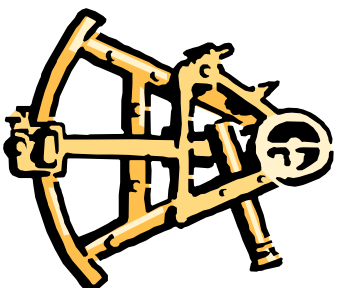


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# THE NAVIGATOR

## January 2019



January 2019

## **TABULA RAZA**

**Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you  
which path to take. (*Proverbs 3:6*)**

**Dear Church Family,**

**We are writing the year 2019. A new chapter begins for our Nation, for this World and within it all, for you and me. Tabula Raza- a 'blank slate'- is before us. We wrote much on it last year and now at the beginning of this New Year we begin to write on a clear new page again. God gives us new opportunities every day and a new start in 2019.**

**At a time of what we often call our 'New Year's Resolution' we promise ourselves that we are going to change, for the better. Indeed God's promise to you and me in this process is found in the Scripture that I chose for the month of January. So as we begin to start a new page, let us acknowledge HIM and He will make our paths straight. We might have failed in 2018, however, let us not focus on that but on the New Chance that God is giving us.**

**I would like to 'THANK ALL OF YOU' for your Faithfulness and Generosity in this past year. Our church is filled with expectation toward 2019, we are praying for the move of God in our midst. We are asking you to please uphold this Ministry and the Leadership in Prayer just like Aaron and Hur did with Moses in Exodus 17.**

**But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.  
(Exodus 17:12)**

**A picture of how prayer works in the Church. It will bring results that are of lasting value.**

**May you and your family know that this year is a year of new beginnings. With that in mind: "Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."  
(Proverbs 3:6)**

**Please prayerfully consider who you can invite to our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grief Seminar, held here at our church.**



**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2019  
Time: 8:30a.m. - 2:00p.m.  
Breakfast & Lunch will be served.**

**Please bring a framed photo of your loved one and light a candle in their memory. (Optional)  
Please RSVP by January 8<sup>th</sup> (941) 426-5580**



**A few selected images for you to enjoy!**



**Gregory Williamson  
Baptism (12-02-2018)**

**Below:  
Protestant Service at  
The Gardens in North  
Port 12-10-2018**





## **UCC Women's Ministry Christmas Party (12-12-2018)**

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

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

**Email:  
[npcuccpastor@frontier.com](mailto:npcuccpastor@frontier.com)  
Please Visit our Website:  
[www.npccucc.org](http://www.npccucc.org)**



# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grief Seminar



**God's Grace Meets Our Pain**  
**Practical help in your time of loss**



**Speaker:** *Pastor Attila Szemesi*  
**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2019

**Time:** Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.  
**RSVP:** By January 8th (941-426-5580)  
**Seminar:** 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Breakfast & Lunch Provided

**Please bring a framed photo of your loved one and light a candle in their memory. (Optional)**

## **Singles Dinner Group**



**Singles are invited to meet for  
dinner January 10th at  
5:30 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday's in  
the Port Charlotte Mall.  
Sign up on the bulletin board  
in Fellowship Hall.**



**Average monthly  
attendance:**

**November 2017—140  
November 2018—153**



**January 21  
Church Office Closed**

**North Port Community  
2nd Annual  
Faith Builder Church Retreat**

**“God Has A Story With You!”**



**Thursday February 28—Saturday March 2, 2019  
DaySpring Conference Center, Parrish, Florida  
“A Sacred Place set Apart...”**

**The details have been finalized and we are now ready to start taking reservations for our second annual church retreat.**



**SPACE IS LIMITED - We can only accept a maximum of 40 participants this year, so sign up now.**

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

**Double Occupancy - \$200 per person**

**Single Occupancy - \$275 per person (does not guarantee private bath)**

**There are just a few rooms which have bathrooms included. Others rooms will require 4-6 persons to share hall bathrooms.**

**SIGN UP NOW ON THE SIGN UP SHEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

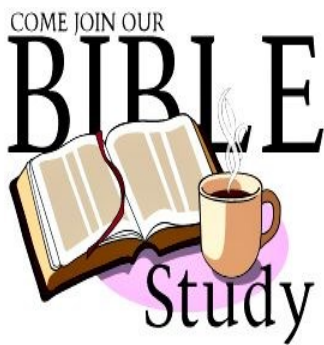
**A \$50 deposit per person should be turned into the church office now.**

**Final payment is due January 28th. Checks should be made payable to “NPCUCC Church Retreat”.**



**Questions??? See Sally Rutledge, Doug Minich, or call the church office to talk to Patti or Terry.**





## **In Home Bible Studies....**

**December 27—6:00 p.m.  
at the Sally Rutledge's home. Call  
Delores Edwards for more info.  
876-3376.**



## **50th Anniversary Dinner Tickets on Sale soon**

**The 50th Year of NPCUCC dinner will be held on March 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the catered dinner are \$20 and will be sold after church from February 9th to March 2nd (or until we sell out). The program will follow dinner, and all are welcome to attend the program in the sanctuary.**



**What are your  
resolutions for the new  
year?**



## **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.**

**Please consider this as you prepare for the end of the year.**

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



**Save the Dates:**

**March 9 —  
50th Anniversary  
Dinner & Program**

**Special Church Services:  
March 10  
March 17**



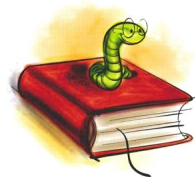
New to the shelf is “***The People Factor: How Building Great Relationships and Ending Bad Ones Unlocks Your God Given Purpose***” by Van Moody. If you hunger for a richer, more fulfilling life, your Relational IQ is the place to start.

Following the principles from this book, you will become healthier in all your relationships.

Also new is “***The Undistracted Widow: Living for God After Losing Your Husband***” by Carl W. Cornish. The author suggests that every widow look for a ‘loving road map’, pointing to God’s wisdom and love as revealed in His word.

Karen Kingsbury has written another inspirational book on “***The Friends of Jesus***”. Emotionally powerful, thought-provoking, and soulful, this book will help you appreciate the Bible and how it applies to your relationships with the most important people in your life.

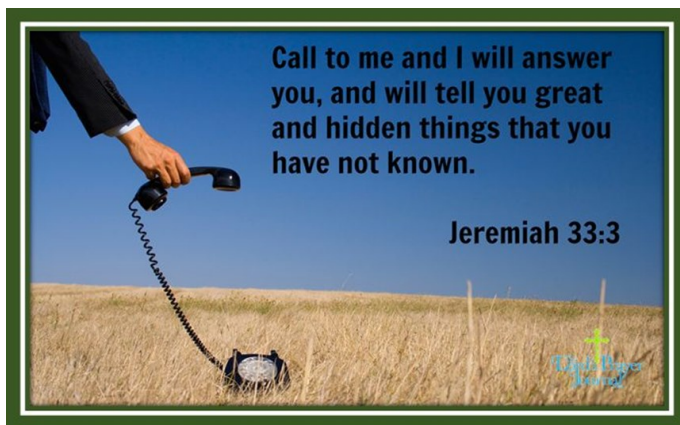
If you were unable to attend the showing of “***Facing the Giants***”, a copy is in the church library.



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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast on Wednesday, January 2nd at Olde World Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for more details.**



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

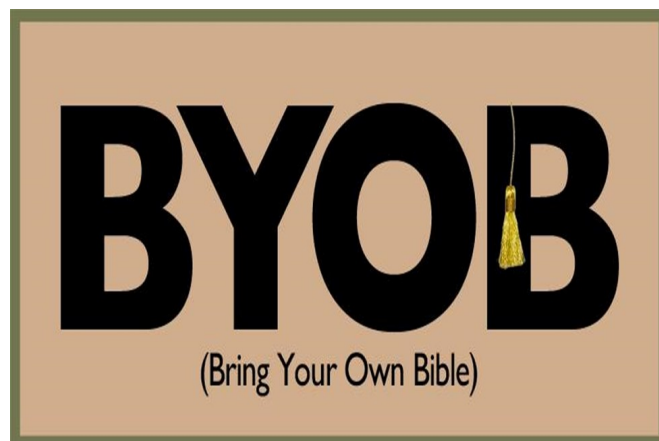
Jeremiah 33:3

**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.**

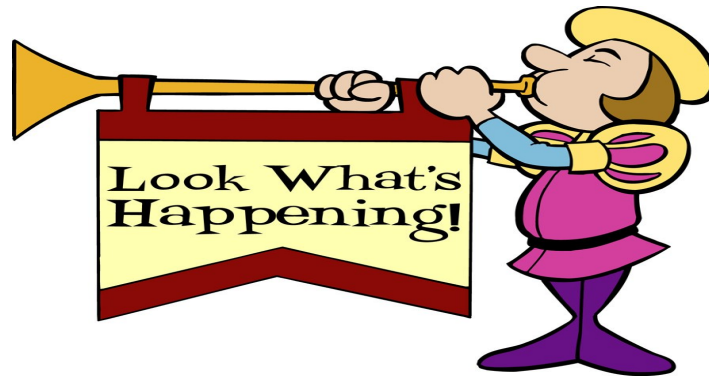


*No Matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are always welcome here!*



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





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

<b>January 12</b>	<b>Grief Support Seminar</b>
<b>January 19</b>	<b>Southwest Regional UCCW meeting</b>
<b>January 26</b>	<b>Work Day in Garden German Service with Pot luck</b>
<b>February 2</b>	<b>Strawberry Festival</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Fashion Show</b>
<b>February 19</b>	<b>German Annual Meeting</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Work Day—building</b>
<b>Feb. 28—March 2</b>	<b>2nd Annual Church Retreat</b>
<b>March 6</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>50th Anniversary Celebration</b>
<b>March 10 &amp; 17</b>	<b>Special 50th Worship Services</b>



**The women our church are collecting items for Haiti. Our speaker on January 19th will take donations to the**

**school we are supporting. Please read the top items requested and deposit any items you wish to donate in the box in the entry on January 6 and/or January 13th. Thanks.**

**Our commitment is to continue the compassion of Britney Gengel by serving the children of Haiti through sustaining a safe, nurturing home through - "Be Like Brit".**

**Here is the list of what "Be Like Brit" wishes for:**

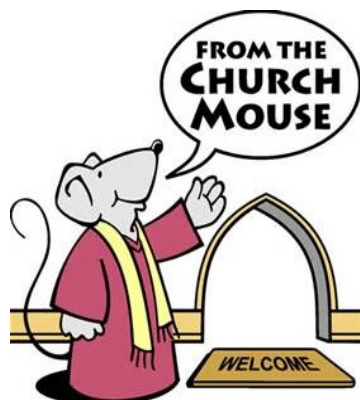
**NO GLASS CONTAINERS!!!!**

- 1. Shampoo (preferably dry scalp or dandruff) (plastic)**
- 2. Body Wash (plastic only)**
- 3. Lotion (cocoa butter or dry skin) (plastic only)**
- 4. Peanut butter (plastic jars only)**



### **January Mission Focus**

**On Sunday, January 10th, Paul and Anita Strong will update our church on the Mission work they do at the Habitat Resource Store. We look forward to hearing about this Mission.**



## **From the Church Mouse.....**

**The days just keep flying by. Pip and I snuck into Pastor Attila's car and went to the women's group Christmas Party. What fun that was, and lots of yummy cookies came back to the church. We haven't nibbled on too many because those pretty red and white canes have been everywhere and we especially like snacking on them. It was a bit noisy here the other day when the man in the red suit came with his Mrs. They brought along their red pet. He seemed popular with the little ones. Lots of photos and happy faces. There was lots of food to eat and everyone enjoyed it. The trees and lights are so pretty. Pip and I love to just sit in the quiet and take it all in. Stop in on Wednesday morning and you'll see what we mean. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families.**

**Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip**



*Prayer Shawl  
Ministry*



## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

**Attention knitters  
and those who crochet!**

**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 January, that's the 8th and 22nd. We hope to see you there.**



## **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.**



**The Church Office  
will be closed on  
December 31st, January 1st, 2nd,  
3rd and 4th  
as Patti and Terry  
spend time with family.**

**For pastoral care emergencies,  
please contact Cindy Minich at  
1-860-918-3095.**



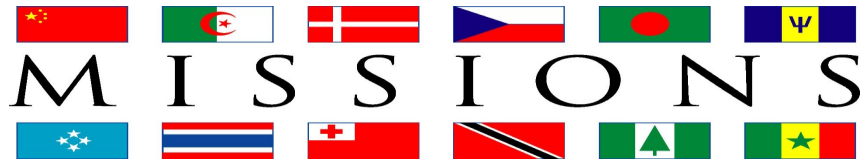
## **Dine to Donate!**

**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.**

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







## **ECHO Mission Update**

**How nice it is to be able to report to you that we, TOGETHER, have reached our goal of \$300 to support and extend the work of The Seed Bank ministry in Thailand.**

**As you remember, our ECHO project for this year is two-fold:**

- 1. The ECHO Seed Bank ministry in Thailand, and ...**
- 2. A continuing development of our Missionary Support Fund.**

**This Fund was created in readiness for the time when our two young interns, Meg and Jack, will be needing our support of their mission dreams for serving - Meg in Cambodia and Jack in Africa.**

**We will continue to solicit your help to accumulate as much as possible through April 2019. When they ask for our help we will be ready, willing and able.**

**We all realize that the needs are great in our world. As we work together to help the hungry of the world feed themselves, we serve our Lord by doing our part in caring and giving.**

**Thank you for caring and giving.**

**- Sharon Miller, for the Mission Committee**

## **NEW MEMBER INQUIRER'S MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th**

**Pastor Attila will be holding a New Member Inquirer's meeting on Sunday, January 6th following worship.**

**If you are not a member of NPCUCC but think you might like to join, we hope you will set aside this date and join us.**

**The purpose of this meeting will be for you to meet some of the church's leaders and hear what they do in the church, and learn some of the history and mission of our church.**

**Those that wish to join the church will be received into membership during worship on a Sunday in January.**

**Here at NPCUCC we have both Full Members and Associate Members. Full members are typically our year round (or mostly year round) residents. Associate Members typically still go north for about half the year and are still active and involved in their church up north and wish to keep their main membership there. Both Full and Associate members have the same voting rights on church matters and can serve on any and all committees.**

**Attending this meeting does not mean a commitment to membership. It is only for you to "inquire". If you are not yet a member, but have an interest, call the church office.**

**Lunch will be served in Decker Hall and the meeting will follow in the Sanctuary.**

## January Birthdays:

Jan. 6	Cathy Skyles
Jan. 7	Shirley May
Jan. 7	Anna Maria Pistoria
Jan. 18	Patti Bourque
Jan. 18	Bobbie Zych
Jan. 20	Sharon Mooney
Jan. 26	Sue Luther
Jan. 27	Tom Van Bergen
Jan. 30	Marian Wright



**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 January.**

<b>Jan. 5</b>	<b>Bob and Rebecca Brown</b>
<b>Jan. 10</b>	<b>Don and Jan Lytle</b>



# January

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

<b>Jan. 6</b>	<b>Marilee Taylor</b>
<b>Jan. 13</b>	<b>Nghi Frechtling</b>
<b>Jan. 20</b>	<b>Becky Rooney</b>
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>Tom and Sandra Van Bergen</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.**

**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](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: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday**

**Closed on Friday**

**Patti Bourque, Office Manager**

**Terry Hong, Office Assistant**