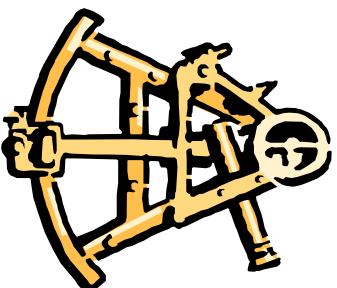


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

December, 2019



December Navigator

Dear Church Family,

Rejoice— for you have reason to....

The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth:

"Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him.'" They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted."

This Scripture gives us a feeling of something Sacred, Holy and Extraordinary taking place in our midst.

This Christmas Season, it is my prayer that for all of us the celebration of Jesus the Savior and His coming to earth would gain new importance. The Sundays in Advent which prepare us for His coming and proclaim it aloud "JESUS IS VICTOR"- may this message of Advent be opened up to all of us with new and deeper meaning.



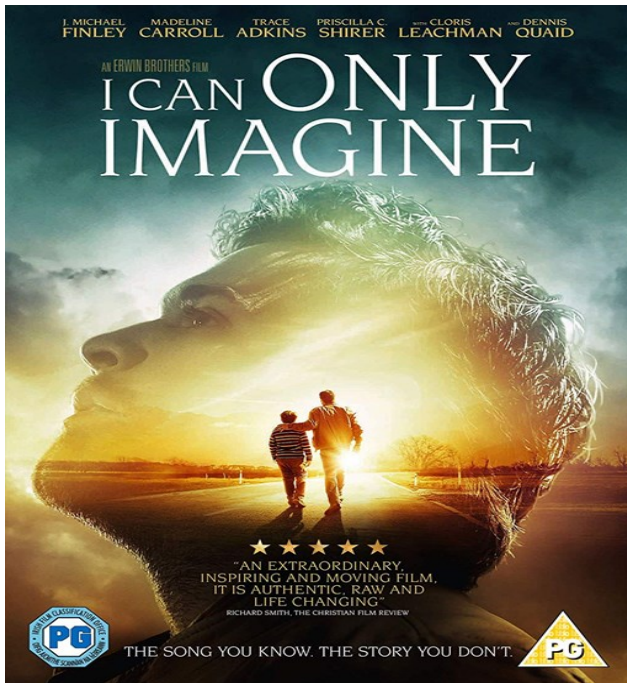
Recently I read in a book the following statement:
“Do not let the sacred become Common.”

It can happen real easily, especially when we have celebrated the Birth of Jesus many times before. Let us enter into this Christmas Season with the joyful expectation that the Holy Spirit is well able to open our hearts and eyes to see the greatness of God’s wonder once more just as great as it really is. For we are a people sought after and a City No Longer Deserted. Jesus has come to be with us. We look forward to this Advent journey together with you each Sunday in Advent and the arrival of our Savior on Christmas Eve.



Please join us also on Thursday, December 5th at 6:00p.m.first for our International Potluck (please bring a dish to share) and after the potluck see the pictures and hear the stories of our International Faith Builder Trip to Israel and Egypt.





Our next Christian Movie Event (with concession stand) will take place here at the NPCUCC on Saturday December 7th from 3-5p.m.

***Another Great Movie Event here at the NPCUCC.
Join us and please invite others.***

Thank you to ALL who helped with the Rummage Sale.



More Rummage Sale Photos



Photos taken: 11-14-2019

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

**Remember: Check out color photos on our
“In the News” board in the Narthex.**



**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.npccucc.org**





5th Annual Grief Seminar
February 1, 2020
northportucc@gmail.com

WHEN ANOTHER MORNING DAWNS

Psalm 143:8

***Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning;
For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should
walk; For to You I lift up my soul.***

North Port Community UCC
5th Annual Grief Seminar

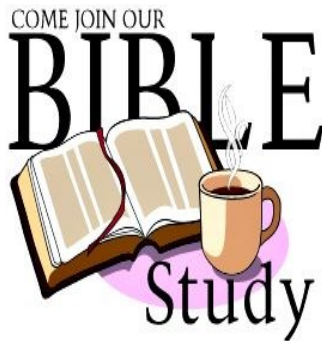
Saturday, February 1st , 2020
8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch served. Bring a framed photo of your loved one and light a candle in their memory.

The event is free – a free will offering will be accepted to cover expenses for food.

Call the church office at 941-426-5580 to register.





In Home Bible Studies....

Home Bible Study will be Thursday, December 19th, but no location has been announced as of yet. Watch your Sunday bulletin for more information.



Singles Dinner Group

Next Gathering will be 5:30 p.m. on December 12th. Location to be announced. Check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to sign up.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24th
7:00 p.m.**

**Invite your friends and neighbors
Cookies and punch following service**



Bags for Beds

The Bags for Beds project will start up again on Thursday, December 12th at 2:00 p.m. in Decker Hall. In January they will return to twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. All are welcome.

Thank You!



Thank you again to everyone who helped with our Pumpkin Patch in any way. The Patch was once again very successful in terms of outreach to our community and also funds for our General Budget. The final results are in and our profit was \$2,402.31. Again, many thanks for your support of this annual event.



**Sunday, December 15th
10:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Cantata
The Innkeeper's Daughter**

This upbeat 30-minute, 7-song Christmas musical with 9 speaking roles tells the Bethlehem story through the eyes of a fictional innkeeper's daughter. Join us and invite your family and friends.

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..."**

**Final payment is due January 25th.
Checks should be made payable to
"NPCUCC Retreat".**

**Flyers are in the Narthex.
If you haven't signed up yet,
it's not too late—call the church office.**



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

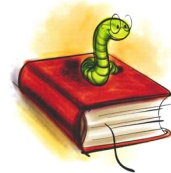
**All women are invited to join together for breakfast
on Wednesday, December 4th at Olde World
Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in
Fellowship Hall for more details.**



The church library continues to feature books on prayer. ***“PRAYER Language of the Soul”*** by Philip Dunn is an anthology of more than 300 prayers from around the world. This book offers an enormous range of spiritual subjects that will inspire those of us who hunger for just the right words at the times when we need them most. This book can be used as an aid in meditation and home study.

Another title is ***“The 7 Great Prayers”: The Simple, Powerful Way to Change Your Life for a Lifetime of Hope and Blessings*** by Paul and Tracey McManus. This powerful book guides you through seven simple yet life-changing prayers. These prayers are for all people and all faiths. The authors show you how to overcome life’s challenges, get closer to God, and attract blessings into your life thorough the power of prayer.

The church library has many Christmas books for all ages. Check them out!



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



**Thursday, December 5th
Israel and Egypt Trip
Pictures & Stories
With International Potluck at 6:00 p.m.
Program to follow.**

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

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

**Join us...
Breakfast with
Santa**



**December 14, 2019
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

**North Port Community UCC
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287
941-426-5580
Email: northportucc@gmail.com**

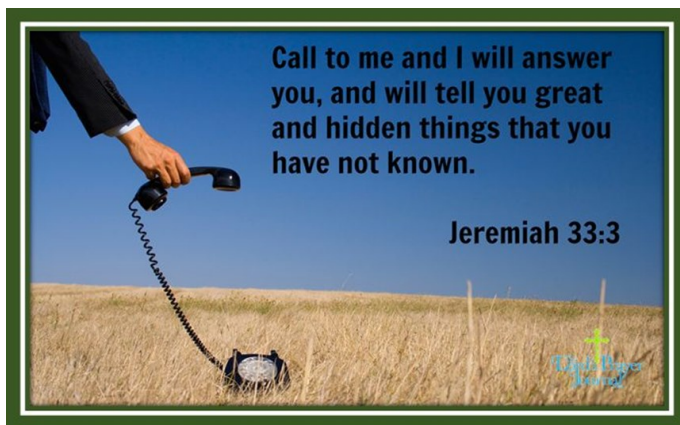


**Breakfast:
\$5 for adults; Children 5-12 \$3.00
Children under 5 free**

Free crafts for children
Bring your camera for pictures with Santa!

Tickets are now on sale!





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

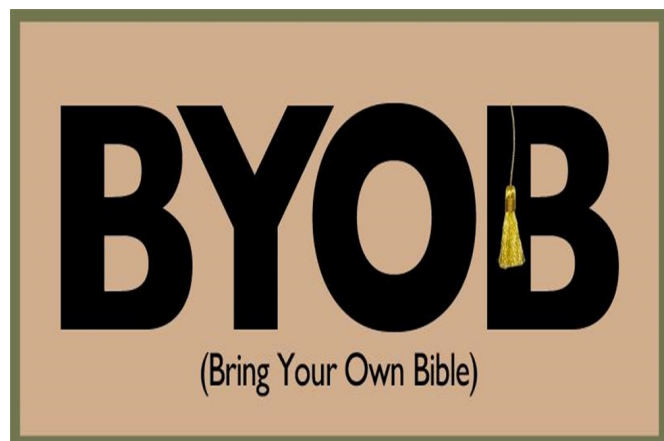
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

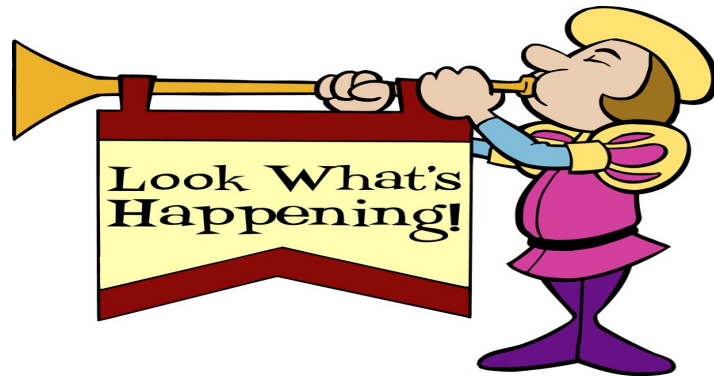
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.**



*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!

November 28	Thanksgiving Day - office closed
December 1	First Sunday of Advent
December 5	Israel & Egypt—Pictures, Stories, And Potluck
December 7	Free movie—"I Can Only Imagine"
December 14	Breakfast with Santa
December 14	Full Dress Rehearsal for Cantata
December 15	Christmas Cantata
December 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
January 19	New Member Class
February 1	Grief Seminar



Safety in our Church

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

The Safety Team met on Tuesday, November 19th and continued to look at things that need to be done. Work continues on our fire drill plan.

Now that we have had Safety Team members for several weeks at the doors and in the parking lot, we found that there were a few bugs to be worked out in our process. These things were discussed and implemented.

Soon you will notice on Sundays that our Safety Team members will be wearing ID tags. Should an emergency occur, you will readily know who is available to provide help. We thank you for your cooperation.



Remember.....

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





From the Church Mouse.....

All the pumpkins are now gone and it's time to look forward to some turkey. After the turkey comes more food from lots of different countries and stories from time away. Wonder if they saw any international mice on their trip? I'm sure Pip and I have relatives in other countries too. Then it will be time for pancakes with the man in the Red Suit. This is sure a nice place to live. There is always plenty of food for us to eat. Pip and I are counting our blessings. We hope you are too.

**Ye Olde Church Mouse
and Pip**



**Operation Christmas Child
Shoe Boxes for Children**

Thanks to your generous support of this project. We were able to send 174 boxes to children in need. We are grateful for your support.





UCC WOMEN

Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 11
Watch the bulletin board for
more information on this event.



A note of thanks....

On behalf of the North Port High School Band Parent Organization we would like to thank you for the gracious opportunity in allowing the North Port High School Jazz Band to perform in your church. The generous contributions will be helping the band with uniforms and Rome trip expenses. We admire our local community for taking interest in being a part of our student music participation at North Port High School.



Our Annual UCC Christmas Fund Offering will be received on Sunday, December 22nd. Watch your Sunday bulletins for inserts and a special envelope to use for this once a year opportunity. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retired pastors whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs.





PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl group meets just once in December. They will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, December 10th in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.



The church office will be closed on the following days in December.

December 24	(Closing early)
December 25	Christmas Day

Christmas Lights at La Casa



Everyone is invited to come and view the beautiful Christmas lights and decorations at LaCasa. The gates will be open for viewing on December 16 and 17 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Enjoy!



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

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

December Birthdays:

Dec. 1	Angela Stolting
Dec. 3	Jeanie Doll
Dec. 3	Landon Livingston
Dec. 4	Hannah Padalik
Dec. 5	Gary Tallman
Dec. 5	Annalisa Williamson
Dec. 5	Gregory Williamson
Dec. 12	Lisa Williamson
Dec. 13	Dave Sanford
Dec. 15	Boo Vance
Dec. 19	Jean Bridges
Dec. 25	Sophia Bonsky
Dec. 25	Dorothy Covert
Dec. 29	Marian Holsinger
Dec. 30	Louise Hall
Dec. 31	Anne Smith



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



Dec. 6	Jim and Barbara Mills
Dec. 7	Gary and Nadyne Tallman
Dec. 17	Bob and Nancy Case
Dec. 21	Larry and Jeanie Doll
Dec. 23	David and Andrea St. Onge

December

ALTAR FLOWERS:

December 1	Linda Reese
December 8	Carolyn Perkins
December 15	Delores and Louzan Edwards
December 22	Barbara Mervine
December 29	Ed and Patti Boger



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:

October 2018— 124
October 2019— 145



Trip to Savannah



Please note that the Savannah Trip is Full. Margaret will be maintaining a waiting list in the event of cancellations. Should you wish to be put on the waiting list, please call Margaret at her Michigan phone number.

Final payment for the trip is due January 16, 2020.

Please make checks payable to Margaret Cook and send them to her at 111 Maple Avenue, Stanton, MI 48888.



New Church Directories



The new church telephone directories have been out for a while. If you are just returning from time away this summer, be sure to pick up a copy with the new hot pink cover. Copies are available in the Narthex or the church office. When you pick up your new one, please be sure to throw away any old ones you may have around.



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