

# ADVENT 2025



## Naples United Church of Christ

December 21, 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

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

Arr. Neil Harmon

Pamela Jimenez • Angelina Sozio • Jasson Velez • Dr. Bryan Ijames

• Askar Salimdjanov, violin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9 AM) Carlson Family

(11 AM) Book Family

\*OPENING CAROL #189

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

#### **INVOCATION**

ALL: Gracious and everlasting God, on this Advent morning we come with hearts expectant, waiting for the Light that breaks through every shadow. As we worship, fill this place with Your peace that calms our restless spirits, Your joy that lifts our weary souls and Your love that binds us together as one family in Christ. Amen

TIME FOR CHILDREN (9 AM)

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth & Children's Education

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Joseph's Song Dr. Bryan Ijames, soloist Michael Card

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Malotte

Dr. Bryan Ijames, soloist

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

SERMON Change Order! Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

OFFERTORY I Wonder as I Wander Kyle Pederson

Sanctuary Choir • Askar Salimdjanov, violin

\*MUSICAL RESPONSE AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring him a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

\*CLOSING CAROL #208 Oh, How Joyfully SICILIAN MARINERS

\*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE Sussex Carol Daniel Burton

Askar Salimdjanov, violin • Dr. Alexandra Carlson, piano



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

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, pianist

Askar Salimdjanov, violin Sanctuary Choir Bradley Van Houten, Producer Owen True, Production Specialist - Audio Christian Pyles, Production Specialist - Video

NURSERY CARE: Christina Liu and Victoria Schoepfer

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Bobbie Ray SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Joe Rickard

9 AM 11 AM

STEPHEN MINISTER: Carol Fay GREETERS: Mike and Kathy Book

USHERS: Roger Terry (head), Jim Borden, Christine Buol, Tom Hornbuckle, Merrilee Hornbuckle, Joe Siderio and

Sandy Terry

STEPHEN MINISTER: Nancy Davis
GREETERS: Nancy Holbcomb and Mike Book

USHERS: Katleen Devitt (Head), Bob Brown, Bill Durell, Bruce Flessner, Melanie Flessner, Jane Lane, and Hank

Temple

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator | Ray Gangl, Custodian

Today's guest instrumentalists are graciously underwritten by the Music Gift fund.

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.

#### 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! 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE "POP-UP PAGEANT" – We invite all families to join us on **Christmas Eve** at the **3 p.m.** service for a unique retelling of the birth of Jesus. No rehearsals necessary! Come, choose a costume, and take part in the story as we tell of the coming of the Christ Child. Join us for this memorable Christmas Eve tradition!

NURSERY CARE — Nursery care for infants through 4 years old is available each Sunday morning beginning at 8:30 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 is CANCELLED this week due to the Christmas holiday!

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.

## Family Holiday Cafe

TODAY, 10:15 AM | N-201

Parents, please join us for our **Family Holiday Café** following **today's 9:00 a.m. worship service**. We invite you to take a moment and enjoy refreshments and fellowship with other families as we pause to celebrate this Christmas season. The café will be in N-201. We hope to see you there! (There will be no Youth class this morning).



### **Giving Envelopes**

2026 Giving Envelopes are here! This year if you would like personalized giving envelopes with your giving number, they will be available by request. Please reach out to Janine at janine@naplesucc.org or call the church office at 239-261-5469. You're also welcome to stop by the Gathering Place to request them in person. If this is your first time requesting them, we'd be happy to assign you a number. Thank you for your generous giving!



#### PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

## **Upcoming Events**

#### Informational Meet & Greet

#### January 11, 10:00 AM | N-104

A time for visitors to learn, ask questions, and meet our ministers. The Meet & Greet takes place following the 9:00 a.m service in Nelson Hall, room 104. Enjoy refreshments! Walk-ins are welcome.

### Joining Sunday Opportunity

#### January 25, 9:00 AM | N-104

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 9:00 a.m. service. For additional information, see Samantha in the Gathering Place or contact her at samantha@naplesucc.org

## 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 samantha@naplesucc.org.

## **Next Sunday**

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams "New Is God's Business" Revelations 21: 1-6

### UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

#### **TODAY**



#### **Bargain Box Donation Drop-Off**

9:00 AM • December 21

Portico



**Family Holiday Cafe** 



**Youth Sunday School - CANCELLED** 

December 21

#### MONDAY



Mahjong

December 22
 N-104

#### **WEDNESDAY**



Men's New Chapters - CANCELLED

December 24



**Christmas Eve - Family Service** 

3:00 PM • December 24

Sanctuary



Christmas Eve - Lessons & Carols Service

6:00 PM • December 24

Sanctuary



Christmas Eve - Lessons & Carols Service

Sanctuary



**Christmas Eve - Communion Service** 

10:00 PM • December 24 • Sanctuary



SPLASH! - CANCELLED

December 24

#### **THURSDAY**



**Christmas Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED** 

December 25



Youth Haven Christmas Breakfast

7:00 AM • December 25 ♀ Youth Haven

#### **FRIDAY**



Christmas Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED

December 26



**Caregivers Support Group - CANCELLED** 

December 26

## 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!



## Men's New Chapters

DECEMBER 24 & 31 | CANCELLED

The December 24 and 31 meetings have been canceled due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We will resume meetings in the new year on January 7, 2026! Have a joyful and safe holiday! This men's group reads and discusses current events. Retired Minister and NUCC member Rich Kirschner serves as facilitator. All men are welcome. Contact Rich Kirschner for details at rdkirschner@gmail.com.



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

JANUARY 6, 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 additional info.



## Walk & Wonder

### DECEMBER 31, 8:30 AM | GORDON RIVER GREENWAY

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 31 enjoy a walk along the boardwalks, paved trails and mangrove forest of the Gordon River Greenway. Use the Golden Gate Parkway entrance off Goodlette-Frank Road. Meet the group at the picnic tables at 8:30 a.m. Anticipate our return to the parking lot by 10:00 a.m. Contact Merrill Noble at mwnoble56@gmail.com if you have questions, plan to attend for the first time or would like to carpool from the church.



## **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 socioemotional 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 any 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!





Kris Kirschner

## PRAYER LIST

Sally Giglio

Sadness has come to the life of our church family in the passing of Deb Tubergen. Kindly keep Dane and family in you prayers in the days ahead.

Jo Armstrong Jim Gilmore Gordon Mounts

Merrikay Bailey Janet Goodhart Betty Mounts

Lilibet Bana Doty Gridley Jack Neller

Carol Berglund Fred Gridley Gerry Nonken

Mary Catherine Walter Grieb Ryan Pehrson

Thom Carley John Henry Gabrielle Emily Ridout Karin Ciesla Kate Hutchinson Darrel Siebert Colleen Clark David Johnson Jack Studley Patricia Cloutier William Jones Grace Studley Thomas Coates Bobbie Juster Joanie Toren Ann Culshaw Marla Koshgarian Deb Tubergen Allison Doriss Stew Lambert Mickey Winograd Jack Downs Ken Yamashita Tony Loring Jill Golle Patricia Manzano Atila Zolcsak

**Bob McLennan** 

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.

## Caregivers Support Group

DECEMBER 26 | CANCELLED

The Caregiver's Support Group meets every other Friday yearround to support those caring for loved ones. This session is cancelled in observance of the Christmas holiday. Enjoy! For more info, contact Joan Millon at joanmillon6@gmail.com.



### 30 Good Minutes - Joan Millon & Leigh Hindman

JANUARY 4, 10:15 AM | McSPADDEN

Join us for the next 30 Good Minutes to learn more about two of our caring ministries. Joan Millon, the organizer and facilitator of NUCC's Caregivers Support Group, and Leigh Hindman, a Stephen Minister who has helped facilitate the grief group since its inception, will talk about the value of these ministries. Retired Rev. Rich Kirschner will moderate this discussion. This session will take place on January 4 at 10:15 a.m. in McSpadden Hall. Come early or stay late to attend between services!



### Grief Group 2026

JANUARY 15, 1:00 PM | PARLOR

Join members and friends for an eight week Grief Group starting January 15 at 1 p.m. This group, facilitated by Pastor Jim Moseley and our Stephen Ministers, offers confidential, mutual support to anyone grieving a loved one. No matter when your loss occurred, you are welcome to join. 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 Ldavis 1239@ yahoo.com

## The Bargain Box Needs Your Help!

As our season ramps up, we're so grateful for your continued generosity and support and we could use your help during this busy time! We're looking to grow our volunteer team and would love for you to join us.

### Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays to help with:

- Loading and delivering donated items to The Bargain Box
- Assisting with lifting, organizing, and transporting donations

If you are available to help on **Tuesdays** or **Saturdays**, please contact George at george@bargainboxnaples. com for more information. Your time and effort play a vital role in keeping the store running smoothly and ensuring donations reach those who need them most. Whether you're available for a few hours or can help on a regular basis, your willingness to lend a hand makes a meaningful difference. If you have a few hours to spare and a willing

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

## Habitat for Humanity Build Day

JANUARY 3, 8:00 AM | HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

Join fellow NUCC members 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

JANUARY 4, 9:00 AM | PORTICO

Cans for Communion collection has begun! Donations of nonperishable food items help support our mission partner - Grace Place. They are spotlighting BOXED MILK AND CEREAL this month, however ALL donations are greatly appreciated. Do some bulk shopping, 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 for more details.



## Harry Chapin Food Packing

JANUARY 7, 7:30 AM | HARRY CHAPIN

Join NUCC volunteers for a fun day and help a worthy cause at the same time. Food Bank Packing shifts are from 7:30 am to 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 am to 2 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.



## **Grace Place Food Packing**

JANUARY 9, 12:30 PM | GRACE PLACE

Join NUCC members for a fun afternoon and help serve families in need. Come 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. (Grace Place, 4300 21st Ave SW, Naples, FL)



### Youth Haven Christmas Breakfast

#### DECEMBER 25, 7 AM | YOUTH HAVEN

Reminder for those who have signed up to volunteer: We're looking forward to serving alongside you as we prepare and serve Christmas breakfast to an amazing group of children. We will play games, laugh and sing for a memorable morning. Cooks arrive at 6:00 a.m. and other volunteers arrive at 7:00 a.m. to decorate and interact with the kids. Cleanup is completed between 10:30 and 11 a.m. so everyone can enjoy the rest of the day celebrating Christmas in their own special way. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Carney at mcarney@shcmg.com.



### Wise Education Program

JANUARY 6, 11 AM | N-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 in our community. Not here? Join by Zoom at Meeting ID: 843 4648 4094, Passcode: WISE For any questions, please contact Rob Ford at bobford47@aol.com or call the Church office.





### **NUCC Financials**

## NUCC Financial Results November 2025

	November 2025		Year to Date			
			This Year		Last Year	
Revenue	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
Current Year Giving	\$188,968	206,733	\$1,936,884	\$2,008,265	\$1,988,365	
Other Revenue	18,232	14,075	181,982	159,325	181,560	
Total Revenue	\$207,200	\$220,808	\$2,118,866	\$2,167,590	\$2,169,926	
Expenses						
Facilities & Utilities	\$13,203	\$17,478	\$157,870	\$177,954	\$156,854	
Financial & Insurance	6,128	(669)	179,197	193,482	159,428	
Christian Education	3,104	487	10,947	13,012	6,309	
Membership & Social	2,769	1,517	16,733	16,683	17,462	
Deacons & Special Events	1,990	1,192	12,291	14,308	13,581	
Ministers	32,627	35,499	271,411	316,476	376,498	
Support Staff	79,582	65,570	687,873	725,274	575,054	
Staff Services	11,858	20,165	206,425	237,153	155,289	
Office & Technology	5,124	7,816	92,482	85,972	96,083	
Music	8,964	15,874	96,405	131,151	115,370	
Mission & Ministry Outreach	46,500	5,600	65,077	72,100	35,428	
Total Operating Expenses	\$211,849	\$170,529	\$1,796,709	\$1,983,566	\$1,707,355	
Operating Surplus/(Loss)	(\$4,649)	\$50,281	\$322.156	\$184.024	\$462,569	

#### **Bargain Box**

Bargain Box Surplus/(Loss)	\$2,940	\$4,620	\$6,434	\$737	(\$6,334)
Expenses	23,281	22,380	275,876	280,263	269,373
Sales	\$26,222	\$27,000	\$282,310	\$281,000	\$263,039

Note: The Music Gift Fund supported the Music budget with \$28,823 in November and \$253,216 year to date.

#### Stewardship Status (as of 12-8-2025)

Pledges						
Pledges Made	\$1,837,804					
Pledges Paid Year to Date	\$1,680,669					
Remaining to be Paid on Pledges	\$157,135					
To Meet Giving Budget						
Pledge Giving Year to Date	\$1,680,669					
Non-Pledged Giving Year to Date	\$427,389					
Total Giving Year to Date	\$2,108,058					
2024 Giving Budget	\$2,215,000					
Giving Needed to Meet Budget	\$106,942					



## Bible Study with Pastor Mark

WEDNESDAYS STARTING JANUARY 7 9 AM IN N-207 | 1 PM IN N-103

Join Rev. Dr. Mark Williams for a 7-week Bible Study on the Seven Signs in John's Gospel. You won't want to miss this interesting study discussing the several different miraculous events or "signs" that Jesus performs. Please bring your favorite Bible and an open mind. We will study John 2: 1-11 "From Water to Wine".

## Women's Stories

JANUARY 8, 1 PM | N-101

Women's Stories, formerly Women Engage, will take part in lively discussion with a new focus on the stories and experiences of inspiring women to enlighten, encourage, and evoke conversation. Each 3-week session will focus on one woman's story told through a book, movie, podcast, TED talk, or interview. This is a great opportunity to connect with other women in our church community and find encouragement through shared experiences. Look for further details on each session in the weekly church e-blast and Sunday bulletin.



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.





www.naplesucc.org facebook.com/NaplesUCC (O) #Naplesucc voutube.com/NaplesUCC





### **STAFF**

#### **Minister**

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

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

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Norice Rasmussen, Interim Director of Financial Operations norice@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

Stephanie Watts, Floor Lead

## ↓ 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