

# Peace

## ADVENT 2025



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 7, 2025 | 9 & 11 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

*Adagio from Concerto in d minor, BWV 974*  
Egor Antonenko, cello • Dr. Alexandra Carlson, piano

A. Marcello; J. S. Bach

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9 AM) Jim & Joyce Asmus

(11 AM) Dominique & Heather O'Connell

**ALL: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

## \*OPENING CAROL #154

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

## INVOCATION

**ALL: God of wisdom and understanding, of peace and promise, you are the giver of life, and you call us to love as you have loved. Forgive our self-satisfied attitudes, and challenge us with your vision of a peaceable kingdom where all can be made new. Amen**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN (9 AM)

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Go and Tell John*

Larry Fleming

Stephanie O'Neill • Angelina Sozio • Pamela Jimenez • Tori Hyman • Madison Fullarton  
• Liam Fearh • Philip Smith • Cesar Perez • Dr. Bryan Ijames • Jasson Velez

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Jim Moseley

**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

Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have



Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 11:11

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## SERMON

*Move Beyond the Unfinished Prophet*

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

## OFFERTORY

*The Longing*

Arr. Douglas Nolan

Sanctuary Choir • Egor Antonenko, cello

## 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

*O Come, Emmanuel*

Elaine Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir • Egor Antonenko, cello

## THE SHARING OF THE CUP

*This Child Shall Be Our Peace*

Molly Ijames

Sanctuary Choir

Given in memory of Robert Mayer by his son, Stephen Mayer, and Jimmy Roberts.

## 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 CAROL #155

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVAN

## \*BENEDICTION

## +POSTLUDE

*Carol of the Bells / God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Arr. Matt Riley

Egor Antonenko, cello • Dr. Alexandra Carlson, piano



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. Jim Moseley, Interim Minister for Congregational Care  
Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music  
Dr. Alexandra Carlson, pianist

Egor Antonenko, cello  
Sanctuary Choir  
Taylor Matthews - Production Specialist Producer  
Thomas Hartland, Production Specialist - Audio  
Landon Townsend, Production Specialist - Video

**NURSERY CARE:** Elena Fernandez

**SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE:** Sara Nonken and Bobbie Ray

**SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE:** Donna Nolan

### 9 AM

**STEPHEN MINISTER:** Nancy Harper

**GREETERS:** Nancy Harper, Judy Varty, and Roger Nolan

**USHERS:** Roger Terry (head), Jim Borden, Bob Brown, Kathleen Devitt, Bill Durell, Jane Lane, Bill Rumpf, and Hank Temple

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

### 11 AM

**STEPHEN MINISTER:** Bill Rumpf

**GREETERS:** Lauree and Gary Personette

**USHERS:** Bill Rumpf (Head), Mary B Fisher, Bruce Flessner, Melanie Flessner, Mary Robinson, Joe Siderio, Judy Siderio, and Roger Terry

Today's guest instrumentalist is graciously underwritten by the Music Gift fund.

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.

## 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! Regular Sunday morning activities for children 4 years and older take place during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Children are encouraged to come forward for the **Time with Children**, then go to **Sunday School** with Ms. Jeanne. Coloring activities and worship resources are available on the family table in the Narthex. Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions or would like more information about upcoming events.

**CHRISTMAS EVE "POP-UP PAGEANT"** — We invite all families to join us on Christmas Eve at the 3:00 p.m. service for a unique retelling of the birth of Jesus. No rehearsals necessary! Come, choose a costume, and take part in the story as we tell of the coming of the Christ Child. Join us for this memorable Christmas Eve tradition!

**NURSERY CARE** — 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!** — SPLASH! meets weekly on Wednesdays. As we welcome arriving families, snacks will be available in Nelson Hall from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. for those interested. Our program time will be between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Join us for faith-filled activities, music, games, and snacks with Ms. Jeanne.

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL** — Students 6-12th grade are invited to meet each Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m. in Nelson Hall room 200 for our Sunday morning gathering. Come enjoy fellowship time with friends as we explore discipleship and what it means to follow Jesus today.

# PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

## Upcoming Events

### Informational Meet & Greet

**TODAY, 12:15 PM | N-104**

A time for visitors to learn, ask questions, and meet our ministers. The Meet & Greet takes place following the 11:00 AM service in Nelson Hall, room 104. WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!

### Joining Sunday Opportunity

**Let's make it official! Join us December 14**

You may join either publicly or privately. Those wishing to retain a membership in a northern church are invited to join as Associate Members. Public joining will occur during the 11:00 a.m. service. For additional information, see Samantha in the Gathering Place or contact her at [samantha@naplesucc.org](mailto:samantha@naplesucc.org)

## Seasonal in Naples?

### Become an Associate Member

At Naples UCC, we offer an Associate Membership for our seasonal visitors who wish to also retain their membership in a Northern church. Our Associate Membership offers all the same rights and privileges as our full membership. We have Joining Sundays each month during season. You may join either publicly or privately. For more information, see Samantha in the Gathering Place or email her at [samantha@naplesucc.org](mailto:samantha@naplesucc.org).

## Next Sunday

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

Christmas Music Sunday!

Come celebrate the season at our special Christmas Music Sunday featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra. This inspiring service will showcase beautiful Christmas carols interwoven with meaningful scripture and uplifting words. It is a joyful and moving worship experience you won't want to miss - come and share in the wonder of the season!

## UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

### TODAY



#### Youth Sunday School

10:15 AM • December 7 • N-200



#### Cans for Communion Drop-off

9:00 AM • December 7 • Portico



#### Informational Meet & Greet

12:15 PM • December 7 • N-104



#### Christmas Concert w/ Dr. Becky & Friends

4:00 PM • December 7 • Sanctuary



#### NUCC Christmas Supper

5:30 PM • December 7 • McSpadden Hall

### MONDAY



#### Mahjong

1:00 PM • December 8 • N-101



#### NUCC Book Club

2:00 PM • December 8 • N-104

### WEDNESDAY



#### Walk & Wonder

8:30 AM • December 10 • Seagate Beach



#### Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • December 10 • N-101



#### Worship on Wednesday

12:00 PM • December 10 • Sanctuary



#### SPLASH! (3:30 - 4:00 PM ARRIVALS)

4:00 PM • December 10 • N-203



#### Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • December 10 • Sanctuary

### FRIDAY



#### Caregivers Support Group

2:00 PM • December 12 • N-101

### SATURDAY



#### Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM • December 13 • Sanctuary



#### Bloom Academy Open House

10:00 AM • December 13 • Bloom Academy



# Christmas Concert with Drs. Becky, Sasha & Friends

TODAY, 4:00 PM | SANCTUARY

Join Dr. Becky & Dr. Sasha and friends **TODAY** for a joyful celebration of your favorite sacred and secular Christmas tunes. Perfect for the whole family with a few surprises. An offering will be collected for Grace Place. Following the concert, all are invited to participate in our Christmas supper together in McSpadden Hall.



## NUCC Christmas Supper

TODAY, 5:30 PM | MCSPADDEN HALL

HO, HO, HO! We'll gather for our Christmas Supper following Drs. Becky, Sasha & Friends Christmas concert at 5:30 pm. Donations will be accepted for our Christmas offering as well. Come with a joyful spirit as we celebrate the holiday together! Payment will be accepted at the door via cash, check or card.



## Worship on Wednesday

WEDNESDAY — DECEMBER 10  
12:00 PM | SANCTUARY

Please join us for this week's Worship on Wednesday. This week "The Three Women of Christmas" series will highlight Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45) titled, "The Joy Carrier." During Advent, when we open our lives to friends and family who are in need, the joy of Christ's coming can be felt.



## Emir Bilen Concert

DECEMBER 20, 4:00 PM | BEVERLY HALL

Emir Bilen has quickly become a beloved talent in the Naples music scene, known for his heartfelt performances and impressive vocal range. As a dedicated student of Rebecca Richardson, he continues to refine his craft while balancing his studies at the Community School of Naples. Don't miss this special opportunity to enjoy a festive concert and help nurture the next generation of musical talent. Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend!

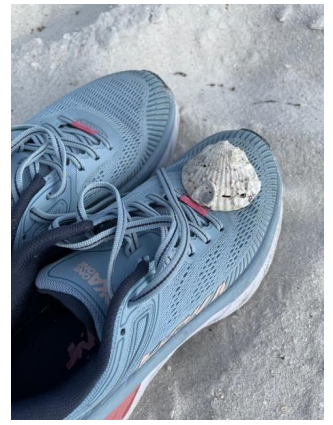


## Walk & Wonder

DECEMBER 10, 8:30 AM | NUCC PARKING LOT

Join members and friends for fellowship, prayer, and walking in nature. The Walk and Wonder group eagerly welcomes family members, friends, and especially newcomers to the Naples UCC community. On Wednesday, December 10 enjoy a walk along Seagate beach and the boardwalk that leads to the Naples Grande. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 am. Anticipate our return to church by 10:00.

Contact Merrill Noble at [mwnoble56@gmail.com](mailto:mwnoble56@gmail.com) if you have questions or plan to attend for the first time.



## Bloom Academy Open House

DECEMBER 13, 10 AM | BLOOM ACADEMY

We have exciting news! You've been patient through all the construction on the eastern part of our campus over the last several months and now it is almost all done. Bloom Academy is putting the final touches on the remodel of the preschool facility (formerly home to our Precious Cargo Academy) and hosting an Open House on December 13 to show it off. Come tour the new facility between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13 and extend a warm Naples UCC welcome to the Bloom Academy family. We are looking forward to Bloom officially opening their doors to students in the new year.



## PRAYER LIST

**CONDOLENCES:** To the family of David Adams on his passing on November 9, 2025.

Jo Armstrong	Jim Gilmore	Gordon Mounts
Merrikay Bailey	Janet Goodhart	Betty Mounts
Lilibet Bana	Doty Gridley	Jack Neller
Carol Berglund	Fred Gridley	Gerry Nonken
Mary Catherine	Walter Grieb	Ryan Pehrson
Thom Carley	John Henry	Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Karin Ciesla	Kate Hutchinson	Jack Studley
Colleen Clark	David Johnson	Grace Studley
Patricia Cloutier	William Jones	Joanie Toren
Thomas Coates	Bobbie Juster	Deb Tubergen
Allison Doriss	Marla Koshgarian	Mickey Winograd
Jack Downs	Stew Lambert	Ken Yamashita
Jill Golle	Tony Loring	Atila Zolcsak
Sally Giglio	Bob McLennan	

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

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

## Youth Haven Christmas Breakfast

DECEMBER 25, 6 AM | YOUTH HAVEN

Come join us in celebrating the birth of Christ by serving selflessly and showing love to the children at Youth Haven. We will cook an amazing breakfast and all eat around 8 a.m. Volunteers should arrive around 6 a.m. There will be game time afterward, followed by final clean-up, and we should be finished around 11 a.m. Sign up in the Gathering Place or you can call the Church office at (239) 261-5469. For questions, please contact Lorelee LeBoeuf at [lalwal48@yahoo.com](mailto:lalwal48@yahoo.com).



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## Phishing Schemes

### Stay Safe from Scams this Holiday Season!

The holiday season is a prime time for scammers, and unfortunately, Naples UCC has recently been targeted by phishing attempts. These scams often involve emails or text messages impersonating Naples UCC ministers, staff, or church officers.

#### Important Reminder:

No Naples UCC minister, staff member, or church officer will ever ask you via email or text for:

- Personal banking information
- Gift cards
- Sensitive personal data
- Urgent financial assistance

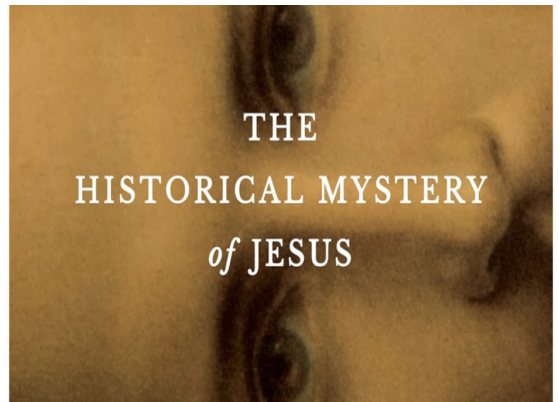
If you receive a suspicious message: **Check the sender's full email address.** Scammers often make small, hard-to-spot changes to legitimate addresses. **Do not respond.** Instead, call the church office at 239-261-5469 to verify authenticity. Your vigilance helps keep our community safe. Thank you for staying alert!

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## Men's New Chapters

DECEMBER 10, 10:30 AM | N-101

Men's New Chapters meets regularly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. throughout the program season. The group is reviewing a book titled, "Miracles and Wonder, the Historical Mystery of Jesus" by Elaine Pagels. All men are welcome! Contact Rich Kirschner for details or the zoom link if you are unable to attend in person at [rdkirschner@gmail.com](mailto:rdkirschner@gmail.com).





## Mahjong

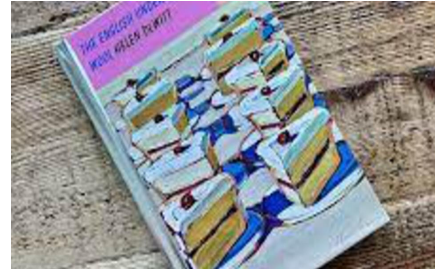
MONDAYS, 1 PM | N-101

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 - 3 p.m. in Nelson Hall. Free, and all are always welcome!



## NUCC Book Club

DECEMBER 8, 2 PM | N-104



This month's book will be, "The English Understand Wool" by Helen DeWitt. The discussion will be led by Heather English. Anyone is welcome, even if you have not read the book!

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 838 2027 0433

Passcode: book

## Exciting Improvements Coming Soon

We're excited to share that several major enhancements are coming to the Naples UCC campus! The time has finally come, and next week our steeple renovation project continues. The steeple will be carefully removed by crane, fully refurbished in Kentucky over the next few months, and then reinstalled to ensure long-term structural integrity. In addition, the chapel's interior will also undergo significant renovations.

Campus improvements continue! Our Trustees are beginning an extensive repaving of our church parking lot, with multiple sections being repaired and replaced. This includes selective tree and landscape removal to prevent future pavement issues. This intentional replanting and relandscaping will support a healthy and ultimately long-lasting design.

These major campus projects have been made possible by the generosity of a congregation that cares so deeply about the sacred and beloved space that is our church. In the weeks to come, kindly "excuse our dust." And remember, a church under construction is a church with a vision for a hope-filled future. I bet, Joseph, the carpenter, would agree.

## Caregivers Support Group

DECEMBER 12, 2 PM | N-101

The Caregiver's 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. Please note, the group will **not meet** on **Friday, December 26**, due to the Christmas holiday. For more info, contact Joan Millon at [joanmillon6@gmail.com](mailto:joanmillon6@gmail.com).



# Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering will provide **David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health (DLC)** with vital funds to promote the emotional and mental well-being of children and youth in our community. This need is urgent: in Collier County, suicide ranks as the second leading cause of death among children. Fortunately, prevention efforts are proven to make a difference.

Our support will enable DLC's Wellness Institute to reach 750 children and teens in 2026. NUCC contributions to DLC will help children and teens develop the skills and connections they need to thrive and build lifelong resilience. The DLC Wellness Institute partners with Collier County Public Schools and numerous community organizations to provide training and programs for students, teachers, and parents—strengthening socio-emotional health and reducing risks such as substance use and self-harm.

## How to Give to the Christmas Offering

We invite you to participate in this year's **Christmas Offering** in one of the following ways:

**Giving Envelopes:** Place your gift in the envelope labeled "Christmas Offering" in the pew backs.

**Online:** A secure link is included below through the QR code and the **Eblast**.

Please make checks payable to "Naples UCC" and note "Christmas Offering" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity as we celebrate the season of giving!



## Become an Usher or Greeter!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve your church family? We are inviting volunteers to help usher or greet at the Narthex doors. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all who enter and be a part of creating a spirit of hospitality in our worship space. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the congregation, your presence and smile can make a big difference!

If you're interested, please contact:

Roger Terry – rogerterry1@gmail.com

Jennifer Rainey – raineyjmd@yahoo.com

## Being Intentionally Invitational & Welcoming

As many people are now returning to Naples for the season, this is an ideal opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to an Naples UCC event. Check your copy of NEXT for an event they might enjoy. Perhaps a mission, educational or music related opportunity. Or, invite them to a service where they will discover exceptional music, powerful preaching and meaningful worship.



## Grief Group 2026

JANUARY 15, 1:00 PM | PARLOR

Join members and friends for an eight week Grief Group starting January 15 at 1p.m. This group, facilitated by Pastor Jim Moseley and our Stephen Ministers offers confidential, mutual support to anyone grieving a loved one. The loss can be recent or not. Participants are encouraged to commit to the full eight weeks and register in advance.

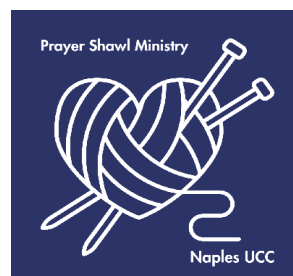
Please contact Leigh Hindman for more information and to register at 239 290-9936 or [Ldavis1239@yahoo.com](mailto:Ldavis1239@yahoo.com)

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

DECEMBER 16, 1 PM | PARLOR

Please join us as we faithfully 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.







# 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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[#Naplesucc](https://www.instagram.com/Naplesucc)



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

## STAFF

### Minister

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Pastor Relations Team:  
[MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org](mailto:MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org)

### Administrative

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Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

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### Music

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Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist  
[alexandrac@naplesucc.org](mailto:alexandrac@naplesucc.org)

### The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Jorge (George) De La Roche,  
Store Manager  
[george@bargainboxnaples.com](mailto:george@bargainboxnaples.com)

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[NaplesUCC.org/donate](http://NaplesUCC.org/donate)



Weekly Offering  
Envelopes



Stocks and IRAs  
Email or call the church office



Cash, Check, Credit Card  
by calling the church office



Text 'NAPLESUCC' to 73256  
and follow prompts