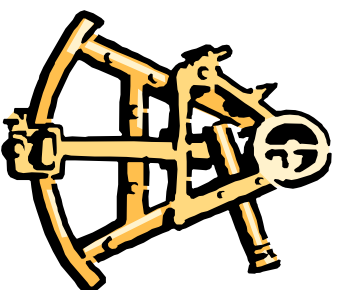


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

October, 2016

*From the
Pastor*



October, 2016

“Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to HIM...” (Job 11:13)

Dear Church Family,

We greet you in the name of JESUS and pray that all is well with you and your family. Fall is upon us as we deliver this edition of our church newsletter to you. All throughout scripture we can recognize this principle shown to us in the passage from Job. It is the principle of preparation of our heart to meet and encounter the living God. At our church too we are in the midst of preparations for many upcoming events all for the one purpose of sharing the story of Jesus with all who enter through our doors. I just mention a few to you, so you can make a note of these on your calendar, pray for these particular outreaches, attend them or invite others to whom they might be of benefit.

On Saturday October 29th is our Movie and Dinner Event here at the church. The movie begins at 4:00p.m., and is in line with our theme for October (*The Protestant Reformation*). The movie “Bonhoeffer Agent of Grace” *“Sheds light on the little-known efforts of the German resistance. It brings to a wide audience the heroic rebellion of Bonhoeffer, a highly regarded Lutheran minister (A true story of love, courage and sacrifice).”*



(Length: 90 Minutes)

Feel free to use the above image to invite others to this event. The movie is FREE.

Date: Saturday, October 29th @ 4:00 p.m.

Dinner will follow right after the movie. Dinner tickets are \$10. Please call the church office for dinner tickets and to reserve your seat.

Sunday October 30th is REFORMATION SUNDAY. One of the highlights on our church calendar! We started out last year by studying the life of Martin Luther. On October 31, 1517 Luther posted a copy of his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church. This single act is considered the beginning of the PROTESTANT REFORMATION.

This year too we will have special music for you and a message focusing on yet another hero of the faith from the pages of church history. Mark your calendar now and

please pray for this special service. Join us for this celebratory event in appreciation of our protestant heritage.

(We will also have a special gift for you to take home that day).

Christmas Service in German language here at the NPCUCC. This new ministry will start on Saturday, December 10th @ 3:00 p.m. More details will follow. Mrs. Ingrid Massaro has kindly agreed to help with this new outreach. THANK YOU Ingrid.



**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
Please Visit our Website: www.npccucc.org**

Congregational Meeting



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR BY-LAW CHANGES

A Congregational Meeting for North Port Community United Church of Christ has been called by the Church Council for Sunday, October 9, 2016, immediately following the morning worship.

The purpose of the meeting will be to act upon proposed changes to the By-Laws as submitted by our By-Laws Committee.

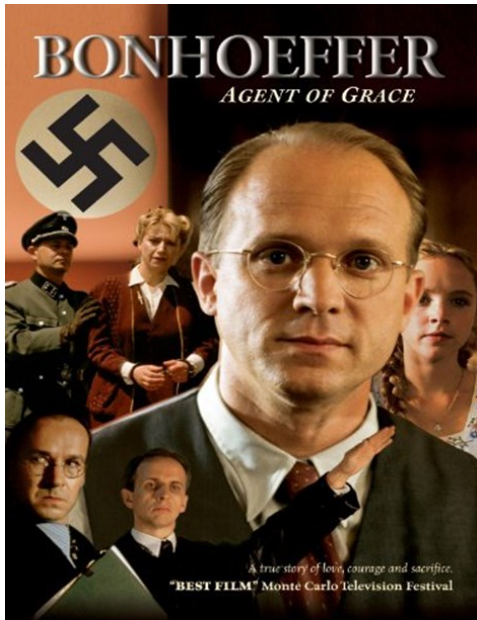


Pastor Attila will be out of the office and away for Sunday October 9 and 16. He will return on Sunday, October 23. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office.

There will be no Bible Study on the 11th, 18th and 25th. Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, November 1st.

There will be no morning Prayer Line on October 12 and 19th. Prayer Line will resume again on October 26th.





Movie
Saturday, October 29
4:00 p.m.
No charge for the Movie

Then, stay after the Movie
for dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Chicken, Salad, potato, veggie,
dessert and beverage
\$10.00

Get your tickets on Sunday
morning, or in the church office.

A Message from The Gideons:
Escaping ISIS – Finding God's Word

With millions of Muslims pouring into Europe the Gideons saw an opportunity to get the Word of God to refugees from counties where the Bible is banned.

Money was raised (\$525,000) through donations from churches like ours to print dual-language bibles. The New Testaments were printed in Arabic and the language of the host country. They are being provided to the refugees by faithful Gideons across Europe and Scandinavia. While the world frets at what is called the refugee crisis the Gideons are celebrating with the ability to share the power of the Gospel with those who've never heard the Good News and find a new life in Christ.



**It's a
Pumpkin Patch!!!!**

**Coming to NPCUCC
October 9—31**

It's time to volunteer!

**Help unload the Pumpkins on
Saturday, October 8th at 1:00 p.m.**

**Proceeds will go to our General Fund.
Sponsoring the Pumpkin Patch was taken into
consideration when deciding that we could make Pastor
Attila our Full Time Pastor on November 1st.**



**We are hopeful that the Pumpkin Patch
Will grow and become an annual event
here at NPCUCC.**



We still need lots of help, so please sign up today.

**Sales Start
October 9—31**



**Daily Shifts:
11:00—1:00
1:00—3:00
3:00—5:00
5:00—7:00**



Pictorial Directory

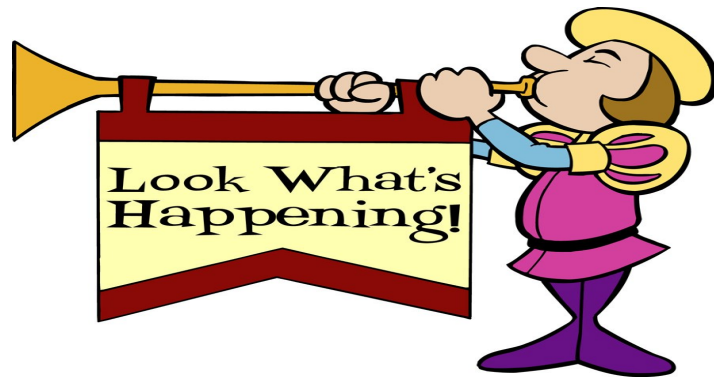
By now you should have all had the opportunity to sign up to have your photo taken for our new church directory. For those of you who are still up north, more dates will be available in January.

Each photographed group will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and a directory.

It is important that EVERYONE who considers themselves to be a part of NPCUCC be included in our directory.

Be sure to check the date of your appointment and mark it on your calendar. Any questions, please see Esther Sanborn, Becky Rooney, Barb Mervine or Patti Bourque.





UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

October 8	Pumpkins Arrive
October 9	Congregational Meeting
October 9—31	Pumpkin Patch is Open
October 21, 22 & 24	Directory Photos Taken
October 25	Celebration of Life Service For Dulanna Rothert
October 29	Movie and Dinner
October 30	Reformation Sunday
November 8	General Election Day
November 10—12	Rummage Sale
November 13	Tailgate Party
November 26	Celebration of Life Service For Ruth Long
December 3	Breakfast With Santa



“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.

Shane and I welcomed Mia-Rose Mae Dougherty on September 15th. See below information for Turning Point for October.

Youth Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month—12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Note the New schedule and times above.

October

Meetings 9th & 23rd

**Pumpkin Patch (Qualifies for Community Service Hours – Open from 11am – 7pm: However many hours you can donate will be greatly appreciated—call Miss Patti to sign up) Saturdays: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Sundays: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th**

**Trick or Treat, So Others Can Eat: 30th:
Mid-Afternoon – exact time TBD**

**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, October 12th at 8:30 a.m. at Perkins. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.



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





This has been a great month for having contact with church friends who have moved away some time ago.

We were thrilled to have a visit from Mary Williams who now lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. While she was here she joined the Women at their monthly breakfast and also attended a Sing-a-Long with friends. What a wonderful time to visit and reminisce.

We also received a lovely phone call from Wanda Tettlebach who is in Ohio. She and her family are doing well. She sends her regards to all who remember.

A note was also received from Rev. Hugh Rhymes and Wendy. They commented that they do hear from Lola and would love to hear from others too. They also mentioned a tree they planted—ask Lola about it. Their address is available through the church office.

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST & MEETING



**Monday, October 3rd
8:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Speaker: Jack Rabito

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



UCC WOMEN TO MEET

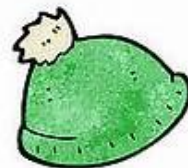
Please join women of NPCUCC as we begin a new year of activities. This year's theme is Throwing Starfish. What we do for others makes a difference. Join when you can and make a difference. We will gather at 10:00 a.m. on October 19th. Bring a sandwich to share. Our speakers will be Cindy Mattson and Commander Scott from Salvation Army talking about the Homeless Coalition.

Hostesses Norma Beach and Sheryll Norris will add salad and dessert to the sandwiches for our lunch after the program.

Please Note: Our Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser has been changed to October 19 and 20th.

Sign up for the rummage sale on November 10-12 at the meeting or on the church Fellowship bulletin board on October 23rd or 30th or November 6th.

How are you coming with our Hats Off to Kindness project? Remember the contest is running through November 1st, so be sure to bring your hats in to Norma Beach before the deadline.



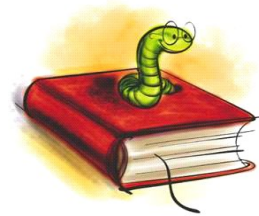


Library Committee

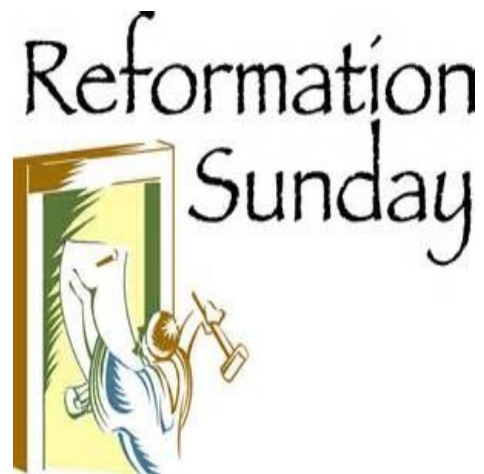
New to the shelf is “***Battlefield of the Mind: Winning the Battle in Your Mind***” by Joyce Meyer. Worry, doubt, confusion, depression, anger, and feelings of condemnation—all these are attacks on the mind. If you suffer from negative thoughts, take heart! The author has helped millions win these important battles.

Also new is “***Choosing to See A Journey of Struggle and Hope***” by Mary Beth Chapman with Ellen Vaughn. Mary Beth unveils her struggles to allow God to write the story of her life. She shows that even in hard times, there is hope if you choose to SEE.

From the Reading for Renewal list is “***Lila***” by Marilynne Robinson. This book revisits the beloved characters and setting of her Pulitzer Prize winning book, “***Gilead***” (in our library). This book is also a lesson in humility.



Sunday, October 2



Sunday, October 30th



**So Others Can Eat!
Sunday, October 30th**



Our Turning Point Youth Group again this year is putting a little twist into Halloween Trick or Treating.

Their theme is “Trick or Treat, So Others Can Eat!” The Youth group will gather at the church on Sunday, October 30th, dressed for Trick or Treating. They will visit the homes of friends and members of NPCUCC who sign up, collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the hungry in our community. Then they will return to the church for a small party of their own.

We had such a great response from you last year, we had to split up into two groups to make all our stops. This year we encourage you to get together with your church neighbors and gather together at one of your homes so we can visit more folks in less time.

Watch your Sunday bulletins for an opportunity to sign up. Any questions, call the church office.





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.





More About Meg...

This month we want to bring you up-to-date on Meg. Meg is our ECHO intern (the face of ECHO to us) for the year.



Recently, Alden and I have been down to ECHO to personally meet Meg. She is just what we imagined her to be—full of life, expressive, fun loving and passionate about her calling. She was delightful!

She is so excited about learning all about growing things in the Urban Garden. In her own words, *“I have been working on finding plants that serve multiple purposes because the space in urban areas is often so limited. Plants that can be used for human consumption, as an animal feed, and for other purposes (i.e. basket making) are three things that I try to look at when selecting what plants to grow. One example of a kind of plant that would fall into this category would be the Basket Vine bush. Its leaves are highly nutritious for both humans and animals, and it can be used to make baskets!”*

We are making fine progress toward our goal to support ECHO’s intern program. We have already collected over \$360. Thank you everyone!

Meg thanks us all for our prayers on her behalf.

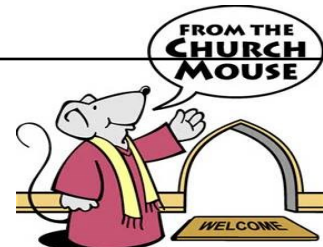
Sharon Miller, for the Mission Committee

MISSION NEWS....

The Mission Focus for October is a Mission Program sponsored by our Christian Education committee. Soon you will be hearing about Operation Christmas Child which is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Through this program, we will send shoeboxes with toys and other items of your choosing to children all over the world. You will see a short video on October 9th and have an opportunity to pick up a shoe box to fill and return to the church. You are limited only by your creativity and how much you can fit in the box.

Last year our Sunday School children, Turning Point youth and several others sent about 25 shoe boxes. This year we would like to give you the opportunity to participate as well and reach even more children. Everyone deserves a gift at Christmas!

**From the Church Mouse
ATTENTION ALL KIDS....**



Have you seen me?



MRS. MOUSE

**Mrs. Mouse is LOST!
Pip and I can't find her anywhere!
If you find her please return her
to Miss Patti.**

**She was last seen wearing a knitted hat
on the Mission Table. We miss her and
want her back. There is a reward!**

**Ye Olde Church Mouse
& Pip**





Start Saving Now!
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 11th 8 am - 1 pm

SATURDAY November 12th 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 later this month.



TIME TO CHECK
YOUR HOUSE AND
START GATHERING
YOUR DONATIONS!

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:

**Oct. 2 Esther Sanborn
Oct. 9 Jeanie Doll
Oct. 16 Karen Knudsen
Oct. 23 Meagan Gann
Oct. 30 Betty Van Tassell**



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

**Average monthly
attendance:**

**August 2015—92
August 2016—82**

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

**October 28
December 2
December 30**

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

October Birthdays:

Oct. 5	Mary Maples
Oct. 5	Jeanne Perry
Oct. 6	Randy Cook
Oct. 9	Molly Highstreet
Oct. 17	Maureen Murphy
Oct. 18	Cindy Minich
Oct. 28	Marjorie Passika



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.

With Heartfelt Thanks....

I want to thank everyone for the cards, concern, hugs, thoughts, prayers and emotional support over time regarding declining health issues, transition to hospice care and eventual passing of my Mom on 9/7/16. You have helped me more than words could ever express and I will be forever grateful.



Sincerely,
Donna Swanson



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

OCTOBER:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Oct. 2 Patti & Mike Bourque
Oct. 9 Sheryll Norris
Oct. 16 Barbara Mervine
Oct. 23 Doug and Cindy Minich
Oct. 30 Tom and Sandra Van Bergen



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,
October 11 & 25 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**



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