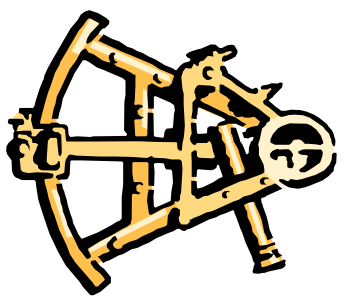


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287

January



THE NAVIGATOR

January, 2020



January 2020

Imprisoned!

**Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.
(Zechariah 9:12)**

Dear Church Family,

Many Blessings to you in this New Year, 2020. It is our prayer that together with your Family and Friends you would have a close walk with Jesus and know Him more intimately every day. He wants to be your Friend!

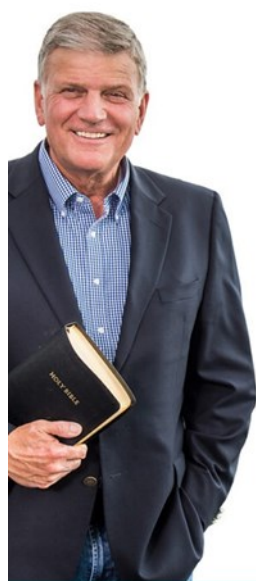
I don't know what kind of year 2019 was for you? Maybe it was prosperous. If so, give Glory to God for He is your Provider. Maybe you enjoyed great health. If so, give thanks to Him who is at your right hand and leads you daily. Maybe all has been calm for you, no twists and turns on your path and your past year can be described as a smooth ride. Praise the Lord for it, for ALL good things come from Him.

Maybe your year was not all that good; full of trials like failing health, loss of the one you loved the most or financial difficulties. The bottom line and summary of your year might be more loss and very little gain. Maybe your day today is filled with pain and you don't know what is next...

The Scripture from Zechariah 9 is for all of us. Whether life is good or not so much.

As Christians, you and I are PRISONERS OF HOPE. What an amazing statement. Usually one does not think of anything positive about imprisonment. This, however, is a good thing! A prisoner of HOPE means that we know GOD will not fail us no matter what comes against us or where we are on life's Journey. Let's take refuge in Him for He is our fortress as Zechariah declares. It is true we can count on it. We have all been disappointed in life before; but the wonderful news is, that as Christians, we have an eternal hope, a hope that is more, and a hope that is beyond and above everything else. As a follower of Christ, we cannot help but be filled with Hope because hoping in Him does not disappoint.

This is the perfect Bible passage to memorize for this NEW YEAR, 2020.



FORT MYERS

JAN. 19, 4 P.M. | HERTZ ARENA

DECISIONAMERICA.COM

Coming up on the 19th of January is a trip to Fort Myers; a Sunday afternoon. We will be leaving the church around 1:45p.m. We will participate in the Franklin Graham Decision America Event at the Hertz Arena. Event begins at 4:00p.m.

Sign up and registration deadline is the 5th of January. You can find the Sign-up sheet in our Fellowship Hall. We might be going out to dinner after the event.

So, bring your family and friends to this exciting event featuring live music and a message of HOPE from Franklin Graham.

NPCUCC 5th Annual Grief Seminar on Sat. Feb. 1st



WHEN ANOTHER MORNING DAWNS

Psalm 143:8
*Let me hear Your loving kindness in the mornings;
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
3450 S. Biscayne Drive • 941-426-5580

Time: 8:30-2:30p.m.

Registration begins at 8:30a.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

Kays Ponger & Uselton
funeral homes & cremation services

Dignity
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED

**LEMON BAY
FUNERAL HOME
GULF PINES
MEMORIAL PARK**

Please invite Family and Friends to this free event.

Enjoy a few selected images of recent events here at the NPCUCC.

November Home Bible Study



Christmas Music (12-08-2019)



International Potluck plus Pictures and Stories from our Israel & Egypt Trip (12-05-2019)



**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**

NEW MEMBER INQUIRER'S MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th

Pastor Attila will be holding a New Member Inquirer's Meeting on Sunday, January 19th following the morning worship service.

If you are not an actual member of NPCUCC but think you might like to join, or if you know someone who fits this description, 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 to learn a little about the history and mission of our church.

Those that wish to join the church will be received into membership during worship on a date to be determined.

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, please accept this invitation to come by calling the church office at 426-5580. Pre-registration is requested. Lunch will be served to those attending the class.

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.**



**NOTE CHANGE IN TIME...
Start your day with
Breakfast, Friends
And good conversation!**

**All women are invited to join together for breakfast on
Wednesday, January 8th at Olde World Restaurant at
8:00 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for
more details.**



“The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully” by Joan Chittister is a must read for many of us. The author says the most important dimension of older age, is to become aware of its profound purpose:

These are the capstone years, the time in which a whole new life is in the making again. The gift of years is not merely being alive it is the gift of becoming more fully alive than ever.

“The Grace in Dying: A Message of Hope, Comfort, and Spiritual Transformation” by Kathleen Dowling Singh opens our eyes to the spiritual aspects of dying.

“The Dog Who Was There” by Ron Marasco is a beautiful tale of a blessed journey of lessons learned as told through the voice of one man’s best friend, a loving dog named Barley. It is the retelling of Christ’s ministry and an amazing lesson about faith.

A must read is Mitch Albom’s ***“Finding Chika”***. As one reviewer puts it, “A highly expressive, tender story about you ‘families are like pieces of art, they can be made from many materials’.

Check out your library!



Singles Dinner Group

**Next Gathering will be
5:30 p.m. on January 9th at
Bocca Lupo’s restaurant in
North Port.
Check the bulletin board in
Fellowship Hall to sign up.**

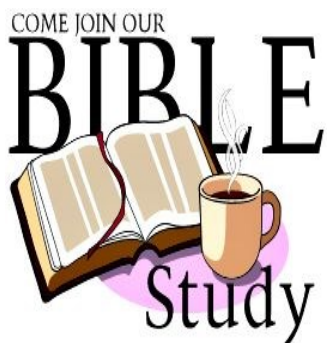
2020 Offering Envelopes

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Narthex. If you do not find a box with your name on it and would like to have envelopes, please write your name on the paper and we will have some for you the following week.

**Faith Builder Event
“Shepherd King”
The Story of the Bible
By Power and Light Productions of Wauchula**

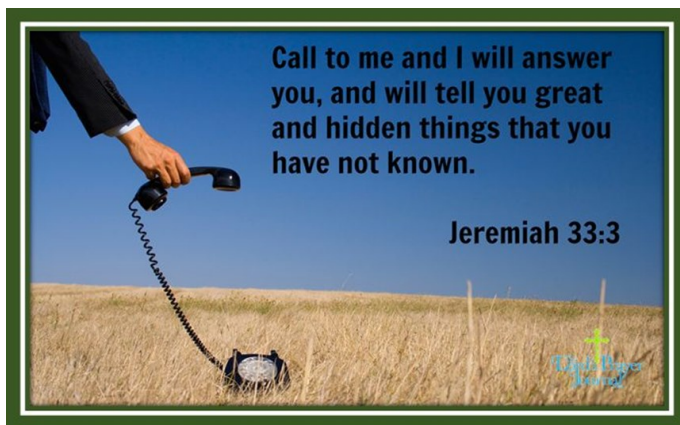
We would like to attend this event again this year in their new indoor location at the South Florida State College Performing Arts Center in Avon Park. The date is Saturday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Depending on the amount of interest, tickets will be approximately \$30 plus an additional fee for transportation. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. The deadline to sign up is February 2nd.



In Home Bible Studies....

Home Bible Study will be Thursday, January 23rd, but no location has been announced as of yet. Watch your Sunday bulletin for more information.



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

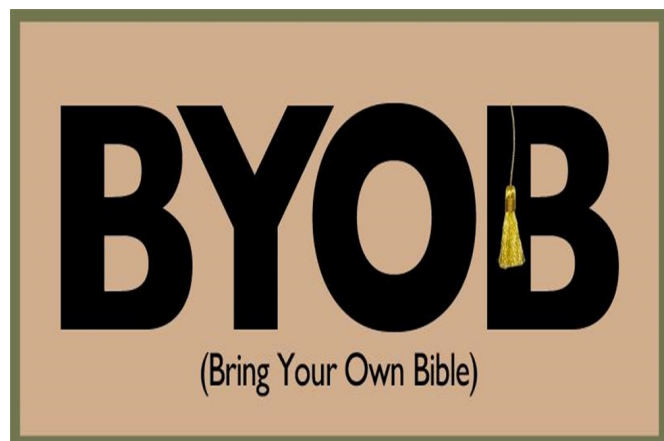
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

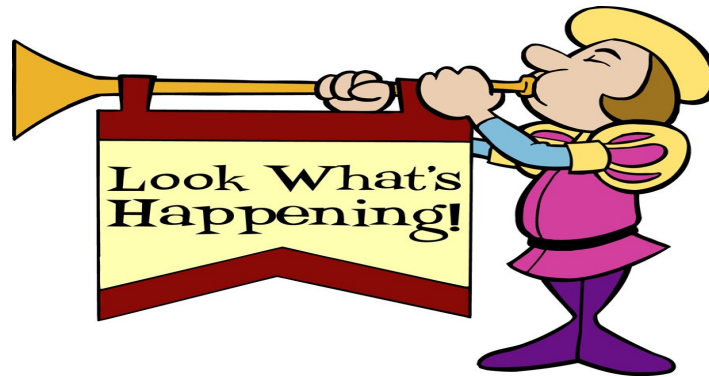
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.**



*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!

January 1	Office Closed—New Year's Day
January 11	Celebration of Life Service for Louise Hall—2:00 p.m.
January 19	New Member Class
January 19	Graham Tour
January 20	Office Closed —Martin Luther King Day
February 1	Grief Seminar
February 15	Movie
February 20	UCCW Fashion Show
February 25	German Annual Meeting
February 26	Ash Wednesday Service



From the Church Mouse.....

Happy New Year to all our friends. It is time to say goodbye to 2019 as 2020 is about to begin and the calendars are already full of fun things to look forward to. Our snowy bird friends are almost all here—a few more will be joining us very soon and we are happy about that. Pip and I have loved all the pretty Christmas trees and lights. We will miss them when they are packed away. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy new year!



**Ye Olde Church Mouse
and Pip**

Welcome 2020!



Thank You!!!



Dear Members,

We would like to thank you for donating to the North Port Art Center's "Great Heist". Without people like you we could not have had such a great event!

Pauline Stickler, Board Member



UCC WOMEN

**Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser
January 8 & 9**

**Monthly meeting
January 15th 10:00 a.m.**

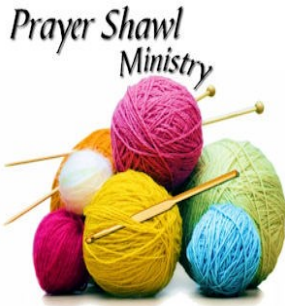
**Fashion Show
February 20**



**Please join Pastor Attila on Sunday, January 5th
following worship to discuss our church's
Mission Program. Anyone who has a heart and
an interest in mission is invited.**



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. In January they will meet on the 14th and the 28th in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Bags for Beds

The Bags for Beds project will meet on the second and 4th Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. in Decker Hall. In January the dates will be the 9th and 23rd. All are welcome.



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

**January 1
January 20**

**New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day**



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

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

January Birthdays:

January 6	Cathy Skyles
January 7	Shirley May
January 9	Nghi Frechtling
January 18	Patti Bourque
January 18	Bobbie Zych
January 20	Sharon Mooney
January 26	Sue Luther
January 27	Jon Terhune
January 27	Tom Van Bergen
January 30	Marian Wright



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

Jan. 5 Bob and Rebecca Brown
Jan. 10 Don and Jan Lytle

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

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



January

ALTAR FLOWERS:

January 5	Marilee Taylor
January 12	Don and Jan Lytle
January 19	Louise Cooper
January 26	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:

November 2018— 153
November 2019— 165

Trip to Savannah



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

**Margaret is now back.
Please see her to
Make your final payment or
mail to her Florida address.
Thank you.**



New Church Directories



The new church telephone directories have been out for a while. If you are just returning from time away, 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.



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