

The Christmas Fund

May joy, hope, peace and love be yours for the Holy Season and forever. Ninety five percent of The Christmas Fund is directed to retired and "in need" clergy, spouses and lay workers of the UCC. Your very special and very needed gift assists those "servants of the cross" who find themselves in special need. A team of Annuitant Visitors visit each retired UCC Annuitant yearly to determine well being and or need. Your gifts have eased the journey for countless "servants of the cross." The envelopes are available in the pew racks. We appreciate your support!

~ Your Board of Missions and Outreach



Events and Christian Enrichment

New Book Club ~ Please join us for the formation of a new book club on **Tuesday, January 3rd at 10 am in the Parlor**. Bring books you've read that you would like to give away, share or trade and suggestions for our reading list for the season. Questions, contact Candy Nordland at 239-434-6438.

Palette Pals ~ Our monthly meeting is on **Monday, January 9th at 11 am**, followed with a group art discussion/critique led by Mary Aimee Pikul. Those who wish to stay for the critique should bring a sack lunch and some paintings to discuss. Critique will begin at 1:00 pm.

Men's Coffee and Conversation ~ **Thursday, January 19th at 10:00 am in NH 104**. Topic is Putting America Back to Work. This is a time of open discussion, good fellowship and conversation.

Bargain Box ~ **Save the Date for our Grand Opening on January 21st at 10:00 am at our new location 153 10th Street South**. We are now able to accept furniture, but we cannot accept TV's, computer components, VCR's, or fax machines. If you would like to volunteer or need assistance with donations, call Sandy at 262-3802.

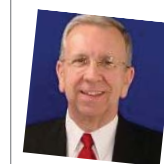
Labyrinth Prayer Ministry ~ The Labyrinth Prayer Ministry is pleased to begin our 2012 spiritual journey of walking and contemplative prayer. The committee has planned Labyrinth activities monthly through May. On January 21st, we are introducing the beautiful outdoor labyrinth at the Naples Botanical Gardens on the shores of Lake Harvey. Please call the NBG at 239-643-7275 for directions and ticket prices.

Yoga ~ With Shannon Danford in McSpadden Hall Thursdays at 10:00 am and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 pm in the Narthex. Chair Yoga with Shannon meets in Beverly Hall at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. \$5.00 donation.



Behind the Scenes Stories ~ A unique Bible study experience that involves entering into the thoughts and feelings of a character in a biblical story. Be prepared with pencil and paper to consider the question, "What was it like for 'this character' to be alive at that moment?" Watch the story come alive with new relevance and freshness. Join poet and pastor, Rev. Dr. George Bell, on **Mondays,**

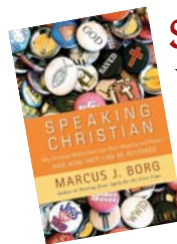
January 9th and 16th from 10:00 – 11:30 am in the Parlor. Advance registration is required. Please call the church office: 239-261-5469.



The Future of the Internet ~ Learning about the future of the Internet will guide us on our ongoing cyber journey into tomorrow. Knowing what works now and what will work in the future will direct our decisions for eCommerce, Social Networking and the Web3.0. Semantic search engines will give us artificial intelligence based results. Join internet guru Marcus Zillman for this single session presentation

on **Thursday, January 12th from 10:00 – 11:30 am in NH 207**. Registration is not required.

Events and Christian Enrichment



Speaking Christian ~ A study of Dr. Marcus Borg's new book, which seeks to reclaim the wisdom and richness of the language of faith and will offer a 'Christian primer' to help us understand the key ideas of our tradition. Join Dr. Patterson, for a thoughtful and relevant five session discussion group on **Thursdays beginning January 12th in NH 104**. Registration is not required. The book may be purchased in the church office for \$15.

Journey to Discipleship ~ If within you a small voice is calling you to a deeper intentional understanding of the Bible, then this small group study may be the path. The class, limited to twelve people, will meet every **Monday, 11:30 am – 2 pm, beginning January 23rd in NH 101**. All that is needed are (1) the Disciple study book, (2) a study bible with the Apocrypha, (3) your brown bag lunch and (4) an inquiring mind. The Disciple study book, \$30 payable to NUCC Adult Education, is available in the church office. Advance registration is required. Joan Byerhof, experienced course facilitator, will welcome your call and inquiries, 239-777-9668.



Reaching Across the Divide: A Dialogue on Current Issues in our Multifaith Word ~ Faith is a relevant, powerful, ascendant societal and global force in our world today. Will religion continue to be a conflict source or a path to peaceful solution within the Abrahamic family? What is the way forward: ecumenism, pluralism, secularism, fundamentalism, evangelism, syncretism? Join interfaith expert Steve Crosby for an informative and interactive six-session class on **Tuesdays**

from 10:00 – 11:30 am beginning January 24th in NH 104. Advance registration is required and can be completed by calling the church office: 239-261-5469.

Youth Christian Education

Church School ~ will not meet today. Children and Youth are invited to enjoy the service. **Starting January 8th the sermon will be at 11am and church school will follow.**

Junior Disciples ~ We will be on break from December 28th to January 4th.

Youth Group ~ We will be on break from December 25th to January 1st.

Confirmation Class ~ We will be on break for the holidays and will resume on January 8th.

Nursery Care ~ for infants and toddlers is available during worship and is located just outside the south Sanctuary doors. There is also a Cry Room available to parents who wish to stay with their child and observe the service.

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Ronald Patterson, Senior Minister
Rev. Catherine O'Connell, Associate Minister
Rev. Beverly Duncan, Assistant Minister
Rev. Luvvy Kovacik, Assistant Minister
Dr. Becky Weese, Director of Music
Dr. Greg Smith, Director of Adult Education
Nancy Van Fleet, Director of CE
Ron Thompson, Youth CE
Kary Sirken, Church Administrator
Kaleigh Caldwell, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Magiera, Finance Administrator

Susan Pratt, Pastoral Assistant and Membership
Susan Melick, Events Coordinator
Gregg Lepore, Production Manager
Donna Blais, Publications
Dan Brower, Facilities
Chad Anderson, Facilities
Mary Jo Welch, Director, Precious Cargo Academy
Leanne Badham, Assistant Director, Precious Cargo Academy
Sandy Goldstein, Director, Bargain Box

God is still speaking,

SANCTUARY



Merry Christmas

Naples United Church of Christ

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103

Phone: (239) 261-5469

E-mail: info@naplesucc.org

Read our church newsletter, Steeplelights, online at: www.naplesucc.org

Our Mission Statement:

Where all are welcome all the time in community with God
Growing by Loving—Sharing God's Story—
Making the Journey



The Worship of God

December 25, 2011 - 11:00 am

Christmas Day

As the Prelude begins, you are invited to seek God's peace for your life in silent meditation and prayer. Please be considerate of those around you.
*Those who are able please stand.



PRELUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(Debra Hall, handbells) Arr. Christine Anderson

"Mary, Did You Know?" Arr. Joel Raney
(Leelo Basham, flute)

WORDS OF WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENT AND GREETING

*SINGING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

- * #179 "Joy to the World" (vs. 1 & 2)
- * #183 "Once in Royal David's City" (vs. 1 & 2)
- * #188 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

A PRAYER OF GATHERING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

A CAROL "Love Came Down At Christmas" John Rutter
(Javier Abreu, soloist)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20 (NT pg. 59)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we Baptize Ryan William Costello, son of Lindsay and Neal Costello.

SINGING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

#203 "Away in a Manger" AWAY IN A MANGER

THE BLESSING OF THE TOYS

A CAROL "Carol of the Bells" M. Leontovich
(Sanctuary Choir) Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

A TIME OF PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE "Silent Night" Arr. David Moore
(Leelo Basham, flute)

SERMON "How to Enjoy Your Toys" Dr. Patterson

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION
"I Have Seen The Light" Arr. Robert Sterling
(Javier Abreu, soloist)

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

* **A CAROL #198** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO

* **POSTLUDE** "In Dulci Jubilo" Arr. Paul Manz



Greeting: Betty Bellovich and Carolyn Hickman

Ushers: Roger Terry, *Head Usher*; Joyce Agnew, Sandy Terry, Delores Tiede, Milt Tiede, John Richardson, Jim Felix, Judy Felix

Staffing the Kiosk: Charnley Marsden

The Stephen Minister: Joan Byerhof

The chancel and pulpit have been decorated from a portion of the money donated from our Poinsettia Donor List. The remainder of the donations will be given to a local food bank to help those in need. The donations were made in Memory, Honor, or Celebration of a loved one in lieu of Poinsettias.

Next Sunday we will resume our 9:00 and 11:00am services. Dr. Patterson will conclude the sermon series with "How to Clean Up the Mess."

We are invited to share the Spirit of Christmas in our Gathering area this morning with a Christmas punch, cookies and music for the season provided by Mr. Bruce Petsche. We thank him for sharing his talents this morning!

DVDs from today's service are available for \$5. Please fill out the order envelope located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate or in the basket outside the Sanctuary doors. They are available the next day in the church office and are filed alphabetically. If you would like it sent to you, please call Ralph at 239-595-7590.



The T-Loop (Telecoil Loop) Hearing System is now installed in the Sanctuary. If your hearing aid is equipped for the T-Loop, please let us know how it is working for you. Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex.

ANNUAL MEETING

The NUCC 39th Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary. Please plan on attending.

Poinsettia Donor List Additions

Dr. Ron Patterson and Charnley Marsden "In honor of our parents"

Aimee Peeples "In memory of my mother, Carolyn Melton"

John McCoy

Nicki Huber

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Welcome Visitors

Naples United Church of Christ is united by our love of Christ and one another and a desire to care as Jesus cared. We stress freedom of conscience and local autonomy, celebrating a tradition which arrived on this continent on the Mayflower and with other early settlers. We honor the beautiful diversity of our world. We cherish our mission partnerships in Naples and around the globe. From the Ebenezer School in Honduras to local efforts, our gifts and hours multiply the love of Jesus. With 5,700 other UCC congregations and partner denominations we embrace the idea that "God Is Still Speaking."

Journey with us as a visitor or unite with us as a Full or Associate Member. Full and Associate Members share the same rights and responsibilities, but Associate Members choose to maintain a home church membership. Visitor information cards are in the pew racks, and can be put in the offering plate or handed to our deacons or ministers. Our next Information Brunch is February 12th. For more information please call Susan Pratt at the church office. We look forward to having you worship with us again.

Christmas Acrostic

C is for the Child born that night to be our light.

H is for Holy is his name.

R is for Rejoice with gladness & joy.

I is for Immanuel, God with us.

S is for the Star that led the Wise Men to him.

T is for the Truth & grace that was sent our way.

M is for Mary laying him in swaddling clothes in the manger.

A is for Angels singing songs of joy.

S is for Salvation.

~ Anonymous

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The 2012 flower calendar is available on the reception desk. Please enter the date (or call the office) to reserve your Sunday for donating Chancel or Pulpit flowers.

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