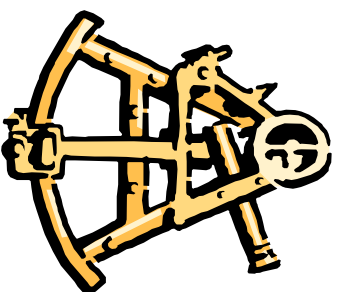


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# **THE NAVIGATOR**

## **November, 2016**



November, 2016

**These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."  
(Luke 10:2)**

**Dear Church Family,**

**Jesus is telling his disciples about the work ahead. Active faith, active Christianity is needed. This work, our mission is one that is filled with personal sacrifice.**

**Today I would like to share a lesson with you that the LORD brought home to me and close to my heart.**

**During my years at Seminary in Hungary there were plenty of outreach opportunities for the students. After the fall of Communism many new ministries were initiated by the Church and we were glad to serve wherever we were asked to.**

**Having arrived at my third year in Seminary, I was very busy and at the end of the year as students we had come to the point of being burned out. Several theses were due and finally turned in. Many written and oral exams passed. Many hours of studying with friends, translating from German into Hungarian, etc. Just a little insight how busy we all had been. I was now done with it all and was looking**

**forward to a relaxing summer with nothing much to do. Well, God had other plans...**

**One afternoon one of my Professors came with a request: “Could you please go tomorrow (Sunday afternoon) and preach at the Clinic. My mother is very sick and I have to go and see her.” I agreed but I have to admit not without murmuring in my heart. I complained at first but I knew better; for if God opened up this door for service there had to be a reason. Never dreaming what God was going to do...**

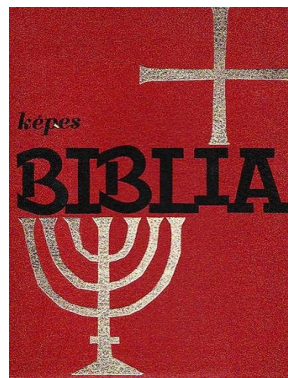


**(Clinic in Debrecen, Hungary)**

**Sunday came and I prepared a message about the ten Lepers being healed by Jesus and about the fact that only one came back to give him thanks. At the last minute I took a Children’s Bible that had some great art work in it; illustrating the story. We had a blessed Service but I never used the Children’s Bible for the illustration. I thought why did I ever bother taking it. After leaving the Chapel, I was approached by some people and asked if I could visit patients in their rooms and pray for them. The ones that were not able to attend the Chapel Service. I gladly agreed. After I had visited the last room, I was again approached by two individuals to visit a little girl that was very ill. Now**

**when someone says ill we many times don't comprehend that unless we see it. I entered this room and I was not prepared for what I was going to witness there. The girl was about eight or nine years old but her little frail body was more like the one of a four year old. She had a genetic disease that had left her hands and feet unformed. Her skin looked like it was burned. She had bandages all over and was sitting at a little table playing with a toy.**

**I sat down next to her praying hard on the inside and asking God for the right words. NOW, I could use the Children's Bible. God knew all along!**



**(Copy of the Bible)**

**We opened it and she turned the pages; struggling page after page. We talked about the different pictures and we eventually came to the story of Jesus' Crucifixion. She looked at me and commented, "I know how Jesus must have felt. A lot of pain! I know what that is like, I have a lot of pain, too." It just made my heart ache. We prayed. We laughed. We played. I agreed to come back the next day for it was going to be her birthday. Her parents were not around and she was living in a Children's Home. So the following day another student and myself took a birthday present for her and had a nice little party.**

**Out of this encounter, a wonderful friendship and ministry developed and I still often think about our little friend, Anna Maria.**

**I am so glad that I went, that I obeyed God's call to serve that Sunday afternoon.**

**We have many ministry opportunities even now lining up here at our church. Please read this edition of our Navigator and cover all of our upcoming outreaches in prayer; without prayer nothing will succeed. Thank you all for your faithfulness in serving and supporting our many ministries. We could not do it without YOU!**

**These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." (Luke 10:2)**

**Have a great month!**

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



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

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



# 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   |

**Please contact the church office at 426-5580 if you are interested in this adventure.**





**Saturday, December 10th  
3:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Service in German language here at  
North Port Community UCC!  
This is a new Ministry here—help spread the word.**



***HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
TO ALL!***



**It was a Great  
Pumpkin Patch!!!!**

**That came to NPCUCC  
October 8th**

**Thank you to all the folks who  
helped to unload 432 Big  
Pumpkins, 10 Swan gourds, 250  
mini pumpkins and bags of  
assorted gourds. Thanks also to  
those who volunteered their time to  
keep our Pumpkin Patch open 8  
hours every day for 21 days!**

**With your help, we raised just over \$1,400 for our  
General Fund.**

**Far beyond the monetary funds raised, it was an  
amazing experience connecting with the folks who are our  
neighbors and residents of our North Port community.**



**We had many opportunities to visit  
with folks who stopped by to pick out  
pumpkins, take photos and share a bit about  
what NPCUCC is. All were invited to come back  
and encouraged to attend our Breakfast with Santa.**

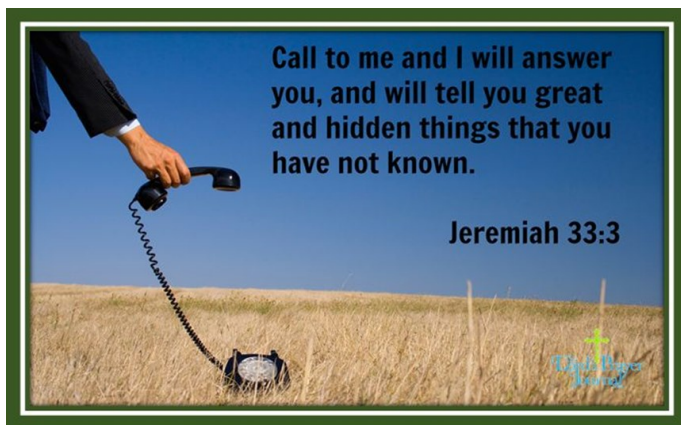
**Special thanks to Bonnie King for donating flowers for  
us to sell at the patch and those who helped put them  
together.**



**In all a successful event.  
Thank you to all!**







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

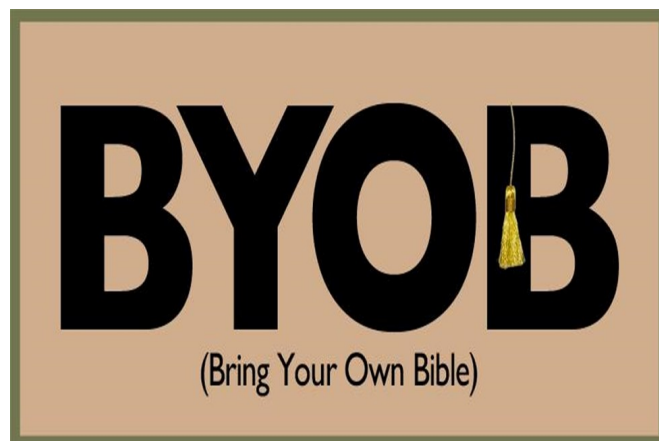
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

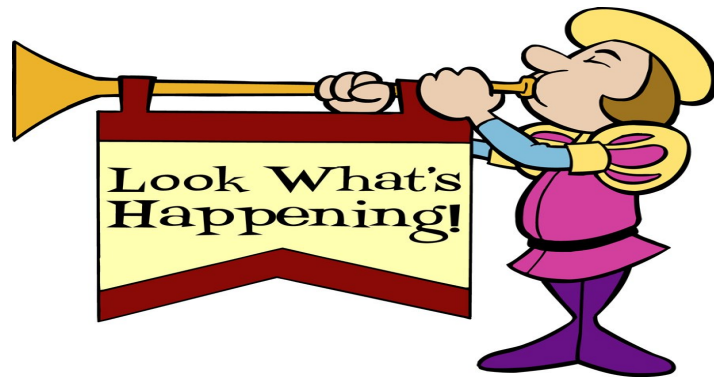
**Bible Study  
Every Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.  
Bring a lunch  
If you wish.**



**The church Office will be closed:**

**Friday, November 11  
Veteran's Day**

**Thursday and Friday,  
November 24 & 25  
Thanksgiving**



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

<b>November 5</b>	<b>Clocks change back 1 hour</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>General Election</b>
<b>November 10—12</b>	<b>Rummage Sale</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>Tailgate Party</b>
<b>November 26</b>	<b>Celebration of Life Service For Ruth Long</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Breakfast With Santa</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>German Christmas Service</b>
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Back Pack Angels Fundraiser</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>UCC Women's Christmas Party</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>January 1</b>	<b>New Year's Day Service 10:00 a.m.</b>



## **“Turning Point” Youth Group**

**“Life is always at some turning point!”  
Irwin Edman**

*Turning Point is a place where teens can learn and grow through God’s word. In life we will always cross turning points, we will work together to help guide each other through the different turning points in life.*

**Fall is here and we just had another successful Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat. The Youth looked so amazing in their themed costumes. We all dressed up like characters from Alice in Wonderland. They are amazing kids and learning amazing things at youth group every other week. Thank you to everyone who supports us. We love everyone here at North Port Community UCC.**



**God Bless!  
Miss Ally &  
Turning Point!**

## 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.**

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, November 9th at 8:30 a.m. at Olde World Restaurant. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.**



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

**Question:**



**What do you get when you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by its diameter?**

**Pumpkin Pi!**

**Answer:**



**With Heartfelt Thanks....**

**I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to my wonderful friends and members at NPCUCC for the beautiful cards, condolences, prayers and support you gave me when Ed passed away suddenly. I truly felt your warmth and God's love. He loved all of you as I do. May God bless each one of you.**

**Sincerely,  
Marilyn Miller**

***Veteran's Day  
November 11th***



**MEN'S GROUP  
BREAKFAST & MEETING**

**No Breakfast in November.**

**Next meeting:  
Monday, December 5th  
8:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall**

**Speaker: to be determined**

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





## UCC WOMEN TO MEET



**Please join us for the November 16th meeting of UCC Women. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Val Ollinger will present a program entitled Florida Friendly Landscapes at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will follow at noon. Each person attending is asked to bring a sandwich to be divided and shared by our November hostesses, Barb Chamberlain and Kathy Stysick, who will be providing salad and dessert. Come for any section you can. Our December 14th Christmas meeting will be at Becky Rooney's. Please add these dates to your calendar.**



**Be sure to move your  
clocks BACK one hour  
on Saturday night,  
November 5th!**





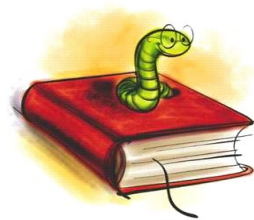


## Library Committee

New to the shelf is ***“Living Courageously: You Can Face Anything, Just Do It Afraid”*** by Joyce Meyer. The author states that the good news is God wants to give you the strength you need to beat fear and live courageously. She explains how you can overcome the debilitating power of fear by learning to confront and conquer any and every fear you have.

Also, ***“The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears”*** by Mark Batterson. The author shares powerful insights from the true legend of Honi the circle maker, a first-century Jewish sage whose bold prayer ended a drought and saved a generation.

From the Reading for Renewal list is ***“Season of Dragonflies”*** by Sarah Creech. For generations, the Lenore women have manufactured a perfume unlike any other, and guarded the unique and mysterious ingredients. Now trouble is brewing as the matriarch is experiencing strange spells of forgetfulness and her daughter is plotting a coup. Who wins?



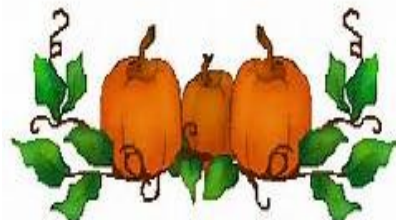


## **Employment Opportunity with ECHO:**

**ECHO would like to announce a new job opening for an associate position in our Advancement Department. ECHO desires to grow the staff capacity of the Advancement Team and has recently realigned the current job duties of that department and desperately needs to add the position of an Advancement Associate that will be responsible for providing administrative support for the Advancement Office.**

**The Advancement Associate's role will be to help manage the donor database, add/update accounts according to standard formatting, and utilize database report functions for team analysis. The Associate will also handle the important responsibility of donor gift acknowledgement by generating/mailling thank-you letters. This position will provide assistance to the Donor Stewardship Manager in developing the annual strategic plan objectives while creating annual goals and objectives for fundraising initiatives. S/he will also provide assistance with prospect research, as well the preparation and execution of donor recognition/cultivation events.**

**If you are interested in this position, please email us at [HR@echonet.org](mailto:HR@echonet.org) (no phone calls please).**





## **NPCUCC 2nd Annual Tailgate Party!**

**GO \_\_\_\_\_!!!!**

**For all you football fans out there, mark your calendar for Sunday, November 13th for our 2nd Annual “Football Tailgate Party” in Fellowship Hall following our morning worship service.**

**Do you have a favorite football team? We’re looking for folks to decorate a table to represent your favorite team. Decorate it with your team colors, banners, etc. Let’s see how many teams we can have tables for.**

**Team up with other friends and sponsor a table. Cost to sponsor a table is \$5.00 and will be awarded as prize money for best decorations, best food, trivia, etc.**

**Don’t want to decorate a table? Then just come, bring a dish to share and join in the fun.**

**Start planning your menu: Wings, Chili, Sliders, Ribs, and the list goes on. Let your creative juices flow.**

**Everyone is encouraged to wear their football jersey to church (or put it on for the pot luck) and have a little fun.**

**Football trivia will follow lunch with prizes.**

**We had a great time last year. Let’s make this year even bigger & better.**





## **FYI about ECHO's Intern Program**



The purpose of the ECHO Intern Program is to train college graduates in sustainable agricultural techniques for reducing hunger and improving the lives of the poor. Interns live and work at ECHO's 55-acre Global Farm in North Fort Myers for 14 months where they gain hands-on training in sustainable gardening techniques, tropical and subtropical plants, plant propagation, and farm management. They train 8 interns per year.

Among ECHO's 227 Intern alumni: 30% have served long-term doing international service work and 75% have done service-oriented assignments either domestically or internationally.

Current support for the Intern Program comes primarily from ECHO's committed donor base of individuals and churches. Thank you North Port for choosing to help equip a Christian young person with the skills needed to serve in agriculture related ministries. Thank you NPCUCC for being a blessing and provision to young people, like Meg, with a heart to serve Christ and reduce hunger.

Our total giving for ECHO's Intern Program so far is \$410.00 Thanks so much.

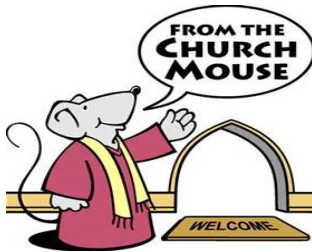
**Sharon Miller, Mission Committee**

## MISSION NEWS....

**The Mission Focus for November is our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Thank you to Nancy Case and all who come twice a month to knit, crochet, visit and pray. We are grateful for your contribution to NPCUCC's ministries.**



### From the Church Mouse



**Thank you kids for helping to find Mrs. Mouse. Sophia was the one who was successful in locating her. She was hiding in one of the Noisy Coin cans in the Narthex. Pip and I are very glad to have her home.**

**We have had a fun time this month playing outside in the Pumpkin Patch. Lots of people stopping in. Lots of places to hide and watch all that is going on. We are enjoying the cooler weather. Hope it lasts. I think all the snowy birds that are returning have brought it with them.**

**We are planning to check out movie night and the dinner. Don't think they'll have popcorn this time, but maybe next time.**

**Hearing something about jingle bells again. We all know what that means. Thanks again for sending Mrs. Mouse home.**

**Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip**







## **FALL RUMMAGE SALE Decker Hall**

**Set-up and Pricing 8 am-12noon  
THURSDAY, November 10th**

**Early Bird Preview - \$1.00, THURS.  
November 10th 3 – 6 pm**

**FRIDAY, November 11<sup>th</sup> 8 am - 1 pm**

**SATURDAY November 12<sup>th</sup> 8 am - 1 pm,  
Clean-up after**

**Proceeds help underwrite our  
2nd Annual Grief Seminar,  
NPCUCC, Face of Hope and  
ECHO Farms**

**Sign up to help.**



**TIME TO CHECK  
YOUR HOUSE AND  
START GATHERING  
YOUR DONATIONS!**

**Bring them in on  
November 10th!**



**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:**

<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Karen Knudsen</b>
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Bill Palmer</b>
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>Cindy Minich</b>
<b>Nov. 27</b>	<b>Lynn Sanford</b>



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

**Average monthly  
attendance:**

**September 2015—94  
September 2016—81**

**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**

**December 2  
December 30**



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

## November Birthdays:

<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Bob Case</b>
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Delores Ramsay</b>
<b>Nov. 5</b>	<b>Nova Shover</b>
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>Mina Sundeen</b>
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Madeleine Bonsky</b>
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>Michael Bourque</b>
<b>Nov. 17</b>	<b>Lynn Sanford</b>
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Neville Miles</b>
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Kathy Stysick</b>
<b>Nov. 24</b>	<b>Sharon Miller</b>
<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>Wilma Hobbs</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 November:

<b>November 12</b>	<b>Harold and Jeanne Perry</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Howard and Grace Johnson</b>
<b>November 28</b>	<b>Doug and Cindy Minich</b>



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



# **OCTOBER:**

## **ALTAR FLOWERS:**

<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Lola Van Woert</b>
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Barbara Mervine</b>
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>Jerry and Pat Hill</b>
<b>Nov. 27</b>	<b>Doug and Cindy Minich</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,  
November 8 and & 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.  
Questions? Contact Nancy Case 423-5618.**

## **DINNER GROUPS—Deadline is November 15th**



**Would you be interested in getting to know other people from the church? Then why not join a dinner group.**

**This is NOT a progressive dinner.**

**Suggested time frame:**

**Jan., Feb. March and April**

- **Groups will be comprised of approximately 6—8 people**
- **Date of meeting will consider each member's schedule**
- **Host/Hostess chooses and prepares entrée**
- **Host/Hostess assign others in the group to make side dishes (salad, vegetable, dessert, et al.)**
- **Meet approximately once a month for 3 or 4 months**
- **Another member in the group will volunteer to host the following get together.**

**Couples/singles names will be drawn from a hat.  
(6 or 8 people will depend on the amount of interest).**

**For more information, call Becky Rooney at 941-423-2949 and put your name on the sign-up by November 15th.**

**IT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW  
OTHERS FROM NPCUCC**

# Save the Date Breakfast with Santa



December 3, 2016  
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

North Port Community UCC  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287  
941-426-5580  
Email: [northportucc@juno.com](mailto:northportucc@juno.com)



Breakfast:  
\$5 for adults; Children 5-12 \$3.00  
Children under 5 free

Bring your camera and have  
your picture taken with Santa!

Children may also shop for  
affordable gifts in our  
Santa's Workshop.



*New this year: Free craft area for children.*



**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**