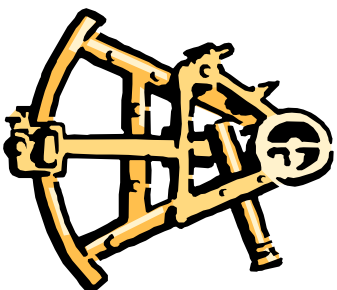


North Port Community
United Church of Christ
3450 S. Biscayne Drive
North Port, FL 34287



THE NAVIGATOR

October, 2019



October Navigator

Dear Church Family,

We hope you and your family are doing well. Every year around this time the countdown begins! Counting the days till Reformation Sunday! It has become a tradition for our church family to look back at the people and events, the movers and shakers of the Protestant Reformation. This year again we will enter the Great Hall of Fame of the heroes of the faith and study their impact on the church and society. Please join us as we look back in time and history to give thanks for the courage of our reforming ancestors.

Here are some of the pillar teachings for the Protestant Reformation! Solus Christus: Christ Alone! Describes a basic and fundamental truth of Protestant Theology. It means what the Bible testifies to when it describes Jesus as The Way, The Truth and The Life! Through whom alone we have salvation and access to the father. Not through other mediators. Which was a huge part of the Theological debate in the days of Luther and other Reformers. The next is Sola Fide: Through Faith Alone! This is of foremost importance in the mind of protestant Christendom. It expresses simply the thought that as humans we don't earn God's love and recognition through works but alone through faith. A relationship with God becomes experiential and real. Like the Bible says: "And it is impossible to please God without faith!" (Hebrews 11:6)

Another one the list is Sola Gratia: Through Grace Alone! The idea here is that humans cannot gain the Grace and favor of God via their actions but only through God's action. Described for us in Romans 3:21-28 "And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24)

Finally, Sola Scriptura: Through the Scriptures Alone! The reformers declared that the scriptures are sufficient in delivering the salvation plan of God to humankind and that no addition was needed. It was sufficient in those days and it is sufficient today. This was to get away from all the heresies that were running rampant in the church in those days!

Now maybe church history is not your cup of tea, the reason why we look back is to see how God sends us out today in our times and what we can learn from the past to apply in our setting today. Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it like this: " *The inquiry about historical heritage is not, therefore the timeless question of the eternally valid values of the past. Rather, it is that human beings, placed in history must give an accounting to themselves about the present time as it has been taken on by God in Christ.*" (From ethics 103-104)

Please keep the many ministries of our church in prayer! Thank you for all that you are doing! We love and appreciate you. We could not do ministry without your help.

Please enjoy the selected images on the next pages!



**Home Bible Study (09-12-2019)
Hosted by Alyda Carpenter**



**Fellowship and Preparation Meeting for
the German Services in Sarasota (October-April)
at Faith Lutheran Church (09-12-2019)**



German Worship Service in North Port (09-14-2019)

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

About our photos: We have heard your comments that the photos do not come out well in our paper copies of the Navigator. We are aware of this and apologize for the disappointment, but unfortunately that is out of our control. We invite you to view the newsletter in color online, or check out color photos on our “In the News” board in the Narthex. We thank you for your comments.

**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**

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 October 10th at
Cody's in the Port Charlotte Mall.
Check the bulletin board in
Fellowship Hall to sign up.**



50th Anniversary Album

**Revisit our 50th Anniversary
through the beautiful album
recounting our history and our
celebration weekends last
March. It's on the Mission table in
Fellowship Hall. Enjoy it during coffee hour or anytime
you are at church! So many great memories!**



It's a Pumpkin Patch!!!!



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

**October 13—31
Open 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Lots of Pumpkins....
Photo op areas....
All are welcome!**

**941-426-5580
northportucc@gmail.com**



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..."**

Deposits are now due:

**Deposit of \$60 is due September 15th.
Final payment is due January 25th.
Checks should be made payable to
"NPCUCC Retreat".**

Good news: This year we will have more rooms which have private bathrooms included.

Flyers are in the Narthex—if you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late—call the church office.



I am so blessed to belong to this wonderful church with a great pastor. So, I thank you all , my church family, for your cards, calls and prayers. Prayers work—I'm cancer free! Thank you all.

Norma Beach



Thanks to Alden and Sharon Miller, the following books have been added to the church library. “*Anatomy of an Illness: As Perceived by the Patient*” by Norman Cousins is a rare book by a patient that spoke to our current interest in taking charge of our own health. This is a remarkable story of triumph of the human spirit.

Another book, “*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive*” will give you a boost in how to count your blessings and have a positive attitude.

Also, Neil T. Anderson’s “*Victory Over the Darkness: Realize the Power of your Identity in Christ*” spells out practical and productive ways to experience Christian growth based on Christ’s promise. The Library Committee thanks all of you who have given items to enrich the library.



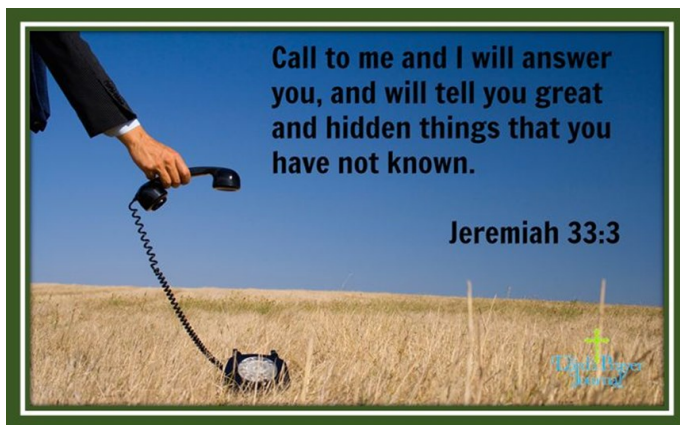
**HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?
DID YOU REMEMBER
YOUR CHURCH?**

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

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



**All women are invited to join together for breakfast
on Wednesday, October 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.

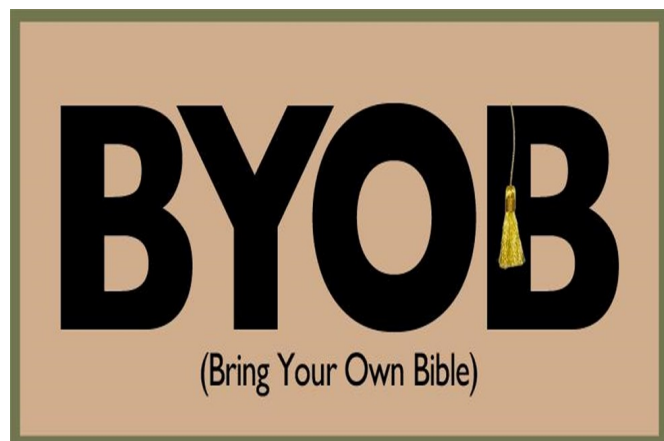
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

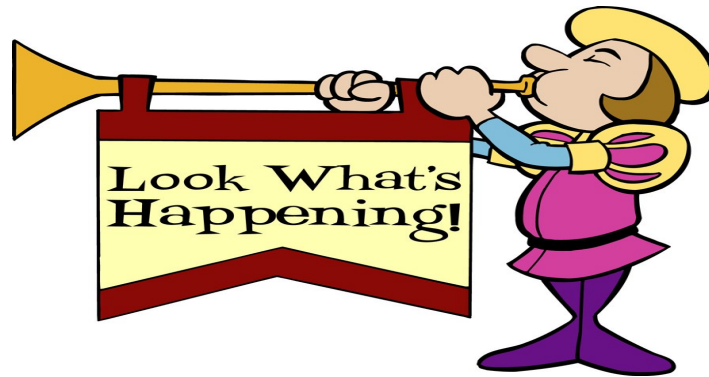
**Bible Study
Every Tuesday
11:00 a.m.**



*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!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| September 20-October 2 | Israel Trip |
| September 29 | Kick off Operation Christmas Child |
| October 9 & 10 | Soup and Sandwich fundraiser |
| October 12th | Pumpkins Arrive!!! |
| October 13—31 | Pumpkin Patch is Open |
| October 16 | UCCW meetings resume |
| October 18 | Roast Pork Dinner & Concert |
| November 10 | Lasagna dinner following worship |
| November 15-16 | Rummage Sale |
| November 21 | Elder Affairs and Fraud Prevention Seminar |
| November 28 | Thanksgiving Day |



Safety in our Church

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

On Tuesday, September 10th the Trustees recommended the following persons for the Safety Team, and they met as a whole the following week.

**Doug Minich
Sandra Van Bergen
Paul Hong
John McKean
Jim Maggert
Lou Sorrentino**

**Sally Rutledge
Mike Bourque
Ron Wright
John Terhune
Terry Hong
Patti Bourque**

They reviewed information received from the North Port Fire Department regarding fire safety and fire drills. You will be hearing more about that in the future.

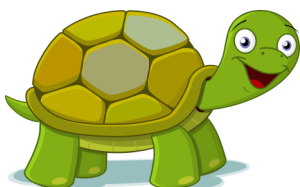
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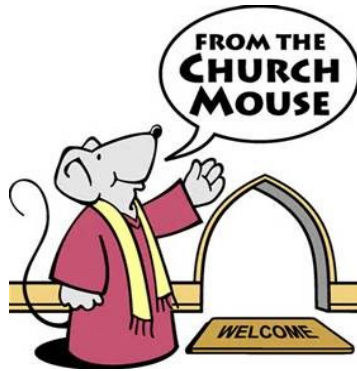
- New door latches have been installed in Decker Hall**
- Remaining lights for outside have been ordered**
- New Security Cameras have been ordered**
- A Safety plan for our Sunday school children has been prepared and implemented**
- Other areas are being worked on as well**

Remember.....

“Your speed doesn’t matter, forward is forward!”

So we continue to move forward.





From the Church Mouse.....

Pip and I are all ready to sign up to help unload the pumpkins when they arrive on the 12th and we will be helping out at the patch too. We have our orange shirts ready and can't wait for the fun that comes with all those families and little kids trying to pick out just the right pumpkin. I just hope they don't think we're pumpkins and they try to buy us. Heard there are going to be some special bird feeders this year. Think Pip and I will buy one, might make a good nest for our little family. Happy October—see you at the patch!

**Ye Olde Church Mouse
and Pip**



NEW CHURCH EMAIL



The office has officially changed over to our new email. Please send email to northportucc@gmail.com from now on. This is the main email for church office communication.

**Please note that Pastor Attila's email is still:
npcuccpastor@frontier.com**

**Terry's email is still:
officeassistantatjuno.com**

Many thanks!



Women of the Church

UCC WOMEN Meeting again

Summer is now over and the women of our church are off and running.

They have a Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser scheduled for October 9 and 10.

The regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16th at 10:00. All women are invited.

Next on their list is their Fall Rummage Sale on November 15 and 16 with set up on the 14th.

And last on their list for now is an Elder Affairs and Fraud Prevention Seminar on November 31st from 1:00—3:00 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors.



Operation Christmas Child Kick off—September 29th

On Sunday, September 29th you will be hearing a lot about our Operation Christmas Child program this year. Plan now to make up a few shoeboxes this year and begin picking up items for your boxes. Listen to morning announcements and watch your bulletins for the deadline to get these boxes in. We thank you in advance for your generous support.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl group is going to begin meeting again this month. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. In October their dates are the 8th and the 22nd. Hope to see you there.



Dine to Donate!

Please continue to take your vouchers to Perkins each time you dine there or purchase items from their bakery. Perkins will collect the vouchers and quarterly send us a check donating 10% of the subtotal of every purchase. A win/win for everyone.



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Remember the 2nd Sunday is our Collection of Food for those who are hungry. Right now donations are being sent to help those in the Bahamas that have been affected by Hurricane Dorian.

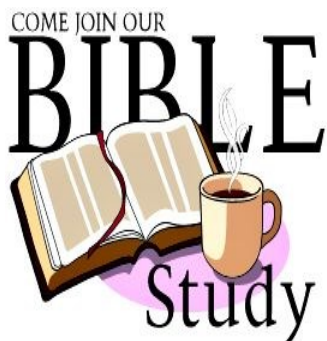
October Birthdays:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Oct. 5 | Mary Maples |
| Oct. 5 | Jeanne Perry |
| Oct. 6 | Randy Cook |
| Oct. 8 | Rebecca Brown |
| Oct. 13 | Kim Campos |
| Oct. 18 | Cindy Minich |
| Oct. 22 | Sonia May |



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

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Oct. 6 | Bruce and Theresa MacKnight |
| Oct. 19 | Patty and Larry Larsen |
| Oct. 29 | Tom and Sandra Van Bergen |



In Home Bible Studies....

Home Bible will be Thursday, October 24th, but no location has been announced as of yet. Watch your Sunday bulletin for more information.

October

ALTAR FLOWERS:

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| October 6 | Marie Doran |
| October 13 | Sheryll Norris |
| October 20 | MaryAnn Dunlap |
| October 27 | Tom and Sandra Van Bergen |



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:

August 2018— 94
August 2019— 99

Mark your Calendar
Saturday, October 19, 2019



Roast Pork Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Concert by NPHS Jazz Band 7:00 p.m.
See separate flyer included in this newsletter

Hurricane Policy

**It's Hurricane Season, so
REMEMBER: Our church
policy for closing the church
in the event of a storm is—**



Anytime hurricane conditions are predicted for a Sunday morning, including the possibility of winds high enough to prevent emergency workers from being on the roads, services will be canceled. So.... If on Saturday night, hurricane conditions are being predicted for North Port, you may know that Sunday services are canceled—even if conditions are improved on Sunday morning.

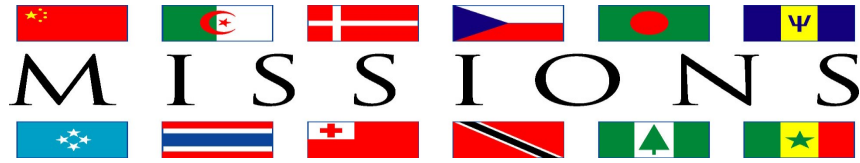
“When possible” our calling committees will make phone calls, but please do not rely solely on a phone call.

Bottom line: Be Safe!

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.



**Neighbors In Need Annual Offering
World Communion Sunday
October 6th**

On Sunday, October 6th you will be provided with a special envelope in your bulletin to make your annual donation to the UCC's Neighbors In Need Offering. This special mission supports ministries of justice and compassion through the US and this year will focus on the love of children. Please come on October 6th prepared to make your generous donation.

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.

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



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