

## Events and Christian Education

**Angel Tree ~ In the narthex today!** This year the gifts will go to two groups of children, the babies and their mothers in the Teenage Parenting Program at Immokalee High School and children from the after school program at Grace Place. Here is how you can help. 1. Select an "angel" from the tree in the narthex. Do the shopping. Return the gift to the Angel Tree, gift-wrapped with the angel attached, no later than Sunday afternoon, December 11th. 2. Financial contributions for the grocery certificates are most welcome. Committee members will be available by the tree for your contributions, or send your check to the church office marked "Angel Tree". You may call Charnley Marsden at 594-8303 if you have questions. Thank you for sharing this Christmas!



**Advent Study with Cathy ~ "The First Christmas" Tuesdays in Nelson Hall room 101 at 1:30 pm.** Books will be for sale.

**Christmas Poinsettias Memorial Program ~** Again, this year, our Deacons invite us 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. There is a donation card in the November and December Steeplelights.

**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 on **December 18th** at Kensington Country Club. Please sign up at the coffee hour or call Susie Burtch 263-4645 or the church office.

**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. Thank you for your continued support.

**Wednesday Nite Live's Holiday Dinner ~** "Rejoice and Sing" will be held on **Wednesday, December 14th in McSpadden Hall at 5:45 pm.** All are welcome to this festive event, featuring entertainment by the Barron Collier High School Chorus, a talented group who will be traveling to Italy next Spring to perform in Rome and Venice. The dinner 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 further information contact Sara Nonken 434-6314.

## 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 ~** Will not be meeting tonight, we will meet next Sunday (12/4) from 6pm to 7:30 pm in Nelson Hall.

**Confirmation Class ~** Will not be meeting tonight, we will meet next Sunday (12/4) 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  
Georgia Lundy, Sunday Fellowship/  
Kitchen 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, PCA  
Sandy Goldstein, Director, Bargain Box

God  
is still  
speaking,



1ST SUNDAY OF Advent

## Naples United Church of Christ

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103

Phone: (239) 261-5469

E-mail: [info@naplesucc.org](mailto:info@naplesucc.org)

Read our church newsletter, Steeplelights, online at: [www.naplesucc.org](http://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

November 27, 2011 ~ 9:00 am and 11:00 am

First 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** "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," BWV 659 J. S. Bach  
(Savior of the Nations Come)

### THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: THE CANDLE OF HOPE

9:00 am: Myers family

11:00 am: Thompson family

**All:** Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. 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: #154** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
VENI EMMANUEL

### INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** God of Israel, open our hearts this day to expect Christ's coming. Break down the walls that separate us from the best image of ourselves. As once Jesus came with humility, may we be prepared for that end which is the beginning, that we may live your love, experience your grace and find our true home in your peace. Hear us as we are bold to pray the words of our savior:

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 #156** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" PUER NOBIS  
(Please remain seated)

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

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00am)

Max Harrison Royan, son of April and Mark Royan

### FRIENDSHIP MOMENT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Please sign and pass the register book to your neighbor.

### A MOMENT FOR MISSION

The Angel Tree Project, Charnley Marsden

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC** "My Lord, What a Morning" Arr. Howard Helvey  
(Sanctuary Choir)

### CELEBRATING MISSION ONE: Our Habitat for Humanity Partnership

A nonprofit, Christian housing ministry that works both to eliminate poverty housing around the world and to make adequate housing a matter of conscience and action.

### CALL TO PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

### PRAYER RESPONSE

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 13:24-37 (NT pg. 51)

**SERMON** "How to Put Up a Christmas Tree" Dr. Patterson

### PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentences

Offertory "A Canticle for Advent" Marty Schaefer  
(Sanctuary Choir)

**\* Musical Response and Prayer of Dedication** CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.

—Christina G. Rossetti, 1830-1894

**\*A CAROL #193** "Sing We Now of Christmas" Noel Nouvelet

### \*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

**\*POSTLUDE** "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," BWV 661 J. S. Bach



**Greeting:** 9:00 am: Sally and Bob DeShetler

11:00 am: Bill and Pat Frey

**Ushers:** 9:00 am: Marsha Arthur, *Head Usher*; Ruth Himburg, Barbara Converse, Charles Arthur, Betty and Ron Schlemmer, Susie Stimpson, Art Robbins, Bruce Shields

11:00 am: Bob Miller, *Head Usher*; James and Gwen DeWitt, Jackie Freese, Dave and Bobbie Hoefter

**Staffing the Kiosk:** 9:00 am: Lynda Christensen; 11:00 am: Katy Serr

**The Stephen Minister:** 9:00 am: Joanna Head; 11:00 am: Louise Brown

**The chancel flowers honor the 8th anniversary of Dr. Patterson's ministry among us.**

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

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 Put Up A Christmas Tree". On December 4th, the theme will be "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 will be a candle light service. 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 with a sermon entitled: "How to Clean Up the Mess."

### 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 Visitor Information Brunch will be next Sunday, December 4th at 10:00 – 11:00 am and 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Dr. Patterson's UCC Theology Class will be on Monday, December 5th at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend these events. The next New Member Sunday will be on December 11th.** For more information please call Susan Pratt at the church office. We look forward to having you worship with us again.

### Hymn Notes

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is probably the single most familiar Advent carol. Its origin is clouded with mystery, although it seems to date from the ninth century. It was discovered in a French Roman Catholic hymnal and brought into English singing world by John Neale and Henry Sloane Coffin in the nineteenth century. The tune is an ancient plainsong of French origin.

Written by the French Roman Catholic, Charles Coffin (1676-1749) for use during Advent in Paris Churches, "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry" presents the meaning of the season in its fullness. Coffin was the Rector of the University of Paris. PUER NOBIS NASCITUR was composed by Michael Praetorius in 1605. Praetorius was the most prolific composer in Germany during his lifetime (1571-1621), with over 1200 works attributed to him. This lilting tune has made it a favorite of the season.

"Sing We Now of Christmas" is an anonymous French Carol from the 15th Century. Carols sought to teach those who could not read the Bible the story of Christ. As with most carols, it is a complete telling of the story set to a catchy folk tune. Carols were initially rejected by the Church for use in worship because they were considered profane, but people sang them because of their beauty and the joy they brought.

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**We have dates available if you would like to donate the Chancel or Pulpit flowers. Please call the church office to reserve your Sunday or for more information.**

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