



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 4, 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. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

PRELUDE

The Peace of God
Sanctuary Choir

Douglas Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #13

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

MARION

INVOCATION

Rev. Rich Kirschner

ALL: God of love, take hold of us in this act of worship, and do not let us go until we have been blessed by a vision of love, infinitely generous, gentle and forgiving; simple wholesome, mysterious, profound; in which all are accepted and no one rejected; love that never ends. Loving God, Love itself, live in our hearts now and forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Anonymous

Stephanie O'Neill, Madison Fullarton, Miguel Coates and Jason Street, 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

Philippians 4: 4-9

Rev. Rich Kirschner

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you."



SERMON

Cultivating a Non-Anxious Life

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

OFFERTORY

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Layton James

Sanctuary Choir

Given in 2020 in memory of his great aunt, Marilyn Cody, by Clayton Murrell.

LORD'S SUPPER

This is the table that Jesus has prepared for us. All are welcome. Come not because you must, but because you may. Come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are. Come, friends, to receive the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Come to share in the joyful feast of the people of God.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORD'S OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Arr. Howard Helvey

Sanctuary Choir

SHARING OF THE CUP

Let Us Break Bread Together

Gwyneth Walker

Lucero Zevallos, Soloist

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 Christs' 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 HYMN #699

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

The Peace of God

John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care
Rev. Rich Kirschner, Guest Liturgist
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music
Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth and Children's Education
Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
Sanctuary Choir

Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist - Producer
Thomas Hartland, Production Specialist - Audio
Dylan Gozdziwski, Production Specialist - Audio
Lexii Clemons, Production Specialist - Video
Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Propresenter

STEPHEN MINISTER: Leigh Hindman

WELCOMERS: Marsha and Tom Whitlock

USHERS: Kathleen Devitt (Head usher), Ronnie Bellone, Carol Berglund, Bill Durell, Mary Fisher, Jane Lane, Jennifer Rainey, and Hank Temple.

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Sara Nonken

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Joe Rickard

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: John Greer, Fellowship Support | Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager
| Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator and 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
Charlotte Bramley in loving memory of Christopher Bramley.



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.

PRAYER LIST

Denise Acampa	Richard Gilbert	Sue Lindbloom	Pamela Rose & Family
Cathleen Boeck	Andrew Gillis	Patricia Manzano	Bill Rumpf
Mary Catherine	Doty Gridley	Sam McCullough	Judy Siderio
Thom Carley	Fred Gridley	Trey McGregor	Darrel Siebert
Patricia Cloutier	Walter Grieb	Warren McHale	Robert Stuart
Thomas Coates	Agnes Guisto	Bob McLennan	Joanie Toren
Ann Culshaw	Patsy Hanson	Gordon Mounts	Kevin Villalobos
Carol Dlouhy	David Hocking	Jack Neller	Neida Villalobos
Jack Downs	Kate Hutchinson	Gerry Nonken	Anwyn Watts
JT Ellis	David Johnson	Shannon Peterson	Linda Wilkinson
Mary Frazier	Bobbie Juster	Kathy Reno	Llewellyn Williams
Leah Gartell	Chloe Honda (Konsker)	Riddle-Somers Family	Atila Zolzseck
Sally Giglio	Marla Koshgarian	Kinley Roby	

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

Naples UCC Orientation

OCTOBER 8, 4:00 PM | NELSON HALL 104

Curious about our church's history, ministries, and how we are organized? Join us for a fun and informative orientation, 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. Space is limited to 20 participants, sign up in the Gathering Place or email **Samantha Santarosa at samantha@naplesucc.org** and ask questions and meet our ministers.

Informational Meet & Greet

OCTOBER 11, 11:15 AM | NELSON HALL 104

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

Joining Sunday

OCTOBER 18, 10:00 AM | SANCTUARY

We will have both private and public joining on Sunday, October 18th, 2026. Private joining will occur at 9:30 a.m. and public joining during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Those wishing to retain their membership with another church are invited to join as Associate Members. For additional information, see **Samantha Santarosa** in the Gathering Place or contact her at samantha@naplesucc.org.

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Cans for Communion Drop Off

9:00 AM • October 4 📍 Portico



Children's Sunday School PK4-5TH

10:15 AM • October 4 📍 Nelson Hall 202



Family Cafe

11:15 AM • October 4 📍 Nelson Hall 202



Section Leader Rehearsal

11:15 AM • October 4 📍 Sanctuary



FGCU Choral Concert

3:00 PM • October 4 📍 Sanctuary

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • October 5 📍 Nelson Hall 103

TUESDAY



WISE for Mental Health Meeting

10:00 AM • October 6 📍 Nelson Hall 104



Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM • October 6 📍 Parlor

WEDNESDAY



Nelson Hall Ribbon Cutting

8:30 AM • October 7 📍 The Gathering Place



Pastor Mark's Fall Bible Study

9:00 AM • October 7 📍 Nelson Hall 207



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • October 7 📍 Sanctuary

THURSDAY



Naples UCC Orientation

4:00 PM • October 8 📍 Nelson Hall 104

SUNDAY



Chapel & Steeple Dedication

11:15 AM • October 11 📍 Gates Chapel

Next Sunday

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams
"God and An Action Verb"
Exodus 32: 1-4

Mahjong

OCTOBER 5, 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!



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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

OCTOBER 6, 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.

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.



Chapel and Steeple Dedication

OCTOBER 11, 11:15 AM | GATES CHAPEL



Join us as we celebrate the dedication of our beautifully renovated Chapel and newly refurbished Steeple. With updated sound and livestream capabilities, the Chapel will support worship, learning, and community gatherings for many years to come.

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 — **Children's Message** in worship. Children can then join Ms. Jeanne in Nelson Hall 202 for a brand-new program on **Gratitude**, following Psalm 107. Our first **Family Café** will be held today, **October 4**, following worship. Join other parents upstairs for refreshments and fellowship! (No youth class today.)

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday morning gatherings for students 6-12th grade resumes on October 18 in Nelson Hall 201 after worship. 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.

Pastor Sonja's Book Study and Discussion

OCTOBER 12, 1:00 PM | NELSON HALL 207

Six-week Book Study and Discussion: *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer* by Tilda Norberg and Robert D. Weber. *Stretch Out Your Hand* offers practical ways for us to consider the varieties of God's healing love for individuals, institutions, and communities. The book provides an honest examination of the many difficult questions about prayer and the role of faith in healing. Through exercises and stories, we will be reintroduced to Jesus' healing ministry and to his vision of the church as a healing community. The book is available for purchase on Amazon. Can't join in person? Join us remotely.



Meeting ID: 85125620759 Passcode: FALLBOOK

New! Mahjong on Tuesdays

OCTOBER 13, 2:00 PM | NELSON HALL 101

More Mahjong, more opportunities to play! Beginning Tuesday, October 13, a second weekly Mahjong gathering will be offered from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Nelson Hall 101.

Whether you're a regular player or looking for a new way to spend an afternoon, come join the fun. Free, and all are welcome!



Social Soirée

OCTOBER 13, 4:00 PM | MR. BIG FISH



Join Naples UCC friends and family at this month's Social Soirée at Mr. Big Fish. This gathering is a great place to have fun & fellowship after a busy day! Please sign up in the Gathering Place by October 12 or by scanning the QR code. Call the church office at (239) 261-5469 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Naples UCC Golf for Fun

OCTOBER 14, 9:30 AM | LA PLAYA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



The end of summer is the perfect time to get back on the course! Join us for a fun day of golf. \$70 per person includes 19 holes and a cart. Thanks to Bob and Candi Nordland for making this possible! Sign up in the Gathering Place on Sundays or contact John at 732-598-2796 or Ron at 239-860-8034 by text.

Men's New Chapters Spirituality Group

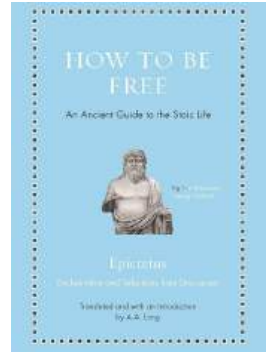
OCTOBER 14, 10:30 AM | NELSON HALL 103

Men's New Chapters resumes meeting weekly on Wednesdays beginning October 14 at 10:30 a.m. This study, conversation, and fellowship group offers an opportunity to explore life, faith, and the human experience together.

This month, the group will read and discuss *How to Be Free* by Epictetus.

Join us on October 14 for thoughtful conversation about our human condition and journeys of faith. Coffee and snacks will be available at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Rich Kirschner at rdkirschner@gmail.com.



Bargain Box Pricing at Naples UCC

OCTOBER 16 & 30, 10:00 AM | MCSPADDEN HALL

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

Join us for a hands-on Bargain Box volunteer opportunity on October 16 and October 30 at 10 a.m. in McSpadden Hall at Naples UCC. We're inviting church members **to help price and tag donated items before they make their way to the Bargain Box.** Volunteers will work together to sort through donations, determine appropriate prices, and place price tags on items so they are ready for shoppers.

It's a simple but important part of preparing donations for the store—and a great way to connect with others while helping support the many community organizations that benefit from the Bargain Box.



Sign up required: Sign up online by scanning the QR code, or reach out to George De La Roche at george@naplesucc.org or call him at 239-262-3802, in-person sign-ups are also available at the Gathering Place with Samantha Santarosa.

Caregivers Support - Guest Speaker

OCTOBER 16, 2:00 PM | NELSON HALL 103

We will welcome Karen Rodino from the Alzheimer's Support Network of Naples for a special program. Karen will provide Emergency Plan Packets for caregivers to complete at home. These can be invaluable if you unexpectedly find yourself unable to care for your loved one for a day, a week, or longer. She will also provide a File of Life for everyone to place on their refrigerator, giving paramedics important information in case of an emergency. Remember, the Alzheimer's Support Network is available to anyone caring for a loved one with a debilitating disease.



**ALZHEIMER'S
SUPPORT
NETWORK**

Bargain Box Focus Donation Drive

OCTOBER 18, 9:00 AM | PORTICO

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

Join us before the worship service for our monthly Focus Drive on October 18 at 9:00 a.m. We are deeply grateful for your steadfast support and the many ways our community helps us thrive. For October we are collecting **Kitchenware & Dining, Small Appliances, Home Decor & Accent Furnishings, Linens & Home Textiles**. Please bring your items to the drop-off table located in the Portico. We are also looking for volunteers to join our team—we would love your help! Thank you for your continued generosity.

Rev. Sonja's Installation

OCTOBER 18, 10:00 AM | SANCTUARY

Join us as we celebrate the installation of Rev. Sonja Phillips as our Minister of Congregational Care. This special service is a joyful celebration of her ministry and the gifts she brings to the Naples UCC community. Following the service, be part of a special fellowship time with cake in the Gathering Place!



Movie Mondays!

OCTOBER 19, 3:00 PM | MCSPADDEN HALL



Join us for our monthly movies, featuring films with a religious or spiritual focus!

October's featured film is ***I Can Only Imagine (2018)***. The film follows Bart Millard from a difficult childhood with a distant father to finding hope, faith, and his voice through music. Inspired by real events, it explores themes of family, forgiveness, redemption, and faith, with heartfelt performances by the MercyMe band. Starring Dennis Quaid.

Popcorn and cool drinks will be provided free of charge. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and film!

Music Gift Fund Sunday

OCTOBER 25, 9 & 11 AM | SANCTUARY

Join us for Music Gift Fund Sunday, a joyful and entertaining celebration led by our talented choir section leaders. Your support directly funds our gifted musicians who enrich our worship. To contribute, please call the church office or visit: **NaplesUCC.org/music**



Your generosity helps make every Sunday worship service a rich and inspiring experience at Naples United Church of Christ.

Keep an Eye Out for NEXT Magazine!



Our 2026–2027 NEXT Magazine will be arriving in mailboxes the week of October 5! Keep an eye out for your copy and discover what's ahead at Naples UCC for the coming year.

Inside you'll find upcoming events, programs, worship opportunities, music, groups, and more—all in one place to help you plan for the year ahead.

Chancel Flower Dedication

We have available dates for our Chancel Flower Dedications! A wonderful opportunity to celebrate, honor, or remember a loved one. We will feature your message in the Sunday bulletin and on our livestream. For up-to-date availability, or if you have any questions, please email info@naplesucc.org, or call (239)261-5469. We hope you will participate in this thoughtful tradition!

Anthem Dedication

Did you know that you can donate an anthem in memory or in honor of a loved one? Every time the anthem is sung, the dedication will appear with the anthem in the bulletin. To learn more about donating an anthem, please contact our Director of Music, Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf by email at becky@naplesucc.org. It is the gift that keeps on giving!



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
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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

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by calling the church office



Text 'NAPLESUCC' to 73256
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