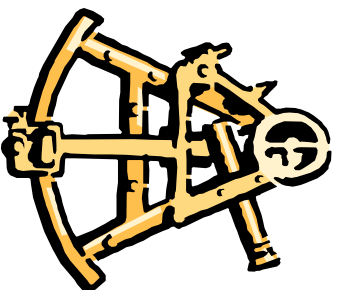


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# THE NAVIGATOR

## March, 2020



**March 2020**

## **The Exclusivity of the Gospel!**

### **Jesus the Good Shepherd**

**Then Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

**John 10:7-10      MEV**

**Dear Church Family,**

**Hope you are well! I would like to start out with a question. “How many ways are there to God-Do all ways lead to Him?” According to this scripture from the Gospel of John, chapter 10, there is only one way, the right way to God. This way is found in JESUS. He Himself said it, not a Theologian. See verse 9 again, “I (Jesus) am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved”. This is not the only scripture passage, there are more. A hot topic in our world... For it seems to reflect intolerance and seems to be prideful to have such exclusive claims. Yet, Jesus paid an incredible price for it. He gave His life and with His death**

**more loving and merciful-consequently reaching out to those around us and sharing Christ.**

**I was surprised to read in a book written by a Pastor/ Evangelist, who died in 1966, about the opposition in his time and society to Christ's exclusive claims. As a Pastor, I have heard many interesting arguments about how Jesus is only one of the many ways to God and heard about peoples' doubts.**

**Such as:**

- A. How can God allow *this* to happen?**
- B. Cain and Abel were brothers. Cain killed Abel- so where did he get his wife from?**
- C. One of the most pressing ones for me as Pastor is: You always talk about Jesus, is this not a little fanatical? It is not so important what way we go and what religion we have; just as long as we believe.**

**Why would God have sacrificed His Son, Jesus, if it did not matter in the end?**

**This Pastor/Evangelist I mentioned earlier, who witnessed in the 1960's about the Bibles and Jesus' exclusive claims, shares an example. A story that made me laugh, but it did drive the point home to me. \* "One time I was in Berlin at the airport-Tempelhof Feld Airport. Before we could get into the plane, we had to go through a passport control. In front of me stood a tall guy-one of those two-story guys. He had a big travel blanket under his arm. He quickly**

handed his passport to the Officer. The Officer said,” Wait a minute, your passport expired.” The gentleman answered, ”Don’t be so picky, the main thing is I have a passport!” “No”. The officer replied, “The main thing is you have a passport that is not expired.” (\*Quote from “Jesus Unser Schicksal” –By: Wilhelm Busch- “Jesus Our Destiny” Translation mine).

Jesus, by no accident made this exclusive claim for He has for you and me what it takes to live this life and eventually enter eternity. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. God means what He says. We as Christians today deal with the same issues maybe a little more intense then the Pastor in the 60’s. We must be merciful and loving to others and yet remain grounded and steadfast in the claims that Christ made.

**“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”**                      *(John 10:9)*

Thank you for your faithful support of our Ministries here at the NPCUCC. We could not do ministry without you.

**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:**

**Upcoming Events here at the NPCUCC:**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Faith Builder's Retreat  
Day Spring Conference  
Center, Parrish, FL  
March 12-14, 2020**

**\*Faith Builder Trip to  
Savannah  
March 23-27, 2020)**



**\*Includes a visit to the Moore Methodist Museum  
on St. Simons Island and a lecture about John and  
Charles Wesley.**

**Please keep these upcoming events in prayer.**

**Please enjoy the following selected images**



### **Dinner after the Franklin Graham Event**



### **Grief Seminar**

**Tuesday  
Lunch & Fellowship  
after Bible Study**

**02-11-2020**

**Remember: Check out color photos on our**



**A small group will be traveling to Tampa for an Orientation Workshop to get more information on the organization:**

**“Love In the Name of Christ”**

**The date is Wednesday, March 18th.  
It is an all day event—9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**We will carpool—Sign up in Fellowship Hall.**

### **Nominating News.....**

**Would you like to have an impact on the way our church is progressing? Then please join us by volunteering to be on one of our many committees, such as: Diaconate, Christian Ed, Nominating, & Trustees to name a few.**

**We need our members to fill the opening positions on each committee starting on May 1. Please prayerfully take this into consideration.**

**If you would like to volunteer, please contact anyone on the nominating committee. They are: Chris Bermel, DJ Covert, Lisa Williamson, Rona Hunnisett & Carolyn Perkins.**

**Thank you,  
Chris Bermel**



**Lenten Simple Suppers & Study**  
**5:00 Supper—6:00 Study**  
**March 4, 11, 18, and April 1**

**Sign up in Fellowship Hall**

### **CHALK TALK QUESTIONS.....**

**Have you been answering our questions???**

**Once a month we have a question that we would like your opinion. There are two tables—one in the Narthex and another one in Fellowship Hall with a large sheet of paper. We ask you to put your thoughts on the large paper. The question is available for the last two weeks of each month. We look forward to**



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

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



## Pre-Savannah Meeting

On Sunday, March 8th we will have a short meeting to pass out itineraries and review any questions you may have prior to our trip. If you have friends who going that are not part of our NPCUCC family, please let them know about this meeting and invite them to attend. We will gather up front on the piano side of the sanctuary immediately



## Rummage Sale

Set up  
Thursday  
March 19th  
8:00 a.m. to noon  
Bring your items this day.

Sale  
Friday and Saturday  
March 20 and 21



n.



Choir Cantata  
Sunday  
March 22  
10:00 a.m.

Invite your friends and neighbors.



***“Change Your Words Change Your Life Understanding The Power of Every Word You Speak”*** by Joyce Meyer shows what you say can have a positive or negative effect on your life. Most of us don’t use our mouth at all for what God gave it to us for. There is great power and authority in words. The kind of power depends on the kind of words. We can curse our future by speaking evil of it, or we can bless it by speaking well of it.”

New to the fiction shelf is ***“Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine”*** by Gail Honeyman. This is a story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and wit make for an irresistible journey.

Becky Rooney has given ***“When God Winks at You”*** by Squire Rushnell and the companion book ***“When God Winks.”*** the author explains how God speaks directly to you through the power of coincidence. No matter what is happen ur life or how uncertain things may seem at the



### **Singles Dinner Group**

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



**We are looking for members of the newly formed Mission/ Outreach Committee, at least 6 members. We will be looking at ways to help our community locally, nationally & the world at large. Some of the work will be hands-on, and others will be raising/donating money to the organizations we agree that can use our help.**

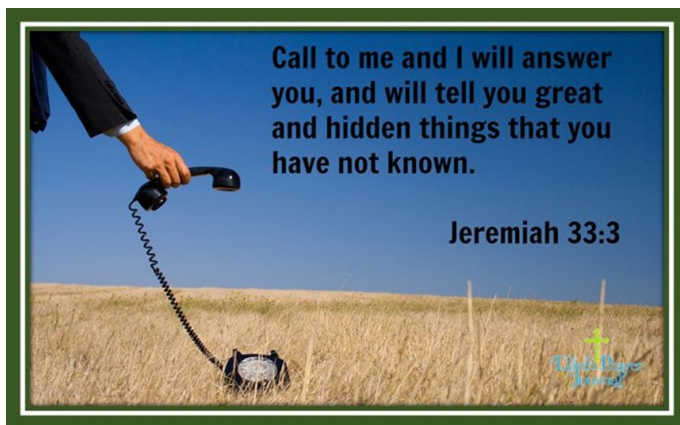
**If you would like to participate in this worthy cause please let me or the office know. Thank you,**

**Chris Bermel  
919-539-4257**

**2020 One Great Hour of Sharing  
“You are God’s field; God’s building.”**

**Soon it will be time to participate in the UCC’s Annual One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. Watch for the bulletin insert on March 15th and then on March 22 you will receive a special envelope to show your support of this program. We thank you in advance for your generosity.**

**Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. You will have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God.**



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

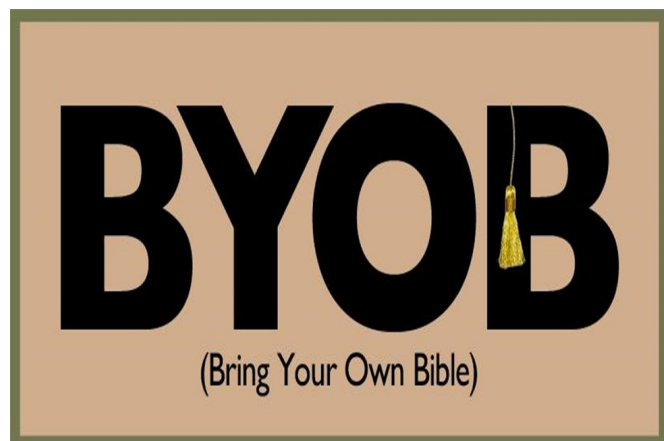
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

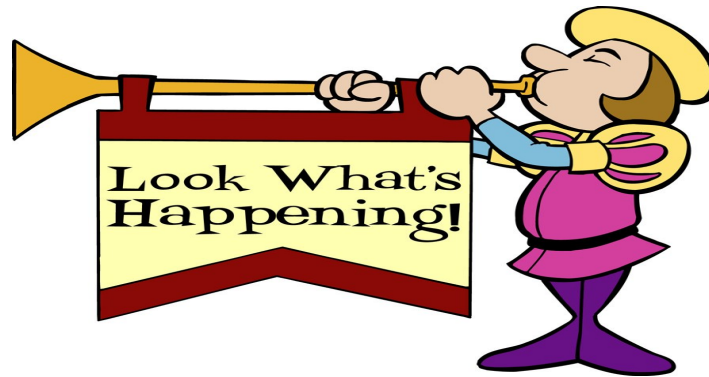
**Bible Study  
Every Tuesday**



*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.**



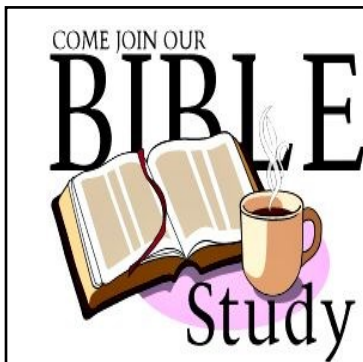
## **UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!**

<b>March 4, 11, 18, &amp; April 1</b>	<b>Simple Supper &amp; Lenten Study</b>
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Change your clocks ahead one hour</b>
<b>March 12-14</b>	<b>Church Retreat</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Visit “Love in the Name of Christ”</b>
<b>March 20, 21</b>	<b>Rummage Sale</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Choir Cantata</b>
<b>March 23-27</b>	<b>Savannah Trip</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Easter</b>
<b>April 19</b>	<b>Pot Luck and Movie</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>A Shepherd King</b>



## From the Church Mouse.....

Lots of stuff going on here at the big building. All the women are busy getting ready for their tea party. Mrs. Mouse is excited and can't wait for the big party. She even bought a new hat with pretty bows. Pip and I can't wait for the good food and especially the little desserts. They cover them with fancy cloths, but that doesn't keep us from sneaking under and getting the goodies before the party even starts (our favorites are the ones with the cherries on top and the tiny square cakes). And if a tea party isn't enough to keep folks busy, the music singers have been practicing to give us something special in a few weeks. Can't wait.



## In Home Bible Studies....

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

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

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





## **UCC WOMEN**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The UCC Women work hard for the church and our community. Our purpose is to promote good fellowship among women of our church, our denomination, and to cultivate the spirit of Christ in our lives.**

#### **We support:**

- **Meals on Wheels**
- **Salvation Army**
- **Pregnancy Solutions**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Purchased chairs and tables for Decker Hall**
- **Support the Church Library**
- **Christmas for our children**
- **Purchase table decorations**
- **Support the Grief Seminar**
- **Support Vacation Bible School**
- **Support our church financially**

**We assist whatever comes to our attention. We meet the**





## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**The Prayer Shawl group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. In March they will meet on the 10th and the 24th 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 March the dates will be the 12th and 26th. All are welcome.**

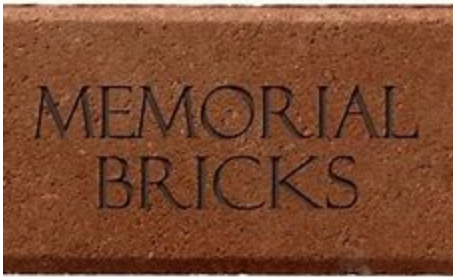


**Ash Wednesday Service  
February 26th  
7:00 p.m.**



## FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

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



## **Memory Garden and Brick Walkways Have you ever checked them out?**

**The Memory Garden is a place where you can place ashes, buy a brick for a loved one—past or present—and to honor military veterans, police officers and firefighters.**

**To place your ashes in the Memory Garden and have your name on the plaque that hangs inside the sanctuary on the Garden side is \$150. Special forms and additional information is available in the church office.**

**Bricks to be placed in the Garden are \$50. There is a display and additional info in the Narthex along with the forms to be filled out. Any questions, call the church office or see Sandy McKean.**

**May Your Loved Ones  
Always be Remembered in our Garden!**



## March Birthdays:



March 1	Clint Van Tassell
March 6	Allison Dougherty
March 6	David St. Onge
March 10	Mary Ann Dunlap
March 12	Hilda Feducia
March 12	Barbara Gordon
March 12	Al Switzer
March 16	Patty Larson
March 17	Larry Doll
March 18	Sandra Van Bergen
March 22	Harold Perry
March 22	Doris Santella
March 28	Patti Boger
March 28	John Gillette



**Congratulations to**

**Jim Maggert and Joyce Long  
On their upcoming marriage  
March 7, 2020**



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

**March 20      Rev. Larry and Shirley May**

# March

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

March 1	Bill and Lorraine Wuolo
March 8	?????
March 15	Delores Edwards
March 22	?????
March 29	Mina Sundeen

Thank you to:  
North Port Natural Florist  
Your “Green” Florist  
13632 Tamiami Trail  
North Port, FL 34287



**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



**Average monthly attendance:**

January 2019 — 176  
January 2020 — 198



**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](mailto:northportucc@gmail.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**