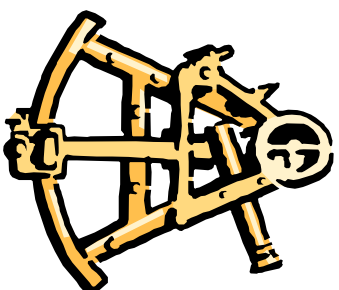


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

April 2019

April

April 2019

*From the
Pastor*



SIMPLY AMAZING!

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. (Luke 22:49-51)

Greetings to you in the name of JESUS,

The passage above is part of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The person who struck the servant of the high priest was no other than impulsive Simon Peter and the servant's name is Malchus.

Those of you who have seen Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ" saw this event from the scriptures portrayed powerfully. It is almost surprising that the Bible doesn't go into further detail about this healing and its' consequences. Malchus is not mentioned after this anymore. There are no colorful accounts in the Bible about his further life after this event. In the movie, Malchus simply can't move, in utter amazement he touches his ear after Jesus made it whole again. Talk about instant healing! Something must have taken place in his heart, for no one who ever encounters Jesus will ever be the same.

Also, we must remember that Malchus was on the side of the enemy...on the side of the persecutors. The ones that were after Jesus and the ones that would not rest till he was nailed to the cross that has become the symbol of divine Love.

The words that Jesus spoke during His Ministry here on earth, “Love your enemies” and “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” gain weight and are moved into position of right understanding for us.

I would have liked to have interviewed Malchus. What was it like to encounter JESUS? What did you feel on the inside? Yes, Malchus was on the side of the enemy and yes Malchus did not know what Jesus was doing. On the other hand, Jesus knew what Malchus was doing...He loved Malchus and he showed it with a healing touch.

Now that is the message of Gospel in a nutshell and also the heart of the resurrection Miracle. It did not leave only Malchus in amazement but it should do the same for us and make us simply give thanks for what Jesus did when He came and when he suffered, died and rose.

May God Bless you and your entire household with abundance this Resurrection Sunday and always.



Please enjoy the following selected images:



50th Ministry Anniversary Celebration at the NPCUCC
Thank you to ALL who made it possible.





2nd Annual NPCUCC Family Retreat!

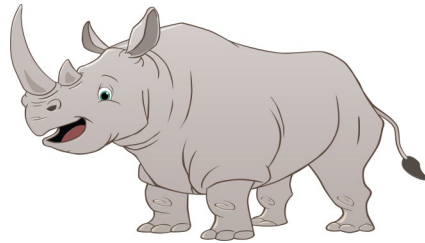
**Next Year 2020 (March 12-14) mark your calendar.
Call: 941-426-5580 for details.**

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

Please note: In order to give Pastor Attila plenty of time for his sermon. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with the Lord's Prayer, whatever time that may be.



**Join us at
ROAR VBS**



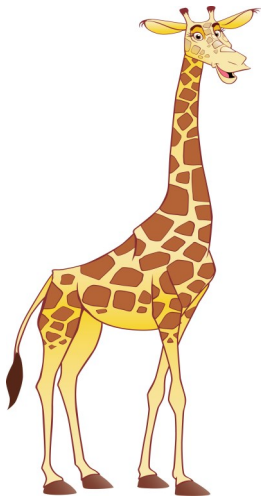
**June 10-14, 2019
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**North Port Community UCC
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287
941-426-5580**

Email: northportucc@juno.com

Ages 5-completion of grade 5

**Stories— Cool Crafts
Yummy Snacks— Fun Games
Lively Music**



**Call for a Registration form!
Space is limited. Registration Closes When Full.**



The UCC Women's Fellowship wish to thank all the congregation and their friends for supporting our endeavors this past year.

Women of the Church

Due to your support the UCC Women have been able to donate to the church budget (\$2300); Lightweight tables and folding chairs for Decker Hall (\$2300); and to Habitat for Humanity and Meals on Wheels (\$200) each.

Most importantly to us is the Fellowship and Friendship given to each other.



CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting for North Port Community United Church of Christ has been called by the Church Council for Sunday, April 28, 2019, immediately following the morning worship.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive all annual reports, elect officers, and approve the 2019-20 budget and any other business to be presented.

Annual Reports are due no later than April 8 and report booklets will be available on Sunday April 21st for you to pick up and read carefully prior to the Annual Meeting on the 28th.



Lenten Soup Supper
Join us April 3 and 10
at 5p.m. for a Soup Supper
Bible Study from 6:00—7:00
will follow.

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

Email:
npcuccpastor@frontier.com
Please Visit our Website:
www.npcucc.org

Singles Dinner Group



Singles are invited to meet for
dinner April 11 at
5:30 p.m. at Applebee's of
North Port.
Check the bulletin board in
Fellowship Hall to sign up.



**The church office
Will be closed on
Monday, April 22nd
For Easter Monday.**



Desks for Sale

We have three desks that were in the Narthex before our recent update and renovations. Two are smaller oak desks that would be great as a writing desk or used for a laptop. The third is a typical office desk in a darker pecan color. If you have an interest in purchasing any of these desks, please call the church office at 426-5580.

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



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, April 3 at Olde World Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for more details.



Our 50th Anniversary

After two years of planning, our 50th Anniversary celebration is now behind us and we begin to make memories for another 50 years.

Thank you to our planning committee for a job well done, taking care to have a wonderful look back at our past and giving us lots to think about for our future.

The official committee co-chairs were Mary Ann Anderson and Sandy McKean. Others on the committee included Becky Rooney, Don and Jean Grim, Louise Hall, Cindy Minich and Allison Dougherty.

We kicked off our celebration on our actual Anniversary date with a catered dinner following by a walk down memory lane as we watched a slide presentation prepared by Allison Dougherty.

We enjoyed special inserts each week looking at events of the decades. Offertory music highlighting the appropriate decades entertained us each week. We enjoyed bagpipe music, had Jill Luke City Commissioner and Police officers join us as we looked at our Memorial Garden walkways.

Lastly, on March 17th we were blessed with dignitaries from the Florida Conference and 6 of our former pastors during our worship service. How special that was! Thanks to all who helped in any way!

3rd Annual Faith Builder's Retreat God has a story with you—what's yours?

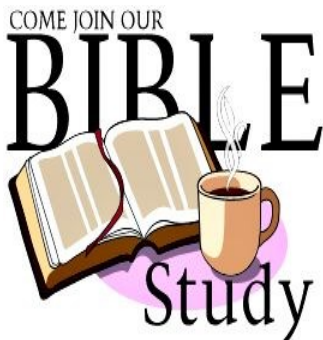
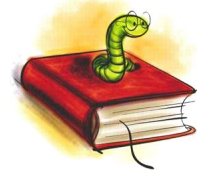
In the beginning of March we held our 2nd Annual Faith Builder's Retreat at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish, Florida. The weather was great and the changes made to the retreat were widely accepted and appreciated by all. Water aerobics (thanks Mary); fishing (thanks Doug); kayaking and canoeing; homemade ice cream (thanks Gary and Nancy); crafts, shirts and gifts (thanks Sally) and a bit of creativity thrown in were some of the highlights. Thank you to Mary and Mathilda (Hilda) our music leaders, Terry our chauffeur and Pastor Attila as our worship leader. Another great time for spiritual reflection and Christian Fellowship.

The dates for 2020 have been set—March 12-14. Mark your calendars now and plan to be with us. Our housing accommodations will change a bit as the Pool House is not available that weekend. We have reserved 4 cabins and the Retreat House. Our meeting room will be in the new building up by the pool.

A list has been started in the office for those who want to be sure to go next year. Prices for 2020 will increase just slightly. \$210 for double occupancy; \$285 for single occupancy. Deposits will come later, but if it makes it easier for you to pay a little at a time throughout the year, we can set that up for you. Questions? Call the office 426-5580.

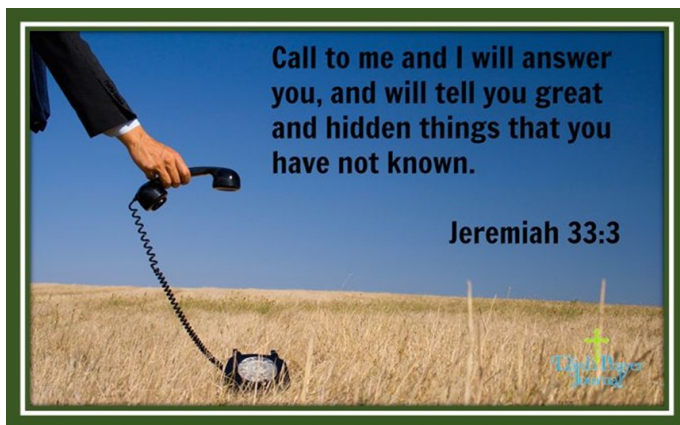


The church library has a good selection of books dealing with death and grieving. The following have been added to this collection, which supports our grief Program. ***“Healing Your Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas”*** by Alan D. Wolfelt, PH.D offers practical suggestions for helping yourself so that you can go on to live well and love well again. ***“A Passage Through Grief: A Recovery Guide”*** by Barbara Baumgardner recommends writing. Keeping a journal can be a valuable step in the healing process when you might be uncomfortable speaking with others. Next is ***“Life Lessons”*** by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross & David Kessler. These two well-known experts on death and dying teach us about the mysteries of life and living. The tragedy is not that life is short but that we often see only in hindsight what really matters. ***“Losing a Parent”*** by Alexandra Kennedy. Grief has its own nature, rhythm, and timing, and those often do not fit into our ideas of experiencing grief. The author has written a book that can be of tremendous help on how one can deal with a parent’s passing.



In Home Bible Studies....

The April Home Bible Study will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Bruce and Theresa MacKnight. For more information please call Delores Edwards at 876-3376.



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

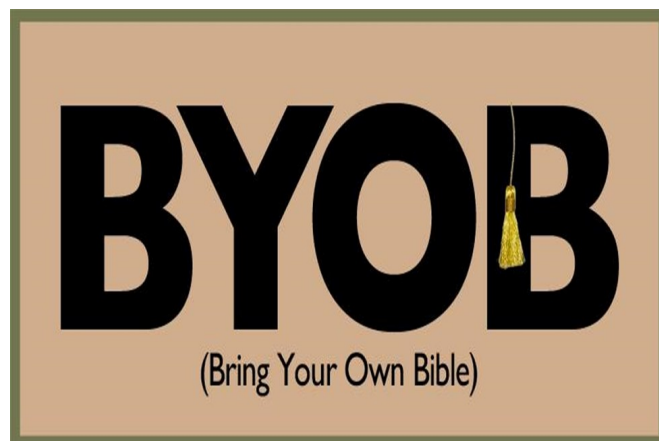
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

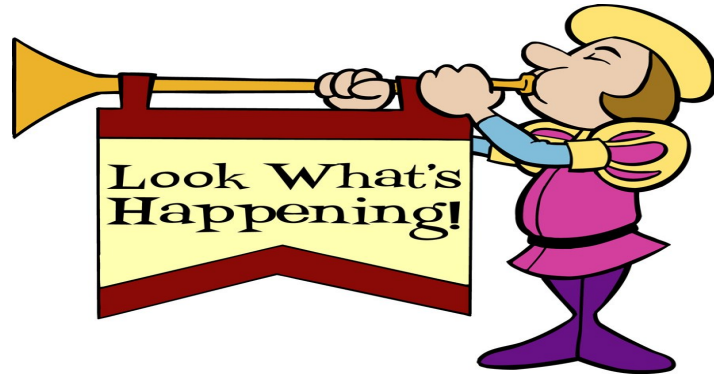
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch
If you wish.**



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



**Join us on Wednesday morning for
Morning Prayer
7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.**



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

April 8

Annual Reports Due

Holy Week

Palm Sunday—April 14

Maundy Thursday—April 18

Good Friday—April 19

Easter Sunday—April 21

April 28

Annual Meeting

May 19

**Sunday afternoon dinner
With entertainment**

June 10-14

**Vacation Bible School
~ Please note the change in dates ~**





Safety in our Church

We continue to look at ways to ensure that our church a safe environment. We now have cameras positioned around the inside and outside of our church. These Cameras were actually purchased a few years ago, but have finally been installed. They allow our property to be monitored and recorded 24/7. Should something seem not quite right, it's a simple process to look at the recordings and check it out.

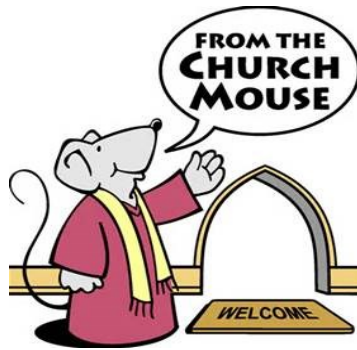
Another safety issue that we have identified is that of communication between our Sunday school teachers and the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Once the teachers and children go to the other building for Sunday school, we have no contact with each other. As we are instructed each Sunday by our Moderator, our cell phones are turned off or on silent. Radios are going to be purchased using Vacation Bible School funds. They will be used as needed during VBS and will be available during the year for our Sunday School teachers to communicate with those in our Tech booth if needed on Sunday mornings.

These are forward steps. One of the signs on a table at our church retreat showed a turtle and the saying read....



“Your speed doesn’t matter, forward is forward!”

So we will continue to more forward.



From the Church Mouse.....

Whew... March was quite a month! Pip and I snuck into the boxes in the office and went to the church retreat. Everything was going pretty well until someone tried to glue Pip onto some papers—pretty scary but he got away. Then some others were eyeing us as bait for their fishing trip. Ice cream was a nice treat. Will go again next year, but will be more careful. The big parties for whoever it was that turned 50 came next. Lots of food, plenty of cake and ice cream, yum! Best part was seeing some of the familiar faces from the past. Fond memories.

Happy Easter to all!



Ye Olde Church Mouse and Pip



| |
|--|
| <p>Annual Reports Due Monday, April 8th</p> |
|--|

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you know someone who is in need of a Prayer Shawl? Perhaps someone who is not feeling well and is in need of a lift? Or someone who just needs some cheering up? Call the church office to request a prayer shawl for your friend or loved one and we'll handle the rest.

Do you like to knit or crochet? Then we invite you to join our Prayer Shawls Group. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. In April, that's the 9th and 23rd. We hope to see you there.



Dine to Donate!

Please continue to take your vouchers to Perkins each time you dine there. Perkins will collect the vouchers and quarterly send us a check donating 10% of the subtotal of everyone's bills. A win/win for everyone.



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Remember the 2nd Sunday is our Collection of Food for those who are hungry.

April Birthdays:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| April 1 | Alden Miller |
| April 1 | Charles Wolf |
| April 3 | Don Lytle |
| April 3 | Mary Jane Schaeferle |
| April 4 | Tom Phillips |
| April 5 | Wes Bates |
| April 10 | Linda Reese |
| April 12 | Ann Schaffner |
| April 15 | Dave DeRonde |
| April 25 | Winona Vannoy |
| April 26 | Lola Van Woert |
| April 29 | Dee Krusz |
| April 30 | Jan Wessel |



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 in April.

April 4 Neville and Barbara Miles

Average monthly attendance:

**February 2018—191
February 2019—190**

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

April

ALTAR FLOWERS:

April 7 **Mary Jane Schaeferle**
 Janice Gammage
April 14 **Nghi Frechtling**
April 21 **Patti Bourque**
April 28 **Doris Santella**



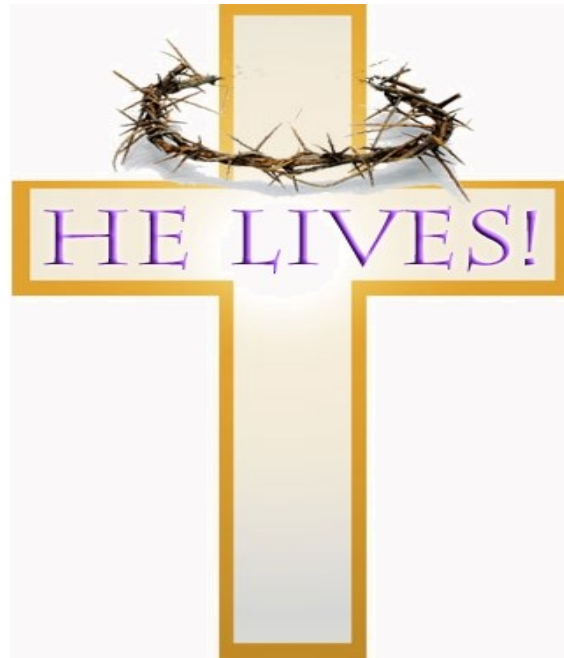
Thank you to:
North Port Natural Florist
Your "Green" Florist
13632 Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34287
426-1197

For providing us with our flowers every Sunday.

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."



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



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: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Closed on Friday

Patti Bourque, Office Manager

Terry Hong, Office Assistant