

Events and Christian Enrichment

Yoga Lite & Meditation, Intermediate Yoga and Chair Yoga ~ Offered by Shannon Danford. Please see enclosed calendar for dates and times. Donation is \$6.00 per class (\$5.00 donation per class for Chair Yoga).

Outdoor Library ~ On **Sunday, January 15th** select books from the NUCC lending library will be on display in the Courtyard following worship. Stop by to browse, check out reading material, and/or engage in conversation.

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.

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.

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 **at 2:00 pm or 6:30 pm on Thursdays beginning January 12th in NH 104**. Registration is not required. The book may be purchased in the church office for \$15.

Stroke Prevention Screening ~ A stroke screening will take place at the Church on **Thursday, January 12th beginning at 8am in McSpadden Hall**. Get any vascular screening for \$60.00. Get all 5 screenings for only \$149. An osteoporosis screening costs only \$35! To pre-register call Life Line Screening: 1-800-324-1851.

State Recognition ~ Save the date to celebrate with others from your state in 2012! Pick up your state name tag at the kiosk on the following dates: **January 15th, Connecticut & New York, January 29th, Rhode Island & Massachusetts**. Then visit with your state neighbors during coffee hour. Many wonderful friendships were formed last year during state recognition Sundays.

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.

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. Please call the church office to register, 239-261-5469.

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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.

Bloodmobile ~ **Friday, January 27th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. You may make a blood donation every 56 days. Sign up schedules will be available in the Gathering Place on January 15th and January 22nd. Call Bob Partridge at 239-353-7020 with any questions.

Come Join Us for Habitat for Humanity ~ This year's first NUCC Habitat for Humanity work day will be **Saturday, January 28th**. We will meet in the parking lot outside the courtyard at 7am, and caravan to the work site at Regal Acres. We will break at 10:00 am for coffee, and wrap up about noon. All are welcome, regardless of skill level. Call Bob Caruthers at 261-6240 to sign up.

So What Faith ~ Bring a cup of coffee and join in the Book Nook in Nelson Hall Room 101 for an informal discussion group about matters of faith that matter. Our topics will include the implications of the sermon, blog posts (available at www.sowhatfaith.com) from the prior week, or any topic of interest currently in the news. Join our Director of Education, Dr. Greg Smith, for this for this five Sundays of conversation from **10:15 – 11:00 am beginning January 29th**. Registration is not required.

What Americans Really Believe ~ What is the real story of American religious belief, practice and affiliation? To begin answering this question, data from several studies will be considered (including the General Social Survey, National Congregations Study and Baylor Surveys of Religion), with support from recent texts by sociologists. Join our Director of Education, Dr. Greg Smith, for this for single session presentation on **Monday, January 30th**. Identical sessions will be offered from 2:00 – 3:30 pm or 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Advance registration is not required.

Youth Christian Education

Church School ~ Starting today, we will have our Children and Youth Message and Church School at the 11am service.

Junior Disciples ~ Will resume on January 11th.

Youth Group ~ We meet today at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation Class ~ we will meet today at 5:00 pm.

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,

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

January 8, 2012 – 9:00 and 11:00 am

First Sunday after Epiphany – Baptism of the Lord

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 "Partita for English horn & Organ" Jan Koetsier
(based on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star")
(Movements I & III)
(Andrew Snedeker, English horn)

CALL TO WORSHIP

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #183** "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Giver of wisdom, be among us this day that your wisdom might fill our lives with hope. Giver of grace, be among us this day that your grace might fill our lives with courage. Giver of peace, be among us this day that your peace might overcome our fear and lead us in the way of love. May the light you sent in Jesus shine forth in our caring, in our forgiving, in our sharing, and in all that we say and do. May his words transform our lives as together we pray:

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 #222 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" (vs. 3) SUSSEX CAROL
(Please remain seated)

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to all, now and forevermore. Amen."

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

Joshua Lee Myers and Christopher Karl Myers, who are active members of our youth group, sons of Loretta and Kevin Myers.

A MOMENT FOR MISSION

Celebrating the Ebenezer School Partnership

FRIENDSHIP MOMENT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Please sign and pass the register book to your neighbor.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "The Waters of Life" James Biery
(Sanctuary Choir)

CALL TO PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE (Movement II) Jan Koetsier

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11 (OT pg. 1; NT pg. 35)

SERMON "It's All About Circles" Dr. Patterson

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentences and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory (Movements IV & V) Jan Koetsier

***THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Dix

As they offered gifts most rare, at the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN: #229** "The First Noel" (vs. 1-3) THE FIRST NOEL

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

***POSTLUDE** "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star" Paul Manz
(Andrew Snedeker, oboe)



Greeting: 9:00 am: Bill & Donna Stevens;
11:00 am: Jim & Sally Clement

Ushers: 9:00 am: Roger Terry *Head Usher*; Sandy Terry, Richard Ryder,
Art Robbins, Davey and Kristine Scoon, Al and Gloria Taylor

11:00 am: Bob Miller, *Head Usher*; Richard Ryder, Mary Elizabeth and Carson
Beadle, Claude Vautin, Gloria DeLisi, Joyce Agnew, Jean and Bob Partridge,
Jan Hakes

The Stephen Minister: 9:00 am: Marcia Daily; 11:00 am: Bill Hennig

Staffing the Kiosk: Lynda and Jon Christensen

**The chancel are from Cheryl Peters and are in memory of her daughter,
Pamela Peters Fiorito.**

**Our instrumentalist for today's worship service was 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.

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.



Today! Learn more about Ebenezer!

Come pop in for a bite of lunch and see the photos and hear about the recent trip to Honduras, Room 101, Nelson Hall, 12 noon.

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.

Hymn Notes

This morning our Hymns are all traditional English Carols. Carols are teaching tools and the oldest ones were sung to teach the stories of Jesus before most people could read. "Once in Royal David's City" was written by woman attempting to teach children the meaning of the birth of Jesus. (Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). The composer of the tune IRBY, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876) began playing the organ at nine, became a lawyer and is said to have written more than 10,000 hymn tunes, although only a few are known today.

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" is a traditional Sussex Carol collected and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). "The First Noel" was published first in 1823 although its actual origin, as with many carols, was probably the Middle Ages. Carols were a popular art form and often people danced as they sang them. Like many new things, carols were not welcome in the church.

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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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