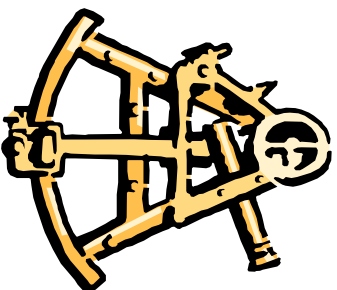


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

August, 2019





August Navigator

When Little Is Much!

Give, and it will be given to you. A large quantity, pressed together, shaken down, and running over will be put into your lap, because you'll be evaluated by the same standard with which you evaluate others." *(Luke 6:38)*

Dear Church Family,

It is our hope that you are enjoying your summer. Many of you are on the go. Traveling, visiting family and friends. Be safe and please know you are missed here at the North Port Community UCC.

In 2008 I was able to take a Sabbatical. On my trip I visited two countries of the former Yugoslavia (Serbia & Croatia).

The focus of my study was the Protestant church as a minority in the former Yugoslavia and the Church after WWII under Communism.

I visited many different congregations, Pastors and their families. Studied documents in church archives and learned some amazing facts and heard some stories I shall never forget.

Here is one of those stories I would like to share with you today. On this Sabbatical Study Trip I spent an entire afternoon visiting with *Kiss Maria (*in the Hungarian language you introduce someone by their last name first).

Together with her husband Kiss Antal they served one of the Christian Reformed Churches in Yugoslavia/Serbia for 55 years. There were good years but there was also much hardship in their ministry. After WWII, things were hard. There were shortages all over, including food. The Communist Government forced people to deliver grain/food/livestock to them. The local authorities decided on the amount. People had to come up with these items no matter what. The amounts asked for were impossible to fulfill. Even if the families were able to deliver they would have no food left for their own needs.

The time came when Pastor Kiss was asked to deliver grain to the local authorities. They gave him a certain amount of time to come up with it or he would have to go to forced labor or jail. The Pastor and his wife knew they could never come up with the requested amount. Time was running out and soon he would have to leave for forced labor service or jail.

One morning, they were just getting up when they heard noises in their yard and to their surprise when they went outside, they saw the Congregation gathered behind the Parsonage.

During the night each member of the Church had brought in some grain for the Pastor and his family; so, one by one, little by little the requested amount of grain was collected and the Pastor could stay with his family and his church family. They prayed together and sang songs of praises to God.

What an incredible testimony about the power of God in times of impossibilities. A story that shows that with God in our lives even very little can become much. The Word of God challenges us to take inventory and evaluate our actions based on God's standard. As we reflect on our relationship with God and each other let us consider the words of the Bible:" because you'll be evaluated by the same standard with which you evaluate others."

After my conversation with Mrs. Kiss I could do nothing but be in awe about the Power of God. At one point she said to me these stories are easier to tell than to live through.

You might be in a difficult spot in your own life right now; be assured that God is aware and He is working on your behalf this very moment. With Jesus on our side even 'little' can be much in the end.

Please see the pictures on the following page that relate to this story.



**Christian Reformed Church & Parsonage in
Stara Moravica Serbia, where Pastor Kiss and
his wife served for 55 years.**



**The church today,
built in 1822**

Enjoy the following selected images:



**Visit to the Martin Luther German
Congregation in Orlando (06-30-19)**



NPCUCC Ministry Day at The Gardens (07-08-19)

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

Undy Sunday and Back to School Items

**We are now collecting shoes, socks underwear and back to school supplies through August 11th.
Containers are in the back of the church.**



**School is back in Session
August 12th!**

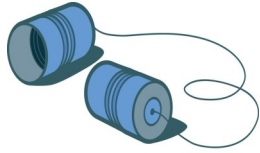
**Pastor Attila is in the office
Monday — Thursday
To schedule an appointment,
Call the office—426-5580**

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

**Singles Dinner Group
Will not meet in August**



**Next Gathering will be
September 12th at
Cracker Barrel in Port Charlotte
Check the bulletin board in
Fellowship Hall to sign up.**



Spread the Word

AMAZON SMILE

Did you know that when you order through Amazon Smile you have an opportunity to choose a charity organization and Amazon Smile will donate a portion of your purchase to that organization? Well, it's true and North Port Community UCC is all registered and ready to receive funds. So, help spread the word and tell all your friends and neighbors to choose NPCUCC as their organization of choice. We will keep you posted as funds start to come in how this new venture is going.

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.

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



All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, August 7th at Perkins at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for more details.

Spiritual Retreat

**North Port Community UCC
3rd Annual Faith Builder's Retreat
March 12-14, 2020
Day Spring Conference Center, Parrish, FL
"A Sacred Place set Apart..."**

Sign up now to be part of our 3rd Annual Faith Builder's Retreat.

The price for the retreat includes accommodations for 2 nights lodging and six meals – Dinner on Thursday, 3 meals on Friday and 2 meals on Saturday.

**Double Occupancy - \$210 per person
Single Occupancy - \$285 per person
(does not guarantee private bath)**

This year we will have more rooms which have bathrooms included. Other rooms will require about 4 persons to share hall bathrooms.

**Deposit of \$60 is due September 15th.
Final payment is due January 25th.
Checks should be made payable to "NPCUCC Retreat".**

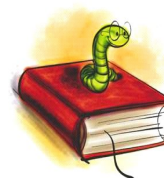
If it is easier for you to pay a little at a time throughout the year, we can set that up for you in the church office. Questions? Call the office 426-5580.



An interesting book is “*The Book of Signs*” by David Jeremiah. Do you find yourself disheartened when you hear news events of the day? Crisis after crisis is occurring. Thankfully, God has graciously filled His Word with signs of the future to help us understand. Dr. David Jeremiah examines the prophetic writings from the Old and New Testament to help us cut through the confusion and give you insights about God’s plan for us.

A new DVD, “*C.H. Spurgeon: The People’s Preacher*” is available. Here is the intimate story of one of the greatest preachers in the history of the church.

If you have any suggestions for the collection, or need help with research, please see Becky Rooney, Church Librarian.



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

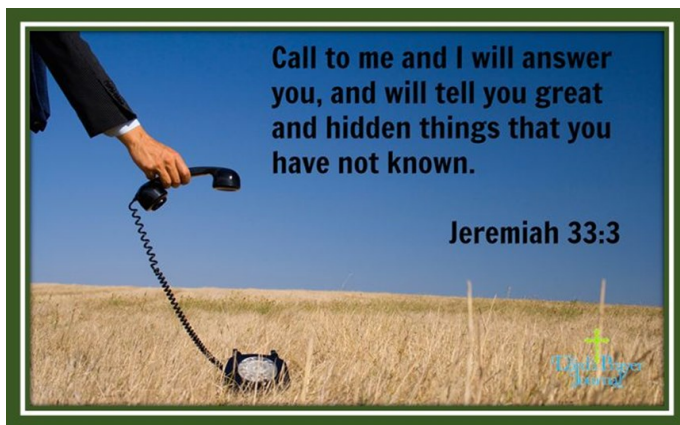
**Large enough to serve you;
small enough to know you.**



Summer Pot Luck

**Sunday, August 18th
Following worship**

Bring a dish to share



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

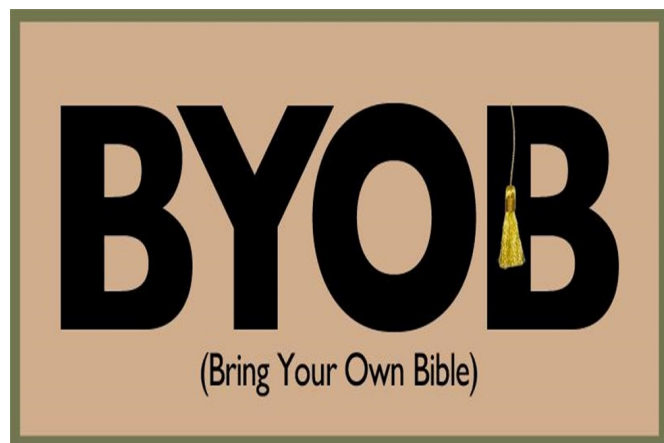
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

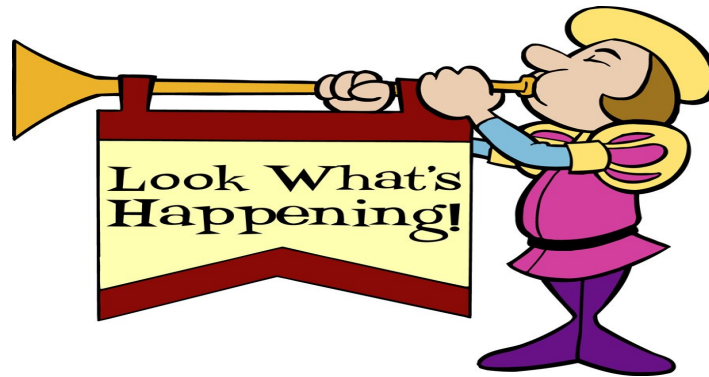
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.**



*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
8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.**



UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

August 11	Pastor Attila Returns
August 18	Church pot luck
September 8	Rally Day
September 13	Dinner and Entertainment
September 20-October 2	Israel Trip
October 9 & 10	Soup and Sandwich fundraiser
October 12th	Pumpkins Arrive!!!
October 13—31	Pumpkin Patch is Open
October 16	UCCW meetings resume
October 18	Pork Chop Dinner
November 15-16	Rummage Sale



Safety in our Church

The Safety Team continues to make steps forward in our efforts for Church Safety.

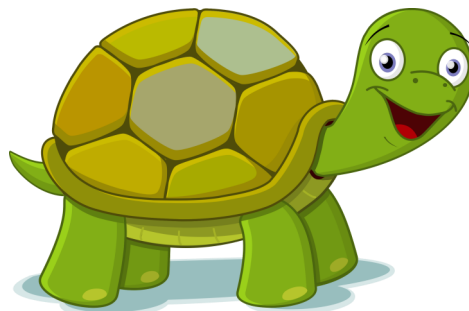
Steps taken so far:

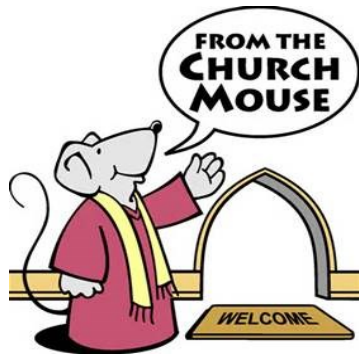
- **Walkie Talkies to provide communication between our Sunday school teachers and students in Decker Hall and the main building have been purchased and are ready to be used beginning on Rally Day—September 8th.**
- **Security Cameras have been installed and are operational to watch activity both outside and inside our building.**
- **Sanctuary doors are locked once the service begins.**
- **Outside lighting for our parking lots: two have been purchased to date. More still to come.**
- **Workshop with other area churches on August 6th.**

We are still seeking additional persons who are willing to learn more about our plans and help in any way they are able.

Remember.....

**“Your speed doesn’t matter, forward is forward!”
So we continue to more forward.**





From the Church Mouse.....

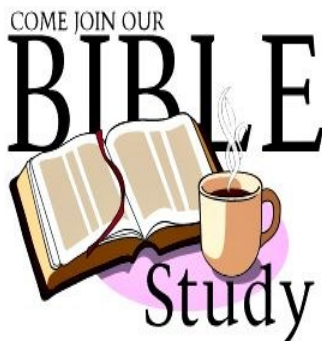
Things are a bit quiet around here these days. Pip and I are enjoying some peace and quiet these days. The hot summer days have brought some unexpected wasps to our home. The ladies in the office are doing their best to get rid of them. Saw them chasing a couple around the office the other day. Gave us all a good laugh. Just enjoying the quiet for now. We all need to rest up because it will be busy again very soon! Happy summer.

**Ye Olde Church Mouse
and Pip**



NEW CHURCH EMAIL

The office is slowly changing over to a new email. Please start sending emails to northportucc@gmail.com as we phase out our junio email. We thank you for your cooperation.



In Home Bible Studies....

**Home Bible Study in August???
Information with a date and place
for the August study will be
announced on Sunday morning
when it becomes available.**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



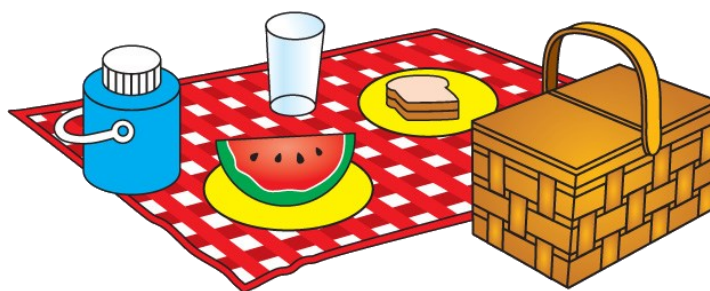
The Prayer Shawl group will be taking a break for the summer. Please watch the newsletter and bulletin for when we will be starting back up again in the fall. Enjoy your summer.



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



**Food
Collection**

Remember the 2nd Sunday is our Collection of Food for those who are hungry. Donations alternate with one month going to Face of Hope and the next month to New Hope Church.

August Birthdays:

August 3	Shirley Alvarez
August 6	Marvin Kelly
August 6	Kristin Padalik
August 9	Anne Bonsky
August 10	Corinne Kiefer
August 10	Darlene Phillips
August 11	Tim Davis
August 16	Brent Campos
August 21	Larry Swanson
August 25	Terry Hong
August 27	Kelly Winton
August 28	Doug Minich
August 31	Alyda Carpenter



The following members and friends will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in August.

Tony and Boo Vance	August 1
Nick and Anne Bonsky	August 2
Ed and Patti Boger	August 10
Don and Jean Grim	August 12
Marvin and Jill Kelly	August 16

August

ALTAR FLOWERS:

August 4	Chris Bermel
August 11	Don and Jean Grim
August 18	Larry and Donna Swanson
August 25	Terry and Paul Hong



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.”

Average monthly
attendance:

June 2018—110
June 2019—120

Savannah Trip
March 23—27, 2020
Just a few spots left
Info available in the Narthex



Hurricane Policy

**It's Hurricane Season, so
REMEMBER: Our church
policy for closing the church
in the event of a storm is—**



Anytime hurricane conditions are predicted for a Sunday morning, including the possibility of winds high enough to prevent emergency workers from being on the roads, services will be canceled. So.... If on Saturday night, hurricane conditions are being predicted for North Port, you may know that Sunday services are canceled—even if conditions are improved on Sunday morning.

“When possible” our calling committees will make phone calls, but please do not rely solely on a phone call.

Bottom line: Be Safe!



New Church Directories

The long awaited new church telephone directories have finally been finished. Copies are available in the Narthex or the church office. Please pick up a new one with the hot pink cover and be sure to throw away any old ones you may have around. We thank you for your patience.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

If you are over 70 1/2 and have an investment plan, you are required to withdraw a percentage, determined by the IRS, every year by December 31st. If you take this as income it is a taxable event to you.

A great way to avoid taxes, and to fulfill your church pledge, is to donate this, or a portion of it, to North Port Community United Church of Christ. This can be simply done by contacting your broker.

**Regards,
Douglas Minich, Board of Trustees, Chair**



**Coming Soon!!!
4th Annual
Pumpkin Patch....**



**Save the dates:
Pumpkins Arrive
October 12th**

**Patch open daily
October 13-31
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Plan now to volunteer
2 hour shifts**





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@gmail.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