically designed for you to find practical help and support in your time of loss and loneliness. Please RSVP.**

Our next movie is coming up on Saturday, January 28th @ 3:00 p.m. Please be sure to join us for this great movie, and bring a friend. Make sure you stop at our concession stand for your popcorn and candy and more. Our movie runs 107 minutes in length. It is “A Story of friendship and forgiveness” from the best seller by Patricia M. St. John.

The following is the email that I received as I was seeking the rights and permission to show the movie:

“Dear Pastor Szemesi,

Yes you may show Treasures of the Snow to your congregation and use our DVD cover artwork to promote it to the public. This outstanding film was premiered on HBO and Showtime. HBO showed it 20 times in 18 months to their 15 million subscribers.

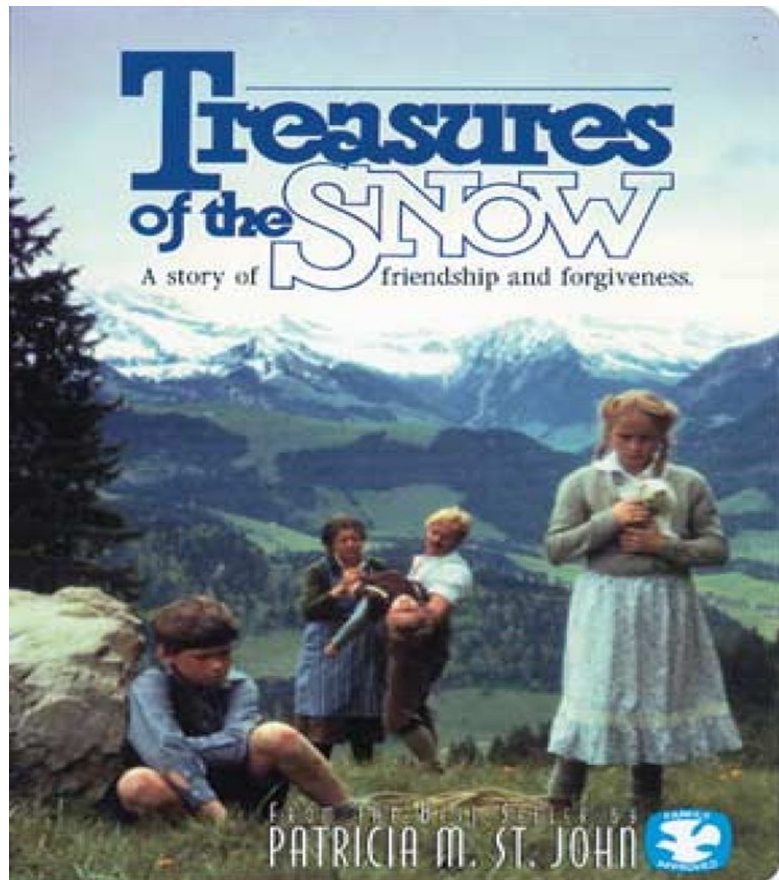
May God richly bless your outreach to your community.

**C RAY CARLSON
626/798-0404 or 590-4875M
PO Box 40400, Pasadena CA 91114”**

Please invite others to this event. Let’s reach out together and make a difference and impact our community with a life giving, hope filled message.

See Flyer below. Feel free to copy and paste and use as an email invitation. Visit us on Facebook to see the trailer.

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



NPCUCC MOVIE EVENT—FREE

Saturday, January 28th - 3:00 p.m.

**North Port Community U.C.C.
3450 South Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL. 34287**

Please call 941-426-5580 to RSVP



A 10 Day Tour to GERMANY In the Footsteps of Martin Luther

Please join Rev. Attila Szemesi and North Port Community United Church of Christ on a fantastic journey to Germany. The Luther decade from 2008 to 2017 invites you to take part in various events and tours in order to search for traces of the original scenes of the Reformation. It will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the theses, with which Luther set the Reformation in motion in Wittenberg on 31 October 1517. Exhibitions, concerts, church services, festivals and theatre productions will highlight the importance of the Reformation and the role Martin Luther played in the places he lived and worked.

10 days / 8 nights – October 2017

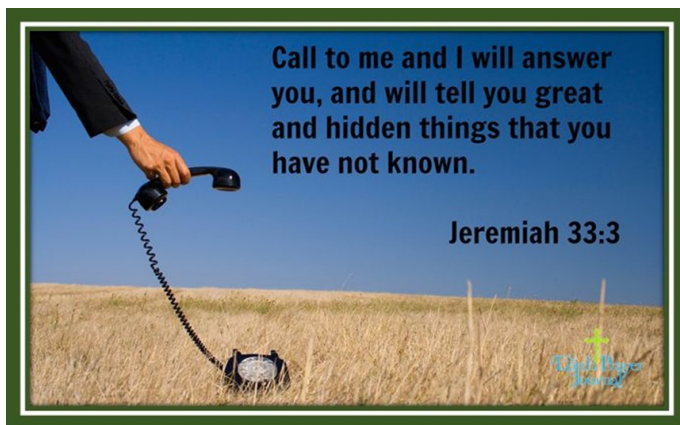
Day 1:	Departure to Berlin, Germany
Day 2:	Berlin
Day 3:	Berlin – Pragamon Museum
Day 4:	Juteborg & Wittenberg - Castle Church & Luther House
Day 5:	Torgau & Leipzig - St. Thomas Church & Bach Museum
Day 6:	Eisleben - Luther's Birthplace
Day 7:	Erfurt – Augustinian Monastery
Day 8:	Eisenach – Wartburg Castle & Luther House
Day 9:	Mainz & Worms – Gutenberg Museum & Reformation Monument
Day 10:	Return Home

Join Us...

- **Information**
- **Light Lunch**
- **PowerPoint Presentation**

**January 8th
12:00 noon**

**Please contact the church office at 426-5580 for more info
or to sign up for lunch on January 8th.**



Call to me and I will answer
you, and will tell you great
and hidden things that you
have not known.

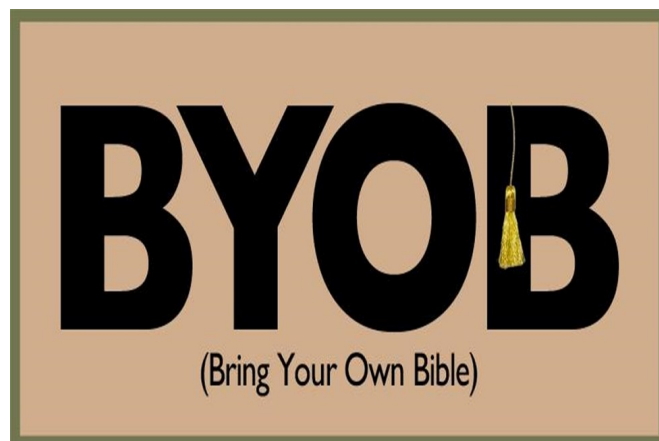
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

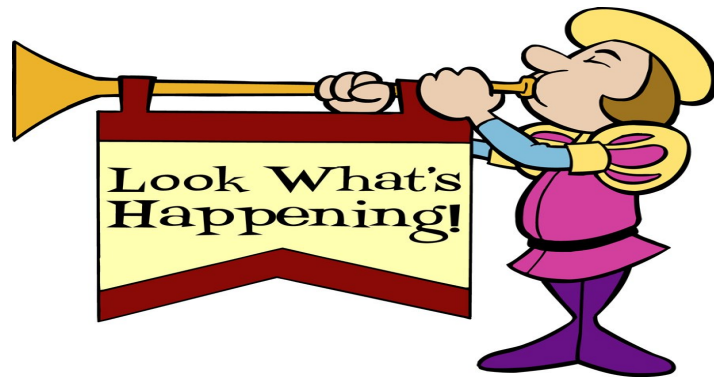
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



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

**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.npcucc.org**



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

January 1	New Year's Day Service 10:00 a.m.
January 4	Celebration of Life Service for Ethel Kline 11:00 a.m.
January 7	Celebration of Life Service for Dawn Bush 11:00 a.m.
January 8	Informational Meeting for Trip to Germany at 12:00 noon
January 14	Annual Grief Seminar
January 21	Southwest Regional UCC meeting In Naples
January 28	Movie—Treasures of the Snow
January 31 & Feb. 1	Church Directory Photos
February 16	Spring Tea
February 25	German Service Here



The church Office will be closed:

**Monday,
January 2—Happy New Year!**

**Monday, January 16
Martin Luther King's Birthday**



In the Mailbox....



**Merry Christmas,
Wishing you all the wonder and
magic of Christmas!**

Thank you for allowing us to continually use your meeting room. It has helped assist many people and for that we are grateful. Enclosed is a small token of our gratitude.

**Love & Peace,
The Friday Night Common Bonds Group**

Dear Friends,



Both Michael and I wish to thank you all for the most generous Christmas gift you gave to us last Sunday. We are forever grateful for your love and friendship over all the years.

**With sincere thanks,
Patti and Michael**

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.



MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST & MEETING

New Day!!!!

**Tuesday, January 10th
8:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

**Speaker: Our Organist/
Pianist Charles Wolf**

**Join us for breakfast.
Questions—see Doug Minich**



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



UCC WOMEN TO MEET

A busy month ahead

The UCC Women will meet for Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4th at the Family Table. Sign up to attend.

Those interested will meet to work on Sleeping Bags for the Homeless, January 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Soup and Sandwich will be January 11 and 12.

The regular Monthly meeting will be January 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Sign up to attend the UCCW Southwest Regional meeting in Naples on January 21st.



Our January mission is Gideon's International. They will present a Mission Moment at the beginning of our service on January 8th.

We are very much looking forward to having a chance to meet Meg—our ECHO Intern in person on Sunday, January 22nd. It will be exciting to finally meet the young lady we have been hearing about since May.

Norma Beach, Missions Chair



UPDATE

Our Pictorial Directory for 2017 is in progress! Since this is the first time I have done this, I think it is going well. To date, we have had 74 sittings and have had just a few issues with photos. The company seems receptive to correcting these problems. The photos come with information about how to reach the company.

It is my understanding that once the photos are all taken, I will meet with Tony, our rep. Then I will receive the proof book, and Patti and I will check and make any necessary corrections.

After we return it to them, it will take an additional 2 weeks for printing. I am hoping to have it to you before Easter. Becky, my assistant and I estimate that there are around 35 more photos to be done. We have been so pleased with the response from the congregation. Remember, in order to get a directory you need to be in it.

**Thank you again.
Esther Sanborn, Project Chair**



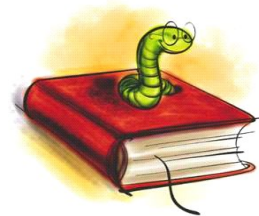


Library Committee

New to the library is “***Forgive, Let Go, and LIVE***” by Deborah Smith Pegues. If you are stuck in un-forgiveness, this book will equip you to find peace and restore your joy as you let go of your desire to avenge the wrong. From the insights in this book, you’ll learn how to relinquish the regret, anger, and bitterness that may be keeping you from living in the freedom and joy God intends.

Also new is Max Lucado’s “***Glory Days: Living Your Promised Life Now***”. Maybe you’re feeling a little stuck, caught in a rut and fighting the same battles and same temptations. You are wondering is this as good as the Christian life gets? There’s good news. You were made for more. You were made for Glory Days. Read what this popular Christian author has to say.

New to the Youth shelf is Joyce Meyer’s “***Battlefield of the Mind***”. This book takes an honest look at what teenagers face every day—peer pressure, expectations of the future, and every day struggles. The author gives them the ammo needed to make their brain a clean, mean, fighting machine. Be sure to read the adult version also on the shelf.



**Last chance for
Church Directory Photos
January 31
February 1**

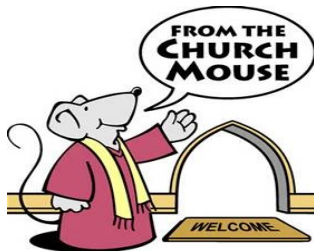
Sign up on January 8th

Sunday Morning Announcements
We're trying something new....

Please help us keep our Sunday morning announcement time running efficiently.

If you will have an announcement that you'll want to make on Sunday morning—Please call the church office by Friday morning to be added to the list. This will allow us to plan the announcement time better so we can begin the worship portion of our service promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Thanks for your cooperation.



Pip and I sure had fun visiting with the guy in the big red suit earlier last month. He was quite a jolly fellow. Didn't scare us, didn't scare the babies. Lots of good food and lots of smiles and laughter. Heard the big guy in the kitchen had a rough start to the day, but it all came out right in the end. Thanks for keeping a smile on your face. Sounds like January will be just as busy as last month. Pip and I will keep the calendar on our mouse fridge and make sure we're here to take it all in. Hope you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Ye Olde Church Mouse
& Pip**



An Update From Meg



At the beginning of this new year here is a message from Meg, our ECHO intern. This message was received after Thanksgiving when she returned from caring for her Dad who is so sick with cancer.

"Thank you so much for the sweet Thanksgiving card! It was very encouraging to me to read the support of so many individuals and to know that so many are praying for me and the internship program!! Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Blessings, Meg"

We continue to hold Meg's Dad and her family in prayer as they are dealing with serious illness. He continues to worsen.

On the bright side ... Meg will be visiting us in church on January 22, 2017! We look forward to welcoming her to our service and getting to know her.

Thank you for your continued support for the Internship Program at ECHO each month. Currently you have contributed \$508 toward our goal of \$649. Heartfelt thanks!

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:

Jan. 1	Cindy Minich
Jan. 8	Meagan Gann
Jan. 15	George Hamilton
Jan. 22	Mary Maples
Jan. 29	Betty Van Tassell



Average monthly attendance:

November 2015—127
November 2016—138

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

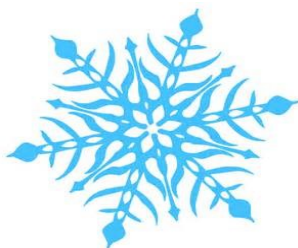


RESPITE TIME NEWS

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

**We’re waiting for the new 2017 schedule
To be received.**



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

January Birthdays:

Jan. 6	Cathy Skyles
Jan. 7	Shirley May
Jan. 18	Patti Bourque
Jan. 18	Bobbie Zych
Jan. 20	Sharon Mooney
Jan. 24	Geneva Morse
Jan. 26	Sue Luther
Jan. 26	Ken Pratt
Jan. 27	Tom Van Bergen



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 January:

Jan. 2 Ray and Joan Bentley



JANUARY:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Jan. 1 Marilee Taylor
Jan. 8 Don and Jan Lytle
Jan. 15 Tom and Sandra Van Bergen
Jan. 22 Becky Rooney
Jan. 29 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,
January 10 and 24 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