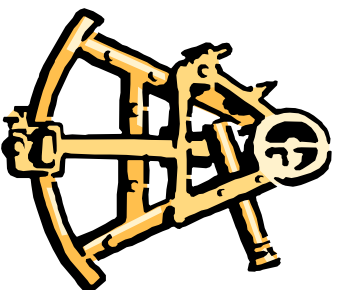


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# **THE NAVIGATOR**

## **March, 2017**

*From the  
Pastor*



**MARCH 2017**

**And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.**

**(Hebrews 11:6)**

**Dear Church Family,**

**We have by now entered a new and a very busy season in the life of our church. We have a beautiful church and place of worship we are privileged to enjoy every Sunday and for many other activities throughout the week. The place of worship for the people of Israel after they left slavery in Egypt was the TABERNACLE.**

**As a people they had to learn what it meant to live in freedom. The tabernacle would remain their place of worship for some 500 years. We can learn so much from the rich symbolism and the intricate details of its design, which was revealed to Moses upon the mountain. Two things stand out to me right now. The seven armed lampstand (which stood in the center) was to remind the worshiper as he was drawing near to GOD that GOD IS LIGHT, always! So in a sense when we light the candles at the beginning of our worship service we are reminded too about this attribute of our God.**

**The other thing that stands out is what Hebrews 11 speaks about when it states “We must draw near to God in Faith.” Here are some thoughts about faith.**

- **Faith means we are trusting God** when we don't know our next step or the step after that. Keeping in mind that the one who has given the promise and the one who has said HE would never leave us is completely **TRUSTWORTHY**. We see the promises fulfilled in Abraham's life but only after he believed beyond all logic, when it didn't make sense.
- **Faith carries us!** **Faith helps us overcome fears.** Watch what will take place when faith spreads itself out in our lives instead of fear.
- **Faith rescues us!** However, it is sad if we only know this side of faith. When we take faith as a sort of last resort or last solution.
- Faith is our reply to GOD calling us! We reply because the message has hit us right into the heart and center. It matters what God thinks about us and we respond to his calling.
- **Faith leads us to come closer to God!** That is once more the goal we will pursue as we enter this new season in the life of the church. Drawing in faith near to God, to get to know Him more and more and to make Him known.

**And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.**

**(Hebrews 11:6)**

**As an exciting news we would like to share with you that a NEW NPCUCC CHURCH WEBSITE is being created, in order to better serve you and our community. It should be up and running, soon.**

**Please continue to pray without ceasing for the many outreaches of NPCUCC. We love and appreciate you.**

**Together in MISSION:  
Pastor *Attila Szemesi***

**Here are few photos taken at recent church events.  
ENJOY!**

**Dinner at  
The Beach's  
With Friends!**



**Home Bible  
Study Groups  
continue to meet!**



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

**Spring  
Fashion Show  
Luncheon & Tea**







## **Changes in our church office....**

**As we announced last month, there are changes coming to our church office. If you have stopped in recently, you will have seen the physical changes to the office area. There were over 110 applications received for our Part Time Office Assistant position! The Personnel Committee is heading down the homestretch and we are hopeful to have the new person beginning on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**At that point, when you call the office or stop in you will be greeted by the office assistant who will work Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon. Their responsibilities and duties will be assigned by Patti, our Office Manager.**

**Patti's hours will change (probably after Easter) and 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.**

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

**Email:  
[npcuccpastor@verizon.net](mailto:npcuccpastor@verizon.net)  
Please Visit our Website: [www.npccucc.org](http://www.npccucc.org)**



## **THE STORY OF MOSES**

**Friday, March 31st**

**Reminder for those who have purchased tickets – we will leave the church at 3:30 p.m. and travel to Cracker Barrel in Port Charlotte for an early dinner. Please park your cars in back of the church. We will return around midnight.**

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



**Grief Support Group  
March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**It's time for our Annual Spring Golf outing with Venice UCC and St. Andrews of Sarasota on Saturday, April 8th.**

**Mike Bourque will have the sign up sheet for you on March 12, 19 and 26. If you have any questions, see Mike.**





**You are Invited  
To a Party for Esther Sanborn**

**Saturday, March 18th  
3:00 p.m.**

**As most of you know, Esther will be leaving us in mid/late March to move to Connecticut to be with her son and family—especially her 8 year old grandson!**

**Esther has been a very important part of North Port Community UCC for many years. Her absence will definitely be felt.**

**Her friends would like to celebrate our friendship and invite you to attend a farewell reception on her behalf. We hope you will join us as we wish her well.**



**Get Your Tickets for the Quilt Raffle soon. The quilt on display in Fellowship Hall was donated by Alyda Carpenter in memory of her husband, Carty.**

**Proceeds from the Raffle will go to the Prayer Shawl Ministry and other ministries of the UCC Women.**

**Tickets are 3 for \$10 and the Raffle will be held in March.**





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**

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

**Friday, April 14**

**Sunday, April 16**



**Our March mission is A Special Time. We will have a Mission Moment at the beginning of our service on March 12th and hear about this worthwhile cause.**

**Norma Beach, Missions Chair**



**SPRING**

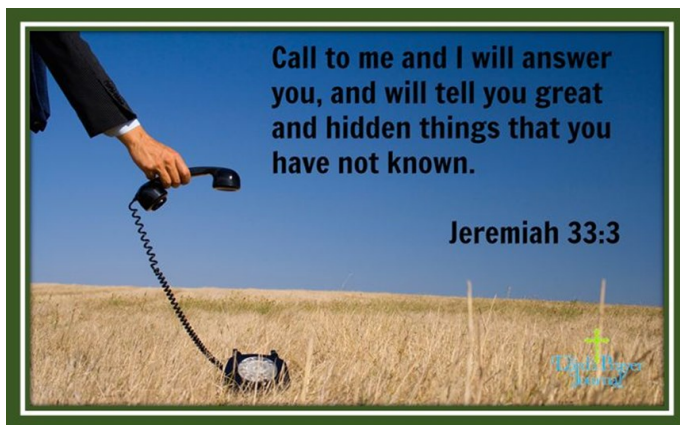


*No Matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are always welcome here!*

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, March 1 at 8:30 a.m. at Olde World Restaurant and Wednesday, April 5 at a location to be announced. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.**

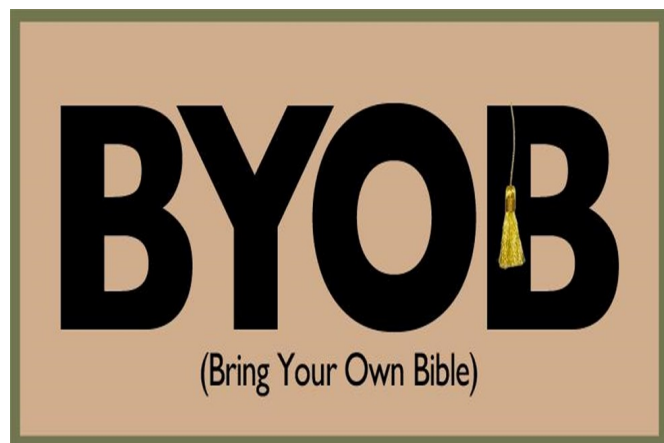


**Prayer Line:  
941-426-5580**

**(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

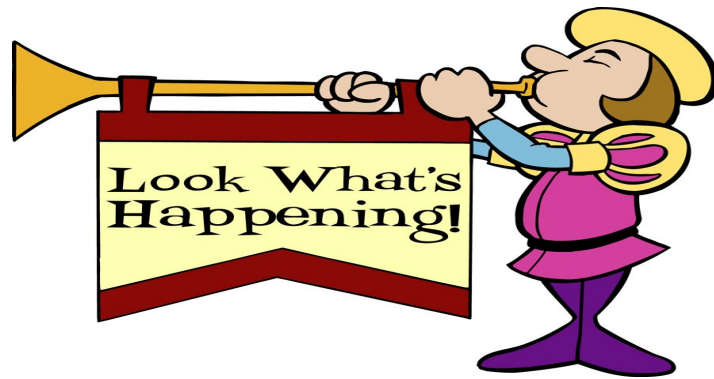
# BIBLE

Study

**In Home Bible Studies....**

<b>Mar. 30</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>@Case's</b>
<b>April ??</b>		
<b>May 17</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>@Rooney's</b>
<b>June ??</b>		

**Questions?? See Nancy Case**



## **UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!**

<b>March 8</b>	<b>Soup &amp; Bread Simple Suppers begin</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Healing Service</b>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Election in Decker Hall</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Amish Grace Movie</b>
<b>March 22 &amp; 26</b>	<b>Devotional Study</b>
<b>March 23, 24, 25</b>	<b>Rummage Sale Set Up and Sale</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>German Service</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Moses Dramatization in Wauchula</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>History of Church Music</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Breakfast and Community Outreach</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Drama &amp; Communion</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Good Friday Services (noon and 7:00)</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>



## **Mobile Bible Exhibition**

**Check out the Mobile Bible Exhibition coming to Port Charlotte in March. The Exhibition will be held at:**

**First Slavic Evangelical Church  
1255 Kingsland Street  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953**

**The Exhibition will be:**

**March 1, 2 and 3 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**March 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**March 5 from 11:00 a.m. to p.m.**

**For more information on this Exhibition, check out  
[FreeBibleTruck.com](http://FreeBibleTruck.com).**



**Ruth Swift celebrated her birthday recently and had her picture taken with Jay Leno, a friend of her son's.  
Happy Birthday Ruth!**





## UCC WOMEN

Everyone is welcome to join in the upcoming events. March 1st is breakfast out at Olde World Restaurant. Call Becky or sign up in Fellowship Hall. Our regular monthly meeting, program and lunch is Wednesday, March 15th, so **BEWARE** of the IDES of MARCH and join us.

The spring rummage sale is March 24th and 25th. Set up will be on the 23rd in Decker Hall. All volunteers will be greatly welcome. Don't forget sleeping bags and prayer shawls. Thank you to all who helped make the Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show such a success. We so appreciate the support. Please put us on your calendar.



Save



Saved from  
goodshepherdchurchquebec.org



Visit

## **The Pony Express is coming back to our Church!**



Word is getting around that the exciting Pony Express is coming back to our church! The Ponies are making noise up in the church attic and will be let out and running very soon.

The **Pony Express Stewardship Plan** has been acclaimed enthusiastically in hundreds of churches where it has been used.

The program involves everyone. Participating in it is fun and it offers the challenge of a deeper level of commitment to Christian stewardship. You will get to meet those who live in your immediate neighborhoods that you never even knew.

We are now in the process of recruiting Trail Bosses who will start the saddlebags off in their neighborhoods and collect them back at the end. A Kick Off gathering for all Trail Bosses will be held on Sunday, March 12th. Being a Trail Boss is not a lot of work. From Start to Finish the Pony Express will take two weeks. We hope you will say yes, if asked to be a Trail Boss.

The Saddlebags will start being delivered on March 12th and we want to have them all returned as quickly as possible – no later than March 26th. When you receive the Saddlebag, please be sure to act quickly.

**The ponies are getting ready – we hope you are too. Please prayerfully consider how you will help your church as we move forward at North Port Community United Church of Christ. Our future depends on all of us doing our part.**





## Library Committee

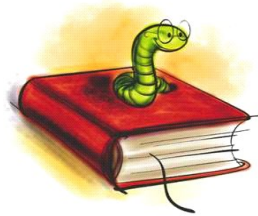
For those who were unable to attend our 'movie showings', Pastor Attila has given the DVD's to the church library.

*"Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace"* showed his later years in regards to the German resistance during WWII. He was a highly regarded Lutheran minister who paid the ultimate price for his beliefs. Also, *"Treasurers of the Snow"*, a story of never giving up. A price has to be paid for forgiveness before there can be any reconciliation.

New to the shelf is Rob Bell's *"What We Talk About When We Talk About God"*. Are there other ways to talk about the sense that there's more going on? Are there other ways to talk about God? The author's answer is "yes".

From the Reading for Renewal list is *"Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase"*. Roberta works at the Old and New Bookshop in England. When she finds a letter inside her centenarian grandmother's battered old suitcase that hints at a dark secret, the understanding of her family's history is completely upturned. What does it all mean?

Check out your library. Lots of good reading!



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

**Time to Change your Clocks  
again!**

**Spring Forward one hour  
on Saturday night  
March 11th.**



**Sunday, March 19th**

**Bring a dish to share  
and stay and enjoy good  
food and fellowship  
with friends.**

**New Member Class  
Will follow the Potluck.**

**From the Church Mouse.....**



**Pip and I had lots of fun at the Spring Luncheon and Tea. We were scurrying in and about watching all the ladies in their pretty clothes and fancy hats. Tiny little treats the perfect size for mice were on every table. And the men, all dressed up in their shirts and ties – looked so nice. Will have to find a tie so next year Pip and I can help too. Lots of happy smiling faces all around. Looking forward to more movies and more popcorn. Always something good going on around here and always lots of good things to eat. Happy March!**

**Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip**



**NEW MEMBER  
INQUIRER'S MEETING  
SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**



**Pastor Attila will be holding a New Member Inquirer's Meeting on Sunday, March 19. A Pot Luck Lunch will be in Fellowship Hall after worship and the meeting will follow in the sanctuary.**

**If you are not an actual member of NPCUCC but think you might like to join, or if you know someone who fits this description, we hope you will set aside this date and join us in Decker Hall following coffee hour.**

**The purpose of this meeting will be for you to meet some of the church's leaders and hear what they do in the church, and to learn a little about the history and mission of our church.**

**Those that wish to join the church will be received into membership during worship on Easter Sunday, April 16th.**

**Here at NPCUCC we have both Full Members and Associate Members. Full members are typically our year round (or mostly year round) residents. Associate Members typically still go north for about half the year.**

**Attending this meeting does not mean a commitment to membership. It is only for you to "inquire".**

**Please notify the church office if you will attend.**



**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:**

**March 5    Esther Sanborn**  
**March 12   George Hamilton**  
**March 19   Meagan Gann**  
**March 26   Cindy Minich**



**Average monthly attendance:**

**January 2016 – 162**  
**January 2017 – 159**

**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**

**March 24**  
**April 28**  
**May 26**  
**June 23**  
**July 21**  
**August 18**  
**September 15**

# March Birthdays:

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Clint Van Tassell</b>
<b>March 6</b>	<b>Allison Dougherty</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Barbara Gordon</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Larry Doll</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Mary Alice Pollard</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Sandra Van Bergen</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Harold Perry</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Ray Bentley</b>
<b>March 28</b>	<b>Patti Boger</b>



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 March:

<b>March 4</b>	<b>Attila and Connie Szemesi</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Larry and Shirley May</b>



## 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.

## **MARCH:**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS:**

<b>March 5</b>	<b>Alyda Carpenter</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Delores Ramsey Edwards</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Tom and Sandra Van Bergen</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Mary Ann Anderson</b>



**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,  
March 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](mailto:northportucc@juno.com)**

**\*\*\*CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE\*\*\***

**[www.northportucc.org](http://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**