



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 26, 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

Trust in the Lord

Howard Helvey

Sanctuary Choir • Lisa Sienkiewicz, Soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #27

God of Creation, All-Powerful

SLANE

INVOCATION

ALL: Guiding God, as we live out the story of our lives, we see dimly. Our plans get interrupted. Our stories change. Our route is not always what we initially envision. For revealing yourself to us at even the most surprising of turns, we give you thanks. Open our eyes to your blessings that we might not expect, and widen our understanding of your movement in ways that are beyond what we could ever ask for or imagine. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The First Time Ever

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf (AI Assisted Composition)

Rebecca Richardson, Soloist

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 29: 15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.



SERMON

Faithful to Leah

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

OFFERTORY

God Has a Plan

Charles Moman and Jill Friedersdorf

Sanctuary Choir • Allysen Corporan, Soloist • Jason Street, Piano

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER 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

Wrestling with Love

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf (AI Assisted Composition)

Verse 1:

**Two sisters bound in longing deep, Their hearts in tangled lines.
A home of questions, hopes, and fears, Yet held within Your designs.**

Verse 2:

**We wrestle still with love and grace, With wounds we cannot see.
Yet You redeem the broken place And set the captives free.**

Verse 3:

**Through striving, sorrow, years of ache, Your promises endure.
You build a hope beyond our sight, A future strong and sure.**

Verse 4:

**O God who shapes our wandering paths, Our fractured hearts renew.
And write a story filled with grace That leads us back to You.**

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing from The Royal Fireworks

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Organ

G.F Handel



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
Jason Street, Pianist
Sanctuary Choir
Allysen Corporan, Soloist
Rebecca Richardson, Soloist
Lisa Sienkiewicz, Soloist

Brad Van Houten, Production Specialist - Producer
Colton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio
Landon Townsend, Production Specialist - Video
Lexii Clemons, Production Specialist - Video
Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Propresenter

STEPHEN MINISTER: Bob Marini

WELCOMERS: June and John Ballew

USHERS: Kathleen Devitt (Head Usher), Christine Buol,
Bill Durrell, Becky Lambert, Jane Lane, Nadine Lormestoire,
Bill Rumpf, and Hank Temple.

NURSERY CARE: Sara Both

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobby Ray

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Karin Balsbaugh

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: John Greer, Fellowship Support | Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager |
Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator & 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 by Lynda Gilbert.
In loving memory of Bruce Gilbert, a wonderful father and husband.

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

Support the Bargain Box
3906 TAMIAMI TRL E, NAPLES FL 34112

As we prepare for the upcoming season, our mission is growing—and we need your help. The Bargain Box is seeking volunteers on **Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**. Join our team and help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors while enjoying fellowship and purpose along the way.

Volunteer Opportunities:

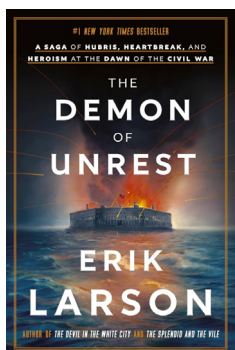
- **Hospitality & Cashiering:** Be the face of the shop! Welcome customers and manage the register.
- **Donation Transport:** Help move donations from the Naples UCC shed to the Bargain Box.
- **Curation & Sorting:** Help us inspect, organize, and prep incoming donations.
- **Display & Merchandising:** 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 the team!

Naples UCC Book Club

JULY 27, 2:00 PM | ACR



We will be going back in time from the historical fiction of Peggy Guggenheim to the mid 19th century nonfiction world of Abraham Lincoln in the months leading up to the Civil War through **Erik Larson's *The Demon of Unrest*** next month. Our meeting will once again be in the Administrative Conference Room behind the office or on Zoom. The group also decided to read ***The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett** for August. Anyone is welcome, even if you have not read the book!

If you are unable to come in person, join us by Zoom!

Meeting ID: 838 2027 0433 Passcode: book

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Naples UCC Orientation

August 13, 4:00 pm | Nelson Hall 104

Curious about our church's history, ministries, and how we're organized? Join us for a fun and informative Orientation, now 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. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited to 20 participants, so sign up with Samantha in The Gathering Place or email samantha@naplesucc.org.

Informational Meet & Greet

August 16, 11:15 am | Nelson Hall 104

A time for visitors to learn, ask questions and meet our ministers. The Meet & Greet takes place in Nelson Hall 104, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Walk-ins are welcome!

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Choir Rehearsal

11:15 AM • July 26 Sanctuary

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • July 27 McSpadden Hall



Naples UCC Book Club

2:00 PM • July 27 ACR/Zoom

Next Sunday

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Rev. Sonja Phillips

"Resilient Faith"

Genesis 32: 24-30

Egor Antonenko, Cello

Isabel Sanchez, Cello

PRAYER LIST

Angelo Anello
Merrikay Bailey
Lilibet Bana
Cathleen Boeck
Mary Catherine
Tom Carley
Karin Ciesla
Patricia Cloutier
Thomas Coates
Ann Culshaw
Ken Cyrus
Jack Downs
JT Ellis
Laurie Fowler

Mary Frazier
Leah Gartell
Sally Giglio
Richard Gilbert
Andrew Gillis
Jim Gilmore
Doty Gridley
Fred Gridley
Walter Grieb
Patsy Hanson
David Hocking
Kate Hutchinson
Jamie Jacquart
David Johnson

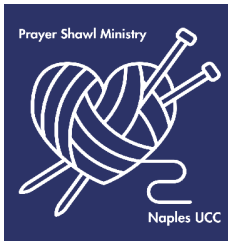
William Jones
Bobbie Juster
Chloe Honda (Konsker)
Marla Koshgarian
Sue Lindbloom
Patricia Manzano
Nancy Maxwell
Sam McCullough
Trey McGregor
Bob McLennan
Gordon Mounts
Jack Neller
Gerry Nonken
Gary Pint

Margaret Pint
Shannon Peterson
Kathy Reno
Riddle-Somers Family
Kinley Roby
Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Fred Schneeberg
Darrel Siebert
Louise Taylor
Sara Treiser
Joanie Toren
Anwyn Watts
Marsha Whitlock
Ben Wigginton

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will take a summer break during August and will return in September. We hope you'll enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to gathering again to create shawls that bring comfort to others. We hope you'll join us when we return in September!

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! During the worship service, children are invited forward for a **Children's Message**. 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 The Wiggle Room (a temporary location due to Nelson Hall renovations). Please ask a deacon for directions.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL — Our Youth Sunday School program will resume with 5 Sundays of fun, starting **August 9** with a special **Backpack Blessing** and the launch of our new Sunday morning camp experience, **Snowball Mountain Challenge**!

Children and youth can look forward to a fun-filled season of faith, friendship, music, games, hands-on activities, and engaging Bible lessons designed to help them grow in their relationship with God. Exploring themes of courage, kindness, teamwork, and trust as they journey through this exciting new program together.

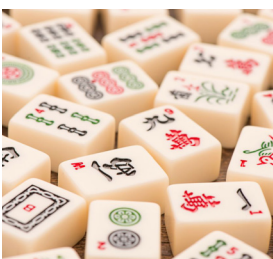
We can't wait to welcome everyone back in August for another wonderful year of learning, laughter, and spiritual growth!

"SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE" centers on **Philippians 4:13**, a reminder that we are strengthened through the presence and love of Jesus in our lives. The curriculum is designed for students in grades K–5, and youth are warmly invited and encouraged to participate as helpers.



Mahjong

JULY 27, 1:00 PM | MCSPADDEN HALL



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 the McSpadden Hall. Free, and all are always welcome!

Caregivers Support Group

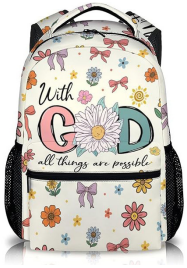
AUGUST 7, 2:00 PM | PARLOR

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.



Backpack Blessing - Back to School!

AUGUST 9, 10:00 AM | SANCTUARY



Families, you are invited to be part of a beloved Naples UCC tradition, our **Backpack Blessing** during 10 a.m. worship on **Sunday, August 9**. As we prepare for a new school year, children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing—a meaningful moment to surround them with love, encouragement, and prayer.

Social Soirée

AUGUST 11, 4:00 PM | THE PUB MERCATO

Join Naples UCC friends and family at this month's Social Soiree to The Pub, located in Mercato at 9118 Strada Place, Naples, FL at 4:00 p.m. This gathering is a great place to have fun & fellowship after a busy day! Please sign up by scanning the QR code or at the Gathering Place by **August 10**, call the church office at (239) 261-5469 with any questions.

Hope to see you there!



Bring a Friend Sunday

AUGUST 16, 10:00 AM | SANCTUARY

The Membership Committee and Pastor Mark invite you to **Bring a Friend Sunday** as we celebrate the joy of unity. Invite a friend, neighbor, or loved one to experience uplifting music, an inspiring message, and a meaningful celebration of faith, friendship, and belonging. Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time friend, there is a place for you here. The celebration will continue with fellowship in the Gathering Place immediately following the service—a wonderful opportunity to connect, meet new friends, and enjoy time together. Planning to bring a friend? **Please sign up with Samantha Santarosa** or email her at samantha@naplesucc.org. We look forward to welcoming you both!



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

Pastor Relations Team:
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Administrative

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Bianca Bellido, Communications Specialist
bianca@naplesucc.org

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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Samantha Santarosa,
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& Pastoral Assistant
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Jeanne Snedeker, Director of
Youth & Children's Education
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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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Text 'NAPLESUCC' to 73256
and follow prompts

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