



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 11, 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

MISSION MOMENT

Baby Basics of Collier County

Ms. Jean Ann Lynch, Founder

PRELUDE

Morning Song

Franko Goldman

Billy Carlson, trumpet • Dr. Alexandra Carlson, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #138

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams and Janet Goodhart

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A Mother's Love

Tom Shelton

Children and Youth Choir • Pamela Jimenez, soloist

TIME FOR CHILDREN (9 AM)

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Christian Education

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11 AM)

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams and Jennifer Rainey, Co-chair of Board of Deacons

Congregational Response: 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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

You Are the Hands

Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

Members of the Sanctuary Choir

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

Acts 9: 36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she



opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SERMON

Helping the Helper

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

OFFERTORY

New Life

Sanctuary Choir

Robert Hobby

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #596

Help Us Accept Each Other

BECK

*BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ

Buxtehude



If you would like a word of prayer or quiet conversation, stop by the parlor for a visit with today's Stephen Minister. The parlor is to the right as you are leaving the sanctuary.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, pianist

Children and Youth Choir

Pamela Jimenez, soloist

Billy Carlson, trumpet

Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist — Producer

Yuliana Mercado, Production Specialist — Audio

Christian Pyles, Production Specialist — Video

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Judy Baer

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Joe Rickard

STEPHEN MINISTER: (9 AM) Carole Fay | (11 AM) Karin Balsbaugh

PORTICO GREETER: (9 AM) Nancy Harper and Judy Varty | (11 AM) Kathy Book and Mike Book

USHERS (9 AM): Roger Terry (Head Usher), Christine Buol, Hugh Clark, Merrilee Hornbuckle, Tom Hornbuckle, Bill Rumpf, Sandy Terry and Barb Wolf

USHERS (11 AM): Jennifer Rainey (Head Usher), Bob Brown, Hugh Clark, Becky Earney, Bill Durell, Becky Lambert and Hank Temple

THE GATHERING PLACE: Chelsea Godwin, Receptionist & Membership Coordinator | Ray Gangl, Custodian

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

This Sunday's Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God
by the NUCC Staff in honor of Chelsea Godwin's Ministry over the last 6 years.

+ Kindly remain seated

Mother's Day Offering

TODAY, 9 & 11 AM

This Mother's Day we are collecting a special offering for Baby Basics, a long-term mission partner that provides diapers to families in Collier County. To make your contribution, please use one of the giving envelopes in the pew backs and write **Mother's Day Offering** on the memo line of your check.

Jean Ann Lynch, founder of Baby Basics and NUCC member, will offer a Mission Moment during worship on Mother's Day. Thank you for your generosity.



Steeple Project Update

In recent weeks, continued progress has been made on our steeple repair project that includes repairs to Gates Chapel. Alongside a steeple manufacturer, we have now successfully retained four additional entities required by local officials: an engineer, an architect, a general contractor, and a permitting agency. The complexities of this project are numerous, but the outcome will be a blessing to all for many years to come. We are so grateful for all who have been generous toward the project, and we look forward to updating the congregation in the fall about construction timing, scope, and dates.

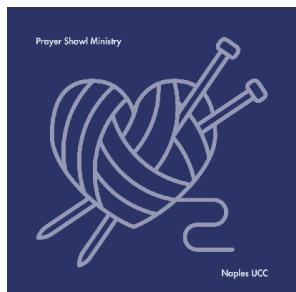
Celebrating Chelsea Godwin

TODAY, FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE, THE GATHERING PLACE

After reading Chelsea's beautiful farewell letter, we know many of you share in both the joy of her next chapter and the sadness of saying goodbye. Chelsea has been a shining light in our church community—her warmth, dedication, and welcoming spirit have left a lasting mark on all of us. If you feel moved to express your appreciation with a personal note, card, or gift, you are invited to do so. Contributions can be shared with Chelsea directly or brought to the church office before her final day on Thursday, May 22. Please join us during Fellowship TODAY to celebrate Chelsea by sharing stories and cake as we wish her well.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1 PM, PARLOR



The beautiful prayer shawls featured in today's worship service were crafted by dedicated members of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. **Whether you know how to knit or want to learn, no matter your age, gender, or walk of life, all are invited** to make memories and help us preserve this universal and embracing ministry. The group meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Parlor, from 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Janet Goodhart at (610) 420-7196 for questions. Thank you to all our knitters who over the years have created beautiful shawls.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

Children & Youth Ministry

 **SUNDAYS** — We are so happy to have families with young children in our midst! Regular Sunday morning activities for children 4 years and older take place during the school year. Children are encouraged to come forward for the *Time with Children*, then go to Sunday school with Ms. Jeannie. Coloring activities and worship resources are available on the family table in the Narthex. Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions or would like more information about upcoming events.

NURSERY CARE IN NELSON HALL — 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! CHILDREN & YOUTH — SPLASH! and Children & Youth Choir will resume in the fall. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 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 4:15 p.m. in Beverly Hall.



Confirmation Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 18, DURING WORSHIP

On Sunday, May 18, we joyfully celebrate Confirmation Sunday during our 10:00 a.m. worship service—our first confirmation class in nearly a decade! **We are proud to recognize seven students as they take this meaningful step in their faith journey.** Each will participate in worship as part of this special milestone. Following the service, all are invited to a reception in their honor. Come celebrate their commitment, show your support, and share in this joyful moment with our church family!

Caregiver's Support Group

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2 PM, N-101

The Caregiver's Support Group meets every other Friday year-round to support those caring for loved ones. Join us on Friday, May 16 at 2 p.m. in Nelson Hall, room 101. 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. Bring a friend who may benefit! For more info, contact Joan Millon at joanmillon6@gmail.com.

Final Walk and Wonder

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 8:30 AM,
PELICAN BAY BERM**

Join members and friends for fellowship, prayer and walking in nature. **The Walk and Wonder group welcomes family, members, friends and especially newcomers to the NUCC community.**

On Wednesday, May 14 enjoy our final walk of the season along the Pelican Bay Berm beginning at the Naples Grande to the Butterfly Garden near the Commons Tram station. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Anticipate our return to church by 10 a.m. Contact Merrill Noble at mwnoble56@gmail.com if you have questions or plan to attend.

Chancel Flower Dedications



We have available dates for our Chancel Flower Dedications! A wonderful opportunity to celebrate, honor, or remember a loved one. We will feature your message in the Sunday Bulletin and on our livestream. Currently, available dates are: **June 1, 15, 22, 29 and July 1, 13, 20, 27.** Contact Chelsea Godwin, at Chelsea@naplesucc.org, or call (239)261-5469 with any questions. We hope you will participate in this thoughtful tradition!

NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Joining Sunday Opportunity

Today!

You may join either publicly or privately. Public joining at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Prospective Member Coffee Hour

Curious? Join us August 10

A time to learn, ask questions and meet with the senior minister. Occurs immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service, in Nelson Hall, room 104.

For additional information, contact Membership Coordinator, Chelsea, at chelsea@naplesucc.org

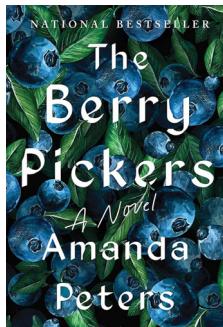
NUCC Golf For Fun

FRIDAY, MAY 16, FROM 9 AM

Tee Off the Season with Us! Get ready for our first golf outing of the season, generously hosted by Bob Morse! Join us at Spanish Wells on Friday, May 16 — the first tee time is at 9:00 a.m., with five total tee times available. The cost is just \$55, which includes golf and a cart. Stick around afterward for lunch and great company! Spots are limited, so be sure to RSVP to Ron Sanson at 239-860-8034 or ronsansoncam@gmail.com. We hope to see you on the course!

NUCC Summer Book Club

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2 PM, N-104



Join us in Nelson Hall, Room 104 to discuss this month's Summer Selection, titled *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. We welcome all for a lively discussion, even if you have not read the book! Not in town? Please join us on Zoom

(Zoom ID: 838 2027 0433 | Password: book)

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Joining Sunday

 11:00 AM • May 11  Portico



Confirmation Class

 11:00 AM • May 11  N-201

MONDAY



Mahjong

 1:00 PM • May 12  N-101

WEDNESDAY



Walk and Wonder

 8:30 AM • May 14  Pelican Bay Berm



Men's New Chapters

 10:30 AM • May 14  N-101

THURSDAY



Justice Committee Meeting

 3:30 PM • May 15  N-104/Zoom

FRIDAY



NUCC Golf for Fun

 9:00 AM • May 16  Spanish Wells



Caregiver's Support Group

 2:00 PM • May 16  N-101

Return to a Single Service

Beginning next Sunday, May 18, and through the Summer, we will offer a single Worship Service at 10 AM. Join us in Worship in person or online.

Next Sunday

Confirmation Sunday, May 18

Worship Service | 10 AM

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

Use Your Slingshot

1 Samuel 17: 32-49

Ingrid Carlson, piano

Angelina Sozio, soprano

Miguel Coates, clarinet



30 Good Minutes: Welcoming the Stranger

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 11:15 AM, N-207/ZOOM

Justice Committee member Jeff Davis will facilitate a talk on immigration, justice, and faith with local immigration attorney Michael J. O'Reilly. He'll share insights on how the system works, where it falls short, and how our faith calls us to respond. Questions will follow.

Volunteer Opportunity: Grace Place Food Pantry

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 12:30 - 4 PM, GRACE PLACE

Join NUCC members for a fun afternoon and help serve families in need. Come Friday, May 30 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)

Volunteer at PrideFest with Naples UCC

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 8:30 - 4:30, CAMBIER PARK

Naples UCC is proud to be sponsoring a booth at this year's Pridefest on Saturday, June 7 at Cambier Park—and we'd love your help! We're looking for friendly, welcoming volunteers to help staff our table throughout the day. Shifts are between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and having at least 8–12 volunteers will help us keep things running smoothly. It's a great way to show support, connect with the community, and share NUCC's spirit of inclusivity and love. Interested? Contact the church office to sign up at (239)261-5469.

Mission Opportunity in Guatemala

NUCC is organizing a mission trip to Guatemala from October 12-19 with spots for eight people. Priority goes to first-time travelers, with past participants welcome to participate if space allows. The NUCC team will install stoves and support Guatemalan children and families through educational and intercultural activities. Interested? Email Susan Pezzullo at suspezzullo@gmail.com. Don't miss out on this meaningful opportunity to serve and learn.



PRAYER LIST

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to Laurie Grieb and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Grieb, on April 30, 2025

Meb Bergwall	David Johnson	Gerry Nonken
Thom Carley	Irma Johnson	Doris Raymond
Thomas Coates	Marguerite Jung	Caroline Salm Regan
Carol Dlouhy	Lily Lesley	Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Jack Downs	Gay Lindquist	Jan Stowell
Fred and Doty Gridley	Gary Lormestoire	Barbara Swidler
Walter Grieb	Dudley Lyons	Joanie Toren
Colleen Henning Hensel	Cathy and Dan McGuire	Atila Zolcsak
Margaret Jack	Gordon Mounts	

To add or remove a name, contact Darren Paquette by email at darrenp@naplesucc.org.

Names stay on the list for four weeks. To keep your loved one's name on the list longer, please contact Darren Paquette.



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 broadcastings, recordings and postings.

STAFF

Clergy Team

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Minister
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Pastor Relations Team

Senior Minister:
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Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Sandy Goldstein, Manager
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Weekly Offering
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by calling the church office



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and follow prompts