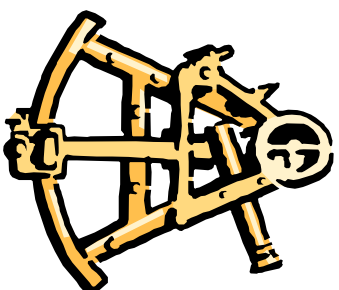


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# THE NAVIGATOR

## November, 2019





## **November Navigator**

### **Appointment Calendar!**

**Dear Church Family,**

**Greetings in the name of Jesus our LORD and Savior. I hope your summer has been nice and enjoyable.**

**It is so nice to see so many of you return from up north. We have missed you and we look forward to a new season of ministry together here at the North Port Community UCC.**

**I came across this Hymn. Here I share the words with you.**

#### **“ O Jesus, Thou Art Standing”**

**1. O Jesus, thou art standing  
outside the fast-closed door,  
in lowly patience waiting  
to pass the threshold o'er:  
shame on us, Christian brothers,  
His name and sign who bear,  
O shame, thrice shame upon us,  
to keep him standing there!**

**2. O Jesus, thou art knocking;  
and lo, that hand is scarred,  
and thorns thy brow encircle,**

**and tears thy face have marred:  
O love that passeth knowledge,  
so patiently to wait!  
O sin that hath no equal,  
so fast to bar the gate!**

**3 O Jesus, thou art pleading  
in accents meek and low,  
"I died for you, my children,  
and will ye treat me so?"  
O Lord, with shame and sorrow  
we open now the door;  
dear Savior, enter, enter,  
and leave us nevermore.**

**Is your life busy, one scheduled event after the other? Your appointment calendar filled to the limit? Yes, life can be so fast-paced and so hectic at times. The words of this Hymn reached my conscience, it reminded me to better double check my priorities and see if maybe I am ignoring my daily appointment with Jesus. To take time and fellowship with my best friend, I can't afford to miss. To read the Words that He left for us to live by. To pray to Him and worship Him.**

**I know it would never pass my mind to make an appointment with someone and then just simply not show up. That would be very inconsiderate. We would at least make a phone call and explain why we cannot be there. Yet, many days can go by and at the end of each one we fall**

**exhausted into bed and never spent time on what really matters, spending time with JESUS.**

**I decided to write down four Scriptures to remind us of the goodness of GOD in this upcoming Thanksgiving season. Maybe we could read and focus on one of these per week. Read it over and over again and let it sink in.**

**-“He is LORD of lords and King of kings”  
(Rev. 17:14)**

**- “Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us,  
that HE might redeem us.” (Titus 2:13-14)**

**- “We love Him because He first loved us.”  
(I John 4:19)**

**. “God is able to make all grace abound  
toward you.” (II Cor. 9:8)**

**See below a word from Rev. Leslie Etheredge,  
Regional Minister, Western Region**



**An invitation to you ...**

**Do you have a bucket list? I hope you do and that you are methodically and happily checking off things on it slowly (or quickly) but surely. Up until two years ago, I had never been on a mission trip out of this country.**

**That was on my bucket list, and it was beautifully accomplished in 2018 when I went to Haiti to serve as a "Britsionary" through the Be Like Brit organization. It was such a great experience that I went back again in 2019 for another joyful and meaningful experience. Now, I am blessed to be going in 2020, and I'd love for YOU to join me.**

**I will be leading the trip of Florida UCCers to Haiti Feb. 2-8, 2020.**

**There is something in this trip for everyone...  
Your \$1,600 bargain-priced trip pays for all your food, lodgings, the opportunities above AND the house we build, along with food and supplies for the family for a month!**

**If God is calling you to something wonderfully different or if doing profound good for others is on your bucket list, please give me the chance to talk to you about Haiti. It is a glorious adventure to be sure.**

**You can reach me at [letheredge@uccfla.org](mailto:letheredge@uccfla.org) or (727) 201-4526. I'd love to go to Haiti with you!!**

**Rev. Leslie Etheredge  
Regional Minister, Western Region**





**Enjoy the following Images**



**NPCUCC  
International  
Faith Builder  
Trip Egypt**



**Annual Meeting of the  
Florida Conference  
UCC  
Oct. 10-12, 2019**



**Dinner & Concert Event (10-19-2019)  
North Port High School Jazz Band**

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

**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.**



### **Singles Dinner Group**

**Next Gathering will be  
5:30 p.m. on November 14th at  
Sharks Fish House in North Port.  
Check the bulletin board in  
Fellowship Hall to sign up.**



**5th Annual Grief Seminar  
February 1, 2020  
[northportucc@gmail.com](mailto:northportucc@gmail.com)**

**What are some grief topics you would like to hear about?**

**Will you be attending?      Yes ☐      No ☐      Maybe ☐**

**Will you invite a friend?      Yes ☐      No ☐      Maybe ☐**

**Please email us to let us know your answers to the above questions. We look forward to your input.**





## **Thank You!**

**A Giant Pumpkin Thank you to all who helped with the Pumpkin Patch. It is winding down now with just a few more days to go before our 4th Annual Patch closes down.**

**Many of you volunteered to help unload the pumpkins and then again worked in the patch. We are very grateful for your help and support. Many of you worked many shifts carrying quite the load. You know who you are and you have our thanks.**

**You were very generous with your donations for our Pumpkins for preschoolers program. Thanks to your gifts we were able to provide pumpkins and gourds to children at three local preschools (about 120 children). In addition we received requests from some elementary schools and provided a variety of approximately 75 more pumpkins and gourds. And last, but not least, we provided a pumpkin for each child at Sunday school on October 27th.**

**Next month we will let you know the results of our Pumpkin Patch fundraiser. Thank you again for your support.**



# 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 25<sup>th</sup>.  
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, November 6th at Olde World  
Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in  
Fellowship Hall for more details.**



The church library has many books to help with our daily lives. One area is a book regarding prayer. “*One Nation Under God: The History of Prayer in America*” by James P. Moore, Jr. is a chronicle of the spiritual life of a nation. This book shows how the faith of Americans—from the Founding Fathers to corporate tycoons, from composers to social reformers, from generals to slaves—was an essential ingredient in the formation of American culture, character, commerce, and creed. “*On Nation Under God*” shows that without prayer, the political, cultural, social, and even economic and military history of the United States would be vastly different from what it is today.

Also by this author is “*The Treasury of American Prayer*”. James P. Moore continues his thoughts on prayer by this remarkable anthology arranged by such topics as peace, thanksgiving, hope and love. While this collection reflects the great history of the American experience, these prayers also hold great resonance for Americans today. Read more about books on prayer next month!

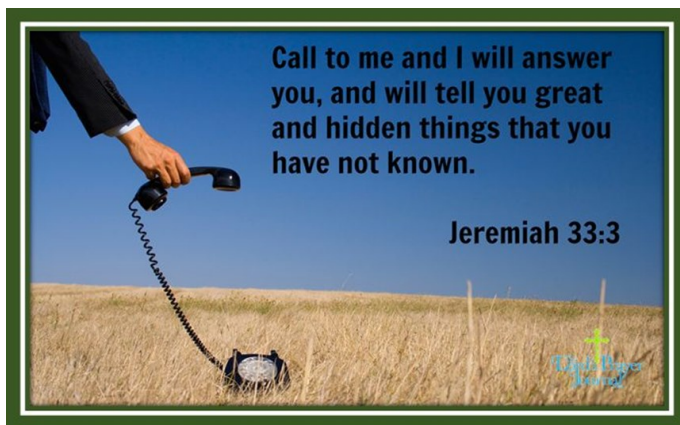


**HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?  
DID YOU REMEMBER  
YOUR CHURCH?**

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



**Thursday, December 5th  
Israel and Egypt Trip  
Pictures & Stories  
With International Potluck at 6:00 p.m.  
Program at 7:00 p.m.**



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

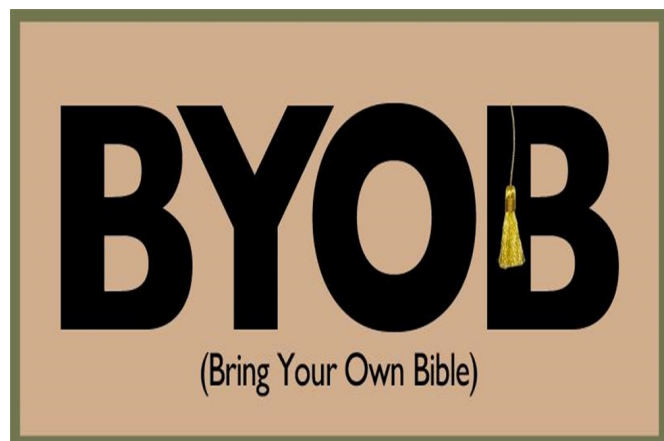
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

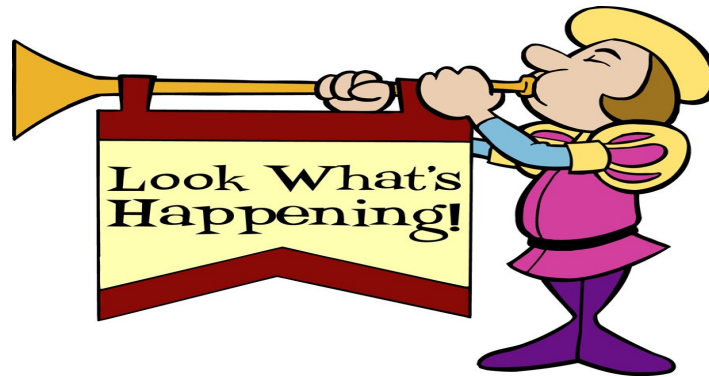
**Bible Study  
Every Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.**



*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!**

<b>October 31</b>	<b>Pumpkin Patch ends</b>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Change your Clocks!</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day—office closed</b>
<b>November 14</b>	<b>Set up for Rummage Sale</b>
<b>November 15-16</b>	<b>Rummage Sale</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Pot Luck</b>
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Elder Affairs and Fraud Prevention Seminar</b>
<b>November 28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day - office closed</b>
<b>December 5</b>	<b>Israel &amp; Egypt—Pictures, Stories, And Potluck</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Free movie—"I Can Only Imagine"</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Breakfast with Santa</b>





## Safety in our Church

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

**On Tuesday, October 15th the Safety Team met. We continue to work on the plan for evacuation in case of an emergency such as fire, etc.**

**There are some changes on Sunday mornings that may or may not effect you. Please read carefully so you are aware of these changes.**

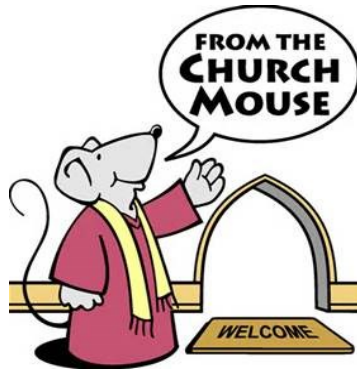
**Beginning on Sunday, October 20th our Safety Team members began their duties. Members of the Safety Team are located at the front entrance to monitor the parking lot and another is located at the office door. The only doors that will be unlocked on Sunday morning are the front sanctuary doors. They will be unlocked at 9:00 a.m. and then locked once the service begins. We will no longer be unlocking the office door, kitchen door or the door between the buildings.**

**The Safety Team Member at the office door will be there between 9:00 and 9:45 a.m. to let you in. For those attending Adult Sunday school, you may enter Decker Hall when Pastor Attila arrives. Following your class you should enter through the main doors of the sanctuary. We appreciate your cooperation with these changes.**



**Remember.....**

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



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

**Pip and I have been enjoying our days in the Pumpkin Patch, although it has been a bit warm. The wind and the rain the other day gave us a little more excitement than we needed, but we watched carefully and none of the pumpkins got picked up by a Tornado. We snuck in for the music the other night. So nice to hear all those young people playing such Jazzy music. We were dancing in the aisle, but no one saw us. Time is flying by, pumpkins are almost gone, next will be turkey time and then the man in the red suit. Whew.....**

**Ye Olde Church Mouse  
and Pip**



## **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes for Children**

**This program is now off and running. Pick up your shoe boxes today and plan now to make up a few. The deadline to return your boxes to the church is Sunday, November 17th. We thank you in advance for your generous support.**



**Women of the Church**

## **UCC WOMEN Meeting again**

### **Rummage Sale**

**Set up: November 14th 8:00 a.m. to noon**  
**Sale: November 15 and 16**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Please do not bring any items to the church until the 14th.**



**Elder Affairs and Fraud Prevention Seminar**  
**November 21st from 1:00—3:00 p.m.**  
**Invite your friends and neighbors.**

**Two topics:**

**Detective Rachel Cochran from the North Port Police Dept.**  
**will be our guest speaker. She will be showing us and**  
**telling us what fraud and scams are out there.**  
**“Seniors Beware!”**

**Life Planning Law firm speaking**  
**On Elder Affairs.**  
**Protect your assets and wishes.**

**Our thanks to the UCCW for sponsoring this event.**

*Prayer Shawl  
Ministry*



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**The Prayer Shawl group meets twice a month. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. In November their dates are the 12th and the 26th. Hope to see you there.**



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

**November 11  
November 28**

**Veterans Day  
Thanksgiving Day**



## FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY



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

## November Birthdays:

<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Bob Case</b>
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Delores Edwards</b>
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>Mina Sundeen</b>
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Madeleine Bonsky</b>
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>Mike Bourque</b>
<b>Nov. 17</b>	<b>Lynn Sanford</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Izak Kolodny</b>
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Neville Miles</b>
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Kathy Stysick</b>
<b>Nov. 24</b>	<b>Sharon Miller</b>
<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>Wilma Hobbs</b>



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

<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>Harold and Jeanne Perry</b>
<b>Nov. 28</b>	<b>Doug and Cindy Minich</b>



**Thanksgiving Pot Luck  
Sunday, November 17  
Following worship**

**Sign up in Fellowship  
Hall**



# November

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

<b>November 3</b>	<b>Barb Mervine</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Lola Van Woert</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Dave &amp; Lynn Sanford</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Doug &amp; Cindy Minich</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.”**



**Change your clocks**  
**November 2nd**



**Average monthly**  
**attendance:**

**September 2018— 114**  
**September 2019— 109**

## **Trip to Savannah Payments**



**If you have paid your deposit for the March Savannah trip and it would be helpful for you to make partial payments over time rather than one lump sum later on: Please make checks payable to Margaret Cook and send them to her at 111 Maple Avenue, Stanton, MI 48888. Final payment for the trip is due January 16, 2020.**



## **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](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**

**Closed on Friday**

**Patti Bourque, Office Manager**

**Terry Hong, Office Assistant**