



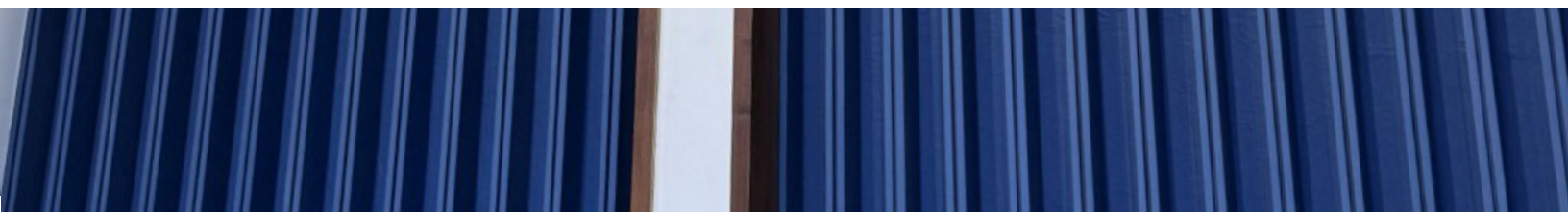
# NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 17, 2025 | 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

*He Never Failed Me Yet*  
Sanctuary Choir • Jasson Street, soloist

Robert Ray

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## \*OPENING HYMN

*Rejoice in God's Saints*

HANOVER

**Rejoice in God's Saints, today and all days!  
A world without saints forgets how to praise.  
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,  
Their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.**

**Some march with events to turn them God's way;  
Some need to withdraw, the better to pray;  
Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:  
Our world is their parish; their purpose is God.**

**Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,  
Who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own;  
They share our complaining, our comforts, our cares:  
What patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!**

**Rejoice in God's Saints, today and all days!  
A world without saints forgets how to praise.  
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:  
Their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.**

## INVOCATION

**ALL: God of wisdom, through the power of your Spirit, reveal to us the mysteries of our faith.  
Sustain us through our journeys of grief and loss so that we might discover what is yet to come  
in our lives and in our call. Amen.**

## HYMN #248

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

(Kindly remain seated)

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Blessed Assurance*  
Sanctuary Choir • Angelina Sozio, soloist

Arr. Keith Hampton

## PASTORAL PRAYER & 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

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Marie Williams

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

### SERMON

*Rooting Us On*

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

### OFFERTORY

*Clouds of Witnesses Surround Us*  
Sanctuary Choir

Robert A. Hobby

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF 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

*Fight the Good Fight*

DUKE STREET

**Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race. Through God's good grace;  
Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize**

**Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.  
God's boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faith not nor fear: God's arms are near.  
God changeth not, and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
That Christ is all in all to thee.**

### \*BENEDICTION

### +POSTLUDE

*Chorale-Prelude on "Duke Street"*  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ

Robert J. Powell



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  
Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education  
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music  
Dr. Alexandra Carlson, pianist  
Sanctuary Choir

Angelina Sozio and Jasson Street, soloists  
Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist — Producer  
Colton Townsend, Production Specialist — Audio  
Landon Townsend, Production Specialist — Video

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobbie Ray

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Joe Rickard

STEPHEN MINISTER: Karin Balsbaugh

PORTICO GREETER: Jane Barry and Nancy Holcomb

USHERS: Jennifer Rainey (Head), Tom Hornbuckle, Merrilee Hornbuckle, Kathleen Devitt, Jane Lane, Katy Serr, Roger Terry, and Susanne Tezanos

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator | Hunter Reum, Support Staff

Throughout 2025, the ministry of our pianist Dr. Alexandra Carlson has been graciously underwritten by Ronnie Bellone and Jennifer Rainey.

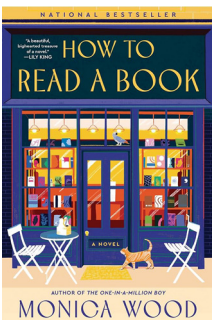
This weeks' Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Alan Van Egmond in loving memory of his father Dr. Elmer E. Van Egmond, he was a dedicated father and exemplary teacher.

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## People for Guatemala Needs Toothbrushes!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 - OCTOBER 5, DROP-OFF IN THE SANCTUARY

We need your help! Our mission partner, People for Guatemala, is in need of toothbrushes. Please bring new toothbrushes in their original packaging to church starting on August 17. **We want an assortment of child and adult sizes.** The NUCC mission team will bring the toothbrushes to Guatemala on October 12, when they start their week-long mission trip. You can deposit the toothbrushes in a bin that has been placed at the entrance of the sanctuary. Thanks for your support!



## NUCC Book Club

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2PM, N-104

The book chosen this month is **How to Read a Book: A Novel** by Monica Wood. We welcome all for a lively discussion, even if you have not read the book! Join us on Monday, August 25, at 2 p.m. in N-104. Not in town? Please join us on Zoom! Meeting ID: 838 2027 0433, Passcode: book

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## Submissions for the Bargain Box 50th Anniversary

As we approach the celebration of The Bargain Box's 50th Anniversary scheduled for Sunday, October 12, **we are looking for photos or archival materials (flyers, advertisements, etc.) that could be used in a video presentation.** When submitting photos, any identification of the individuals or events depicted would be helpful. If you have pictures or other material you feel might be suitable for inclusion in the video, please drop them off at the church office with a note. You may also reach out to Yuli Mercado, at [yuli@naplesucc.org](mailto:yuli@naplesucc.org) to discuss the best way to submit your materials.

## WE ARE CALLED TO BE AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

### Children & 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 school year. Children are encouraged to come forward for the *Time with Children*, then go to Sunday school with Ms. Jeannie. 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! and Children & Youth Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 3. We meet on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join us for faith-filled activities, music, games, and snacks with Ms. Jeannie. Rehearsal for the children/youth choir with Dr. Becky begins at 4:45 p.m. in Beverly Hall.



**“RE:FORM” ENCOUNTER & ENGAGE WITH YOUR FAITH** — Beginning in September, students 6-12th grade will meet each week on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. in Nelson Hall, room 200, as we continue to explore our faith and fellowship together!

## Road Trip: Sunday School Kick-Off Camp

SUNDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14, 10-11:15 AM, N-207



Enjoy bible stories, awesome songs, crafts, games and food! This startup camp for elementary students offers engaging music, crafts, games and skits to explore the Big Idea that “God goes with us on the Journey.” (Joshua 1:9) All children PreK – 5th grade are welcome – bring a friend!

Youth are encouraged to come and help with skits, games, and more! Please contact Ms. Jeannie at [jeanne@naplesucc.org](mailto:jeanne@naplesucc.org) if you’d like to help (and earn volunteer hours) or register.

## Joining Sunday Opportunity

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 10 AM, SANCTUARY

**Thinkinking about becoming a member of our church family?** Sign-up with Samantha this Sunday in the Gathering Place or contact her at [samantha@naplesucc.org](mailto:samantha@naplesucc.org).

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

### Upcoming Events

#### Joining Sunday Opportunity

##### Become a member on August 24

You may join either publicly or privately. Public joining will occur during the 10:00 a.m. service. For additional information, find Samantha Santarosa in the Gathering Place today or email her at [samantha@naplesucc.org](mailto:samantha@naplesucc.org).

#### Informational Meet & Greet

##### Curious? Join us October 5

A time to learn, ask questions and meet the leadership and the senior minister. The Meet & Greet takes place following the 10:00 a.m. service, in Nelson Hall, room 104. Enjoy free refreshments!



## UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

### TODAY



#### Road Trip: Sunday School Kick-Off Camp

10:00 AM • August 17 📍 N-207



#### Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

11:15 AM • August 17 📍 Sanctuary

### MONDAY



#### Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • August 18 📍 N-101/Zoom



#### Mahjong

1:00 PM • August 18 📍 N-101

### WEDNESDAY



#### Movie & Dinner Event

3:00 PM • August 20 📍 Beverly Hall

### FRIDAY



#### Caregiver's Support Group

2:00 PM • August 22 📍 N-101

## Next Sunday

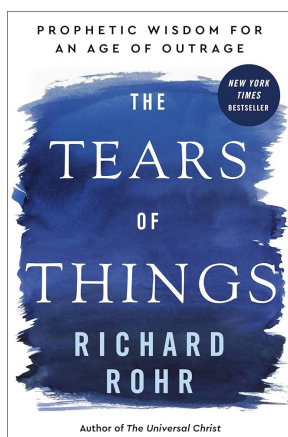
Sunday, August 24, 2025

Worship Service | 10 AM

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, preaching

Set Free

Luke 13: 10-17



## Men's New Chapters

MONDAYS, 10:30 AM, N-101/ZOOM

Led by retired minister and NUCC member Rich Kirschner, this men's group explores current events and their impact on daily life through thoughtful, engaging discussion. Together, they seek deeper understanding and ways to make a positive difference. Now reading *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr, the book breathes new life into ancient wisdom. It paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a compassionate way of living in a hurting world. Please contact Rich Kirschner for details at [rdkirschner@gmail.com](mailto:rdkirschner@gmail.com).

## Movie & Dinner Event

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 3 PM, BEVERLY HALL

Our next Movie & Dinner event will take place on Wednesday, August 20 and will begin with a screening of ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2019)***. Sign up by **TODAY** in the Gathering Place after Sunday services or by calling the Church office at (239) 261-5469. Join for an optional dinner after the movie viewing at Season's 52 (8930 Tamiami Trail N. Naples, 34108). All are welcome, feel free to invite your family and friends for a fun fellowship night out! (Run time is 1h 53m.)



## Caregiver's Support Group: Guest Speaker

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2 PM, N-101

The Caregiver's Support Group meets every other Friday year-round to support those caring for loved ones. Join us, for a discussion led by Stephen Minister, Molly Baker, about the void and grief that being a caregiver can bring on and how it can lead to a range of difficult emotions after we lose our loved one. **We need your input; please join us!**

## Cancelled: Gentle Yoga

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 4 PM, N-104

Our last session on August 20 has been cancelled. Thank you to all who joined us; we hope this class was restorative and peaceful. Stay tuned for a new offering in September: ***Fabulous Fit Fridays!***

## Prayer Shawl Update

Prayer Shawl gatherings will take a Summer break and resume on Tuesday, October 7. Contact Janet Goodhart at (610) 420-7196 for questions and to learn more about this group.

## PRAYER LIST

Joyce Agnew  
Lilibet Bana  
Kathy C.  
Thom Carley  
Colleen Clark  
Pam Clayson  
Robert & Patricia Cloutier  
Thomas Coates  
Neil Constantine  
Carol Dlouhy  
Jack Downs  
Mary Ann Eberspacher  
Sally Giglio

Linda Golle  
Fred and Doty Gridley  
Walter Grieb  
David Johnson  
Irma Johnson  
Kristi K.  
Merline Kovacik  
Becky Lambert  
Bill Livingood  
Dudley Lyons  
Gordon Mounts  
Betty Mounts  
Gerry Nonken

Susan Pyke  
Jennifer Rainey  
Susan Richards  
Gabrielle Emily Ridout  
Judy Siderio  
Jan Stowell  
Barbara Swidler  
Joanie Toren  
Mo Winograd  
Ken Yamashita  
Atila Zolcsak  
Kim Z.

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.





# 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](http://www.naplesucc.org)



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



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



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

## STAFF

### Minister

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister  
[markw@naplesucc.org](mailto:markw@naplesucc.org)

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

### Administrative

Jim Asmus, Assistant Custodian

Tony Falco, Director of Technology  
[tony@naplesucc.org](mailto:tony@naplesucc.org)

Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Raymond Gangl, Custodian  
[raymond@naplesucc.org](mailto:raymond@naplesucc.org)

Jill Golle, Director of  
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Kiersten Heilbron, Marketing Specialist

Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

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Jodi Nienkerk, Director of Financial  
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Samantha Santarosa,  
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& Pastoral Assistant  
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Jeanne Snedeker, Director of  
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Brad Van Houten, Executive Director  
[brad@naplesucc.org](mailto:brad@naplesucc.org)

### Music

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf,  
Director of Music  
[becky@naplesucc.org](mailto:becky@naplesucc.org)

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)

Sandy Goldstein, Manager Emeritus  
[sandy@naplesucc.org](mailto:sandy@naplesucc.org)

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Email or call the church office



Cash, Check, Credit Card  
by calling the church office



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