



News, Views, & Gospel Truths

EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | JANUARY 2020

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**For his compassions never fail! They are new every morning: great is your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)**

A new year is upon us, a time to set new goals and also a time to ponder. A time to reflect on the events of the past year. Some people celebrated graduations, job promotions, retirements, mile marker birthdays, and anniversaries.

Others buried loved ones, faced the pain of divorce, bankruptcy, a challenging illness, or even a traumatic crisis. Nevertheless, through it all we have continued to experience the unchanging love of God.

We don't know for sure all that the year 2020 will bring, nor do we know the joys or heart-aches we will face. However, one thing we are certain of is that the faithfulness of God is great! So, we begin this new year in hope, expectation, and anticipation; being secure in his dependable presence, love, compassion, help, and peace.

May the Lord bless you with a prosperous and joy-filled new year,

Pastor Jacquie

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Christmas Cantata, *Joy Has Dawned*



Choir Showing Off Their New Stoles

“A Chancel Christmas 2019” was presented on December 1, 2019, at 3:00 pm. Choirs from Cornerstone United Methodist Church, East Naples United Methodist Church, Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ, Naples First United Methodist Church, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and Unity Church of Naples came together to present an outstanding performance of Lloyd Larson’s Christmas Cantata – “Joy Has Dawned,” accompanied by an 18-member orchestra! If you were unable to attend, YouTube links to the concert are on our church website’s main page.

Our ENUMC Concert Series presented another wonderful concert last month by the **The Mistletones**, a modern Christmas a cappella group. Their modern interpretations of classic Christmas carols, as they blended a contemporary top-40 groove with the spirit of a family holiday sing-along, were truly one of a kind! Please check our website www.enaples.org – for links to videos of the concerts on YouTube.

Our next concert on the series is January 12, 2020 – “Jodie & Friends.” Join Jodie DeSalvo, Naples Philharmonic Concertmaster Glenn Basham and Naples Philharmonic Principal Cellist Adam Satinsky for a fabulous concert. A highlight of the concert will be the Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97, by Ludwig van Beethoven. It is commonly referred to as the Archduke Trio. Jodie DeSalvo never ceases to give an amazing performance and an entertaining afternoon of music!

Please remember why we have this series – as an outreach into our community to try and bring people into our church. All our concerts are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm through March. We hope you will put all the dates on your calendar and make every possible effort to bring someone with you to every concert.

Brent Nicholas
Director of Music Ministries

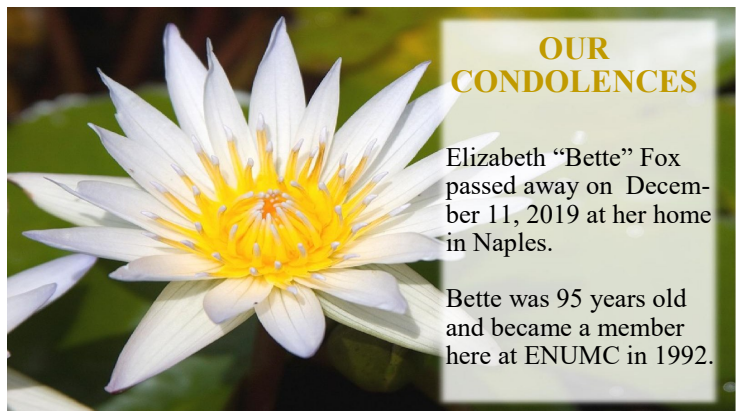
Upcoming Events:

Sunday, January 5
New Adult Bible Study Series

Saturday, January 11
Scout Pack 2002 Carwash

Sunday, January 12
Concert: Jodie DeSalvo & Friends

Sunday, January 26
New Members Class



OUR CONDOLENCES

Elizabeth “Bette” Fox passed away on December 11, 2019 at her home in Naples.

Bette was 95 years old and became a member here at ENUMC in 1992.

Also, and sadly, we mourn the loss of a faithful member of ENUMC. Ellen Petrick passed away on December 22, 2019. Ellen was 89 and became a member at ENUMC in August 1997.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Bette Fox’s sons and the rest of her family; and to the family and friends, especially Beryl Melucci, of Ellen Petrick. May God comfort and strengthen them all during this time of mourning.

MISSION DEPARTMENT



Mission of the Month: Mission Relief & Support

We hope that you will help us support mission work and relief efforts in our area and around the world. Please pray for and donate to those who are serving as God's hands and feet in our world. These include our friends in North Africa, Allison Foster with the Jesus Film Project, Storm Racing Ministry (Dick & Kay Stone), UMCOR, and many others. Other funds will be used to help with projects that will give our congregation a chance to be hands and feet in our world, too.

Cuba – February Mission of the Month

I look forward to sharing information about my trip to Cuba during an evening program. Please continue to pray for our Cuban brothers and sisters and their churches. There are many ways you can help.

Over the counter medicines are needed for churches in Cuba as residents do NOT have access to purchase such items. There is not a Walmart, CVS, or any type of drug store to purchase even an aspirin. It is up to us to help them. The medicines will be taken to churches in Cuba in February 2020.

The following over the counter medicines are needed with an expiration of at least March 2021. Please buy small packages so that they can be distributed to as many people as possible. These include: children's vitamins (NOT gummy), children's cold & cough medication, Pepto-Bismol (tablets), Imodium D (tablets), ibuprofen, and aspirin.

Scholarship News



Each month we have profiled a young adult from our congregation. Most of these students have been scholarship recipients. They have been doing great things at their colleges and universities and walking this path with God in their lives.

We need to be able to continue to assist these wonderful students with their education. Please consider making a donation to our Scholarship Fund. Be sure to write 'Scholarship Fund' on the memo line of your check or on your donation envelope.

If you have any questions about the Scholarship Team or would like to serve on our committee please contact Lisa Connors. We would welcome any additions to our team to help us review and score applications this year. You can reach Lisa at billandlisaconnors@gmail.com or 239-354-0455.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of the youth in our church.

Lisa Connors
Chair, Scholarship Committee

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Happy New Year to you and your families! As we step into this new year, may we remember God's faithfulness and unchanging love for us. God promises us in His word that nothing will ever separate us from His love (Romans 8:31-39) and that He will always be with us (Matthew 28:20). May we be encouraged by these wonderful promises.

A new year is also a great time to renew our commitments to grow as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. And if you would like to be encouraged and challenged to go deeper with Christ, allow me to invite you to our Wednesday Night Bible study. We are using Kenneth Boa's book, *Conformed to His Image*, as the basis for our study and I am convinced this material is among the finest available. During our time together on Wednesday nights, we laugh, learn, encourage each other, and grow in the Lord. I hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:00 pm in Elsey Hall.

We are looking forward to what the Lord will continue to do among our young people this new year. With Josue Legra recently hired to help our youth band, I am excited to see how our band will grow. We are also planning some exciting activities for the youth; the details of which will be released when available. Recently I started ministering to the two groups of New Horizons students that meet on our campus. Once a week, approximately 30 students come to our youth room (in Education Building) and I am able to share a Bible lesson or devotional with them. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach more youth, and we praise God for it.

Thank you for your support and prayers for all our ministries!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Edwin
Director of Family Ministries

Young Adult Spotlight



Hi everyone!

I'm Jenilyn, and I'm a freshman at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. I just started my second semester! I've already had the opportunity to start taking classes in my Criminology major and will probably be adding a minor in Psychology, or maybe even double majoring in Psychology and Criminology.

Recently, my friends and I have been taking little side trips to SeaWorld and Busch Gardens since they are relatively close to the college. It's been super fun and it helps us have a little day to take a break and just enjoy spending time together having fun.

On campus, we've had our very first hockey season! Hockey is probably my favorite sport and I really enjoy watching these games cheering on my Mocs! We also recently took a trip to Disney Springs through the college. I also would like to share that I am working as a childcare worker at First United Methodist Church of Lakeland! I've really found the perfect job for the time being as I just love the little kids.

Thank you for all you have done for my fellow college students and me!

Jenilyn Tea

Youth Trip to Immokalee



Encounter Youth Group had a great time going to Immokalee this past December. The Poff Family has helped the group connect with Immokalee Church of the Nazarene to bring joy to children of that community during the Christmas Season. The group sang Christmas songs, enjoyed cookies and lemonade, and helped distribute Christmas presents to the children. A big thank you to Ms. Danielle Poff for inviting Encounter Youth to be a part of this yearly event.



Annual Contributions/Offering Envelopes

Annual contribution statements will be mailed during the week of January 20, 2020.

Should you prefer to receive your contribution statements quarterly, please contact the church office or email the bookkeeper at bookkeeper@enaples.org.

Also, 2020 offering envelopes are now available in the narthex. The envelopes are sorted in alphabetical order. If you would like to receive a set of envelopes, please contact the church office or email the bookkeeper at bookkeeper@enaples.org.

A Rae of Sunshine



My grandmother repeatedly told a story about a woman who was quite wealthy but experienced one illness after another. Before throwing in the towel, her doctor questioned her about her social life. It turned out that this lady had no friends and spent most of her time alone. The doctor recommended two things, spend more time with people, and more importantly, incorporate lots of laughter with the new social agenda.

I am convinced that Rae Ann Brown lives by this prescription. One afternoon before Christmas, we (Brent Nicholas, Pat Poorman, Cheryl David-Fordyce) visited Rae at the rehab facility where she was a temporary resident and it was clear that in spite of what her physical body was doing or not doing, her spirits were intact.

Rae had us in stitches as she filled us in on how she spent her days, her family sagas, and the changes in her lifestyle. As a confessed social butterfly

and very active senior, Rae is feeling the effects of the restrictions placed by medical challenges. We pray that God will bless her with solutions that will allow her to continue living the life she desires. Rae, you are well-loved and missed. Hurry back to your ENUMC family!

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in members. If and when you can, and where possible, please pay them a visit. Sit with them and share in the joy of the Lord together.
The office can help coordinate such visits.

January Birthdays

Angelina Perez-Veloz	1/2	Brenda Shaw	1/19
Estrella Gonzalez	1/6	William Griffin	1/20
Gordon Lewis	1/6	Mariano Garcia	1/21
Lyle Sleezer	1/6	Emily Seager	1/21
Dylan Clark	1/8	Sue Dossinger-Braden	1/23
Laura Atwell	1/13	Scot Shepard	1/23
Beryl Melucci	1/16	Corwin Biddle	1/24
Tammy Goodwill	1/18	Donald Murphy	1/26
Margaret Jones	1/19	Haley Ahlquist	1/27
Odeisa Moya	1/19	John Edward Hennink	1/28
		Oscar Torres	1/28



**May Yours Be a Blessed and
Happy Birthday!**



BARGAIN NOOK

After listening to Pastor Jacquie's sermon on Sunday, December 8th, it reminded me of how we at the Nook often show Jesus's light to many folks who come into the store.

The time that comes to mind was when a man recently came in and purchased a few items. He told me he had been in last year and we gave him clothes and shoes because he was homeless. He came back because of our generosity. It was such a great feeling to know we helped someone in need and after he got things in order, he returned to purchase something in the store.

God is Good - all the time!

Happy New Year from all of us at the Nook.

Carol

Excerpt, Pastor Edwin's 12/29 Sermon

Probably by now you have heard of the key to weight loss in 2020. I would like to share with you not one of these "magical, secret keys" to success in any area, but a proven principle that is found all throughout the Bible. The principle is simply this: *"Keeping God's word at the center of our lives."*

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." -Joshua 1:8, NIV

After the Israelites were set free from slavery and left Egypt, they started a journey for a land God promised. This journey should have taken 11 days but because of the Israelites' rebellion and lack of trust in God, it took 40 years. Moses started off as their leader, but in the end, God appointed Joshua to lead the Israelites into the promised land.

From Joshua 1:8 we find that:

- i. God wants us to keep His word at the center of our thinking;
- ii. God wants us to let His word govern our actions.

Biblically speaking, to meditate means to "read quietly or to talk to yourself as you think about something." It includes carefully studying God's word in order to understand it and put it to practice. Some religions view meditation as a way to empty the mind...but biblical meditation calls us to fill our minds with God's word.

Application:

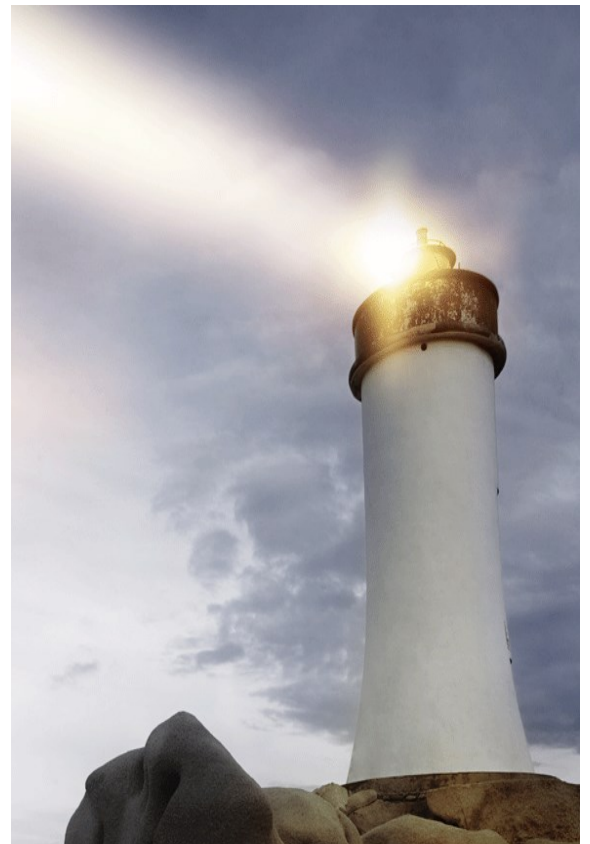
- a. God's word is God's special revelation to us. We learn much about God and His truth through reading the Bible. When we read, think about God's word, we are programming ourselves to think the way God wants us to think.
- b. As we sow the seed of God's word in our minds and hearts, our attitude towards life, and our behavior becomes more aligned with God and His eternal wisdom. When God's word takes root in our lives our values begin to change and we begin to reflect more of God's values.
- c. For example, when it comes to possessions, we will love people and use things instead of loving things and using people. And we will remember the words of Jesus that "life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15).
- d. When we face challenging situations, instead of being overcome by fear and worry, we will have faith that God will help us through whatever we might face. We will remember God's promises of His presence, help, and answered prayers.
- e. If at times we feel discouraged and alone, we can be encouraged by meditating on some of God's promises of comfort, strength and joy in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- f. When faced with conflicts in our relationships, instead of seeking revenge and paying evil for evil, we will have the power to extend grace and forgiveness to others, just as God has done with us.
- g. Writing to Christians, the Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:1-2. *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."* When our minds are set on things above, we begin to place more value on eternal things than on temporal ones.
- h. Only with a renewed mind, a mind that is programmed with the thoughts of God, are we able to have success in our journey of following Jesus faithfully. When we meditate on God's word, we are able to relate to ourselves, other people, the world, the church, and God in the way He wants us to.
- i. If we are going to have a successful 2020 by God's standards, it is critical that we keep His word at the center of our thoughts, but it is also important that we obey God's word.

Conclusion:

God wants us to read and meditate on His word, but He also wants us to practice it, to do what it says. The Bible is said to be the Christian's rule of faith and practice. From it we determine what we believe, but also from it, we learn what God wants us to do.

I would like to ask you, what is one thing you can do this year to help you keep God's word at the center of your life? If you are not used to reading the Bible on a regular basis, I suggest you start by reading one small portion a day, maybe start in the Book of John. You might wish to read a chapter a day. Or you might search online for a Bible reading plan that works best for you. The goal is not for us to simply go through the Bible, but for the Bible to go through us.

Just like Joshua had a new opportunity before Him, I believe that 2020 is a new opportunity for us. A new opportunity for us to keep God's word at the center of our thoughts and actions. By doing this, we will have a successful year as followers of the Lord Jesus.



To listen to the full sermon, go the Resources Menu on the church's website, www.enaples.org.



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Weekly Worship Service and Bible Study Schedule

Come Join Us, We Look Forward to Welcoming You!

<i>Day & Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sunday		
9:30 a.m.	Worship Services	Sanctuary
10:35 a.m.	Children/Youth Sunday School	Youth Building
10:35 a.m.	Adult Seekers Bible Study	Elsely Hall
3:00 p.m.	Servicio en Español	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Servicio en Español	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Christian Rock Café
Monday		
10:00 a.m.	Joy Bible Study	Elsely Hall
Tuesday		
10:00 a.m.	Growing Christians Bible Study	Elsely Hall
Wednesday		
6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Bible Study	Elsely Hall
6:00 p.m.	Kingdom Quest Kids	Youth Building
7:30 p.m.	Estudio Biblico	Elsely Hall
Thursday		
7:30 p.m.	Grupos Pequeños	Elsely Hall