

Naples United Church of Christ

April 28, 2024 | 9 & 11 AM

An Open and Affirming Congregation
A WISE for Mental Health Congregation
Mission Statement: 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 Rev. Angela Wells-Bean, Minister for Congregational Care

PRELUDE Serenade A. Woodall

Beth Larsen, flute • Dr. Alexandra Carlson, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #346

O Come to Me, the Master Said

KINGSFOLD

INVOCATION

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. In this love and abundance, we come to celebrate your harvest—a harvest bearing the first fruits of the Spirit within us. Show us how to use these gifts so that our lives are a reflection of our love for you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN (9 A.M.)

Jeanne Snedeker Director of Christian Education

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11 A.M.)

Roger Terry, Deacon

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

I Will Be the Vine Sanctuary Choir • Beth Larsen, flute Liam Lawton Arr. John McCann

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 John 15: 1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON Known By Our Fruit Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

OFFERTORY

I am the Vine and You are the Branches

Santuary Choir • Beth Larsen, flute

Allen Pote

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OID 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 #457

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Allegro from Concerto in D (Il Gardellino)

A. Vivaldi

Beth Larsen, flute • 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. Angela Wells-Bean, Minister for Congregational Care

Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music

Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist

Sanctuary Choir

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

STEPHEN MINISTER: Karin Balsbaugh, 9 a.m.

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Marcia Davis

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Sara Nonken

USHERS: (9 a.m.) Bob Brown (Head Usher), Kathleen Devitt, Bill Durell, Becky Earney, Bill Rumpf,

Hank Temple, Roger Terry, Ellen Vail and Steve Vail

(11 a.m.) Jennifer Rainey (Head Usher), Mary Fisher, Becky Lambert, Sally Pendleton,

Terry Pendleton, Bill Rumpf, Joe Siderio, Judy Siderio and Roger Terry

PORTICO GREETERS: (9 a.m.) Jane Barry, Geoff Murphy and Karyn Murphy

(11 a.m.) Gary Personette, Louise Taylor and Catherine Waterman

NARTHEX GREETERS: (11 a.m.) Lee Crawford, Dan Haines and Mary Nowicki

THE GATHERING PLACE: Chelsea Godwin, Coordinator of Membership and Stewardship

This Sunday's Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Beth Larsen Flute

Linda Russell, 11 a.m.

Bradley Van Houten, Director of Production

Daniel Falco, Production Specialist — Audio

Jacob Falco, Production Specialist — Video

Today's guest musician is graciously underwritten by the Music Gift Fund.

A Word From Stewardship

Our heartfelt thanks to all of the now more than 400 donors who filled out an Estimate of Giving for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. With a total of nearly \$1.8M we are short of our goal, but want to acknowledge those of you who faithfully give each and every year to Naples United Church of Christ without an Estimate of Giving. Your contributions are equally important and we count on them to support all that we do. Your gifts will allow us to reach our goal this year. We will continue to keep you informed of the budget on both the income and expense side as the year unfolds and you can trust that Rev. Dr. Mark and the Trustees are constantly monitoring the fiscal well-being of the church. We are grateful to all of you who have supported stewardship over the past four years while we have been chairs and look forward to whatever new ventures God and this church have waiting for us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob & Candy Nordland

Financial Reports

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing information on NUCC's financial situation on a regular basis for this year and beyond. The January and February financial statements were both published in the bulletin. We are now undergoing an update to the accounting software, preparing the documentation for the upcoming financial audit by the external auditors, and closing out the first quarter. As a result, the publishing of the March financial report will be delayed a few weeks after which the statements will return to the planned cadence.



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! Our children's ministry activities take place during the 9:00 a.m. worship service each Sunday. All children ages 4 years and older are invited to attend Sunday school following the children's message during the service. If you are new to our church, your children are always welcome to join us! Please touch base with Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Christian Education, for details and answers to any questions you may have. Our curriculum follows the Common Lectionary.

TIME FOR CHILDREN — During the 9 a.m. worship service, children ages 4 and older will hear a message from Ms. Jeanne and are invited to Sunday School following the Time for Children. Parents may pick up their children in Nelson Hall after worship.

Nursery Care in Nelson Hall

Nursery childcare 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 current 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.

WISE for Mental Health Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 10 A.M., N-104 & ZOOM



Join our WISE for Mental Health Taskforce as we support one another and work on our programming for the wider congregation. WISE stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged. The WISE Taskforce aims to make our church WISE for people who struggle with mental health concerns, and their families. All are invited to join our meetings!

Please email Pastor Angela at Angela@NaplesUCC.org if you have questions or if you'd like the Zoom

Holy Communion

Cans for Communion Collection

Sunday, May 5 • 9 &11 a.m. Rev. Dr. Mark Williams, preaching "Joy Together" John 15:9-17

> Askar Salimdjanov, violin Dr. Alexandra Carlson Sanctuary Choir

New Members Welcomed!

As of today we will have joined a total of 66 new members by the end of the first four months of 2024. This compares to a full year total in 2023 of 68 new members. The truly wonderful news is not simply the numbers. We've been so fortunate to attract over 130 caring, talented and energetic new members in just the last 16 months. And thanks goes to all in the congregation who have helped bring this about.

NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Prospective Member Luncheon

May 5, following 11 a.m. service

A time to learn, ask questions and meet with the Ministers and church leaders after the 11 am service in N-104

New Member Orientation

May 9, 4 p.m.

An informal gathering to learn more on how the church operates, complete with wine, cheese and a campus tour.

Joining Sunday

May 12, during 9 a.m. service

That special day to join, either publicly or privately, in person or online.

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

What is the red dot for?

New members have a red dot on their church nametag. Join us in making them feel welcome in our church family.

Seasonal in Naples? Become an Associate Member!

If you're here in Naples for the season and are part of a church "up north" as well, we'd love to have you become an associate member of Naples UCC. You can be a member of Naples UCC and your church up north. In fact, as an associate member, you will have the same voting and participation privileges as any other member of our church family. To become an associate member, sign up today in the Gathering Place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY



Mahjong

iii 1:00 p.m. • April 29 ♀ N-101



Centering Prayer



Social Soirée

WEDNESDAY



New Chapter Men's Spirituality

iii 10:30 a.m. • May 1 ♀ N-101



Stephen Ministers Meeting

iii 1:00 p.m. • May 1 ♀ N-101



Wacky Wednesday



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY



WISE Task Force Meeting



Membership & Growth Meeting

FRIDAY



Al Anon Meeting



Caregiver's Support Group



Free 2 Be Group

SATURDAY



Habitat for Humanity: Final Build Day!

8:00 a.m. • May 4 • Offsite

Prospective Member Luncheon

SUNDAY, MAY 5, NOON, N-104

Our next Prospective Member Luncheon will occur on May 5, following the 11:00 a.m. Service, in Nelson Hall, room 104. This is an opportunity to meet our clergy, hear about our theology, and ask any questions you may have. Our seasonal visitors are especially welcome and we have a category of membership, Associate Member, which allows for full membership privileges here while recognizing your commitment as a member of your northern church! Please sign-up in the Gathering Place following our Sunday services! You may also get in touch with our Membership Coordinator, Chelsea Godwin, at Chelsea@ NaplesUCC.org or by calling our church office at (239)261-5469. Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, May 1.

Joining Sunday Opportunity

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 9 A.M.

On Sunday May 12 at 9 a.m. we will have Joining Sunday, a wonderful opportunity for those interested in becoming a member of NUCC. You may join as a full member or associate member (for those who wish to maintain their membership in a northern church). You may join in a private ceremony or publicly during the Sunday services.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Membership Coordinator, Chelsea Godwin, at Chelsea@naplesucc.org or by calling our church office at (239)261-5469. You may also sign up in the Gathering Place following services.

PRAYER LIST

CONDOLENCES: To the family on the passing of Juanita Henning. A memorial service will take place on May 14, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Condolences to the family on the passing of Virginia Williams. A memorial service will take place on May 8, at 1 p.m. in Gates Chapel.

Jo Armstrong Beth Bacon Paul Bast Gary Blair Thom Carley Rose Ann Chassion Ron DiUbaldi Jack Downs Barry Duke Charmaine Duke E.J. Gerth

Fred and Doty Gridley Tim Gunderman Sherrie Haebia

Colleen Henning Hensel Margaret Jean Hustad-Perrin

Margarite Jack Marguerite Jung **Bobbie Juster**

Stew Lambert Louise Leander Lily Lesley **Dudley Lyons** Kathleen Macher Bryan Masi Amber Mello George Mirabile Sonya Moore

Robert and Kathleen Murphy Jack Neller Gerald Nonken Mary Nowicki Dominique O'Connell Carole Paterson

Shannon, Brent, Gabriel, Julian and

Rylee Peterson Irene Pinski

Patricia Peters

Doris Raymond Caroline Salm Regan Gabrielle Emily Ridout

Isley Rosner **Bev Scanlon** Martha Selby **Brian Solomen** Patrick Storey Jan Stowell Barbara Swidler Missy Tenzer Delores Tiede Joanie Toren David Williams Atila Zolcsak Gretchen

Megan, Avril and Gabby

To add or remove a name, contact Darren Paquette by email to 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.

Intersections: Between Work & Faith

TODAY SUNDAY, APRIL 28, BETWEEN SERVICES, N-207

Join us for Intersections this week and learn more about NUCC's work with refugees. John Bachman will interview fellow church members Barb Bachman and Bob Nordland in Nelson Hall 207 today between services. We hope to see you there!

Pardon our Dust!

We have numerous roof repairs which will be ongoing for the next few weeks. These were much needed and will help protect our buildings during the rainy season. We are so grateful for the generous gifts that were able to make these repairs possible.

Social Soirée

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 4:30 P.M., GIUSEPPE AND THE LION

Come and meet up with old friends...or make new ones!!

We are excited to share that we will have a Social Soirée on Monday, April 29 at 4:30 p.m. at Giuseppe and the Lion (formerly Noodles Cafe, 1585 Pine Ridge Rd). Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and live music (beginning at 6:00 p.m.). Please sign up in the Gathering Place or by contacting the church office. If you have any questions or updates to your attendance, please contact Susan Melick at (239) 293-8446. We hope to see you there!

Introduce a Friend to NUCC

NUCC is the perfect church home for some who have recently moved to Naples or others who are searching for a new church home. Research shows that most people join a church because of a personal contact with a church member. What are the most important factors in a prospective member's search? The quality of the sermons and feeling welcomed by the clergy and church members - which is why the Membership and Growth Committee is continuing its initiative of encouraging all to be "Intentionally Invitational and Welcoming". Everyone is encouraged to invite a friend or neighbor to a service or a church event.

Caregiver's Support Group: 9 Year Celebration!

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2 P.M., N-101

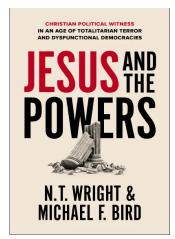
We are celebrating our 9th year of having a Caregivers' Support Group at NUCC!! Come and join us for cake. We will have our regular support meeting also. Our Caregivers Support Group will meet Friday, May 3 at 2 p.m. in N-101. All are welcome! For more information, please reach out Joan Millon at joanmillon6@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

Men's New Chapters

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 A.M., N-101 AND ZOOM

All men are invited to be part of the weekly

men's ministry group here at NUCC. This Wednesday, they're continuing the book Jesus and the Powers by N.T. Wright. Come for coffee, donuts, and stimulating conversation. The group is organized by Rich Kirschner, please email him for the Zoom link at rdkirschner@gmail.com



Mahjong on Mondays Now in N-101!

MONDAYS, 1 - 3 P.M., N-101

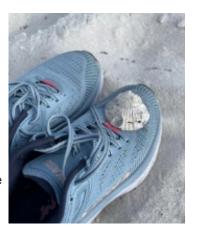
Play Mahjong or want to learn? Join Mahjong on Mondays from 1 - 3 p.m. in N-101. Free, and all are welcome!



Walk and Wonder

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 8:30 A.M., BAKER PARK

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, May 8, enjoy the variety of walkways and picturesque views of the Gordon River at Baker Park. The Park is located on Riverside Circle off Goodlette-Frank Road just north of downtown Naples. Park in the upper parking lot on your left. Meet the group at the top of the stairs between the two playgrounds at 8:30 a.m. Anticipate our return to the parking lot by 10 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 parking lot.



2024 NUCC GOLF FOR FUN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 9:00 A.M., LA PLAYA GOLF CLUB

It is that time again to get church members and church friends together for golf season! Our first outing, courtesy of Bob and Candy Nordland, will be at LaPlaya Golf Club on May 15. Reserved tee times start at 9:30 a.m., cost will be \$65.00 for golf and cart. Lunch following is on you. Sign up in the Gathering Place, by calling the church office, or by contacting John Ballew at johnballew1@yahoo.com or (732)598-2796 or Ron Sanson at ronsansoncam@gmail.com or (239)860-8034.

As always we are looking for new courses as well as old favorites this summer and fall, so if you are a club member and would like to sponsor your club, please contact us.

Habitat for Humanity: Final Build Day

SATURDAY, MAY 4, AT 8 A.M., WHITAKER WOODS PROJECT



A HUGE thank you to all of the people who have so joyously donated their time and talents to the Habitat for Humanity communities!! Jobs well done!! We will hold our FINAL (!) season Build Day on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon. Our team will be working on homes in the Whitaker Woods Project, directly across from Youth Haven, at 5825 Whitaker Road, Naples. There is a variety of work for all levels of ability...painting, caulking, hanging doors, installing windows, and framing for those with more advanced skills! We like to arrive around 7:50 a.m. and then wrap it up at noon. If you are interested, please sign up in the Gathering Place after the service. If you are a first-timer, please register with Habitat at: tinyurl.com/NUCCbuild.

All registrants will receive confirmation on site location and additional

helpful safety information and will avoid needing to complete a release form at the job site. If you have any questions please contact judyvarty@gmail.com. Join us for a fun day of service!

Mission Moment with STARability Foundation

SUNDAY, MAY 5, GATHERING PLACE



With funds provided by Bargain Box revenues, a grant was given to the STARability Foundation by the Board of Mission and Outreach. STARability works to transform the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through social, vocational and educational community connections. With the help of their Vocational Services team,

participants learn job skills, explore career opportunities and find employment with businesses that believe in their abilities. Our grant will be used to expand their Vocational Services. Meet Judith Irigoyen, Development Director, on Sunday, May 5 and learn more about their work. Additional information will be available in the Gathering Place between services, and you may visit their website: www.STARability.org

Bargain Box Focused Donation Drive

TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 28, THE PORTICO

The Bargain Box will be holding a focused donation drive on the last Sunday of every month. This month it will be on Sunday, April 28 and we are looking for gently used purses, wallets and totes. A table will be set up under the portico and donations should be dropped off before and after both services. You may reach out to Mary Robinson at (239) 298-3496, if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of the Bargain Box!

Bargain Box Store
A mission of Naples United Church of Christ







GRACE PLACE BACKPACK D

PRIMARY GRADE (K-2)

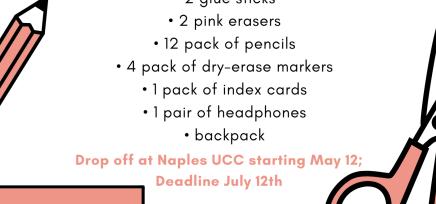
- 2 composition notebooks (primary
 - plastic pencil box
- 3-prong folders (in 3 different colors)
 - blunt scissors
 - 24 pack of Crayola crayons
 - 8 pack of Crayola markers
 - 2 highlighters
 - 2 glue sticks

Grace Place **Backpack Drive**

SUNDAY, MAY 12 - JULY 12

Grace Place Backpack Drive The current school year is not over but already Grace Place for Children & Families is planning for the 2024-25 school year. NUCC will once again be collecting filled backpacks for Primary Grades (K-2). A list of the needed supplies can be found in the weekly e-blasts or in the Gathering Place after worship. Please stop by and sign up. Filled backpacks can be dropped off at church starting Sunday, May 12. There will also be a box in the narthex for drop-off during the week. The deadline for donations is Friday, July 12. Their "Back to School Bash" is scheduled for Saturday, July 20 this year. Thank you for helping us support the children of Collier County!





Grace Place Food Pantry Distribution

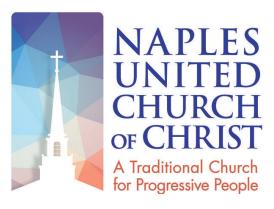
FRIDAY, MAY 17, 12:00 P.M

Join NUCC volunteers from 12:00-2:30 p.m. to help at the Grace Place Food Pantry. Volunteers help set up and distribute canned and fresh food to the clients. You may sign up in the Gathering Place or call the church office. Grace Place currently serves 300 families weekly. To learn more about our mission partner, visit their website at https://graceplacenaples.org

Grace Place Guided Tour

MAY 13, 7 P.M & MAY 14, 4 P.M

Discover Grace Place firsthand! Join their guided group tours to explore our programs, volunteer opportunities, and impactful work in Naples. The tours will be on Wednesday, May 13, at 7 p.m. and on Thursday, May 14 at 4 p.m. at 4300 21 st Ave SW, Naples, FL. No need to sign up, just show up! These tours offer insight into their mission and communitydriven efforts. We hope you can join us!



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! 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 markw@naplesucc.org

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean, Minister for Congregational Care angela@naplesucc.org

Darren Paquette, Executive Assistant to the Clergy Team darrenp@naplesucc.org

Music Team

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Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Susan Melick, Events Coordinator

Sara Treiser, Volunteer Youth Director youth@naplesucc.org

The Bargain Box Thrift Store

Sandy Goldstein, Manager sandy@naplesucc.org

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Minister for Congregational Care: CCrelations@naplesucc.org

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Text 'NAPLESUCC' to 73256 and follow prompts

