



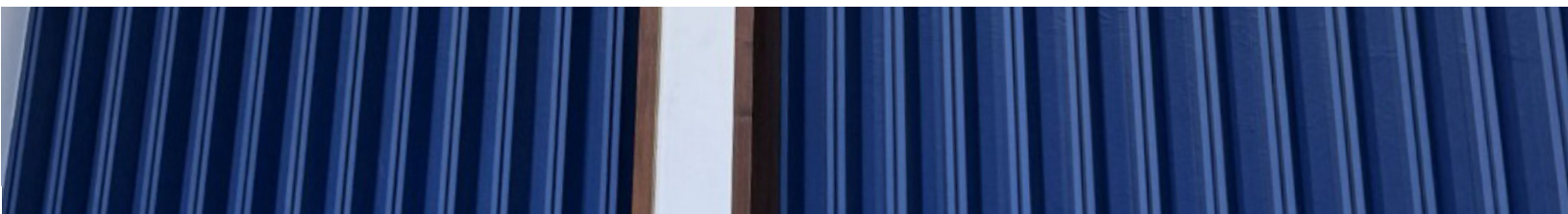
NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 27, 2026 | 10 AM

An Open and Affirming Congregation

A WISE for Mental Health Congregation

Mission: To love God and all our neighbors as God loves us.





THE WORSHIP OF GOD

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP, PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Piano

Arr. Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #68

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

INVOCATION

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

ALL: We shall fill this sanctuary, O God, with words as we worship. Let them not substitute for honest acts of faith lived out in daily living. Make us doers of the Word and not speakers only. Take what we say and turn them into deeds of love and mercy. Transform our words into a living testimony to your Word, which became flesh in service to humanity. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Honey in the Rock
Sanctuary Choir • Angelina Sozio, Soloist • Sean Stolicker, Percussion

Arr. Cliff Duren

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"



SERMON

Leadership in the Wilderness

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

OFFERTORY

Goodness of God with God is So Good

Arr. Mary McDonald

Sanctuary Choir • Angelina Sozio, Soloist • Sean Stolicker, Percussion

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*CLOSING HYMN #598

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

March for Piano Four-Hands

Valery Gavrilin

Dr. Alexandra Carlson and Ingrid Carlson, Piano Four-hands



If you would like a word of prayer or quiet conversation, stop by the parlor for a visit with today's Stephen Minister.
The parlor is to the right as you are leaving the sanctuary.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth and Children's Education

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist

Sanctuary Choir

Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist - Producer

Clayton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio

Lincoln Townsend, Production Specialist - Video

Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Propresenter

STEPHEN MINISTER: Joe Rickard

WELCOMERS: Dave Phillips and Mike Book

USHERS: Bill Rumpf (Head usher), Bill Durell, Becky Earney,
Tom Hornbuckle, Merrilee Hornbuckle, Jane Lane, Katy Serr,
and Hank Temple.

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Ann Hocking

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Kathleen Devitt

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: John Greer, Fellowship Support | Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager
| Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator and Pastoral Assistant

Throughout 2026, the ministry of our pianist in worship has been graciously
underwritten by Ronnie Bellone and Jennifer Rainey.

This Sunday's chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God.

+ Kindly remain seated

A Letter of Gratitude from The Watts Family

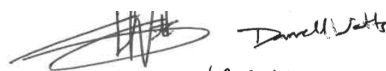
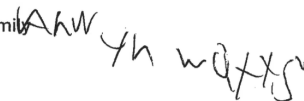
Dear Naples UCC Family, I am writing this with a heart overflowing with gratitude. When Anwyn's health suddenly, and without warning, changed last December, my husband Darrell and I were left feeling scared, broken and heavyhearted. You all immediately sprang into action, guided by faith, devotion and love. We truly felt the arms of this church wrapped around our family. Your texts, cards, gifts, calls and prayers kept us moving forward on the days when our own strength failed. You all lifted us up in Faith and Love.

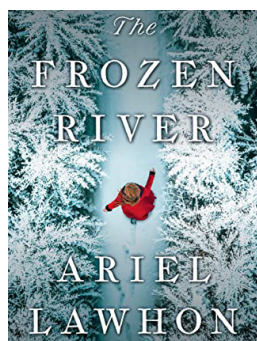
Your incredible financial generosity left us completely speechless and deeply humbled. You didn't just ease a heavy burden; you reminded us of God's faithfulness and provision. Your gift will, in its entirety, cover Anwyn's immediate needs. This contribution will also help with travel expenses while furthering our ability to provide Anwyn with the best possible care in all of Florida.

Recovery will take many years, but with a blessing as tremendous as this, I know we will get there. Your support has given us the foundation for the long road ahead.

We are so deeply blessed to call this church our HOME, and you all our FAMILY. Thank you for walking beside us, for carrying us in prayer, and for loving us so well. We love you all more than words can say.

With love and profound thanks,


The Watts Family 



Naples UCC Book Club

SEPTEMBER 28, 2:00 PM | NELSON HALL 104/ZOOM

Join us Monday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m. in Nelson Hall 104 or via Zoom for a lively and engaging discussion about *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Come share your thoughts, hear different perspectives, and enjoy good conversation with fellow book lovers. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book!
Meeting ID: 838 2027 0433 Passcode: book

PRAYER LIST

Denise Acampa	Leah Gartell	David Johnson	Jack Neller	Kevin Villalobos
Cathleen Boeck	Sally Giglio	Bobbie Juster	Gerry Nonken	Neida Villalobos
Mary Catherine	Richard Gilbert	Chloe Honda (Konsker)	Shannon Peterson	Anwyn Watts
Thom Carley	Andrew Gillis	Marla Koshgarian	Kathy Reno	Linda Wilkinson
Patricia Cloutier	Doty Gridley	Sue Lindbloom	Riddle-Somers Family	Llewellyn Williams
Thomas Coates	Fred Gridley	Patricia Manzano	Kinley Roby	Atila Zolzseck
Ann Culshaw	Walter Grieb	Sam McCullough	Pamela Rose & Family	
Carol Dlouhy	Agnes Guisto	Trey McGregor	Judy Siderio	
Jack Downs	Patsy Hanson	Warren McHale	Darrel Siebert	
JT Ellis	David Hocking	Bob McLennan	Robert Stuart	
Mary Frazier	Kate Hutchinson	Gordon Mounts	Joanie Toren	

To add or remove a name, please email samantha@naplesucc.org.

Names stay on the list for four weeks. To keep your loved one's name on the list longer, please reach out with an email.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Naples UCC Orientation

OCTOBER 8, 4:00 PM | NELSON HALL 104

Curious about our church's history, ministries, and how we are organized? Join us for a fun and informative Orientation, open to everyone! Explore the story of Naples UCC, meet the people and ministries that make our church thrive, enjoy a guided campus tour, and ask questions along the way. Space is limited to 20 participants, sign up in the Gathering Place or email **Samantha Santarosa** at samantha@naplesucc.org

Informational Meet & Greet

OCTOBER 11, 11:15 AM | NELSON HALL 104

A time for visitors to learn and ask questions and meet our ministers. The Meet and Greet takes place in Nelson Hall 104, following the 10 a.m. Worship Service. Walk-ins are welcome!

Mahjong

SEPTEMBER 28, 1:00 PM | NELSON HALL 103

Challenge your mind, one tile at a time. Mahjong is the perfect blend of fun and focus. Join us for Mahjong on Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Nelson Hall 103. Free, and all are always welcome!

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

Visit www.NaplesUCC.org to view our full calendar.

TODAY



Children's Sunday School PK4-5TH

10:15 AM • September 27 📍 Nelson Hall 202



Youth Sunday School 6TH-12TH

11:15 AM • September 27 📍 Nelson Hall 201



Section Leader Rehearsal

11:15 AM • September 27 📍 Sanctuary

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • September 28 📍 Nelson Hall 103



Naples UCC Book Club

2:00 PM • September 28 📍 Nelson Hall 104

WEDNESDAY



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • September 30 📍 Sanctuary

FRIDAY



Caregivers Support Group

2:00 PM • October 2 📍 Parlor

Next Sunday

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Rev. Sonja Phillips

"Cultivating a Non-Anxious Life"

Philippians 4: 4-9

WE ARE CALLED TO BE AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Children and Youth Ministry



SUNDAYS — We are so happy to have families with young children in our midst! Coloring activities and worship resources are available each week on the family table in the Narthex.

NURSERY CARE — Nursery care for infants through age 4 is available beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Nelson Hall 203. Please ask a deacon for directions.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL — **Children's Message** in worship. Children can then join Ms. Jeanne in Nelson Hall 202 for a brand-new program on **Gratitude**, following Psalm 107. Our first **Family Café** will be held **October 4** following worship. Join other parents upstairs for refreshments and fellowship! (No youth class this day.) Join us for a Pizza Night at Il Primo's on Wednesday, September 30, 5:30–7 p.m.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday morning gatherings for students 6-12th grade begins in Nelson Hall 201 after worship. We will gather for fellowship and to discuss our growing faith. Join us for **"Echo the Story"** an opportunity to explore the Christian story so far... and to find out how we can continue that story through our own faith lives.

Cans for Communion

OCTOBER 4, 8:30 AM | THE GATHERING PLACE

Naples UCC's monthly "Cans for Communion" food collection supports the children and families of the Grace Place community in Golden Gate. Nonperishable food donations are collected before each service on Communion Sunday—the first Sunday of every month. Your generous contributions help provide food and other essential support to families in our community. Volunteers are needed to help unload donations from arriving cars and sort the food for collection by Grace Place. To volunteer, please sign up by contacting **Kate Butler** at **410-303-6102** or **kb2naples@gmail.com**, or by calling the church office at 239-261-5469.



WISE for Mental Health

OCTOBER 6, 10:00 AM | NELSON HALL 104/ZOOM

Please join us for our monthly WISE meeting (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). We welcome anyone who would like to share the mental health experiences of their family or community—and those who simply wish to listen as others share their stories.

Our group supports one another through sharing, prayer and learning as we seek to become more informed about the mental health crisis in today's world through book studies and professional speakers. We are lifted up by our time together and invite you to join us. Can't join us in person? Join remotely!

Meeting ID: 843 4648 4094

Passcode: WISE

Nelson Hall Ribbon Cutting

OCTOBER 7, 8:30 AM | THE GATHERING PLACE

Our renovation of Nelson Hall is complete! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, this refreshed space is ready to welcome our church family for ministry, fellowship, learning, and community. Join us for our ribbon cutting on October 7 at 8:30 a.m. in the Gathering Place.



Pastor Mark's Bible Study

OCTOBER 7, 9:00 AM | NELSON HALL 207

Join Pastor Mark for a fall Bible study exploring the Letters of John and what they teach us about loving God and our neighbors. John celebrates those who "walk the truth," living in ways that reflect God's character. Together, we'll consider how God's love is more than an idea—it is a virtue we are called to practice in our daily lives.





Chapel and Steeple Dedication

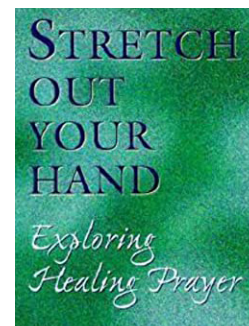
OCTOBER 11, 11:15 AM | GATES CHAPEL

Join us as we celebrate the dedication of our beautifully renovated Chapel and newly refurbished Steeple. With updated sound and livestream capabilities, the Chapel will support worship, learning, and community gatherings for many years to come.

Pastor Sonja's Book Study and Discussion

OCTOBER 12, 1:00 PM | NELSON HALL 207

Six-week Book Study and Discussion: *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer* by Tilda Norberg and Robert D. Weber. *Stretch Out Your Hand* offers practical ways for us to consider the varieties of God's healing love for individuals, institutions, and communities. The book provides an honest examination of the many difficult questions about prayer and the role of faith in healing. Through exercises and stories, we will be reintroduced to Jesus' healing ministry and to his vision of the church as a healing community. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.



A Letter from Our Moderator

This is an exciting time for Naples United Church of Christ! Our membership continues to grow, our finances are strong, participation in our programs is high, and we genuinely care for and love one another. Our mission—to love God and all our neighbors as God loves us—knows no bounds.

Recognizing that Christ's presence is often experienced through our relationships and our service to others, I am pleased to announce that the Executive Committee has approved a recommendation from the Long-Range Planning Advisory Group to begin a search for an Associate Minister of Mission.

The Associate Minister of Mission will lead and connect our congregation in volunteer and mission efforts, both locally and globally, engaging people of all ages. In addition, this position will collaborate in developing and implementing programs that respond to social concerns. Support of the Bargain Box will also create opportunities to develop mission-driven initiatives that engage donors, volunteers, and shoppers.

We envision the Associate Minister of Mission as someone who will help connect the spiritual life of our congregation with our mission: "to love God and all our neighbors as God loves us." The search will begin in October, with a target start date of August 2027.

Please join me in praying for a successful search and for the person who will serve as our Associate Minister of Mission—someone who will embody and inspire the love Christ has for all people.

With God's love,

Kathy Book, Moderator



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Traditional Church
for Progressive People

Naples United Church of Christ strives to show that actions speak louder than words. Our Core Values are: Open and Affirming, Mission-Driven, Powerful Worship, Continuing Generosity, Caring Ministry, Hospitable Fellowship.

We are an **Open and Affirming Congregation**, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, including persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status, and faith background. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are proud to be one of more than 4,500+ congregations in the United Church of Christ community.

We are glad you are here! You can dress comfortably and in a manner that makes you feel at ease. Whether it's casual attire or dressed-up, we're happy to welcome you just as you are. Please know that we livestream our Sunday morning worship services and subsequently post video recordings on our website and on the internet, including social media, for later viewing. By attending a service, you acknowledge and consent to appearing in these broadcasts, recordings and postings.

STAFF

Minister

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister
markw@naplesucc.org

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of
Congregational Care
sonja@naplesucc.org

Pastor Relations Team:
MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org

Administrative

Jim Asmus, Lead Custodian

Bianca Bellido, Communications Specialist
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Tony Falco, Director of Technology
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Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager
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John Greer, Assistant Custodian

Kiersten Heilbron, Marketing Specialist

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Brad Van Houten, Executive Director
brad@naplesucc.org

Music

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf,
Director of Music
becky@naplesucc.org

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
alexandrac@naplesucc.org

The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Jorge (George) De La Roche,
Store Manager
george@bargainboxnaples.com

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103 | Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Mon - Fri | (239) 261-5469 | info@naplesucc.org



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