

Events and Christian Education

Angel Tree ~ One week left for **Angel Tree Shopping**. Please stop by in the narthex and select an angel. Purchase a gift and return it, gift-wrapped with angel attached, by next Sunday, December 11th. The gifts will make a happy Christmas for mothers and their babies in the Teen Age Parenting Program at Immokalee High School, and for the children of the elementary after school program at Grace Place. Be sure to look at the album of wonderful thank you letters that we received last year. Donations for grocery gift certificates are also welcome.

Christmas Poinsettias Memorial Program ~ You are invited to donate gifts in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one. A portion of the money will be used to decorate the chancel, but most of the funds will be donated to the local food banks to help those in need. **The donation cards are due by Dec 9th and are located in the narthex and in the December Steeplelights.**

Palette Pals ~ A new art exhibit by Susan Pratt is on view in the library & hallway adjacent to the Sanctuary. Plan to "meet the artist" in the Gathering Place. The art exhibit will be on display for the month of December.

Journey to Discipleship ~ If within you, a small voice is calling you to deeper intentional study of the Bible, then Journey to Discipleship may be your answer. **Today, December 4th, and next Sunday, December 11th**, graduates of the study and Joan Byerhof, course facilitator, will be available at a table in the Gathering Place to answer your questions. The class will meet every Monday, 11:30 am - 2 pm beginning January 23rd.

Baby Basics ~ The White House site is growing with lots of volunteers. November ushered in 7 babies (1 set of twins). One more will be added in January. Next distribution is **December 5th**. Thank you for all your support.

Wednesday Nite Live's Holiday Dinner ~ "Rejoice and Sing" will be held on **Wednesday, December 14th in McSpadden Hall at 5:45 pm**. Entertainment will be by the Barron Collier High School Chorus, who will travel to Italy to perform in Rome and Venice. The menu includes roast beef and vegetable medley, plus cheesecake dessert. Tickets are \$15, available in the Gathering Place after Sunday services, or in the church office. No charge for children twelve and under. For information call Sara Nonken 434-6314.

Men's Coffee and Conversation ~ **Thursday, December 15th at 10:00 am in NH 104**. Topic is the Occupy Movement. This is a time of open discussion, good fellowship and conversation.

Singles Lunch ~ The Senior Single brunch will be on **December 18th** at Kensington Country Club. Please sign up at the coffee hour or call Susie Burtch 263-4645 or the church office.

Labyrinth Prayer Ministry ~ Naples Botanical Gardens will have labyrinth walking prayer during the Winter Solstice. Daytime and evening activities will be **December 20th thru the 30th** (excluding Dec. 24 & 25.) The beautiful Chartres Cathedral-style brick labyrinth is located in the Scott Florida Gardens beside Lake Harvey. The evening walks will be lighted and festive. 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.

Bargain Box ~ THE NEW STORE IS NOW LOCATED AT 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.

The Christmas Fund



The generous gifts of UCC congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enabled the Pension Board's Ministerial Assistance program to provide some form of assistance to approximately 1,600 persons over the past year:

- Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks, totaling \$270,000 were sent to approximately 900 persons in 2010. Twenty recipients were over 100 years of age. The oldest person is 107.
- Monthly pension supplementation was provided to 434 persons. The Christmas Fund provides a significant portion of the total annual supplementation of \$1,234,344.

- Quarterly health premium supplementation was provided to 267 families. The Christmas Fund provides all the funding for health premium supplementation.
- Emergency Grants totaling \$38,163.35 were provided to 24 individuals and families from January 1 through July 31, 2011.
- Your gifts in 2011 will help retired pastors who are overwhelmed by financial strain.

Youth Christian Education

Church School ~ meets after the 9am children's sermon in Nelson Hall 204.

Junior Disciples ~ meets Wednesday at 3:30 pm in Nelson Hall 207.

Youth Group ~ Homework help for grades 6-12 at 5pm in Nelson Hall. Youth Group is at 6pm to 7:30 pm in Nelson Hall.

Confirmation Class ~ tonight at 5pm for all 8th grade students.

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 Kovacic, Assistant Minister
Dr. Becky Weese, Director of Music
Dr. Greg Smith, Director of Adult Education
Ron Thompson, Co-Dir. Children & Youth
Nancy Van Fleet, Co-Dir. Children & Youth
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,

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 4, 2011 ~ 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent

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 "Chorale Prelude on Wacht, auf uns die Stimme" J. S. Bach
(Leelo Basham, flute ~ Matt Medlock, bass ~ Jim Dallas, percussion)

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: THE CANDLE OF PEACE

9:00 am: Long family

11:00 am: Ron Saul and Michael Campbell

All: Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #176** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
TRURO

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Gather with us today, loving God, that we may experience your peace. Send your Spirit among us, loving God, that we may sense your presence. Send the memory of your child Jesus, that we may know the joy of being loved without condition. As you took human form and walked among us, give us the gift to let the light of your love shine through our lives. Hear us as we are bold to say the words Jesus taught:

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

AN ADVENT CAROL "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" Arr. John Ferguson
(Sanctuary Choir)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (9:00am) Nancy Van Fleet and Ron Thompson

FRIENDSHIP MOMENT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Please sign and pass the register book to your neighbor.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "O Come to Set Us Free" Arr. Mary McDonald
(Sanctuary Choir)

CALL TO PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE "Come Emmanuel" Arr. Doug Denisen
(Leelo Basham, flute)

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8 (NT pg. 35)

SERMON "How to Deck the Halls" Dr. Patterson

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentences and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "Every Valley" John Ness Beck
(Sanctuary Choir)

The Lord's Supper

At this table all are welcome guests. Jesus is our host. We hold the bread and cup until all are served and then we commune together. Our cups contain grape juice. The gluten free wafers in the center of each bread plate are for those with wheat allergies.

The Invitation

The Prayer of Blessing

The Breaking and Sharing of the Bread
"There's a Song in the Air" Arr. James Laster
(Pamela Jimenez, soprano)

The Giving and Sharing of the Cup
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Arr. David Moore
(Leelo Basham, flute)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***RECESSIONAL CAROL #191** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Carol

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

***POSTLUDE** "Noel Nouvelet" Arr. Doug Denisen
(Leelo Basham, flute)



Greeting: 9:00 am: Dean and Beth Bacon; 11:00 am: Ken and Nancy Bruce

Ushers: 9:00 am: Barbara Converse, *Head Usher*; John Richardson, Charles and Marsha Arthur, Davey Scoon, Arthur Robins, Ruth Himburg, Roger Terry, Beth and Dean Bacon

11:00 am: , Bob Miller, *Head Usher*; Jennifer Rainey, Beverly Roese, Jan Hakes, George Kessel, Bob and Jean Partridge, David Adams, Ken and Nancy Bruce

Staffing the Kiosk: 9:00 am: Lynda Christensen; 11:00 am: Lynda Christensen

The Stephen Minister: 9:00 am: Gerry Gertner; 11:00 am: Sara Nonken

The chancel flowers are from Ann Clayton in appreciation of our Stephen Ministers.

The pulpit flowers are given by her family to honor the life of Marilyn Middlebrook. Her memorial service will take place in 2012.

Our instrumentalists for today's worship service were underwritten by the Music Gift Fund.

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.

Christmas Sermon Series:

During the Christmas Season, Dr. Patterson will be sharing his thoughts on finding the sacred in the midst of the ordinary. Today's sermon is "How to Deck the Halls". The sermon on December 11th is entitled, "How To Select A Christmas Gift". On December 18th, we will celebrate "Christmas Sunday" with our annual festival of Christmas music featuring our choir and an orchestra. On Christmas Eve we will have four services. Each of the services will be candle light services. The 4:00 pm service will include a special story for children shared by Dr. Patterson and Rev. O'Connell. At 6, 8 and 10 pm, Dr. Patterson will share a message on "How to Spend Christmas Day". On Christmas Day, December 25th, we will have a single service at 11:00 am including a blessing of the toys and more music of the season. Dr. Patterson will conclude his sermon series on January 1st at 9:00 and 11:00 am with a sermon entitled: "How to Clean Up the Mess."

The Sacrament of Holy Communion, The Eucharist, The Lord's Supper

The United Church of Christ (UCC) uses these terms interchangeably to stress various traditions about our sharing of the Bread and the Cup. NUCC also makes room for a range of beliefs about the sacrament of communion. This can include the sharing of a memorial meal in remembrance of Jesus or the sharing of the bread and the cup as a tangible way to express our oneness as a faith community. Individual beliefs may stress that Christ is symbolically present in the bread and cup or that the real presence of Christ is present in the elements. As a tradition which stresses the "freedom of the individual conscience", NUCC welcomes such diversity. The Communion Table welcomes all who accept one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. Our theological differences strengthen rather than divide our community when together we recognize that God's love transcends our human ideas and preferences. As you receive Communion today, reflect on its meaning for you.

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. **Join us today for our Information Brunch following both services in Nelson Hall. Dr. Patterson's UCC Theology Class will be tomorrow, Monday, December 5th at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend these events. Our New Member Sunday will be next Sunday, December 11th.** For more information please call Susan Pratt at the church office. We look forward to having you worship with us again.

Sometimes when you go into a hospital, your church is unaware that you may need a call or prayer. If you go to NCH or North NCH, please be sure to fill in "Naples United Church of Christ" in the appropriate place on the admitting form. They will then notify us. If you are at any other hospital and wish for a pastoral visit, please have someone call Susan Pratt at our NUCC church office, 261-5469, to help with our awareness of your circumstances.



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.