

# Joy

## ADVENT 2025



### NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 14, 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

## A FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS IN WORD AND MUSIC

*Joy to the World*

Arr. Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

**All: Joy to the world! The Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature, Sing!**

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11 AM)

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

**All: We, the members of Naples United Church of Christ, welcome you with joy into our communion and fellowship. We pledge to you our support, our help and our prayers, that you may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God. We promise, with God's help, to walk with you in Christian love, to aid you as we can, and to bind ourselves together in the common task of building here upon this earth the realm of God.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9 AM) Lormestoire Family

(11 AM) Jennifer Rainey and Ronnie Bellone

## \*OPENING CAROL #182

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

## REFLECTION

## CAROL

*Angels' Carol*

John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Jim Moseley

**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.**



## OFFERTORY

*The First Noel*  
Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Arr. Mack Wilberg

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-20

## CAROL

*God Rest Ye*  
Sanctuary Choir and Percussion

Arr. Eddie Cavazos, Josh Cavazos,  
Trevor Phillips & Alice Gomez

## REFLECTION

## CAROL

*In Bethlehem*  
Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Arr. Dewar and Forrest

## REFLECTION

## CAROL

*Ding Dong Merrily on High*  
Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Mager

## WORDS OF GRATITUDE

## \*CLOSING CAROL #185

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

## \*BENEDICTION

## +POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*  
Chamber Orchestra

Arr. Thomas H. Graf



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.

## No Time for Children Today

Children will be proceeding directly to Sunday school with Ms. Jeannie following the announcements in today's 9 a.m. service.

## 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  
Cesar Velez, pianist

Sanctuary Choir  
Owen True, Production Specialist - Audio  
Christian Pyles, Production Specialist - Video

### Chamber Orchestra

Suzanne Kirton, flute; Andrew Snedeker, oboe; Tracy Leonard, horn; Jennifer George, violin;  
Askar Salimdjanov, violin; Cassie Drake, viola; Joy Yanai, cello; Matt Medlock, bass;  
Scott Crawford, percussion; John Evans, timpani; Dr. Alexandra Carlson, piano

**NURSERY CARE:** Elena Fernandez

**SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE:** Bobbie Ray

**SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE:** Judy Varty

### 9 AM

**STEPHEN MINISTER:** Jean Lemmon

**GREETERS:** Mary Lee Turk and Jane Barry

**USHERS:** Roger Terry (head), Jim Borden, Christine Buol, Kathleen Devitt, Bill Rumpf, Merrilee Hornbuckle, Tom Hornbuckle, and Barbara Wolf

### 11 AM

**STEPHEN MINISTER:** Nancy Davis

**GREETERS:** Donna and Mike Conrad

**USHERS:** Jennifer Rainey (head), Mary B Fisher, Bruce Flessner, Melanie Flessner, Becky Lambert, Sally Pendleton, Terry Pendleton and Bill Rumpf

**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 by Ed Kaulbars and Cheryl Turner in honor of their anniversary.

## Emir Bilen Concert

DECEMBER 20, 4:00 PM | BEVERLY HALL

Emir Bilen has quickly become a beloved talent in the Naples music scene, known for his heartfelt performances and impressive vocal range. As a dedicated student of Rebecca Richardson, he continues to refine his craft while balancing his studies at the Community School of Naples. Don't miss this special opportunity to enjoy a festive concert and help nurture the next generation of musical talent. Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend!



# PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

## Upcoming Events

### Informational Meet & Greet

**January 11, 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 refreshments! Sign up with Samantha in the Gathering Place.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:samantha@naplesucc.org).

## 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](mailto:janine@naplesucc.org) or call the church office at 239-261-5469. You're also welcome to stop by the Gathering Place to request one 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!

# UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

## TODAY



### Youth Sunday School

10:15 AM • December 14 • N-200

## MONDAY



### Mahjong

1:00 PM • December 15 • N-104

## TUESDAY



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM • December 16 • Parlor

## WEDNESDAY



### Men's New Chapters

10:30 AM • December 17 • N-101



### Worship on Wednesday

12:00 PM • December 17 • Sanctuary



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

4:00 PM • December 17 • N-203



### Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM • December 17 • Sanctuary

## SATURDAY



### Emir Bilen Concert

4:00 PM • December 20 • Beverly Hall

## SUNDAY



### Family Holiday Cafe

10:15 AM • December 21 • N-201

## Next Sunday

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

"Change Order!"

Matthew 1: 18-25

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Askar Salimdjanov, violin

Dr. Bryan Ijames, soloist



## 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!



## Family Holiday Cafe

DECEMBER 21, 10:15 AM | N-201

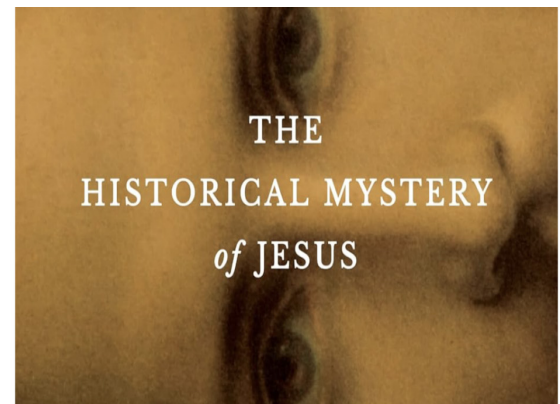
Parents, please join us for our Family Holiday Café on Sunday, December 21 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We invite you to take a moment and enjoy refreshments and fellowship with other families as we pause to celebrate this Christmas season. The café will take place in N-201. We hope to see you there! (There will be no Youth class that morning).



## Men's New Chapters

DECEMBER 17, 10:30 AM | N-101

Men's New Chapters meets regularly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. throughout the program season. The group is reviewing a book titled, "Miracles and Wonder, the Historical Mystery of Jesus" by Elaine Pagels. All men are welcome! Contact Rich Kirschner for details or the zoom link if you are unable to attend in person at [rdkirschner@gmail.com](mailto:rdkirschner@gmail.com).



## Worship on Wednesday

WEDNESDAY — DECEMBER 17  
12:00 PM | SANCTUARY

Please join us for the final week of Worship on Wednesday. This week "The Three Women of Christmas" series will highlight Anna (Luke 2:36-38) and is titled, "Gritty Faith." Often Christmas requires a faith that is more gritty than it is pretty. Day after day, Anna showed up at the temple persisting in faith only to experience the presence of Christ in her midst.



## 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 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 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.

## PRAYER LIST

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	Jack Studley
Colleen Clark	David Johnson	Grace Studley
Patricia Cloutier	William Jones	Joanie Toren
Thomas Coates	Bobbie Juster	Deb Tubergen
Ann Culshaw	Marla Koshgarian	Mickey Winograd
Allison Doriss	Stew Lambert	Ken Yamashita
Jack Downs	Tony Loring	Atila Zolcsak
Jill Golle	Patricia Manzano	
Sally Giglio	Bob McLennan	

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.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Youth Haven Christmas Breakfast

DECEMBER 25, 6 AM | YOUTH HAVEN

Come join us in celebrating the birth of Christ by serving selflessly and showing love to the children at Youth Haven. We will cook an amazing breakfast and all eat around 8 a.m. Volunteers should arrive around 6 a.m. There will be game time afterward, followed by final clean-up, and we should be finished around 11 a.m. Sign up in the Gathering Place or you can call the Church office at (239) 261-5469. For questions, please contact Lorelee LeBoeuf at [lalwal48@yahoo.com](mailto:lalwal48@yahoo.com).



## 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 socio-emotional 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 one 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!





## Bargain Box Donation Sunday

DECEMBER 21, 9 AM | PORTICO

Join us for our monthly donation drive on December 21 at 9 a.m. NUCC will collect donations before each service. For December 21, we are collecting **women's boutique clothing**. Please bring your donations to the drop-off table in the Portico. As our season ramps up, we're grateful for your generous donations and we could use your help!

### Join the team!

We're looking for volunteers on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays to:

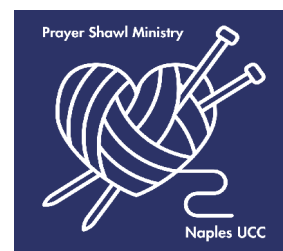
- Load and deliver donations to The Bargain Box
- Help with lifting and transport

If you have a few hours and a willing heart, we'd love to have you!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

DECEMBER 16, 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

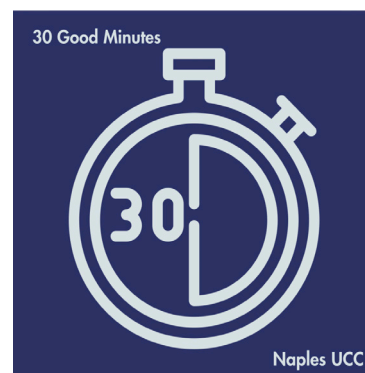
Join members and friends for fellowship, prayer, and walking in nature. The Walk and Wonder group eagerly welcomes family members, friends and especially newcomers to the NUCC community. On Wednesday, December 31 enjoy a walk along the boardwalks, paved trails and mangrove forest of the Gordon River 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.



## 30 Good Minutes - Joan Millon & Leigh Hindman

JANUARY 4, 10:15 AM | MCSPADDEN HALL

Join us for the next 30 Good Minutes with Joan Millon, the chair of NUCC's Caregivers Support group, and Leigh Hindman, a Stephen Minister at NUCC. Retired Rev. Rich Kirschner will moderate this discussion on why caregivers need support and what programs are offered at NUCC that benefit our church members and community. Come early or stay late to attend between services!





*Christmas Eve Services*

**Family Service  
3 PM**

**Traditional Lessons & Carols  
6 & 8 PM**

**Holy Communion  
10 PM**

**Nursery care available at the 3 & 6 PM services!**

## Become an Usher or Greeter!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve your church family? We are inviting volunteers to help usher or greet at the Narthex doors. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all who enter and be a part of creating a spirit of hospitality in our worship space. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the congregation, your presence and smile can make a big difference!

If you're interested, please contact:

Roger Terry – [rogerterry1@gmail.com](mailto:rogerterry1@gmail.com)

Jennifer Rainey – [raineyjmd@yahoo.com](mailto:raineyjmd@yahoo.com)

## Grief Group 2026

**JANUARY 15, 1:00 PM | PARLOR**

Join members and friends for an eight week Grief Group starting January 15 at 1p.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 [Ldavis1239@yahoo.com](mailto:Ldavis1239@yahoo.com)

## Exciting Improvements Coming Soon

We're excited to share that several major enhancements are coming to the Naples UCC campus! The time has finally come; this week, the steeple was carefully removed by crane. It will be fully refurbished in Kentucky over the next few months before being reinstalled, ensuring long-term strength and structural integrity. In addition, the chapel's interior will also undergo significant renovations, creating a refreshed and welcoming space for years to come.

The extensive repaving of our church parking lot, with multiple sections to be repaired and replaced, will be starting soon. In preparation for this, selective tree and landscape removal has taken place to help prevent future pavement issues. This intentional replanting and relandscaping will support a healthy and long-lasting design.

These major campus projects have been made possible by the generosity of a congregation that cares so deeply about the sacred and beloved space that is our church. In the weeks to come, kindly "excuse our dust." And remember, a church under construction is a church with a vision for a hope-filled future. I bet, Joseph, the carpenter, would agree.

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## Phishing Schemes

### Stay Safe from Scams this Holiday Season!

The holiday season is a prime time for scammers, and unfortunately, Naples UCC has recently been targeted by phishing attempts. These scams often involve emails or text messages impersonating Naples UCC ministers, staff, or church officers.

#### Important Reminder:

No Naples UCC minister, staff member, or church officer will ever ask you via email or text for:

- Personal banking information
- Gift cards
- Sensitive personal data
- Urgent financial assistance

If you receive a suspicious message: **Check the sender's full email address.** Scammers often make small, hard-to-spot changes to legitimate addresses. **Do not respond.** Instead, call the church office at 239-261-5469 to verify authenticity. Your vigilance helps keep our community safe. Thank you for staying alert!

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## Caregivers Support Group

JANUARY 9, 2:00 PM | N-101

The Caregiver's Support Group meets every other Friday year-round to support those caring for loved ones. Whether you're a caregiver, a past or future one, or seeking resources, all are welcome. Church membership is not required and discussions remain private. The next meeting will be on January 9. Please note that the group will not meet on Friday, December 26, due to the Christmas holiday. For more info, contact Joan Millon at [joanmillon6@gmail.com](mailto:joanmillon6@gmail.com).







# 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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## STAFF

### Minister

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

Rev. Jim Moseley, Interim Minister  
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Pastor Relations Team:  
[MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org](mailto:MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org)

### Administrative

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Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

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Brad Van Houten, Executive Director  
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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)

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