

## A Place to Belong

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Above all, First Congregational Church is a place for you and your family to belong. Common to churches of our heritage, we exhibit a spirit of welcome and belonging. We are a local family church with caring and faithful people who are supporting one another on the journey of faith.

Church members handle much of the administrative processes through service on boards and committees. They minister to many of the spiritual and administrative concerns of the congregation.

Rev. Dr. Chris Surber (Pastor Chris) teaches and leads us spiritually through Bible lessons, Sunday messages, godly counsel, and fun events and programs to nurture faith and community.

Join us as we do the work with God life together on this pilgrim journey!

## Sundays 10:00 A Positive Church with a Positive Message!

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First Congregational Church of Naples is a part of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The NACCC Mission is to nurture fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches and to support ministries of the local church in its community and to the world, all in the name of Christ.

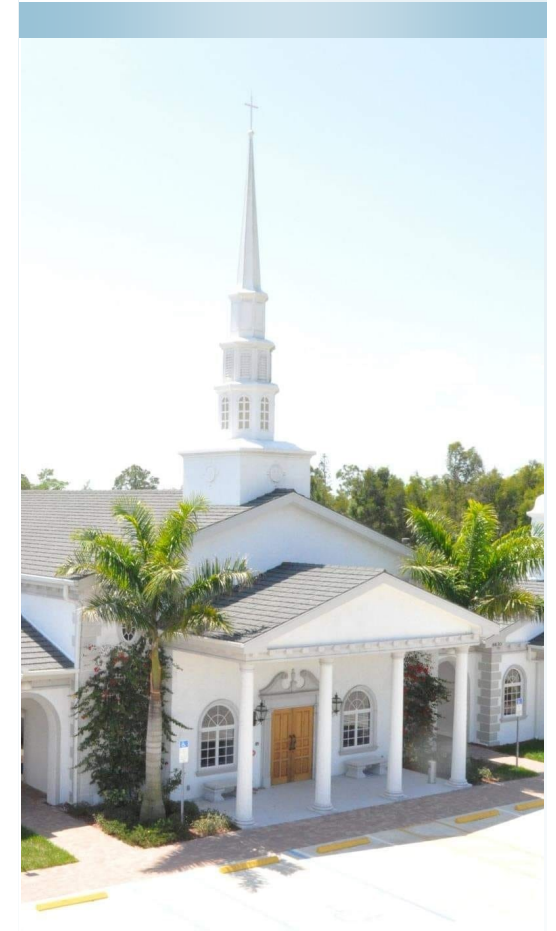


First Congregational Church of Naples

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**First**  
Congregational  
Church of Naples



*The Mayflower, located in the Narthex.*

## Faith

Congregational Churches are above all else, Christian Churches. We practice the historic Christian Faith “that was once for all entrusted to the saints.” (Jude 1:3 NIV84)

Congregational Christians are people of the book. We gather around an open **Bible** with an open mind and a heart flooded with the **Holy Spirit**. Historically and right up to this day, Congregational Ministers and lay people alike have led the way in everything from foreign missions to local outreach and social concerns, from planting inner city Sunday Schools to participating in the Underground Railroad.

We are a people of ancient faith, living in a modern world, proclaiming the Gospel and sharing the compassion of Jesus Christ!

## Freedom

Perhaps what makes Congregational Churches most unique on the landscape of American and global Christianity is our commitment to *unity without uniformity* and *diversity without fragmentation*. At a point in our development as a movement, Congregational Churches in the North merged with Christian Churches in the South. Those Southern Christian Churches brought with them a shared sentiment of simplicity in our understanding of Christianity. They said, “We are no the only Christians, but we are **Christian only**.” That statement well articulates our commitment to charity in non-essentials.

We affirm Christ, Him crucified for sin and resurrected for eternal life! We practice an open communion table, recognizing that Christ died for the world and any who claim Christ are rightly welcomed at the table of God’s grace. Standing firm on the central matter of Christ alone, we affirm the freedom of conscience of individual believers.

We affirm the soul liberty of the Christian home. We covenant together as the people of God bound by the bonds of Christian affection, not uniformity of doctrine. Our doctrine is faith alone in Christ alone from Sacred Scripture alone according to the saving grace of God unto the His glory alone!

## Fellowship

The key to The Congregational Way is authentic fellowship. Diversity produces division when anything other than godly love holds us together. In an age of isolation and emptiness, The Congregational Way of life offers every child of God a place to call home.

The fruitfulness of our way hinges upon a commitment to a growing life of faith established upon the teachings of the Apostles as found in the Bible. While we have historic creeds that give us much light, Savoy Declaration (1658) for example, we require no creed but Christ. The Christian life, though, is not theoretical. Only when it is lived in the context of actual covenant fellowship can it be rooted and produce fruit. (John 17:19-23) **Faith**, **Freedom**, and **Fellowship** are our way. You are invited to join us on this pilgrimage of faith!



*Lord's Prayer Cross, located in the Narthex.*