



NAPLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 9, 2026 | 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. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

PRELUDE

My Hope is Built
Victor Galarza, Soloist

Tom Trenney

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN #31

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

INVOCATION

ALL: Liberating God, we seek your journey. With parted waters, set us free. With cloud and fire, guide us. With gushing waters, quench our thirst. With food from heaven, feed us. Draw us out with joy and singing, that we might know your ways. Amen.

BACKPACK BLESSING

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care
Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth and Children's Education

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

It is Well with My Soul
Pamela Jimenez, Soloist

Arr. Craig Courtney

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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

Matthew 14: 22-33

Steven Colburn

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God".

SERMON

Blinded by Fear

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care

OFFERTORY

Let Your Faith be Stronger than Your Fear
Sanctuary Choir • Angelina Sozio, Soloist

Tom Trenney

Given on November 9, 2025, by Ann Culshaw in loving memory of her husband, Chip.

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER DEDICATION**

**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 HYMNStand By Me**From The United Methodist Hymnal*

1. When the storms of life are rag-ing,
2. In the midst of trib - u - la-tion,
3. In the midst of faults and fail-ures, stand by me; (stand by me)
4. In the midst of per - se - cu-tion,
5. When I'm grow-ing old and fee-ble,

when the storms of life are rag-ing,
in the midst of trib - u - la-tion,
in the midst of faults and fail-ures, stand by me. (stand by me)
in the midst of per - se - cu-tion,
when I'm grow-ing old and fee-ble,

When the world is toss - ing me, like a ship up-on the sea,
When the host of hell as - sail, and my strength be-gins to fail,
When I've done the best I can, and my friends mis-un-der-stand,
When my foes in war ar - ray un- der-take to stop my way,
When my life be-comes a bur-den, and I'm near-ing chil-ly Jor-dan,

thou who rul - est wind and wa-ter,
thou who nev - er lost a bat-tle,
thou who know-est all a-bout me, stand by me. (stand by me)
thou who sav - ed Paul and Si-las,
O thou Lil - y of the Val-ley,

BENEDICTION*+POSTLUDE***Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Arr. Dan Forrest; Duet Arr. by Marianne Kim

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Organ • 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. Sonja Phillips, Minister of Congregational Care
Jeanne Snedeker, Director of Youth and Children's Education
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music
Dr. Alexandra Carlson, Pianist
Sanctuary Choir
Victor Galarza, Soloist
Pamela Jimenez, Soloist
Angelina Sozio, Soloist

Taylor Matthews, Production Specialist - Producer
Clayton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio
Colton Townsend, Production Specialist - Audio
Landon Townsend, Production Specialist - Video
Lincoln Townsend, Production Specialist - Video
Hunter Reum, Production Specialist - Propresenter

STEPHEN MINISTER: Deb Marini

WELCOMERS: Nancy Holcomb and Mike Book

USHERS: Kathleen Devitt (Head Usher), Carol Berglund,
Jim Borden, Bill Durell, Mary Beth Jones, Becky Lambert,
Bill Rumpf and Hank Temple.

NURSERY CARE: Elena Fernandez

SERVING AT ARBOR TRACE: Judy Baer

SERVING AT BENTLEY VILLAGE: Louise Brown

GATHERING PLACE STAFF: John Greer, Fellowship Support | Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager |
Samantha Santarosa, Membership Coordinator & Pastoral Assistant

Throughout 2026, the ministry of our pianist in worship has been graciously
underwritten by Ronnie Bellone and Jennifer Rainey.

This Sunday's chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God by Doug Brown and Jean Lemmon.
In loving memory of Bill Lemmon and Teresa Brown.

A mission of the Naples United Church of Christ
Bargain Box THRIFT STORE
& BOUTIQUE

Support the Bargain Box

3906 TAMIAMI TRL E, NAPLES FL 34112

As we prepare for the upcoming season, our mission is growing—and we need your help. The Bargain Box is seeking volunteers on **Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**. Join our team and help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors while enjoying fellowship and purpose along the way.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Hospitality & Cashiering:** Be the face of the shop! Welcome customers and manage the register.
- **Donation Transport:** Help move donations from the Naples UCC shed to the Bargain Box.
- **Curation & Sorting:** Help us inspect, organize, and prep incoming donations.
- **Display & Merchandising:** Get creative! Help stage and style items to make the sales floor shine.

Donations Needed: Each donation helps transform generosity into meaningful support for our community

Hours of operation: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 AM to 3PM

Reach out to **George De La Roche** at **239-262-3802** or in the Gathering Place with **Samantha Santarosa**.
We'd love to have you on the team!

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Naples UCC Orientation

August 13, 4:00 p.m. | Nelson Hall 104

Curious about our church's history, ministries, and how we're organized? Join us for a fun and informative Orientation, now open to everyone! Explore the story of Naples UCC, meet the people and ministries that make our church thrive, enjoy a guided campus tour, and ask questions along the way. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited to 20 participants, so sign up with Samantha in The Gathering Place or email samantha@naplesucc.org.

Informational Meet & Greet

August 16, 11:15 a.m. | Nelson Hall 104

A time for visitors to learn, ask questions and meet our ministers. The Meet & Greet takes place in Nelson Hall 104, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Walk-ins are welcome!

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

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

TODAY



Snowball Mountain Challenge - Children's Camp

10:00 AM • August 9 📍 Nelson Hall 207



Choir Rehearsal

11:15 AM • August 9 📍 Beverly Hall

MONDAY



Mahjong

1:00 PM • August 10 📍 Nelson Hall 104

TUESDAY



Social Soirée

4:00 PM • August 11 📍 The Pub Mercato

THURSDAY



Naples UCC Orientation

4:00 PM • August 13 📍 Nelson Hall 104

SUNDAY



Bring a Friend

10:00 AM • August 16

Next Sunday

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Rev. Dr. Mark Williams

"Unity Is Heavenly"

Psalm 133

Bring a Friend Sunday

PRAYER LIST

Angelo Anello	Mary Frazier	William Jones	Margaret Pint
Merrikay Bailey	Leah Gartell	Bobbie Juster	Shannon Peterson
Lilibet Bana	Sally Giglio	Chloe Honda (Konsker)	Kathy Reno
Cathleen Boeck	Richard Gilbert	Marla Koshgarian	Riddle-Somers Family
Mary Catherine	Andrew Gillis	Sue Lindbloom	Kinley Roby
Tom Carley	Jim Gilmore	Patricia Manzano	Gabrielle Emily Ridout
Karin Ciesla	Doty Gridley	Nancy Maxwell	Fred Schneeberg
Patricia Cloutier	Fred Gridley	Sam McCullough	Darrel Siebert
Thomas Coates	Walter Grieb	Trey McGregor	Louise Taylor
Ann Culshaw	Patsy Hanson	Bob McLennan	Sara Treiser
Ken Cyrus	David Hocking	Gordon Mounts	Joanie Toren
Jack Downs	Kate Hutchinson	Jack Neller	Anwyn Watts
JT Ellis	Jamie Jacquart	Gerry Nonken	Marsha Whitlock
Laurie Fowler	David Johnson	Gary Pint	Ben Wigginton

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.

Make-A-Will Month



August is Make-A-Will Month, a timely reminder to reflect on the legacy you leave behind. As you plan for the future, consider including Naples UCC in your estate plans through Steeple Fellowship. Your generosity can help sustain the mission and ministry of our church for generations to come.

For more information about Steeple Fellowship, contact **Bruce Flessner** at bwflessner@gmail.com or call the church office at 239-261-5469. The United Church of Christ is also offering a free will-writing tool throughout August to help you create or update your will, visit: <https://partner.freewill.com/ucc>

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! During the worship service, children are invited forward for a **Children's Message**. Coloring activities and worship resources are available each week on the family table in the Narthex.

NURSERY CARE — Nursery care for infants through age 4 is available beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Nelson Hall 203. Please ask a deacon for directions.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL — What a wonderful start to our **Snowball Mountain Challenge!** Thank you to everyone who is joining us today for the first day of camp and our annual Backpack Blessing.

It's a joy to welcome children and youth as we kick off five Sundays of faith, friendship, music, games, hands-on activities, and engaging Bible stories. Today, we will also have a **special blessing** over our students and their backpacks as they prepare for the new school year, praying for a year filled with learning, growth, and God's guidance.

Thank you to all who made this special day possible. We look forward to seeing everyone next Sunday as our Snowball Mountain Challenge continues!

"SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE" centers on **Philippians 4:13**, a reminder that we are strengthened through the presence and love of Jesus in our lives. The curriculum is designed for students in grades K-5, and youth are warmly invited and encouraged to participate as helpers.



Mahjong

AUGUST 10, 1:00 PM | NELSON HALL 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 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Nelson Hall 104. Free, and all are always welcome!

Social Soirée

AUGUST 11, 4:00 PM | THE PUB MERCATO

Join Naples UCC friends and family at this month's Social Soirée to **The Pub**, located in Mercato at 9118 Strada Place, Naples, FL at 4:00 p.m. This gathering is a great place to have fun and fellowship after a busy day! Please sign up in the Gathering Place or by scanning the QR code by **August 10**, please call the church office at (239) 261-5469 with any questions.



Bring a Friend Sunday

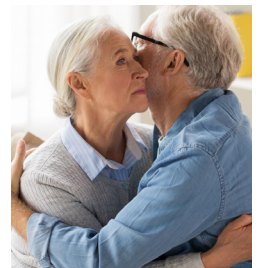
AUGUST 16, 10:00 AM | SANCTUARY

The Membership Committee and Pastor Mark invite you to **Bring a Friend Sunday** as we celebrate the joy of unity. Invite a friend, neighbor, or loved one to experience uplifting music, an inspiring message, and a meaningful celebration of faith, friendship, and belonging. Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time friend, there is a place for you here. The celebration will continue with fellowship in the Gathering Place immediately following the service—a wonderful opportunity to connect, meet new friends, and enjoy time together. Planning to bring a friend? **Please sign up with Samantha Santarosa** or email her at samantha@naplesucc.org. We look forward to welcoming you all!

Caregivers Support Group

AUGUST 21, 2:00 PM | PARLOR

The Caregivers 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. Bring a friend who may benefit! For more info, contact **Joan Millon** at joanmillon6@gmail.com.



Save the Date!

Nelson Hall Renovation Ribbon Cutting

We're delighted to share that the renovation of Nelson Hall is complete! This fall, Nelson Hall will be ready to welcome back our ministries, activities, and gatherings as we return to our regular schedule. Join us on **Wednesday, October 7, at 8:30 a.m.** for a special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in The Gathering Place as we celebrate this wonderful renovation and the renewed use of Nelson Hall with our church family!



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.

STAFF

Minister

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

Rev. Sonja Phillips, Minister of
Congregational Care
sonja@naplesucc.org

Pastor Relations Team:
MWpastorsupport@naplesucc.org

Administrative

Jim Asmus, Lead Custodian

Bianca Bellido, Communications Specialist
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Sara Both, Receptionist
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Tony Falco, Director of Technology
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Elena Fernandez, Nursery Caregiver

Raymond Gangl, Facilities Manager
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Jeanne Snedeker, Director of
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Brad Van Houten, Executive Director
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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

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103 | Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Mon - Fri | (239) 261-5469 | info@naplesucc.org



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Cash, Check, Credit Card
by calling the church office



Text 'NAPLESUCC' to 73256
and follow prompts

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