

Hope

ADVENT 2025



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 30, 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

MISSION MOMENT

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Andrew Snedeker

Angelina Sozio • Pamela Jimenez • Jasson Velez • Miguel Coates • Liam Feahr • Dr. Bryan Ijames

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9 AM) Williams Family

(11 AM) Tori Hyman & Erica Aichholz

ALL: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the shadowy places in our lives and our memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*OPENING CAROL #160

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

INVOCATION

ALL: Surprising and steadfast God, in the anticipation of your coming, keep us awake so that we will see you at work in the world. We give you thanks for moments of joy and celebration in our lives, for times of excitement and surprise; for love given and received, for friendships that furnish our life with meaning and happiness, and for family that reflects your unconditional love. In all our relationships and encounters, allow us to see you in one another. Amen

TIME FOR CHILDREN (9 AM)

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Stephanie O'Neill • Pamela Jimenez • Dr. Bryan Ijames • Jasson Velez

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Mathew 24:36-44

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were



eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

SERMON	<i>Great Expectations</i>	Rev. Jim Moseley
OFFERTORY	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> Sanctuary Choir	Robert A. Hobby
*CLOSING CAROL #176	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates</i>	TRURO
*BENEDICTION		
+POSTLUDE	<i>Savior of the Nations Come</i> Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ	J. S. Bach



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

Sanctuary Choir
Bradley Van Houten, Production Specialist - Producer
Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Propresenter
Landon Townsend, Production Specialist - Video
Colton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobbie Ray

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Donna Nolan

9 AM

STEPHEN MINISTER: Carolyn Keller

GREETERS: Geoff Murphy & Karyn Murphy

USHERS: Roger Terry (Head), Carol Berglund, Kathryn Bettis, Jim Borden, Kathleen Devitt, Joan Fletcher, Ted Fletcher, Dixie Huey, and Bill Rumpf

11 AM

STEPHEN MINISTER: Joe Rickard

GREETERS: Alison Doriss, Stuart Doriss & Nancy Holcomb

USHERS: Jennifer Rainey (Head), Ronnie Bellone, Bob Brown, Bill Durell, Bill Rumpf, Joe Siderio, Judy Siderio and Hank Temple

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 weeks Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Dr. Daniel Morris in honor of the Pilgrims and their pastor John Robinson (1576-1625) who believed each church congregation should have independence and self-governance. He also believed a church should not be subject to a bishop or the state. Reverend John Robinson was one of the leaders of the Separatists who were the founders of the Congregational Church. Half of his church sailed on the Mayflower.

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.

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.

David Lawrence 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!



PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Informational Meet & Greet

December 7, 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. Sign up with Samantha in the Gathering Place.

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

Town Hall: Minister Search

TODAY, 10:15 AM | N-207

Join us for a brief town hall at 10:15am in Nelson Hall, Room 207 where the search committee will share updates on the minister search process. They will provide a summary of progress and goals as they work to interview candidates for our new Associate Minister of Congregational Care.

Next Sunday

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

Matthew 3: 1-12 | Matthew 11:11

"Go Beyond the Unfinished Prophet"

Egor Antonenko, cello

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Angel Tree Gift Collections - Last Day

9 & 11 AM • November 30 • Narthrex



Youth Sunday School

10:15 AM • November 30 • N-200



Town Hall: Minister Search

10:15 AM • November 30 • N-207

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • December 1 • N-104

TUESDAY



WISE Education Program

11:00 AM • December 2 • N-104



Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM • December 2 • Parlor

WEDNESDAY



Harry Chapin Food Packing

8:30 AM • December 3 • Harry Chapin



Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • December 3 • N-101



Worship on Wednesday

12:00 PM • December 3 • Sanctuary



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

4:00 PM • December 3 • N-203



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • December 3 • Sanctuary

THURSDAY



Blue Christmas Service

6:00 PM • December 4 • Beverly Hall

FRIDAY



Grace Place Food Packing

12:30 PM • December 5 • Grace Place

SATURDAY



Habitat for Humanity Build Day

8:00 AM • December 6 • Habitat Dev.

SUNDAY



Christmas Concert w/ Dr. Becky & Friends

4:00 PM • December 7 • Sanctuary



NUCC Christmas Supper

5:30 PM • December 7 • McSpadden Hall

Worship on Wednesday

WEDNESDAYS — DECEMBER 3, 10, 17
12:00 PM | SANCTUARY

This week begins our WOW — Worship on Wednesday — series, featuring “The Three Women of Christmas.” We’ll start with Mary (Luke 1:26–38) titled, ‘Hope Inside a Mess.’ God birthed hope out of a messy situation. Mary’s accommodation of the unknown amidst the messiness of her life helped to birth hope into the world. Please join us for Worship on Wednesday!



Blue Christmas Service

DECEMBER 4, 6 PM | BEVERLY HALL

Our Blue Christmas worship service is for anyone who is having a hard time during the Christmas season. Join us in Beverly Hall for a contemplative evening with prayer, music, scripture, and reflections. This worship service is offered by Rev. Jim Moseley and our WISE for Mental Health ministry.



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 NUCC 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 if you have questions or plan to attend for the first time.



Being Intentionally Invitational and 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 NUCC 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.

Christmas Music Sunday

DECEMBER 14, 9 & 11 AM | SANCTUARY

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!



Christmas Concert with Drs. Becky, Sasha & Friends

DECEMBER 7, 4:00 PM | SANCTUARY

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



NUCC Christmas Supper

DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM | MCSPADDEN HALL

HO, HO, HO! Join us for NUCC's Christmas Supper following Drs. Becky, Sasha & Friends Christmas concert on December 7 at 5:30 pm. There will be a charge of \$10 at the door for adults to defray the meal cost, but kids 12 & under are free. **Pre-Registration is required by TODAY for an accurate meal count.** Donations will be accepted for our Christmas offering. Come with a festive spirit to enjoy the holiday together! Please pay by card or check in advance, or with cash at the door. For questions, please call the church office at (239) 261-5469.



PRAYER LIST

CONDOLENCES: To the family of Dudley Lyons on his passing on October 30, 2025.

A memorial service will be held on December 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Jo Armstrong
Merrikay Bailey
Lilibet Bana
Carol Berglund
Mary Catherine
Thom Carley
Colleen Clark
Patricia Cloutier
Thomas Coates
Allison Doriss
Jack Downs
Sally Giglio
Jim Gilmore

Janet Goodhart
Doty Gridley
Fred Gridley
Walter Grieb
John Henry
Kate Hutchinson
David Johnson
William Jones
Bobbie Juster
Marla Koshgarian
Stew Lambert
Tony Loring
Bob McLennan

Gordon Mounts
Betty Mounts
Jack Neller
Gerry Nonken
Ryan Pehrson
Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Judy Siderio
Jack Studley
Joanie Toren
Mickey Winograd
Ken Yamashita
Atila Zolcsak

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Harry Chapin Food Packing

DECEMBER 3, 8:30 AM | HARRY CHAPIN

Join NUCC volunteers for a fun day and help a worthy cause at the same time. Come participate in this Food Bank Packing Day on Wednesday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12 to 3 p.m. Please register at <https://www.volgstics.com/appform/754780826> or sign up in the Gathering Place on Sundays. For more information contact Mike Conrad, at mikeconrad21@gmail.com. (Harry Chapin, 3940 Prospect Ave, Naples, FL).



Habitat for Humanity Build Day

DECEMBER 6, 8 AM | HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

Come work with us for a purposeful and fun day. No experience is needed and all abilities welcome! Come from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. First time volunteers, please register at <https://vhub.at/nucc/> or sign up in the Gathering Place on Sundays. For more information contact Judy Varty at judyvarty@gmail.com. (10405 Majestic Circle, Naples)



Cans for Communion

DECEMBER 7, 9 AM | PORTICO

Cans for Communion collection continues! Donations of nonperishable food items help support our mission partner - Grace Place. We are spotlighting **GRANOLA BARS & CANNED VEGETABLES** this month, however ALL donations are greatly appreciated. Do some bulk shopping or pickup items on the weekly BOGO list or donate from your pantry, but be sure to check those expiration dates! If you are interested in volunteering with collection on the first Sunday of each month, please sign up in the Gathering Place or call the Church office.



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

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

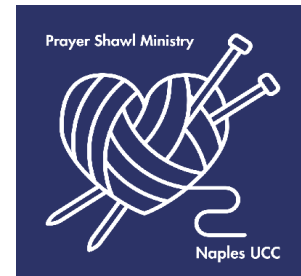
If you receive a suspicious message: **Check the sender's full email address.** Scammers often make small, hard-to-spot changes to legitimate addresses. **Do not respond.** Instead, call the church office at 239-261-5469 to verify authenticity. Your vigilance helps keep our community safe. Thank you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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

DECEMBER 2, 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.



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

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. For more info, contact Joan Millon at joanmillon6@gmail.com.



W.I.S.E for Mental Health

DECEMBER 2, 10 & 11 AM | N-104

If you would like to be part of the WISE ministry at NUCC, please join us for the 10 a.m. team meeting, and for the 11 a.m. educational program.

Join Zoom Meeting
Zoom ID: 843 4648 4094
Password: WISE



Angel Tree

Our wonderful Angel Tree will be in the Narthex for the **last time today**. The gifts will go to the babies and families who participate in the Baby Basics program here at NUCC, as well as the teen parenting program at Immokalee and Collier County schools.

All of the Angels have already been claimed—but we are still gratefully accepting donations. If you have already selected an Angel, please return your wrapped gift with the Angel tag attached to the outside by the end of **today**. If you weren't able to get an Angel this year, you can still support the program by making a donation (cash, credit card, or check) to help provide grocery gift certificates to accompany the gifts. Checks may be made out to "Naples UCC" with "Angel Tree" in the memo line.

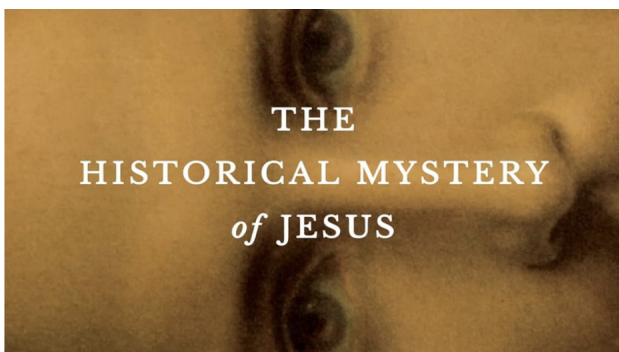
Thank you in advance for your generous support.
The Angel Tree Committee



Men's New Chapters

DECEMBER 3, 10:30 AM | N-101

Men's New Chapters meets regularly on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM 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



Mahjong

MONDAYS, 1 PM | N-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 - 3 p.m. in Nelson Hall. Free, and all are always welcome!



Christmas Eve Services

**Family Service
3 PM**

**Traditional Lessons & Carols
6 & 8 PM**

**Holy Communion
10 PM**



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

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



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.



www.naplesucc.org



facebook.com/NaplesUCC



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



youtube.com/NaplesUCC

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becky@naplesucc.org

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
alexandrac@naplesucc.org

The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Jorge (George) De La Roche,
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george@bargainboxnaples.com

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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