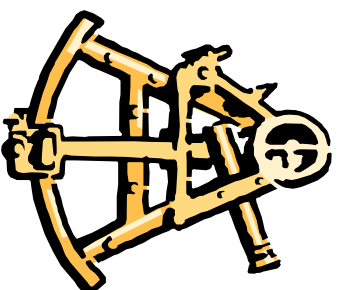


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287

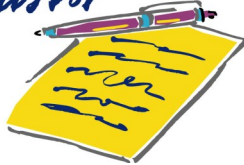


# THE NAVIGATOR

## March 2019

March 2019

*From the  
Pastor*



Four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

(Mark 2:3-4)

Dear Church Family,

How has your week been going so far? Let's take a few moments and take inventory of our blessings and the challenges that we face. It is good to do that regularly. This week we stay Thankful for the blessings and learn to bring our challenges and problems to God the Almighty. He wants to help us overcome.

The story from Mark is a shining example of helping and blessing others which is clearly what our 'mission' as Christians is in this world. Life can be tricky at times and even overwhelm us and we need to make sure that as Christians we COMMIT OUR CAUSE to God. Just as these men did with their task, bringing a friend to Jesus. This way we prevent running on our own strength.

**My whole purpose for writing this to you and myself is to underline this most important truth- don't forget to share everything with Jesus. Just give Him your tasks and He will help you accomplish your cause and mission. We are making hundreds of decisions daily. It is not even 10 a.m. yet as I am writing this and I have lost track how many decisions I have already made. I can't leave God out of my decisions.**

**What does your list of tasks, missions, causes and decisions look like today?**

**Here are examples:**

**How should I spend my money wisely?**

**How do I raise my children?**

**Should I sell my home?**

**Should I change jobs?**

**How do I resolve conflicts?**

**How can I be happy?**

**What do I do with bad news?**

**Where do I place my fears?**

**How can I improve my relationships?**

**How can I improve my marriage?**

**What church should I attend?**

**What school should I send my children to?**

**How do I pay for college?**

**I am lonely, \*does God care? (\*YES)**

**I guess you can finish the list and most likely add many things to it.**

**Here it is — COMMIT your CAUSE to the Lord and He will show you the right way. In a world offering so many confusing directions that often lead nowhere, this is a TREASURE TRUTH to hold onto. It is so liberating that we can COMMIT all of our CAUSES to God. He will guide and lead you in the path of truth and success.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This will start our Lenten Season.**



**Every following Wednesday we will meet here at 5 p.m. for a Soup Supper followed by a Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.**



**Join us also for our Monthly Home Bible Studies!**

**Friendship, fellowship and food provided but you must bring your own Bible! For information please call our church office: 941-426-5580**



**Please enjoy the selected images that follow  
on the next pages:**

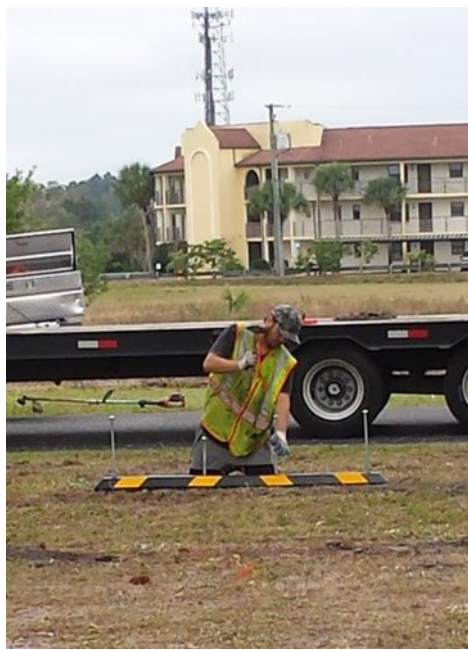




**01-19-2019 UCCW Southwest Regional Meeting  
at Fort Myers Congregational UCC**



**New Members join our Church Family (Welcome)  
01-27-2019**



### **Parking Lot Improvement.**

**Thank you to ALL who made it possible.**

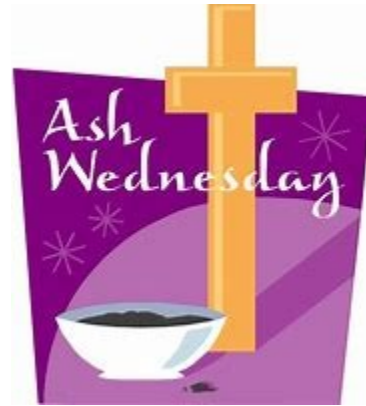
**Together in Mission:**  
**Pastor *Attila Szemesi*/NPCUCC**

**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.**

**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)**

**Join us for our  
Ash Wednesday Service  
March 6 at 7:00 p.m.**



***Lenten Soup Supper***  
**Join us March 13, 20, 27,  
April 3 and 10  
at 5p.m. for a Soup Supper**  
**Bible Study from 6:00—7:00**  
**will follow.**



**Jesus Calling Devotionals—\$14.00**

**We will be placing an order for the Daily Devotional “Jesus Calling” in the near future. A sign up sheet is on the board in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in purchasing one, please put your name on the sheet.**



## **Singles Dinner Group**



**Singles are invited to meet for  
dinner March 14th at  
5:30 p.m. at Applebee's of  
North Port.  
Check the bulletin board in  
Fellowship Hall to sign up.**



**Don't forget....**

**Change your clocks  
ahead one hour on  
Saturday evening  
March 9th.**

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast  
on Wednesday, March 6th at Olde World  
Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in  
Fellowship Hall for more details.**



## **Our 50th Anniversary Is almost here**

**If you haven't gotten your tickets for the catered dinner on Saturday, March 9th, the deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, March 3rd. Tickets are \$20 per person. A slide show presentation and program will follow the dinner taking a look back at our first 50 years.**

**On Sunday, March 10th during our morning worship service we will welcome representatives from the City of North Port to participate as we celebrate our Memorial Garden and Memorial Walkways. A bagpiper and special music will be part of this service.**

**We are excited that many of our former pastors from the past 20 years will be with us at our March 17th worship service along with delegates from the Florida Conference of the UCC.**

**This is an exciting time in our church's history and we hope you will be present to learn about our past as we look forward to our future together here at NPCUCC.**





## **Birthday Jar**

**Some of you may wonder about North Port Community's "Birthday Jar". The Birthday Jar concept that we use during Celebrations and Concerns was created by one of our church members, Ruth Long, who is no longer with us. About 10 years ago, Ruth came to worship with a glass jar and some money. She reminisced that when she was a child she would always go to Sunday School, put her pennies in a special container and her church family would share in celebrating her birthday. She explained that we are never too old to celebrate our birthdays, especially with our church family. As time went on, other members followed suit and our tradition of the birthday jar became a permanent part of our church service. Others now use it to celebrate other special times in their lives, such as anniversaries, births, etc. Donations in any amount are welcome, but certainly not required.**

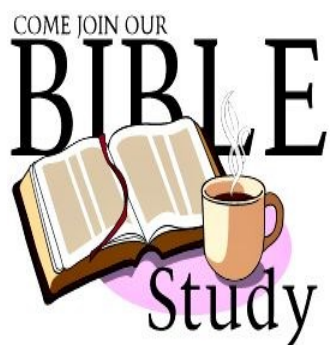
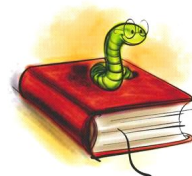
	<p><b>We hope to see you:</b></p> <p><b>March 9 — 50th Anniversary Dinner &amp; Program</b></p> <p><b>Special Church Services: March 10 March 17</b></p>
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New to the shelf is “*When Your Parent Becomes Your Child*” by Ken Abraham. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, an estimated 5.4 million Americans have this disease. More than likely, that figure

includes someone you know and love. With humor and spiritual reminders of God’s love, he suggests many practical things families can do to make the experience safer, kinder and more endurable for everyone involved.

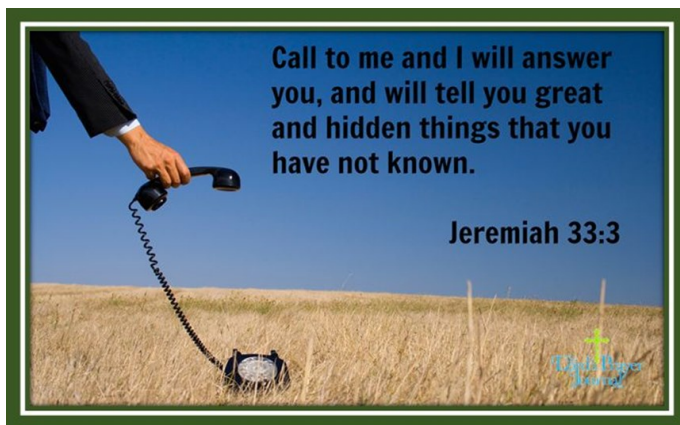
A new CD has been added to the collection. “*Unstoppable*” featuring Kirk Cameron. Where is God in the midst of tragedy and suffering? Watching this will help you and your family love God more deeply and shore up the foundations of your faith.



### In Home Bible Studies....

Watch your bulletin or call Delores Edwards for info on the date and location of the March Home Bible Study. 876-3376.



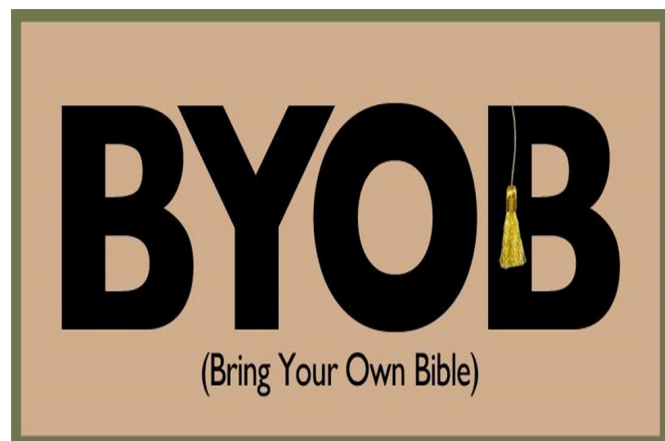


**Prayer Line:  
941-426-5580**

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

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

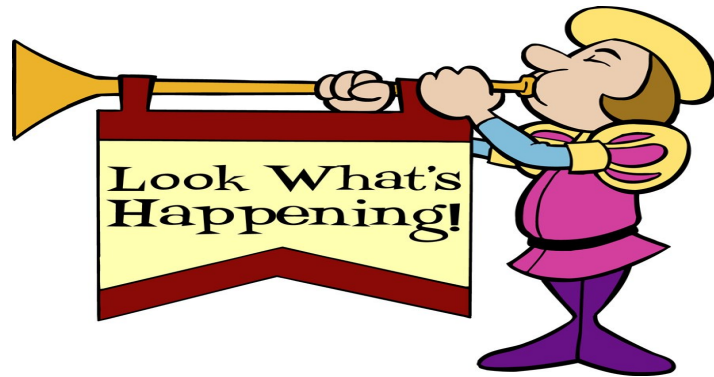
**Bible Study  
Every Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.  
Bring a lunch  
If you wish.**



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

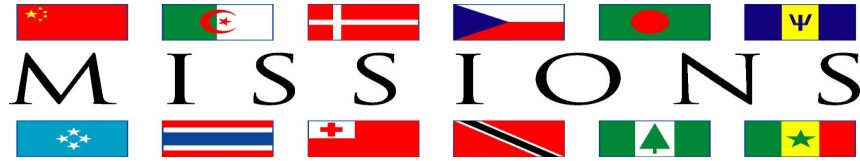


**Join us on Wednesday morning for  
Morning Prayer  
7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.**



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

<b>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>
<b>Holy Week</b>	<b>Palm Sunday—April 14</b>
	<b>Maundy Thursday—April 18</b>
	<b>Easter Sunday—April 21</b>
<b>June 10-14</b>	<b>Vacation Bible School</b> <b>~ Please note the change in dates ~</b>



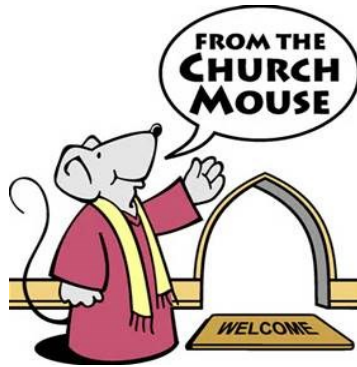
## **March's Mission: UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing**

**One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities.**

**One Great Hour of Sharing makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.**

**Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on March 24th. A special envelope will be in your bulletin on that day. Plan now to be generous with your gift.**





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

**Things are really going fast and furious around here. The ladies had their fashion show with lots of yummy food, fun, prizes. 'Twas quite a happy bunch of ladies. The guys in their white shirts and ties looked great as well and they too seemed to have a good time. Lots of activity with the thing they call a retreat coming up. Think maybe we'll hide in one of the boxes being packed and go spend some time in the woods with them. And then there is that big 50's party coming up. Not sure who is going to be 50, but everyone is really going all out to plan this big party. Lots of cleaning and sprucing up going on all over the place. Happy March to all of you.**



**Ye Olde Church Mouse, Pip  
And my Irish cousin!**



*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 March, that's the 12th and 26th. We hope to see you there.**





## **Safety in our Church**

**Those folks who attended the Safety Seminar sponsored by the Venice Police Department in January met to discuss what steps need to be taken to make North Port Community a safe and secure place to worship.**

**Options and plans continue to be explored. A larger “Safety Team” with more volunteers is being recruited as is a “Medical Response Team”. If these are areas you might have in interest in volunteering for, please contact the church office and let us know.**

**Watch for more details and info as we continue to make progress on this important topic.**



## **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. We alternate months, going to Salvation Army and Face of Hope.**

## March Birthdays:

March 1	Clint Van Tassell
March 6	Allison Dougherty
March 6	David St. Onge
March 10	Mary Ann Dunlap
March 12	Barbara Gordon
March 17	Larry Doll
March 18	Sandra Van Bergen
March 22	Harold Perry
March 22	Doris Santella
March 28	Patti Boger



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 March.

March 20      Larry and Shirley May

Average monthly attendance:

January 2018—180  
January 2019—176

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

# March

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

March 3	Terry Hong
March 10	50th Anniversary
March 17	Delores Edwards
March 24	Janice Gammage
March 31	Mina Sundeen



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\*\*\*\***

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**[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**