



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 26, 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

A Surprise Medley

Zach DePue, violin • Kevin Mauldin, bass

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #7

When in Our Music God is Glorified

ENGELBERG

TIME FOR CHILDREN (9 AM)

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

MUSIC MISSION MOMENT

John Barnes, Chair of the Music Committee

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Jim Moseley, Interim Minister for Congregational Care and Missions

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

1 Samuel 16: 14-23

Now the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "See now, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our Lord now command the servants who attend you to look for someone who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will feel better." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me someone who can play well, and bring him to me." One of the young men answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a warrior, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a kid, and sent them by his son David to Saul. And David came to Saul, and entered his service. Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." And whenever the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and feel better, and the evil spirit would depart from him.

SERMON

The Call of the Young Musician

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

OFFERTORY

Music in the Air
Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Ryan Murphy

*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 #10

Sing a New Song

DANIEL L. SCHUTTE

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

I Sing Because I'm Happy
Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Rollo Dillworth



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 and
Missions

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, pianist

Zach DePue, violin

Tim Torres, guitar

Kevin Mauldin, bass

Sean Stollcker, drums

Sanctuary Choir

Bradley Van Houten, Production Specialist - Producer

Owen True, Production Specialist - Audio

Christian Pyles, Production Specialist - Video

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobbie Ray

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Kathleen Devitt

9 AM

STEPHEN MINISTER: Craig Johnson

GREETERS: Michele Carney, Dixie Lee Huey, Fletcher Huey, Roger Nolan, and Mary Lee Turk

USHERS: Roger Terry (Head), Carol Berglund, Christine Buol, Bill Durell, Jane Lane, Bill Rumpf, Hank Temple, and Barb Wolf

11 AM

STEPHEN MINISTER: Marcia Williams

GREETERS: Alison Doriss, Stuart Doriss, and Nancy Holbcomb

USHERS: Bill Rumpf (Head), Christine Buol, Mary B. Fisher, Melanie Flessner, Bruce Flessner, Becky Lambert, Sally Pendleton, and Terry Pendleton

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

All Saints' Sunday

SUBMIT NAMES BY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

In recognition of All Saints' Sunday, Naples UCC is requesting your submission of names of those who have passed away since All Saints' Sunday last year. Please submit first and last names of anyone who passed between November 3, 2024 and October 27, 2025. These names will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, November 2. Please call the Church office at (239) 261-5469 or email info@naplesucc.org with your submissions. We thank you in advance for submitting your names by **Monday, October 27.**

All Saints' Remembrance Service

NOVEMBER 2, 10:15 AM
MEMORIAL GARDEN

On Sunday, November 2, Pastor Jim Moseley will be leading a remembrance service in the NUCC Memorial Garden between worship services. This service will include prayers and readings as well as an opportunity for attendees to honor and remember loved ones. Participants are invited to access the garden through one of our sanctuary side doors.

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 weekly on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in Nelson Hall, room 200, for our Sunday morning gathering. Working through our new curriculum, "RE:FORM"

Steeple Fellowship Brunch

NOVEMBER 2, 10:15 AM | MCSPADDEN HALL

The Development Committee invites all members of the Steeple Fellowship to a brunch in McSpadden Hall on Sunday, November 2 at 10:15 a.m. (between worship services). After many years, we look forward to gathering the fellowship together again for conversation and updates related to the Naples UCC Endowment and other giving initiatives.



Fabulous Fit Friday!

OCTOBER 31, 9 AM | N-207

Join us for Fabulous Fit Fridays! Jodi will lead us in a session of light cardio, body toning, balance and stretch. Open to all fitness levels. You can bring a mat, a few light weights, and a friend! All are welcome to enjoy on Friday mornings. Chairs will be available for those that prefer to tone seated. To register, call the church office at (239) 261-5469 or stop by the Gathering Place on Sundays. **Walk-ins welcome!** This is a FREE offering.

We hope
to see
you there!



Women's Stories

NOVEMBER 6, 1 PM | N-101

Women's Stories, formerly Women Engage, will continue to host lively discussions with a new focus on the stories and experiences of inspiring women to enlighten, encourage, and evoke conversation. This 3-week session will be guided by one woman's story - Isabel Allende - told through her book, *The Soul of A Woman* (2021), or an interview with the Los Angeles Times, "Isabel Allende isn't passing the feminist torch - she's sharing it" by Rigoberto Gonzalez (Feb 24, 2021) or a TED talk, "How to Live Passionately - No Matter your Age" (Sept 3, 2014)." The readings and Ted Talk provide one woman's shared experience presented in three different formats. Choose the format that works best for you or just join us! This is a great opportunity to connect with other women in our church community and engage through shared experiences.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Informational Meet & Greet

November 9, 10:00 AM | N-104

A time to learn, ask questions, meet the leadership, and our ministers. The Meet & Greet takes place following the 9:00 a.m. service, in Nelson Hall, room 104.

Enjoy free refreshments! Sign up with Samantha in the Gathering Place.

Joining Sunday Opportunity

Let's make it official! Join us November 16

You may join either publicly or privately. Those wishing to retain a membership in a northern church are invited to join as an Associate Member. Public joining will occur during the 9:00 a.m. service. For additional information, find Samantha Santarosa in the Gathering Place today or email her at samantha@naplesucc.org.

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.

Next Sunday

Sunday, November 2, 2025

**Holy Communion & All Saints' Sunday
Cans for Communion Collection**

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams
"Rewarded with Reunion"
Luke 6:23

Askar Salimdjanov, violin
Egor Antoneko, cello

Cans for Communion

Next week's spotlight items are: Mac & Cheese,
Canned Meats, and Cooking Oil

Drop-off in the Portico prior to service!

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



30 Good Minutes with Pastor Mark

10:15 AM • October 26 McSpadden



Youth Sunday School

10:15 AM • October 26 N-200

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • October 27 N-101



Christ's Insights on Poverty

1:00 PM • October 27 N-207



Book Club

2:00 PM • October 27 N-104



Youth Haven Game Night

7:00 PM • October 27 Youth Haven

TUESDAY



Writing Workshop

10:00 AM • October 28 N-103

WEDNESDAY



Bible Study with Pastor Mark

9:00 AM • October 29 N-207



Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • October 29 N-101/Zoom



NCH Urgent Blood Drive

1:30 PM • October 29 Roundabout



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

4:00 PM • October 29 N-203



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • October 29 Sanctuary

THURSDAY



Justice Committee Meeting

10:00 AM • October 30 N-104

FRIDAY



Fabulous Fit Friday!

9:00 AM • October 31 N-207



Caregiver's Support Group

2:00 PM • October 31 N-101

SATURDAY



Habitat for Humanity Build Day

8:00 AM • November 1 Habitat

Pastor Mark's Bible Study

OCTOBER 29, 9 AM | NELSON 207

Join Pastor Mark for an 8-week Bible study on the Book of James. James offers us a glimpse of what authentic, embodied, real faith for everyday people might look like. Come to discuss & debate. This Bible study will not be dogmatic, but always open to a wide spectrum of opinions and interpretation. Bring your favorite Bible and an open mind. This week we will discuss James 3:1-12 - *Prevent Forest Fires*.

WISE Education Program

NOVEMBER 4, 11 AM | NELSON 104

Come learn about our WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) program at NUCC. Our meeting is held every first Tuesday of the month at 11 am. We will discuss issues concerning mental health in our society and our families, and how these issues affect the NUCC congregation. WISE provides education and training on how to deal with mental health issues whether it is a family member or someone you know. For any questions, please contact Rob Ford at bobford47@aol.com or call the Church office.

Pastor Jim's 7-Week Study

OCTOBER 27, 1 PM | NELSON 207

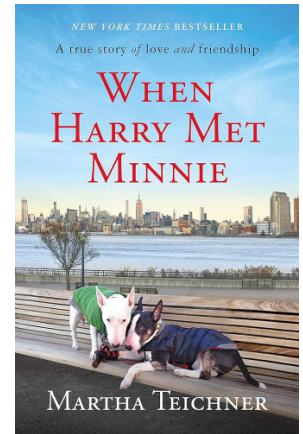
Join Pastor Jim and our Board of Mission and Outreach members for a 7-week study titled, "Christ's Insights on Poverty". The study will be shaped around Liz Theoharis's insights from *Always with Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor*. Each week we will delve into a different perspective of poverty. See the NUCC calendar to view them beforehand.

NUCC Book Club

OCTOBER 27, 2:00 PM | N-104

This month's book will be, "When Harry Met Minnie" by Martha Teichner. The discussion will be led by Judy Jorgenson. Anyone is welcome, even if you have not read the book!

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 838 2027 0433
Passcode: book



Writing Workshop: Wrapping the World with Words

OCTOBER 28, 10:00 AM | N-103

Ordained Minister, Susan Baller-Shepard, MDiv, MSW, will share her gifts guiding us in a spiritual writing workshop. We will learn, in a supportive environment, to engage in writing prompts, work on writing characters, and watch how sentences surprise us. Each of the 4-week series has a focus and the classes are meant to build on each other, but you can attend one or all four. Beginners encouraged to attend!

Caregiver's Support Group

OCTOBER 31, 2 PM | N-101

OCTOBER IS BRING A FRIEND MONTH! This week we welcome back Naples attorney Lorna Scharlacken, who specializes in wills, trusts and estates. If you have general questions, please join us and I guarantee you will learn something new! The Caregiver's Support Group meets every other Friday year-round to support those caring for loved ones. For more info, contact Joan Millon at joanmillon6@gmail.com.



Religion's Impact on the Founding of America

NOVEMBER 6, 10:30 AM | N-207

Join Allison McCarthy & Rich Kirschner as they lead a discussion exploring the pre- and post-war influence of religion in the establishment of the United States. This year marks the 250th anniversary of America's struggle for independence. The two key resources used will be: Thomas Tweed's book, "Religion in the Lands that Became America" and Ken Burn's 6-part series, "The American Revolution" premiering 11/16/25-11/21-25 at 8-10 p.m. ET on PBS. We will recap the content for everyone who comes.

**NUCC Financial Results
September 2025**

	September 2025		Year to Date		
			This Year		Last Year
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Revenue					
Current Year Giving	\$208,995	125,517	\$1,626,780	\$1,594,799	\$1,610,224
Other Revenue	10,855	14,075	128,530	131,175	125,681
Total Revenue	\$219,850	\$139,592	\$1,755,310	\$1,725,974	\$1,735,905
Expenses					
Facilities & Utilities	\$12,488	\$17,478	\$130,888	\$145,859	\$130,320
Financial & Insurance	(1,886)	(419)	133,584	159,038	118,469
Christian Education	419	487	7,706	12,037	3,908
Membership & Social	1,904	1,517	11,766	13,650	8,335
Deacons & Special Events	808	2,192	9,649	11,925	9,277
Ministers	29,480	35,499	205,602	245,477	305,012
Support Staff	61,068	65,570	548,861	594,134	467,846
Staff Services	16,665	26,302	168,359	196,823	120,322
Office & Technology	5,803	7,816	78,090	70,341	83,669
Music	4,755	7,797	72,864	96,903	88,466
Mission & Ministry Outreach	11,988	28,100	17,857	65,900	14,613
Total Operating Expenses	\$143,494	\$192,338	\$1,385,225	\$1,612,086	\$1,350,237
Operating Surplus/(Loss)	\$76,356	(\$52,744)	\$370,085	\$113,888	\$385,668

Bargain Box

Sales	\$17,379	\$17,000	\$234,501	\$231,000	\$219,313
Expenses	52,399	51,968	235,268	235,656	206,921
Bargain Box Surplus/(Loss)	(\$35,022)	(\$34,968)	(\$767)	(\$4,656)	\$12,392

Note : The Music Gift Fund supported the Music budget with \$18,444 in September and \$195,220 year to date.

Stewardship Status (as of 10-21-2025)

Pledges

Pledges Made	\$1,903,584
Pledges Paid Year to Date	\$1,451,604
Remaining to be Paid on Pledges	\$451,980

To Meet Giving Budget

Pledge Giving Year to Date	\$1,451,604
Non-Pledged Giving Year to Date	\$340,664
Total Giving Year to Date	\$1,792,268

2025 Giving Budget	\$2,215,000
Giving Needed to Meet Budget	\$422,732



PRAYER LIST

Jo Armstrong
Jim Asmus
Joyce Asmus
Lilibet Bana
Thom Carley
Colleen Clark
Pam Clayson
Patricia Cloutier
Thomas Coates
Taylor Curry Stokes
Jack Downs
Sally Giglio
Jim Gilmore
Janet Goodhart

Doty Gridley
Fred Gridley
Walter Grieb
Kate Hutchinson
David Johnson
Irma Johnson
William Jones
Marla Koshgarian
Merline Kovacic
Stew Lambert
Bill Livingood
Tony Loring
Dudley Lyons
Bob McLennan

Gordon Mounts
Betty Mounts
Jack Neller
Gerry Nonken
Ryan Pehrson
Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Judy Siderio
Kyra Spurgeon
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.

Choir Testimonials

ANGELINA SOZIO (SOPRANO SECTION LEADER / FGCU GRADUATE)

What I love about singing at NUCC is the amount of love I constantly get from our congregation. It truly is an honor to sing for you every week and socialize outside after services. I love that we get to sing challenging music with incredible musicians, and I always feel so much gratitude after singing solos. I am happy to get the opportunity. Also, Mark is pretty great.

BRUCE WILKINSON (TENOR VOLUNTEER)

Having sung in a smaller choir in Connecticut for 30+ years, this will be my third full season singing with the NUCC choir. It's a joy to be in a choir of this size with talented musicians across such a wide age range. The music we offer the congregation is moving and inspiring.

MARTI PIERCE (SOPRANO VOLUNTEER)

When I first visited the church, I was awestruck by the quality of the music program. I had not found a church anywhere with such a wealth of musical talent and professionalism. As a current member of the choir, it is an exhilarating experience for me to sing with these gifted young people who are music and voice performance majors in college. They are not just well-trained; they are passionate about sharing their musical talent with others, and they are truly grateful for the opportunity to do so at NUCC.

BETSY BARTON (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

As a chorister for many years at NUCC, I can attest to the joy that entered when the FGCU singers joined us. It is wonderful sitting with them, feeling "young" again, and loving their singing excellence.

DR. PAUL LAEMMLE (TENOR VOLUNTEER)

This will be my third season singing with the NUCC choir. The combination of the superlative leadership of Dr. Becky and the young talented section leaders and experienced seasoned singers has provided one of the most outstanding choirs that I have ever been associated with. I am humbled to be able to sing with this truly inspirational family of singers.

LINDA RACLIN (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

The FGCU students are exceptionally talented, bringing their spark of life and love of music to our choir. When I stand and sing next to a FGCU student, I need to bring my 'A' game. It's like inviting an amazing college athlete to your weekly pickleball match. Everyone is elevated and energized, and the level of play jumps tremendously. The students spur the whole choir to sing at its best, allowing us to perform challenging music, and attract sought-after instrumentalists from The Naples Philharmonic. They are truly a gift.

"JELLY" NALLELY ANTONACCI (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

It's great to be a member of a choir where voices from all ages and abilities come together thanks to Dr. Becky. She encourages us to sing challenging pieces to inspire the congregation to keep coming back every Sunday. I'm thankful that she asked me to join my sister and my daughter so the three of us can be part of such a great community. I'm grateful that NUCC supports our choir and gives us the opportunity to sing for them.

ARIANNI ANTONACCI (SOPRANO VOLUNTEER)

My experience with the NUCC church choir has honestly been the most fun experience in a choir I've ever had. Dr. Becky is an amazing director, and she has given me so many opportunities. Dr. Alexandra Carlson is the best pianist I've ever heard in my life and all the instrumentalists from Artis Naples are so talented. The choir is a very welcoming and uplifting place and it's so cool to see all the different people a part of it. It's an honor to be working with so many talented musicians every week and I don't think there could possibly be a place better than NUCC.

JACKSON RINE (TENOR SECTION LEADER AND FGCU GRADUATE)

The church has significantly helped me throughout the past five years and has allowed me to pursue my dreams and become a music teacher. I am very grateful to NUCC for always supporting me.

CHRIS MCKEE (BARITONE VOLUNTEER)

Wonderful music is expected at NUCC. When we first joined the church, everyone at the new members dinner referenced the great preaching, welcoming congregation, and of course the music! But the behind the scenes of the NUCC music program is also why I continue to be involved. Beyond the 2 1/2 hours a week of formal practice and participating in both services is a multi-generational group of individuals who bring their own life experiences to share with one another - essentially our second family. It can be helping someone through a health issue, remembering a birthday, being a listener to someone who needs to talk, or providing parental guidance and support to one of our college students. It is a group who genuinely cares for one another; regardless of our life circumstances, our age, where we grew up, our educational background, or even if our best singing days have long since departed. So, next time you listen to one of our anthems; close your eyes and imagine how all these individual voices come together and make a beautiful noise...much like a family celebration!

Choir Testimonials

LYRIC INGRAM (SOPRANO SECTION LEADER /FGCU STUDENT)

Joining the NUCC choir has been an amazing experience! Everyone has been very helpful and supportive. From participating in yearly holiday traditions to singing moving pieces of music, this choir is truly something special. Being in the choir gives me the chance to learn new music that I might never have come across in a collegiate choir.

JERRY FRENCH (TENOR VOLUNTEER)

I have sung in this wonderful choir since January 2017. It is a pure pleasure to sing with this amazing collection of fine musicians which Becky has assembled. It's the best way I know how to contribute to our worship services.

DR. CAYCE BENTON (SOPRANO SECTION LEADER)

The music program at NUCC shines as one of the highest qualities in my experience as a professional church musician. I've had the privilege of singing here for special programs through the years, and Dr. Becky welcomed me when I retired to Naples in 2022. For the first time in years, I felt I had found a church home.

CRAIG JOHNSON (BARITONE VOLUNTEER)

I joined NUCC's choir in July 2021 shortly after the church began in-person services after COVID. I had moved here in April 2020 and missed singing in a church choir. As soon as in-person rehearsals began, I showed up for my first time. This choir was filled with people of all ages who really knew how to sight-read music quickly. Over the years, I have seen students come and go, but every single one of them works very hard in the rehearsals and during services. The talent in the NUCC choir makes this one of the best church choirs in Southwest Florida.

STEPHANIE O'NEILL (SOPRANO SECTION LEADER / FGCU STUDENT)

I really enjoy being a part of the NUCC choir. The community I have found through this choir, as well as the opportunities provided have been so influential on me as a person and a musician. I have developed in many ways with the leadership throughout the church and the congregation. It is so nice to come to rehearsals/services and feel a part of something and be able to give back to a community. I feel a mutual appreciation within the congregation that I have not experienced elsewhere.

LEANN POPE (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

The NUCC choir is where faith and service come alive. Each week, worship feels richer as we lift our voices together under Dr. Becky's faithful leadership. As a newer member, I'm especially grateful to sit near Madison, our long-time alto section leader, whose remarkable talent and encouragement inspires me to sing with greater confidence.

LISA SIENKIEWICZ (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

I tried singing with a couple of different choirs when I first moved to SW Florida. I sang with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus for 25 years and was looking for a comfortable yet quality choral experience as I settled into my first retirement. I found that same level of musicality singing with the NUCC chorus.

ROB FORD (BASS VOLUNTEER)

I enjoy singing in the choir enormously. The mixture of mature members and much younger students makes for a wonderful social and musical experience that I am sure our congregation loves.

DR. ALEXANDRA CARLSON (PIANIST)

The NUCC choir feels like my home away from home—an extended family where the magic of making music truly brings us together. Being part of the choir allows us to connect deeply with one another. We share countless special moments, celebrating joys and supporting each other through sorrows. Together, we navigate the ups and downs of life, creating bonds that are both meaningful and lasting.

JIM ASMUS (BARITONE VOLUNTEER)

As a volunteer choir member, I am inspired each week to sing with the excellent student musicians we have from FGCU. They have wonderful vocal, rhythm, and sight-reading skills. Our weekly services and periodic special events together with guest musicians are highlights of my own church life. Dr. Sasha and Dr. Becky provide high-quality leadership plus their own masterful performance skills to inspire excellence.

JEN DELUCA (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

I am so grateful to be singing as a volunteer for the NUCC choir. I get to be around the most talented and inspiring musicians!! I love the music, the enthusiasm and commitment of the entire group - but especially the students!! Dr. Becky makes it look easy, but she puts so much thought and love into the music ministry, and it shows! There's nowhere else I would rather be than making a joyful noise with my friends at NUCC!!

EMI LYDEM (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

I joined NUCC and the choir about 15 years ago. Becky amazingly accepted me into the choir even though I didn't read music. She wisely "plugged" me in between good altos and the rest is history. With that in mind, it's great to be surrounded by all those wonderful, youthful, trained voices in the choir. It is a pure joy to sing with and spend time with the extremely talented FGCU students. They actually DO teach an old dog new tricks!

Choir Testimonials

LAURI GARVEY (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

My first visit to NUCC was Easter 2023. I was so touched by the music that I contacted Becky to see what it would take to join the choir. I didn't realize at that time that I would gain so much by being part of this group—it has been a true joy to befriend and learn from so many talented musicians: the beautiful young voices from FGCU, voice teachers and professionals from the Naples community. Our congregation is truly blessed to have this amazing ministry of music.

MADISON FULLARTON (ALTO SECTION LEADER / FGCU GRADUATE)

I love singing in the NUCC choir because of all the wonderful people I get to create music with. I have been able to make lifelong connections and friendships with the people of the congregation and choir. I am blessed by some who support not only my singing in the NUCC choir but also support my students and I by attending our choir concerts and musicals at Lehigh Senior High School. I am also grateful to have a church family that values music education by supporting my professional development endeavors and by giving me opportunities to conduct. NUCC isn't just a place where I get to make beautiful music but has become a place where I have found my second family. For that, I can never say 'thank you' enough!

ERICA AICHHOLZ (ALTO SECTION LEADER / FGCU STUDENT)

Working at NUCC over the past few years has brought enrichment, community and overall great experience to my life. It has helped me improve both as a solo and collaborative performer, giving me opportunities to work with all genres of music. I am so privileged to work with such incredible musicians and perform for such an appreciative congregation and hope to do so for as long as I'm able.

CATHY SUTHERLAND (SOPRANO VOLUNTEER)

It is a privilege and joy to sing in the NUCC choir when we are in Naples. Music is my worship language. "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing"—Psalm 100:2. As an educator a highlight is singing alongside the FGCU students. Their talent and beautiful voices enhance the choir musically. The added blessing is the special intergenerational relationships being formed! This choir and church are so welcoming and embracing! Such a blessing to me!

JASSON VELEZ (TENOR SECTION LEADER)

I feel blessed to serve at NUCC, where I get to call singing both my passion and my "job" (though it hardly feels like work when you love it). This role has introduced me to so many wonderful people, and I am grateful for the chance to share music and the opportunity for solo work. Our congregation is fortunate to be guided by such inspiring pastors, and I am thankful to be part of this community.

CHAR FLOYD (SOPRANO VOLUNTEER)

I love to sing! Participating in worship through singing has been a part of my life for many years. Finding a choir that I could love to be a part of was one of my conditions to spending the winters in Florida. Dr. Becky and the NUCC choir continue to be a wonderful experience for me. Getting to know so many young musicians who make our choir so much better and fun is truly a highlight for me.

GRACE BIGELOW (ALTO SECTION LEADER / FGCU STUDENT)

I am grateful for my job at NUCC because it is such a safe space for many demographics of people and a space that truly enjoys and values the arts. What makes this opportunity so blessed is that the potential and skills of our musicians is recognized not only by Becky, but also by the congregation and clergy. I love being in the sanctuary choir because it serves as just that: a sanctuary.

PAMELA JIMENEZ (SOPRANO SECTION LEADER)

I have been a part of the choir for over 15 years. This choir, Dr. Becky and this church have always meant so much to me and have been a huge part of my life. Singing brings me such joy, it lifts my spirit and connects me to something greater. I feel incredibly grateful to sing alongside such talented individuals, especially under the direction of Dr. Becky, whose leadership and heart have given me so many opportunities to grow and share my voice. Dr. Becky and this church have been a constant source of support and love through every chapter of my life, whether it was celebrating my son's baptism, rejoicing with me when I became a citizen, or standing by me during some difficult times I've faced in recent years. I carry all of these moments with me every time I sing, and they remind me why this choir will always be like a second home to me.

KRIS FISHMAN (ALTO VOLUNTEER)

For years while visiting Naples, I loved listening to the heart-touching musical selections Dr. Becky directed and the Chancel Choir sang. I especially loved watching my mom sing! In 2022, I became a member of NUCC and joined my mom singing in this incredible choir — a combination of young and older voices blending together to share God's love. Singing and worshipping with the choir is exactly where I want to be!

Volunteer Opportunity: Youth Haven Game Night!

OCTOBER 27, 6:30 PM ARRIVAL | YOUTH HAVEN

We are looking for volunteers to run children's games with Youth Haven kids. Help create a memorable evening! Sign up in the Gathering Place on Sunday or contact Michele Carney, at mcarney@shcmg.com. Join us on Monday, October 27 from 7 to 8 p.m. Please plan to arrive at 6:30 p.m. (Youth Haven, 5867 Whitaker Rd, Naples, FL)



Harry Chapin Food Packing

NOVEMBER 5, 8:30 AM - 3 PM |
HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK

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.volgistics.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).



Grace Place Food Pantry

NOVEMBER 7, 12:30 PM | GRACE PLACE

Join NUCC members for a fun afternoon and help serve families in need. Come Friday, November 7 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Help with setup, food distribution and clean up. Sign up in the Gathering Place on Sunday or contact Sara Morgan, at saramorgan644@gmail.com.

(Meet at Grace Place, 4300 21st Ave SW, Naples, FL)



NCH Blood Drive

OCTOBER 29, 1:30 PM | ROUNABOUT

Fall into the habit of GIVING BLOOD. Naples UCC is once again partnering with the Community Blood Center to host a Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We hope you will come out and participate! To sign up, visit Samantha in the Gathering Place or call the Church Office.



Volunteer Opportunity: Habitat for Humanity Build Day

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8 AM - 12 PM | MAJESTIC PLACE COMMUNITY

Come join fellow NUCC members for a purposeful and fun day. No experience is needed and all abilities welcome! Come Saturday, November 1 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)





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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