



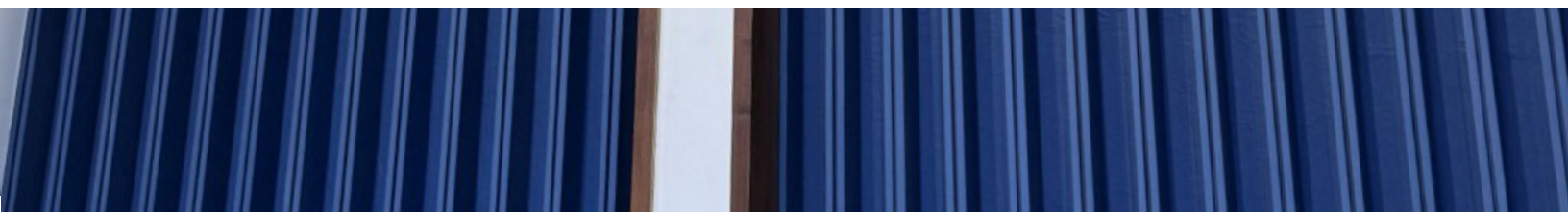
# NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 6, 2025 | 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

*America the Beautiful*

Arr. Ed Good

Jason Street, piano • Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## \*OPENING HYMN #82

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

## INVOCATION

**ALL: God of grace and love, we pray for humility in our hearts. Help us, O God, to recognize our own limitations. Give us the wisdom we need to approach life with a humble spirit, always willing to learn and grow. Help us to acknowledge our mistakes and learn from them, for humility is a path to greater wisdom and understanding. Amen.**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*I Hear America Singing*

André J. Thomas

Sanctuary Choir • Cesar Perez, piano

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sharon Harris-Ewing

**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

2 Kings 5: 1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and



your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

## SERMON

*Faith Without All the Fireworks*

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

## OFFERTORY

*I'll Fly Away*

Traditional

Presley Culbertson, vocals and guitar

## LORD'S SUPPER

At this table all are welcome guests of Jesus, our host. It is our tradition to hold the bread and cup until all are served and then we commune together here. Our offering includes individual cups of grape juice and gluten-free bread. Please place your cup in the pew back, as it will be collected after the service. **The choir received Communion before worship.** If you would like to receive home Communion, please contact Molly Baker at mbakerlex@gmail.com.

## INVITATION

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE SHARING OF THE BREAD *Jesus, Take All of Me (Just as I Am)*

Arr. Heather Sorenson

Sanctuary Choir • Erasly Isalgue, soloist • Jason Street, piano

## THE SHARING OF THE CUP *How Great Thou Art*

Dan Forrest

Members of the Sanctuary Choir • Cesar Perez, piano

## UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All: We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN #457

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

## \*BENEDICTION

## +POSTLUDE

*America! America!*

Robert J. Hughes

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ



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. Dr. Sharon Harris-Ewing  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music  
Sanctuary Choir  
Presley Culbertson, vocals and guitar

Jason Street, piano  
Cesar Perez, piano  
Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist — Producer  
Owen True, Production Specialist — Audio  
Christian Pyles, Production Specialist — Video

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobbie Ray

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Joe Rickard

STEPHEN MINISTER: Molly Baker

PORTICO GREETER: June Ballew and John Ballew

USHERS: Kathleen DeVitt (head), Carol Berglund, Bob Brown, Mary B Fisher, Jane Lane, Jennifer Rainey, Bill Rumpf, Sandy Terry, and Roger Terry

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator | Ray Gangl, Custodian

Throughout 2025, the ministry of our pianist Dr. Alexandra Carlson has been graciously underwritten by Ronnie Bellone and Jennifer Rainey.

This week's Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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## Organ Fundraising Update

Last April, we embarked on a project to replace the electrical system of our organ. This project will enhance the quality of the instrument and give our organ an exciting future. A contract has been signed, and the project is a go! Thanks be to the generosity of our congregation, **\$117,203 has already been contributed toward this effort. We are in striking distance of our goal of \$148,000!** If you'd like to make a gift toward this cause, be sure to mark your check "organ fund" on the memo line.



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## New Summer Offering: Gentle Yoga with Jodi

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 16 TO AUGUST 20, 4 PM, MCSPADDEN HALL

This summer, take a midweek pause for your mind, body, and spirit. Join certified Yoga Instructor, Jodi, for a peaceful hour of Gentle Yoga designed to help release stress, restore balance, and reconnect with your inner calm. This class is open to all levels, whether you're brand new to yoga or returning to your practice. A chair will be available for those who prefer or need added support but please be sure to bring your own mat. This is a free offering of fellowship and wellness open to all, members and friends alike.

Please register in the Gathering Space or by calling the church office at (239) 261-5469. We look forward to moving and breathing together. Namaste.

## WE ARE CALLED TO BE AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

### Children & Youth Ministry



**SUNDAYS** —We are so happy to have families with young children in our midst! Regular Sunday morning activities for children 4 years and older take place during the school year. Children are encouraged to come forward for the *Time with Children*, then go to Sunday school with Ms. Jeannie. Coloring activities and worship resources are available on the family table in the Narthex. **During the months of June and July our children will worship with us. Regular children's programs resume in August.** Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions or would like more information about upcoming events.

**NURSERY CARE CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!** — Nursery care for infants through 4 years old is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Nelson Hall, room 203 (the building across the Gathering Place). Please sign in with our nursery staff. Our former space located next to the sanctuary is still available to you as a Wiggle Room. Feel free to utilize that space if you wish to stay with your child.

**SPLASH! CHILDREN & YOUTH** — SPLASH! and Children & Youth Choir will resume in the fall. We meet on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join us for faith-filled activities, music, games, and snacks with Ms. Jeannie. Rehearsal for the children/youth choir with Dr. Becky begins at 4:45 p.m. in Beverly Hall.



## Clothing Donations Needed This Summer!

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to give back during the summer months? The Bargain Box is in urgent need of clothing donations—and we'd love your help!

### Here's how you can make a difference:

#### Donate Gently Used Clothing

We are especially in need of men's and women's clothing in all sizes. Women's purses and handbags are also in high demand!

Summer is our slowest season for donations, and we can't do it without your support. **Whether you're donating clothes or spreading the word, you're making a real impact in our community.**

Donations can be dropped off in the shed on the NUCC campus or directly at The Bargain Box store: 3906 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL 34112. To learn more, contact George at [george@bargainboxnaples.com](mailto:george@bargainboxnaples.com) (239) 262-3802.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1 PM, PARLOR



**Looking for something fun and meaningful to do this summer?** Whether you're a lifelong crafter or just curious to try something new, there's a place for you here. Together, we create handmade items that bring comfort, beauty, and joy to others. It's a wonderful way to make new friends, share stories, and contribute to a purpose larger than ourselves. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Parlor, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Contact Janet Goodhart at (610) 420-7196 with questions. All skill levels are welcome!

# NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

## Upcoming Events

### Informational Meet & Greet

#### Curious? Join us August 10

A time to learn, ask questions and meet the leadership and the senior minister. The Meet & Greet takes place following the 10:00 a.m. service, in Nelson Hall, room 104. Enjoy free refreshments!

### Joining Sunday Opportunity

#### Become a member on August 24

You may join either publicly or privately. Public joining will occur during the 10:00 a.m. service. For additional information, find Samantha Santarosa in the Gathering Place today or email her at [membership@naplesucc.org](mailto:membership@naplesucc.org).



# UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

Visit [www.NaplesUCC.org](http://www.NaplesUCC.org) to view our full calendar.

## TODAY



### Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

11:15 AM • July 6 • Sanctuary

## MONDAY



### Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • July 7 • N-101



### Mahjong

1:00 PM • July 7 • N-104

## FRIDAY



### Caregiver's Support Group

2:00 PM • July 11 • N-101

To view all our upcoming events and ways to connect, visit our Online Church Calendar at [www.NaplesUCC.org](http://www.NaplesUCC.org)

## Next Sunday

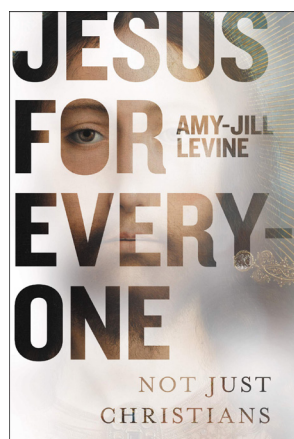
Sunday, July 13, 2025

Worship Service | 10 AM

Rev. Rich Kirschner, preaching

Luke 10: 25-37

*Intersections*



## Men's New Chapters

MONDAYS, 10:30 AM, N-101

Led by retired minister and NUCC member Rich Kirschner, this men's group explores current events and their impact on daily life through thoughtful, engaging discussion. **Together, they seek deeper understanding and ways to make a positive difference.** Throughout the summer, the group will meet on Mondays. The new reading is *Jesus for Everyone, Not Just Christians* by Amy-Jill Levine, Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. Please contact Rich Kirschner for details at [rdkirschner@gmail.com](mailto:rdkirschner@gmail.com).

## Caregiver's Support Group

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2 PM, N-101

The Caregiver's Support Group meets every other Friday year-round to support those caring for loved ones. Join us on Friday, July 11 at 2 p.m. in Nelson Hall, room 101. Whether you're a caregiver, a past or future one, or seeking resources, all are welcome. Church membership is not required, and discussions remain private. Bring a friend who may benefit!

**Join us again on Friday, July 25, for a group summer lunch out together.** For details and to RSVP, please contact Joan Millon at joanmillon6@gmail.com. There will be no meeting that day.

## NUCC Summer Book Club

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2 PM, N-104 & ZOOM



Our Summer Book Club continues with a book titled *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult. Moving between Elizabethan England and modern-day Manhattan, *By Any Other Name* is a beautifully written, compelling novel that explores the theme of identity and the ways in which two women, centuries apart, are both forced to hide behind another name. Jodi Picoult is a prolific American novelist who has published more than 28 novels and short stories, selling around 40 million copies worldwide. Her books are known for tackling controversial issues. We welcome all for a lively discussion, even if you have not read the book! **Not in town? We invite you to join us on Zoom.** Meeting ID: 838 2027 0433, Passcode: book

## PRAYER LIST

Lilibet Bana  
Meb Bergwall  
Thom Carley  
Billie-Jean Castillo  
Thomas Coates  
Carol Dlouhy  
Jack Downs  
Fred and Doty Gridley  
Walter Grieb  
Colleen Henning Hensel

Margaret Jack  
David Johnson  
Irma Johnson  
Marguerite Jung  
Dudley Lyons  
Cathy and Dan McGuire  
Gordon Mounts  
Betty Mounts  
Gerry Nonken  
Doris Raymond

Caroline Salm Regan  
Gabrielle Emily Ridout  
Judy Siderio  
Mike Johnson  
Jan Stowell  
Barbara Swidler  
Joanie Toren  
Atila Zolcsak

To add or remove a name, please email [info@naplesucc.org](mailto:info@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.





# 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.



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[youtube.com/NaplesUCC](https://youtube.com/NaplesUCC)

## STAFF

### Minister

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[markw@naplesucc.org](mailto:markw@naplesucc.org)

Pastor Relations Team:

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### Administrative

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Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Raymond Gangl, Custodian  
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Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist  
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### The Bargain Box Thrift Store

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Sandy Goldstein, Manager Emeritus  
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Cash, Check, Credit Card  
by calling the church office



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