



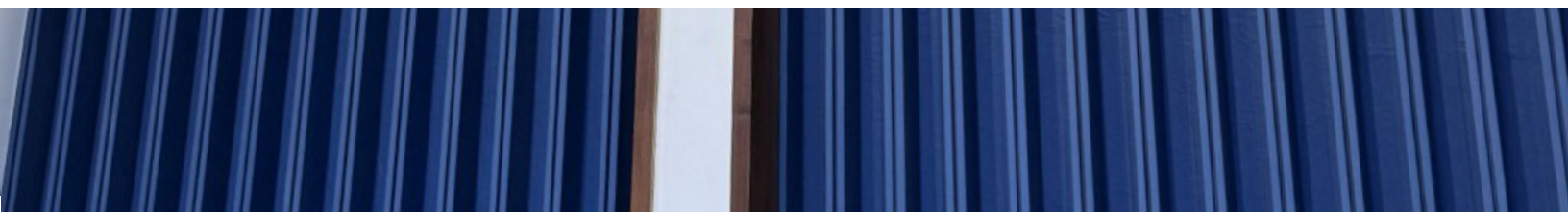
NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 10, 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

All Things Bright and Beautiful
Pamela Jimenez and Tori Hyman, soloists

John Rutter

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #355

This is a Day of New Beginnings

BEGINNINGS

INVOCATION

ALL: Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of new beginnings and the changing seasons of life. We ask for your guidance and wisdom as we journey forth. Help us to let go of the past, release any hurt or bitterness, and embrace the opportunities you have placed before us. Grant us the strength and courage to face the challenges ahead, and fill us with your peace and joy as we walk in your path. Amen.

BACKPACK BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams and
Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Tree Song
Treble Sanctuary Choir Members

Ken Medema

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

Rev 21: 1-7, 22: 1-2

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is



done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

SERMON

Tending the Gardens

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Transitional Minister
of the Florida Conference UCC

OFFERTORY

Living Water

Tom Trenney

Sanctuary Choir • Madison Fullarton, director

*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 #522

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Water Music from Hornpipe

Handel

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ



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. Nayiri Karjian, Transitional Minister
of the Florida Conference UCC

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, pianist

Madison Fullarton, director

Pamela Jimenez and Tori Hyman, soloists

Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist — Producer

Daniel Falco, Production Specialist — Audio

Jacob Falco, Production Specialist — Video

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Judy Baer

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Nancy Harper

STEPHEN MINISTER: Karin Balsbaugh

PORTICO GREETER: June and John Ballew

USHERS: Bill Durell (head), Christine Buol, Kathleen Devitt, Jill Golle, Becky Lambert, Bill Rumpf, Hank Temple,
Sandy Terry and Roger Terry

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 week's Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Bill Rumpf
in loving memory of Helen K. Weese, Dr. Becky's mother.

+ Kindly remain seated

Organ Update

Last April, we embarked on a project to replace the electrical system of our organ. This project will enhance the quality of the instrument and give our organ an exciting future. Thanks be to the generosity of our congregation, **\$120,903.50 has already been contributed toward this effort. We are in striking distance of our goal of \$148,000!** If you'd like to make a gift toward this cause, be sure to mark your check "organ fund" on the memo line. A sincere thank you to all who are graciously supporting this important initiative.



Our Guest Preacher, Rev. Nayiri Karjian

An Armenian Christian born and raised in Aleppo, Syria, Nayiri earned a B.A. in Christian Education from Haigazian University and a Certificate in Theology from the Near East School of Theology, both in Beirut, Lebanon. Her application process to attend Lancaster Theological Seminary in PA, was launched during the Lebanese civil war. She arrived in the U.S. in August 1982, graduated from Lancaster Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1985.

Since then she has served UCC congregations in settled and transitional capacities in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, Connecticut, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Colorado, and as General Minister of the Living Water Association UCC in Ohio's Heartland Conference. Her particular interests include reading, cultural studies, languages, the Arts, fashion, traveling, global issues and good chocolate.

Informational Meet & Greet: Today

TODAY AT 11 AM, N-104

We warmly invite all visitors and newcomers to join us for an Informational Meet & Greet **today**, immediately following the worship service in Nelson Hall, Room 104. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our church, meet some of our pastors and members, and ask any questions you may have about life at NUCC. We look forward to welcoming you!

Considering membership? Join privately or publicly on Sunday, August 24. Find Samantha Santarosa in the Gathering Place today or email her at membership@naplesucc.org.



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. **During most of the Summer months, our children will worship with us. Regular children's programs resume in August 17.** 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.



Backpack Blessing: Today

TODAY, 10 AM, SANCTUARY

Families are invited to be part of a beloved NUCC tradition, our Backpack Blessing during worship **today**. As we prepare for a new school year, children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing—a meaningful moment to surround them with love, encouragement, and prayer.



PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Informational Meet & Greet

Curious? Join us TODAY

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!

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 membership@naplesucc.org.



UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Backpack Blessing

10:00 AM • August 10 📍 Sanctuary



Informational Meet & Greet

11:00 AM • August 10 📍 N-104



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

11:15 AM • August 10 📍 Sanctuary

MONDAY



Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • August 11 📍 N-101/Zoom



Mahjong

1:00 PM • August 11 📍 N-104

WEDNESDAY



Gentle Yoga with Jodi

4:00 PM • August 13 📍 N-104

To view all our upcoming events and ways to connect, visit our Online Church Calendar at www.NaplesUCC.org

Next Sunday

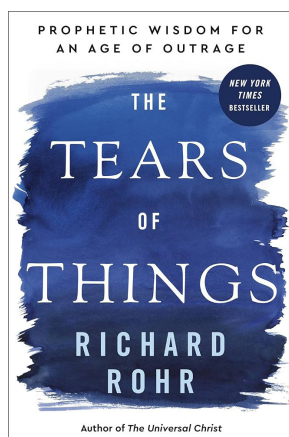
Sunday, August 17, 2025

Worship Service | 10 AM

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, preaching

We've Got Fans

Hebrews 12: 1-2



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.

Gentle Yoga with Jodi

WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH AUGUST 20, 4 PM, N-104

Join certified Yoga Instructor, Jodi, again on Wednesday for a peaceful hour of Gentle Yoga designed to help release stress, restore balance, and reconnect with your inner calm. This class is open to all levels, whether you're brand new to yoga or returning to your practice. The class takes place every Wednesday, through August 20. Chairs will be available for those who prefer or need added support, but please be sure to bring your own mat. This is a free offering of fellowship and wellness open to all members and friends alike. Please register in the Gathering Place or by calling the church office at (239) 261-5469. We look forward to moving and breathing together. Namaste.

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)***. Join for an optional dinner after the movie viewing at Season's 52 (8930 Tamiami Trail N. Naples, 34108). Sign up no later than August 17 in the Gathering Place after Sunday services or by calling the Church office at (239) 261-5469. All are welcome, feel free to invite your family and friends for a fun fellowship night out! (Run time is 1h 53m.)



PRAYER LIST

Joyce Agnew
Lilibet Bana
Kathy C.
Thom Carley
Colleen Clark
Pam Clayson
Robert & Patricia Cloutier
Thomas Coates
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
Bill Livingood
Dudley Lyons
Gordon Mounts
Betty Mounts
Gerry Nonken

Susan Pyke
Jennifer Rainey
Doris Raymond
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.

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



facebook.com/NaplesUCC



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



youtube.com/NaplesUCC

STAFF

Minister

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister
markw@naplesucc.org

Pastor Relations Team:
MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org

Administrative

Jim Asmus, Assistant Custodian

Tony Falco, Director of Technology
tony@naplesucc.org

Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Raymond Gangl, Custodian
raymond@naplesucc.org

Jill Golle, Director of
Community Life & Programs
jillg@naplesucc.org

Kiersten Heilbron, Marketing Specialist

Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

Yuli Mercado,
Communications Specialist
yuli@naplesucc.org

Jodi Nienkerk, Director of Financial
Operations
jodin@naplesucc.org

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

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

Brad Van Houten, Executive Director
brad@naplesucc.org

Music

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf,
Director of Music
becky@naplesucc.org

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
alexandrac@naplesucc.org

The Bargain Box Thrift Store

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

Sandy Goldstein, Manager Emeritus
sandy@naplesucc.org

↓ Support NUCC & Donate Today!



Online:
NaplesUCC.org/donate



Weekly Offering
Envelopes



Stocks and IRAs
Email or call the church office



Cash, Check, Credit Card
by calling the church office



Text 'NAPLESUCC' to 73256
and follow prompts