



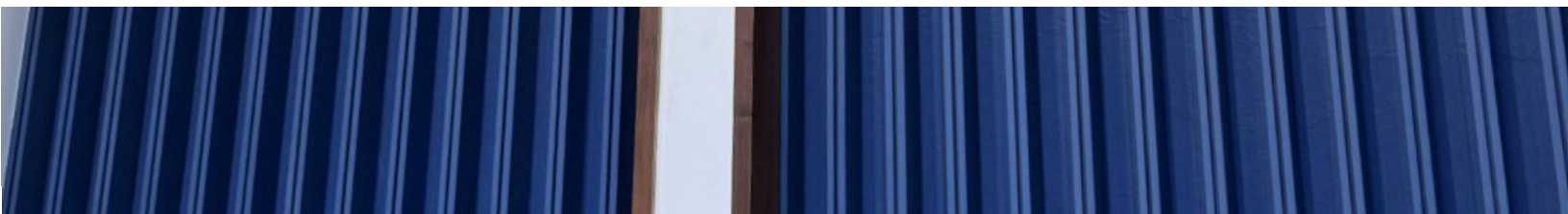
NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 13, 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

God Be Merciful

Adolphus Hallstork

Stephanie O'Neill, Angelina Sozio, Miguel Coates, and Angelo Piccirillo, Soloists

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

*OPENING HYMN #64

O God Beyond All Praising

Thaxted

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

ALL: God of might and mercy, the heavens and the earth are full of your glory. Your love transforms our lives. You enter our confusion and give insight. You bear our grief and bring healing. You see our fatigue and renew strength. You sense our fear and spark courage. You know death and raise up new life. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Sanctuary Choir

Karen Mariolli

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

Genesis 50: 15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SERMON

The Slow Work of Forgiveness

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care



OFFERTORY

Father, Forgive
Sanctuary Choir

Lee Dengler

*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 #61

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Voluntary on THAXTED
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Organ

Albert L. Travis



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
Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
Sanctuary Choir

Bradley Van Houten, Production Specialist - Producer
Clayton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio
Lincoln Townsend, Production Specialist - Video
Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Propresenter

STEPHEN MINISTER: Nancy Harper

WELCOMERS: Nancy Holcomb,
Marsha and Tom Whitlock

USHERS: Kathleen Devitt (Head usher), Carol Berglund,
Jim Borden, Bill Durell, Becky Earney, Becky Lambert, Hank
Temple, and Barb Wolf.

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Ann Hocking

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Karin Balsbaugh

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: Hunter Reum, Fellowship Support | Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager
| Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator

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 by Joe Rickard and Gloria Beissinger
in celebration of their 14th wedding anniversary.

+ Kindly remain seated

Bargain Box Monthly Donation Drive!

SEPTEMBER 20, 9:00 AM | PORTICO

Join us for our monthly focus drive on **September 20 at 9:00 a.m.** Naples UCC will be collecting **Women's & Men's clothing**, and accessory items before the service. Please bring your donations to the drop-off table in the Portico.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your incredible support throughout the summer months!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Hospitality & Cashiering: Be the face of the shop! Welcome customers and manage the register.
- Donation Transport: Help move donations from the Naples UCC shed to the Bargain Box.
- Curation & Sorting: Help us inspect, organize, and prep incoming donations.
- Display & Merchandising: Get creative! Help stage and style items to make the sales floor shine.

Donations Needed: Each donation helps transform generosity into meaningful support for our community.

Reach out to **George De La Roche** at 239-262-3802 or in the Gathering Place with **Samantha Santarosa**. We'd love to have you on our team!

A mission of the Naples United Church of Christ
Bargain Box THRIFT STORE & BOUTIQUE



PRAYER LIST

Denise Acampa
Lilibet Bana
Cathleen Boeck
Mary Catherine
Thom Carley
Patricia Cloutier
Thomas Coates
Ann Culshaw
Carol Dlouhy
Jack Downs
JT Ellis
Mary Frazier
Leah Gartell
Sally Giglio

Richard Gilbert
Andrew Gillis
Doty Gridley
Fred Gridley
Walter Grieb
Patsy Hanson
David Hocking
Kate Hutchinson
David Johnson
William Jones
Bobbie Juster
Chloe Honda (Konsker)
Marla Koshgarian
Sue Lindbloom

William Lindsay
Patricia Manzano
Sam McCullough
Trey McGregor
Warren McHale
Bob McLennan
Gordon Mounts
Jack Neller
Gerry Nonken
Shannon Peterson
Kathy Reno
Riddle-Somers Family
Kinley Roby
Pamela Rose & Family

Judy Siderio
Darrel Siebert
Robert Stuart
Joanie Toren
Kevin Villalobos
Neida Villalobos
Anwyn Watts
Linda Wilkinson
Llewellyn Williams
Atilla Zolzseck

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

Join Naples UCC Anytime

While the Membership and Growth Committee will be on hiatus during September, we would be happy to connect with you and help you begin the membership process.

For more information about membership, contact **Samantha Santarosa** in the Gathering Place or email her at samantha@naplesucc.org. We look forward to welcoming you into the Naples UCC family!



Mahjong

SEPTEMBER 14, 1:00 PM |
NELSON HALL 104

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 104. Free, and all are always welcome!

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Youth Sunday School

10:15 AM • September 13 📍 Nelson Hall 207



Section Leader Rehearsal

11:15 AM • September 13 📍 Sanctuary

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • September 14 📍 Nelson Hall 104

TUESDAY



Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM • September 15 📍 Parlor



Social Soiree

4:00 PM • September 15 📍 Seasons 52

WEDNESDAY



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • September 16 📍 Sanctuary

FRIDAY



Caregivers Support Group

2:00 PM • September 18 📍 Sanctuary



Artis—Naples Chamber Concert

2:00 PM • September 18 📍 Sanctuary

SUNDAY



Bargain Box Donation Drive

9:00 AM • September 20 📍 Portico

Next Sunday

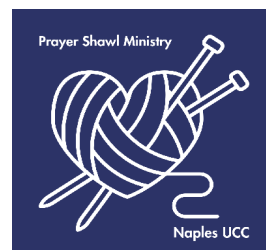
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister
"Heaven's Bakery: Open Tomorrow!"
Exodus 16: 1-20

Prayer Shawl Ministry

SEPTEMBER 15, 1:00 PM | PARLOR

Please join us as we prayerfully knit and crochet beautiful prayer shawls and lap blankets for those who need a warm hug from God. Lessons & supplies are available or bring your own project to work on. Everyone is welcome to participate in this caring ministry. Contact Janet Goodhart at (610) 420-7196 for questions.



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 — Our regular Sunday morning schedule resumes with the **Children's Message** in worship. Children can then join Ms. Jeanne upstairs in Nelson Hall for a brand-new program on Gratitude. Following Psalm 107, we will give thanks to the Lord through music, games and creative movement.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday morning gatherings for students 6-12th grade begins today after worship Nelson Hall 201. 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.



Social Soirée

SEPTEMBER 15, 4:00 PM | SEASONS 52

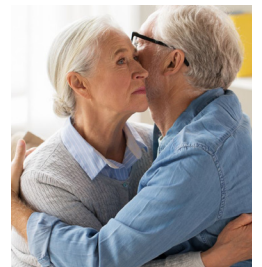


Join NUCC friends and family at this month's Social Soirée to Seasons 52, 8930 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, FL at 4:00 p.m. This gathering is a great place to have fun & fellowship after a busy day! Please sign up in the Gathering Place by September 14 or by scanning the QR code. Call the church office at (239) 261-5469 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Caregivers Support Group

SEPTEMBER 18, 2:00 PM | PARLOR

The Caregivers Support Group meets every other Friday year-round to support those caring for loved ones. 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! For more info, contact **Joan Millon** at joanmillon6@gmail.com.



Artis—Naples Chamber Concert

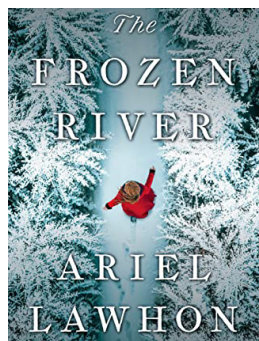
SEPTEMBER 18, 2:00 PM | SANCTUARY

Enjoy an afternoon of exceptional chamber music presented by Artis—Naples, featuring talented musicians from the Naples Philharmonic. The program includes works by Mozart, Bozza, and Le Beau, performed by an ensemble of strings, double bass, trumpet, and horn.

Free concert. Tickets are required.

Reserve your free tickets: artisnaples.org/events/chamber





Naples UCC Book Club

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

Join us Monday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m. in the 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

Cans for Communion

OCTOBER 4, 8:30 AM | PORTICO

On the first Sunday of each month, our congregation is invited to bring nonperishable food donations as part of Cans for Communion. Collected from October through May, these donations help support local organizations serving individuals and families in need throughout our community. Thank you for helping us share our abundance and care for our neighbors.



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



Welcoming • Inclusive
Supportive • Engaged

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.



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 broadcastings, recordings and postings.

STAFF

Minister

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

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

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Sara Both, Receptionist
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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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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

John Helfer,
Assistant Store Manager

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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