



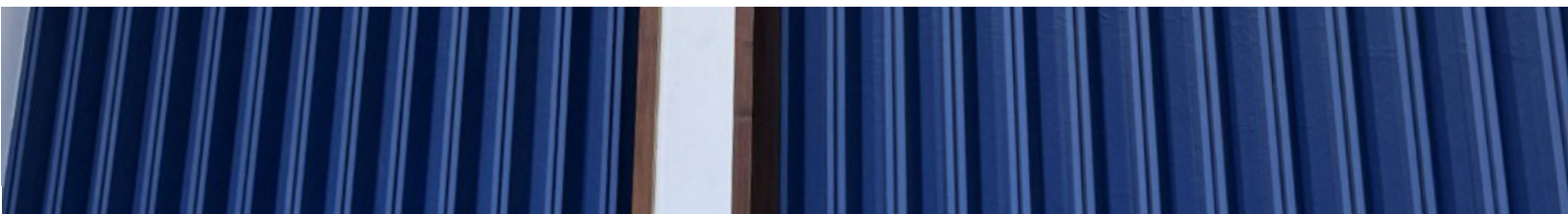
NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 30, 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

On Holy Ground
Angelina Sozio, Soloist

Arr. Gene Roberson

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN

A Selection from Echoes from the Burning Bush

1. Mos es stood on ho - ly ground, far from God de - scend - ed down,
2. Oh, the God of saints of old, just the same so we are told,
3. God sent down His on - ly Son, just to ran - som ev - 'ry one,

3
Set the road - side bush on fire, yes bush on fire; And 'twas
Spoke His mes - sage from the fire, yes, from the fire; So that
By the ech - oes from the fire, yes, from the fire; That the

5
then the Lord did there ex - plain, thru His ser - vant should re - main
each and ev - 'ry tribe on earth could re - ceive a great new birth,
God of ev - 'ry earth - ly land would not pick nor choose a man,

7
All the ech - oes from the bush on fire, the bush on fire.
Thru the ech - oes from the bush on fire, the bush on fire.
For his blood will save us from the fire, e - ter - nal fire.

INVOCATION

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

ALL: Loving God, call us together as your people; transform us with your love. Transform our hearts, that we may love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace. Transform our hands, that we may serve others. Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE



MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Then Sings My Soul

Choral Setting by Mary McDonald

Stephanie O'Neill, Pamela Jimenez, and Madison Fullarton, Soloists

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 2: 11-15

One day after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting, and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. So Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian and sat down by a well.

Exodus 3: 1-4

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

SERMON

The Blunder Before the Bush

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

OFFERTORY

Moses

Hyun Kook

Sanctuary Choir • Jasson Velez and Stephanie O'Neill, Soloists

*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 #350

The Summons

KELVINGROVE

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Sabre Dance

Aram Khachaturian

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist

(Transcribed for piano by Oscar Levant)

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

Stephanie O'Neill, Soloist

Pamela Jimenez, Soloist

Jasson Velez, Soloist

Madison Fullarton, Soloist

STEPHEN MINISTER: Louise Brown

WELCOMERS: Catherine Waterman and Greg Meyer

USHERS: Kathleen Devitt (Head usher), Christine Buol,
Becky Earney, Becky Lambert, Jane Lane, Bill Rumpf,
Sandy and Roger Terry.

Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist - Producer

Clayton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio

Lincoln Townsend, Production Specialist - Video

Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Proresenter

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobbie Ray

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Joe Rickard

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: Janine Rahaim and John Greer, Fellowship Support |
Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager

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.

Bargain Box Monthly Donation Drive!

SEPTEMBER 20, 9:30 AM | PORTICO

Join us for our monthly focus drive on **September 20 at 9:30 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.

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



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!

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!



UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Snowball Mountain Challenge - Children's Camp

10:00 AM • August 30 📍 Nelson Hall 207



Section Leader Rehearsal

11:15 AM • August 30 📍 Sanctuary

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • August 31 📍 Nelson Hall 104

TUESDAY



Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM • September 1 📍 Parlor

WEDNESDAY



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • September 2 📍 Beverly Hall

FRIDAY



Caregivers Support Group

2:00 PM • September 4 📍 Parlor

Next Sunday

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

"A Promise Worth Trusting"

Genesis 9: 8-17

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
Bob McLennan
Gordon Mounts
Jack Neller
Gerry Nonken
Shannon Peterson
Kathy Reno
Riddle-Somers Family

Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Kinley Roby
Pamela Rose & Family
Fred Schneeberg
Judy Siderio
Darrel Siebert
Robert Stuart
Louise Taylor
Joanie Toren
Kevin Villalobos
Neida Villalobos
Anwyn Watts
Llewellyn Williams

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.

Make-A-Will Month



August is Make-A-Will Month, a timely reminder to reflect on the legacy you leave behind. As you plan for the future, consider including Naples UCC in your estate plans through Steeple Fellowship. Your generosity can help sustain the mission and ministry of our church for generations to come.

For more information about Steeple Fellowship, contact **Bruce Flessner** at bwflessner@gmail.com or call the church office at 239-261-5469. The United Church of Christ is also offering a free will-writing tool throughout August to help you create or update your will, visit: <https://partner.freewill.com/ucc>

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.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL — Snowball Mountain Challenge is underway! Children are continuing a fun-filled Sunday morning camp experience where they grow in faith through music, games, hands-on activities, Bible stories, and friendships. Along the way, they're discovering what it means to live with courage, kindness, teamwork, and trust as they explore God's love together.

Inspired by **Philippians 4:13**—***"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"***—this five-Sunday journey reminds children that Jesus is always with them, giving them strength for every challenge.

Snowball Mountain Challenge is designed for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade, and youth are warmly invited to join the adventure as camp helpers and mentors. There's still plenty of mountain to climb, and we'd love for your family to join us!



Mahjong

AUGUST 31 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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

SEPTEMBER 1, 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.

Caregivers Support Group

SEPTEMBER 4, 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.



Social Soirée

SEPTEMBER 15, 4:00 PM | SEASONS 52



Join NUCC friends and family at this month's Social Soiree 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!

Help Us Stay Connected!

Have you recently moved or changed your contact information? We'd love to stay connected with you! Please send any updates to info@naplesucc.org so we can make sure our church records are current and you continue to receive important church news and updates and your NEXT magazine! Thank you for helping us stay connected.



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
bianca@naplesucc.org

Sara Both, Receptionist
sara@naplesucc.org

Tony Falco, Director of Technology
tony@naplesucc.org

Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager
raymond@naplesucc.org

John Greer, Assistant Custodian

Kiersten Heilbron, Marketing Specialist

Maura Kjar, Director of Financial
Operations
maura@naplesucc.org

Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

Janine Rahaim, Director of Community
Life & Programs
janine@naplesucc.org

Samantha Santarosa,
Membership Coordinator
& Pastoral Assistant
samantha@naplesucc.org

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of
Youth & Children's Education
jeanne@naplesucc.org

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



www.naplesucc.org



facebook.com/NaplesUCC



#Naplesucc



youtube.com/NaplesUCC

↓ Support NUCC & Donate Today!



Online:
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

(239) 261-5469 • 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, FL 34103