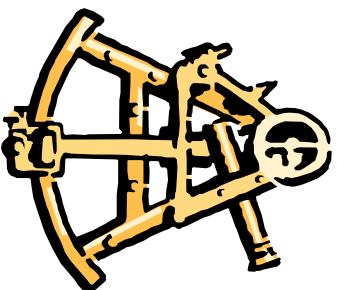


North Port Community  
United Church of Christ  
3450 S. Biscayne Drive  
North Port, FL 34287



# THE NAVIGATOR

## February 2019

*From the  
Pastor*



**February 2019**

**Is anyone thirsty?  
Come! All who will, come and drink,  
Drink freely of the Water of Life!  
(Revelation 22:17)**

**Dear Church Family,**

**I hope all is well with you and for you. When we look at everyday life and our economy, we will see that not many things in life are free. Prices are climbing higher; so for us to read Revelation and it's promise that the water of life is for free is a marvelous offer one should take advantage of.**

**Once I was driving by a new housing development, a sign caught my attention. It stated that if within a certain amount of time you purchase one of their new homes, you would get a free two-year car lease with it. The lease as a gift not bad; but looking deeper we all know that the customer will pay for it one way or another—so really it isn't all that free after all.**

**You can take God's promise about the water of life being a free gift at face value. We never have to worry if God tells us the truth or not. His desire for our life is life-worthy living. This is why in Jesus Christ He has provided just that.**

**The Samaritan woman at the well didn't quite understand what Jesus was talking about when He talked to her about the water of life. She thought He meant natural water, the one she had to get out of the well. Jesus wasn't talking about such water; but about supernatural water. Much in life leaves us empty and wanting more. Jesus tells us today," in Me you will have life and love it, too."**

**The woman said," Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"**

**In Jesus we have it, let's take it!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*Please keep our upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retreat in prayer.  
February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**We will be hosting once again this year the ANNUAL MEETING of German Congregations of Florida, right here at the NPCUCC. February 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Please enjoy the following selected photos.**



**In Memoriam  
(4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grief Seminar)**

**01-12-2019  
Thank you to ALL  
who made it possible.**

## **German Christmas Service 12-22-2018**



## **German Christmas Service with Communion (12-22-2018)**





**UCC Women's Ministry (Soup & Sandwich Community Outreach)  
01-09-2019. Thank You Ladies!**

**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)**

## **Fashion Show and Luncheon February 14th**



**UCCW is proud to announce this year's Fashion Show and Luncheon. It will be at the church on Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$20 per person and went on sale after church January 27th. They will also be for sale February 3rd and February 10th as supply lasts. This year's fashions will be current and also retro as we are celebrating 50 years of our North Port Community United Church of Christ. Please join us at this delightful event.**

**Average monthly attendance:**

**December 2017—170  
December 2018—158**



### **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**



**There will be no Singles  
Dinner Group in February  
due to the Fashion Show  
on that day.**

**You are a Blessing—**



**Dear Church Family,**

**Thank you very much for your generous  
Christmas gift and all the many other gifts.  
Thank You! Thank Your!**

**Pastor Attila**

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

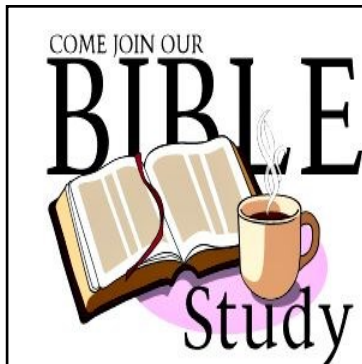


**All women are invited to join together for breakfast  
on Wednesday, February 6th at Olde World  
Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Check the sign up sheet in  
Fellowship Hall for more details.**

## **50th Anniversary Dinner Tickets on Sale soon**



**The 50th Year of NPCUCC dinner will be held on March 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the catered dinner are \$20 and will be sold after church from February 9th to March 2nd (or until we sell out). The program will follow dinner, and all are welcome to attend the program in the sanctuary.**



### **In Home Bible Studies....**

**February 21st—6:00 p.m.  
at Mary Ann Anderson's home.  
Call Delores Edwards for more  
info. 876-3376.**

### **Our Care Team is Looking for Seasonal Help....**



**Our Care Team is looking for seasonal help to visit some of our persons in the local care facilities. If you can help, please call our church office at 426-5580.**



## **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.**

**Please consider this as you prepare for the end of the year.**

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



**Save the Dates:**

**March 9 —  
50th Anniversary  
Dinner & Program**

**Special Church Services:  
March 10  
March 17**



New to the shelves in time for the Grief Seminar are: ***“What Grieving People Wish You Knew: About what really helps (and what really hurts)”*** by Nancy Guthrie.

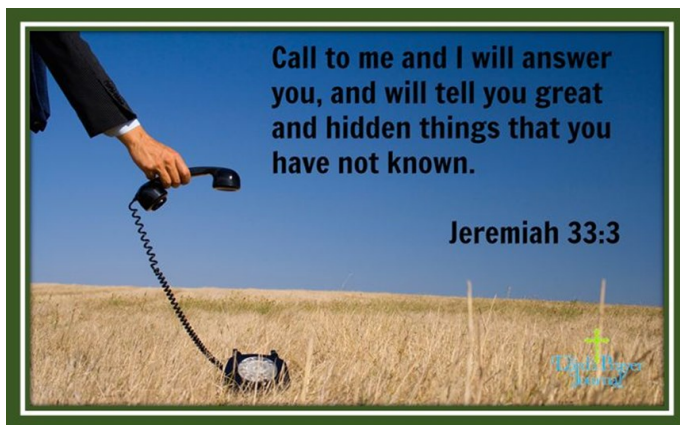
This book is a tender compassionate and honest book on how to deal with people in a practical way. This book will equip readers to support those who are grieving with wisdom and love.

Also new is ***“Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade: The 5 Love Languages and the Alzheimer’s Journey”*** by Gary Chapman, PhD. The stories included in this book shows how love can persist even as dementia gradually erodes memory and physical abilities.

Also, ***“Boundaries: When to say Yes—How to Say No—To take control of your life”*** by Dr. Henry Cloud & John Townsend. The authors give you biblically based answers to tough questions. The book shows how to set boundaries in our increasingly digital world.

These books were purchased by a gift from the UCC women of our church. Remember to sign your books out. Pockets are at the back of the book, sign the appropriate line, and place in the cup on top of the desk. Questions? See Becky Rooney.





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

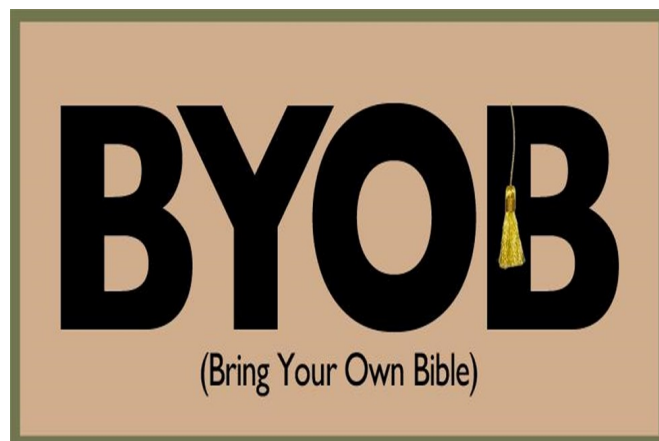
Jeremiah 33:3

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

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

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

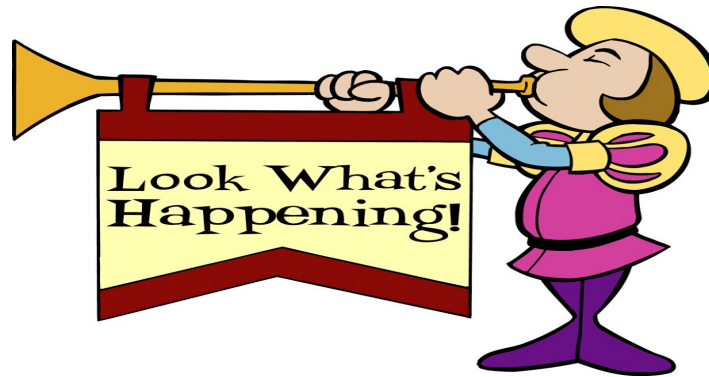
**Bible Study  
Every Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.  
Bring a lunch  
If you wish.**



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



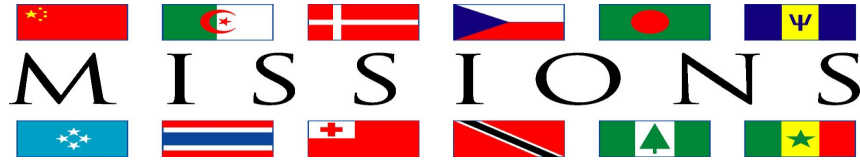
**Join us on Wednesday morning for  
Morning Prayer  
7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.**



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

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>February 2</b>        | <b>Strawberry Festival</b>  |
| <b>February 14</b>       | <b>Fashion Show</b>   |
| <b>February 19</b>       | <b>German Annual Meeting</b>  |
| <b>February 23</b>       | <b>Work Day</b>   |
| <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><br><b>Maundy Thursday—April 18</b><br><b>Easter Sunday—April 21</b> |
| <b>June 17-21</b>        | <b>Vacation Bible School</b>  |





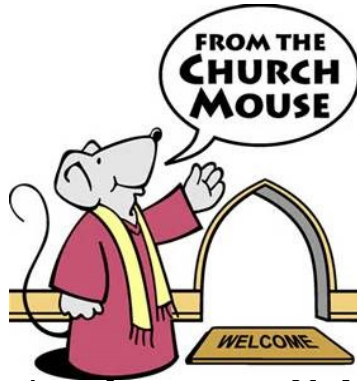
## February Mission Focus

**Our February Mission Focus will be on ECHO—our participation in the Seed Bank and also providing support for Megan and Jack former ECHO Interns as they continue their Missionary journeys.**



### Safety in our Church

**On Wednesday, January 16th the Venice Police Department sponsored an excellent seminar on church safety. Several persons from our church attended. We gathered a lot of information on what to do and what NOT to do in order to keep us safe in the event of an emergency situation at our church. You will be hearing more about this subject once we have had a chance to process all the information we received at this seminar. Please give some thought as to whether you might want to consider being a part of our new Safety Team as we move forward. Again, you will be hearing more in the near future.**



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

**Everything is hopping around here these days. Folks have returned from the snowy north and lots of things going on. Dinners, lunches, meetings, and I hear lots of talk about a big 50th Anniversary Celebration. I have also heard that some of our friends from long ago will be coming back to say hi! Pip and I weren't around for all of them, but we've been around for a pretty long time. Hope they remember us. Pip and I are doing our part, we've spruced up our little mouse house. Can't wait to see the pretty new parking bumpers that are coming soon. That will be nice. Keep warm and hope to see you at everything that's happening. This is definitely the place to be!**

## **Ye Olde Church Mouse & Pip**



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



**The Church Office  
will be closed on  
February 21st for  
President's**



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

**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.**

## February Birthdays:

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| February 8  | Emily Renee Louke |
| February 9  | Margaret Cook     |
| February 12 | Don Grim          |
| February 19 | Agnes Bushey      |
| February 24 | Marie Doran       |
| February 25 | Gene Maples       |
| February 25 | Barbara Mervine   |
| February 27 | Marge Bates       |
| February 28 | Lois Harris       |
| February 28 | Sally Rutledge    |
| February 28 | Teri McDowell     |
| February 28 | Tony Vance        |
| February 28 | Howard Johnson    |



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 February.



|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| February 6  | Louzan and Delores Edwards |
| February 9  | David and Lynn Sanford     |
| February 14 | Larry and Sue Luther       |



# February

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Feb. 3</b>  | <b>Susan West</b>                               |
| <b>Feb. 10</b> | <b>Louise Cooper,<br/>Dorlis McKinney, Irma</b> |
| <b>Feb. 17</b> | <b>UCC Women</b>                                |
| <b>Feb. 24</b> | <b>Barbara Mervine</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."**



**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\*\*\*\***

**[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**