



Pilgrim Church

A congregation of The United Church of Christ

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

Pastor Mike's Missive Judging

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make, you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye?" (Matthew 7: 1-4)

Carol and I-- having lived with and been a caregiver for a number of years of my Mother, who suffered from dementia--hold a special place in our hearts for those afflicted with dementia or Alzheimer's together with their loved ones. I was very moved by the following (abridged) article from the *New Century*, a ministerial periodical, penned by Rev. Samuel Wells, Anglican priest of St. Martin-In-the-Fields, London, England. It was an eye-opener for me together with the book (and movie of the same name) "Still Alice" by the Harvard Psychology Professor Lisa Genova (2007).

There is great truth in the adage: "*We can never walk in another person's shoes.*" I believe that is especially true for those who live in a world of diminished mental faculties. What is intriguing to me about "Still Alice" is that the author writes her novel in the first person, as if she — a Harvard professor, no less—is the one sinking into the fog of dementia. I highly recommend the book, especially for care-givers and loved ones of those suffering from this condition.

I trust you will be lifted up by Rev. Wells' testimony. He frames the dilemmas faced when interacting with dementia sufferers much more elegantly than I could.

[At our church] in spite of our inhibitions, we still see miracles. We still see the Holy Spirit do unbelievable things. Alzheimer's can be almost invisible. It hides itself away because people with the condition become less likely to enter public spaces. It can be hard to know how to think about Alzheimer's, because Alzheimer's takes over quickly.

When I came to the church, one woman stood out. You couldn't miss her. She would shout out from the congregation at unexpected moments. If you quoted Ecclesiastes and said "Let us now praise famous men," you wouldn't get as far as "and our fathers that begat us" without hearing her shout, "And what about the women?" It was like a tripwire. If on a given Sunday, the roles of preacher and presider were both taken by men, you could be sure that as you greeted her at the door she would look at you with her withering gaze and say, "Have you forgotten about the women?"

It wasn't just one issue. She had the same seek-and-destroy, guided-missile approach when it came to vegetarianism. Rare was the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

clergy member who had not been cornered by her strong handshake, pleading escape from her vice-like grip as she “talked and explained the scriptures” and how they made the consumption of meat unconscionable. From everything I was told, dementia hadn’t made her a fanatic: she’d always been like that. If anything, her faltering faculties slightly reduced her passionate advocacy and scaled the volume down just a little.

She came to the first two evenings that we organized around dementia and faith. She listened as people spoke movingly about caring for a beloved husband or mother and absorbingly about how dementia works and how its varieties differ. But then she made it clear, she believed we could do better. She buttonholed two friends and hatched a plan. Over two lunches together they spoke and the two friends wrote things down—about her, about her life, about her mother, about her condition.

And so it was that we beheld her glory. On the third dementia-and-faith evening, she stood behind a lectern. In her hands were four pages of notes, typed out by her two friends from their conversations. Slowly, and with extraordinary dignity, she began to tell us her story—and what a story:

“Mummy was Baroness von Hundelshausen. She spoke six languages. I was born in Mexico and brought to Britain as a baby.” She went on to speak of the “battle”: “Jesus made it very clear that women are equal and not to be pushed around by men. But a women’s role in life and society has always been undervalued and must be equalized.”

She spoke of working for a newspaper and then taking it over a few years later. “It was really lovely, because I could say anything I wanted to say.” She talked of being elected as

a councillor for Westminster and making sure that Buckingham Palace paid local taxes—which it had never done before. She talked of being radicalized by her mother’s dementia and realizing that “the government didn’t give a damn about old women.”

And then, astonishingly, she spoke about her own experience of Alzheimer’s. “Fear and anger can be very close together, especially when you have memory problems. And I was angry.” She explained what we’d all experienced of being with her. “I hate people deciding for me or speaking for me. I want people to understand that *I’m still me*; I still have a sense of self and my own rights.”

How awesome is the sight. Here was the one brought to Jesus through the roof by friends carrying a stretcher—through the roof of ignorance, prejudice, impatience, and hasty judgment. And in that moment I saw what prophetic ministry means. Not berating authorities or denouncing congregations but slowly, patiently, building sufficient trust with a person who is socially excluded. Not assuming that one has to speak on their behalf but taking time, over a transformative meal, to listen, take notes, and assemble thoughts, so that one day—with a fair wind and a sympathetic audience—that person could speak her own words, sing her true song, and let the whole room thud with the sound of jaws dropping.

“They that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles.” That night I saw a miracle. I saw what church can be.

May this story and its message be a blessing to all of us at Pilgrim.

God be with you all.
Pastor Mike



Moderator's Comments

"Love is patient, love is kind..." 1 Corinthians 13:4
"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13

Love (and Tolerance)

Last month I discussed how we need to be open and welcoming to potential future members of our congregation. Many of you indicated on our recently completed church survey that the growth of Pilgrim Church needs to be one of our highest goals. To accomplish this we need to reflect on how we treat visitors and current members of our congregation.

Like any community we are made up of individuals who have diverse interests, likes and dislikes. We differ politically, racially, and culturally. We are the product of our backgrounds and personal history. Yet we all have something in common: our love of God and of Pilgrim United Church of Christ.

We are in the process of recruiting a new Pastor. We want to bring to our church a strong and compassionate individual to lead us into the future. Let's pray to overcome any behaviors that are divisive. Let's make Pilgrim Church truly a *united* church of Christ.

Don Anderson, Moderator



Car Decals

Think about how many cars you share the road with every single day. Pilgrim Church car decals are a great way to connect with people on their way to work, doing errands or even walking by your car in the garage. Our own Alex has created a batch for us to sell for \$5 each. Please pick yours up at the Church Office or see a greeter after worship on Sundays!



Contact Information

We are updating our database for accuracy and to gather information for the church profile that the Search Committee is compiling. With Pastor Matthew's retirement, the profile is an important part of the process for finding the right pastor for Pilgrim Church.

We don't want to miss anyone in our records. Please complete and return the form on the last page as soon as possible.



Judy Jones would like to thank all those who brought items to the office after last months request. Items have been delivered to her ministry with the homeless. The need for toiletries, linens, and plastic flatware is continuous. We have drivers taking bread and any items you donate over weekly and appreciate your ongoing support.



Christ caring for people through people

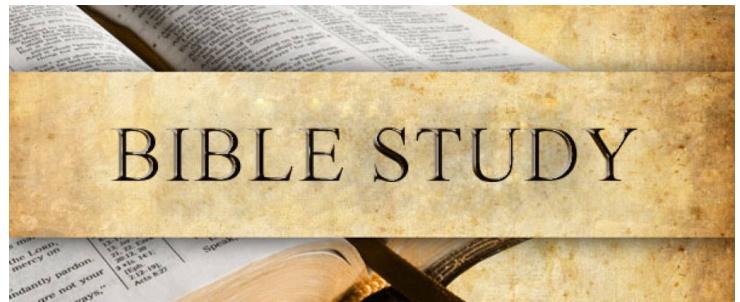
**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?

Are you or a friend going through a tough time—emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down?

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with Pastor Mike or Stephen Leader Judy Pryer



There are a number of ways we can study the Bible, but one of the most effective and simple approaches to reading and understanding God's Word involves three simple steps:

- Observation: What does the passage say?
- Interpretation: What does the passage mean?
- Application: What am I going to do about what the passage says and means?

Here are opportunities we have for you to delve into study with your Pilgrim Church community:

June Prayer Focus

June 2-

Pray for the Outreach ministries
of Pilgrim Church

June 9 –

Pray for the Children's ministries
at Pilgrim Church

June 16-

Thank God for ALL fathers and father-figures

June 23 –

Pray for the Small Group ministries
at Pilgrim Church

June 30 –

Pray for the Deacons and their ministry to
Pilgrim Church

With Rev. Ken Ewing

6 pm on Wednesdays in the Community Center
Studying: "That The World May Know"
Experience the Bible in Historical context with
Ray Vander Laan. This study will continue
through out the summer.

With Eileen Murray

10:30 am every other Wednesday
in the Conference Room
Studying: Forgetting. We will consider the
following: Reasons for forgetting God. His
faithfulness in the past. Examples of individuals
who felt forgotten by others but trusted God.
Some who felt God had forgotten them. God's
promises never to forget his people. Things
God urges believers to forget.

With Genny Sweetland

9 am on Sundays in the Conference Room
Studying: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

With Dave & Judi Wilson

9:15 am on Sundays in the Library
Studying: the book of Psalms chapter by
chapter and verse by verse

Diaconate Ministry

The title "Deacon" means to serve the congregation and to serve God. Acts 6:1-4 describes how the first Deacons were appointed:

"In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

So it is today that both men and women, "full of the spirit and wisdom," minister to the people so that the daily care of the congregation can be undertaken to assist the Pastor and help develop the Church's life of "prayer and the ministry of the word."

In the early days of the Church, there were problems that needed the assistance of the first Deacons to bring harmony to the congregation. That task, the bringing of

harmony, in a world filled with conflict remains a vital charge today for each Deacon in their own lives and in the life of the congregation.

In accepting the responsibility of the call to become a Deacon, one accepts the responsibility to focus on helping the membership grow in its faith and its spirituality. These words have many different meanings to each Deacon and member of the church. Deacons, through their specific duties come into contact with a large part of the membership of the church. With that sense of awareness deacons are asked to take a leadership role in helping to define the concepts of faith and spiritually within our Pilgrim Church family.

So as Deacons of Pilgrim Church, we are here to serve the congregation of Pilgrim Church and to serve God. I would like to ask any of our Pilgrim family, that might feel the call to serve both our Church and God, to consider joining our Pilgrim Deacons Committee. If anyone is interested in becoming a Deacon and/or learning more about the Pilgrim Diaconate, please feel free to contact either myself or Pastor Mike.

Hampton Allen Chairman
Pilgrim Deacons Committee



Town Hall Meeting

We will be holding a Town Hall meeting on June 23 in the Community Center 9:15 - 9:45 or 11:15 - 11:45.

We hope this is an opportunity for everyone to gather ask questions about where we are and where are we going.

20+20

VISION

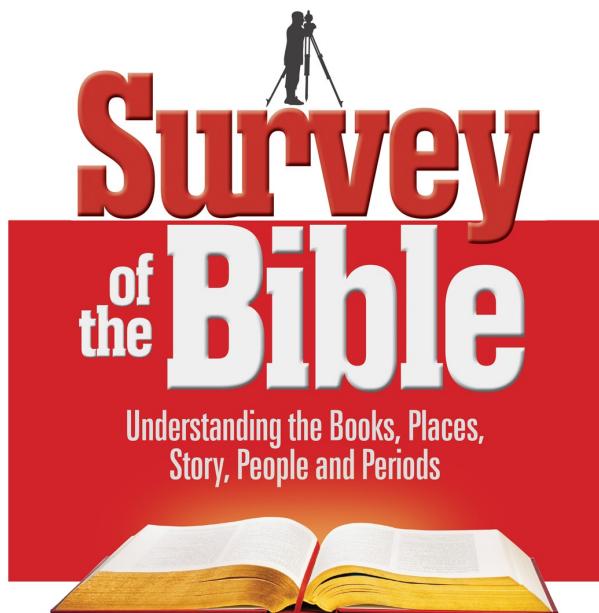
His Mission. Our Focus.

Pray Give Serve

We are excited that Pilgrims are beginning to step forward as volunteers to be Classroom Helpers and/or Adopt a Family partners for Joyful Noise School. Assignments will be made during August once the new school year gets underway. If God is nudging you, please contact the Church Office.

Mark your calendars! Bible Revival planning is underway for July 12 and 13. Friday night will be from 6-8:30 and Saturday morning's session will run from 8:30 to 12:30.

Registration forms will be available in the June bulletins. You will be blessed.



**Bible Revival
July 12-13, 2019**



ALL Women of Pilgrim Church are Welcome.

Three Pilgrim women attended the 92nd Annual Conference of Florida UCC Women on May 3-5 in Sebring. It was a valuable time of Bible study, fellowship, and community service. During festivities, our own Jean LaRussa was honored as a nominee for the FL Laywoman of the Year. Thank you, Jean for your service to Pilgrim Church!

The next Book Club dinner discussion will be held at Kay's Restaurant in Deep Creek on Thursday evening, June 6 at 6 PM. The book for discussion is Any Dream Will Do by Debbie Macomber. Come and join us for a challenging look at into poverty and single parenthood.

A summertime DAY TRIP is planned for Tuesday, June 18. Meet at the church at 9 AM to carpool to Solomon's Castle for tours and lunch. Admissions price for both tours is \$22. Bring cash for your ticket and your lunch as credit cards are not accepted. The galleries are amazing !

There will be no structured meeting in July or August. In August there will be a Ladies Game Night hosted by Women's Fellowship which promises to be lots of fun so watch for the date.



New United Church of Christ Logo

From UCC News

Beginning with General Synod 2017 the United Church of Christ began the transition to a new logo for the denomination. The logo, has been updated to reflect both tradition and innovation within the church as it faces the challenges and opportunities of Christian witness in the coming decades.

The new logo retains an updated version of the traditional element of the UCC comma — a much-loved and widely used emblem of the United Church of Christ, introduced as part of the "God is still speaking," identity campaign. That campaign quoted a line from Gracie Allen that her husband George Burns found among her papers after death. In a letter addressed to him were the words, "George, never place a period where God places a comma." A variation on that line, along with the graphic comma, has been used since 2004 as a symbol and shorthand way to refer to "continuing testimony," or "the ever-unfolding nature of God's word for new times."

"It's never easy to move on from a familiar and well-known logo—especially in the church, and especially when the old logo meant 'God is still speaking' to many of us," said Tina Villa, UCC communications director. "While those words are as fresh as ever—which is why we are retaining them—our logo itself needed a visual update. And it needed to reflect the new directions the church is headed in, while not abandoning the core beliefs that anchor us: 'God is still speaking,' and 'that they may all be one.'"



Says Thank You!

"Thank you for the generous donation of \$3,900 to the Homeless Coalition for shelter mattresses, it is greatly appreciated. Your continued support allows us the ability to service more clients at the Homeless Coalition. With this commitment you are helping the hungry and homeless in our community and the programs and services we provide.

The Homeless Coalition provides meals 365 days of the year in our kitchen and food boxes to about 80 households at our food pantry. Our Homeless Prevention Program collaborates with community partners and aids with past due utilities and permanent housing expenses. We also provide an Emergency Safe Shelter for over 52 individuals, children and Veterans in order to secure permanent housing.

Please accept our deepest gratitude—Pilgrim's partnership with our organization helps us to care for those in our community in need. Once again thank you to all members of the Pilgrim church that contributed to this wonderful gift!

Sincerely,
Christine Varcoe
Development Coordinator"



Follow our Facebook page for Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte! The new page has the Pilgrim Church anchor logo as the profile picture.



Finance

The Finance Ministry met on May 20. The focus was on the financial results compared to the budget. The church has a small surplus thru April as a result of Pledge Offerings being on budget. Loose Offerings are behind budget by about 40%. Expenses are substantially on budget. Joyful Noise continues its strong financial performance. We should all remember, though, that things change after the end of April with our northern visitors returning home and school activities changing in May, until the start of the new school year in August.

The Finance Ministry is looking for new members. Anyone interested in having an interest in the business side of the church and would like to join for a meeting one evening a month, please contact the office. Also, on the phone prompt you may leave a message for Don Anderson or the Finance Ministry team.



June Birthdays

4	Al Bluschke
	Mary Hamsharie
5	Lesa Sealy
	Earl Davis
6	Ken Rhoe
	Antonio Caniglia
8	Calvin Archibald
	Melissa Hasanov
9	14
	H Wilbur Holmes
	Nicholas Santiago
12	16
	Samantha Santiago
14	20
	Carol Borris
16	24
	Judith Michaels
18	26
	Marilyn Hill
20	26
	Douglas Crawford
22	Mike Drechsler
	27
24	Sarge Glanton
	30
26	Nancy Archibald

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledge Offerings	\$81,631	\$83,461	\$225,000
Loose Offerings	\$10,728	\$17,952	\$37,500
<u>Missions</u>			
Pledges	\$24,590		\$54,200
Mission Payouts	\$15,645		\$54,200
<u>Mortgage Balance</u>		\$153,259	
<u>Vision2020</u>			
Campaign Pledges	\$769,549		
Total Cash Receipts	\$513,900		
Balance of Pledges due	\$255,649		



Joyful Noise had our VPK Graduation on Friday, May 17th. The wonderful turnout had the church at standing

room only. We had 64 graduates who wore actual caps and gowns for the first time, thanks to money we raised selling pasta in the fall. The children walked through a handprint archway and were among colorful stars. We were able to purchase our new decorations with the same fundraiser money.

We would like to thank our Pilgrim Family for your incredible support of Joyful Noise. We would also like to say a special thank you to David and Judi Wilson for taking the time to work the program as ushers and Dionne Jones for all her help.

Cynthia Poudrette
Director Joyful Noise



Contemporary Worship

Some of our congregation have said that they are unfamiliar with the newer contemporary songs. Accordingly, we'll try to upload to Facebook the new songs as we introduce them so that you can sing along on your own in the key that we do them in and then come to church ready to worship with confidence! We'll also try to get the lyrics displayed picture-in-picture, to help you. Checkout our Facebook Videos Playlist: Pilgrim Contemporary Songs.

We were used to doing 30 minute worship sets at all of the previous churches where we have led worship. When we started at Pilgrim we heard from quite a few people who thought that 10 minutes at a time was too much (we can't stand up that long!) so we settled on around 16-18 minutes or about 3-4 songs (plus the closing song). Now quite a few peeps are coming up and asking for longer, deeper worship. If you have a preference, please let us know either by replying directly to us at patrick.randall@comcast.net or to the office or see us on a Sunday morning. It's absolutely no problem if you sit or remain seated during worship. We are sure that God just wants you to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We just want what He wants.

Patrick & Marilyn

Attention Experienced Beaders

Are you looking for fellowship while you work on your projects? There is a group who meets at the church on Thursdays at 9:30 am -3:30 pm that would welcome experienced beaders. This group enjoys laughter and working beside each other.



You are not alone anymore!

No matter what your problem with food — compulsive overeating, under-eating, food addiction, anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, or overexercising — we have a solution.

This group meets 10-11 every Thursday in the Conference Room.

Pilgrim Church

A congregation of The United Church of Christ



24515 Rampart Boulevard,
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
941-629-2633

www.pilgrimonline.org
office@pilgrimonline.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

"To Help People KNOW Christ Personally and GROW in Their Faith."

Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship,
Ministry and Evangelism

Rev. Michael Robinson,
Interim Pastor & Teacher
All Members, Ministers
Russ Whittaker,
Parish Administrator & Bell Choir Director
Darryl Johnson, Choir Director
Mona Johnson, Organist
Patrick & Marilyn Randall,
Worship Leaders
Jessica Warne, Sunday School Director
Cat Foster, Office Administrative Assistant

Joyful Noise School

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise

941-629-4821

www.joyfulnoisclc.org



All Pastor's messages are online at:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/pilgrimonline>

Pilgrim Church June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00am Praise Team Practice
2	3 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women	4 Joyful Noise Camp Begins 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting	5 10:00am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing 6:00pm Depression Support Group	6 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:00am Bead Group	7	8 10:00am Praise Team Practice
9	10 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm Mission Ministry	11 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting	12 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing 6:00pm Depression Support Group	13 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:00am Bead Group	14	15 10:00am Praise Team Practice
16 Father's Day	17 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women	18 9:00am Pilgrim Women Day Trip 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting	19 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Depression Support Group 6:00pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing	20 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:00am Bead Group 11:00am Sandwich Makers	21 4:30pm Serving Homeless Coalition	22 10:00am Praise Team Practice
23 9:15am Town Hall Meeting 11:00am Town Hall Meeting	24 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women	25 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	26 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Depression Support Group 6:00pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing	27 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Bead Group 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous	28	29 10:00am Praise Team Practice
30 9:15am Diaconate Meeting			Every Sunday at Pilgrim Church: 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Bible Study - Genny Sweetland 9:15am Dave & Judi Wilson Bible Study 10:00am Contemporary Worship			



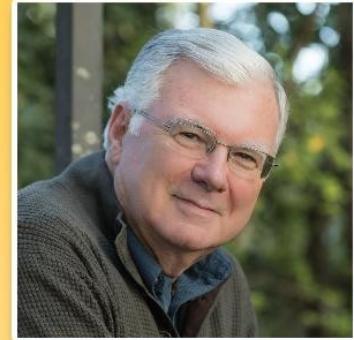
IMAGINE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATING THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE

Do you find the Bible confusing? Are you searching to understand its message and meaning? Have you ever wanted to turn to the story of King David, but didn't have any idea where it could be found?

Wouldn't it be great if you had a foundational understanding of the key people, places, periods and books of the Bible? What if you could take away the confusion and be able to share with someone else the stories of both the Old and New Testaments?

Now you can unlock the secrets to understanding God's Word and discover His plan for your life. God wants you to hear and comprehend His grand story and get excited about what you are learning. History will make sense, because it is His story!

In one of the most innovative and enjoyable courses ever created, world-class Bible teacher, Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, distills the Biblical storyline, timeline, major characters, and movements into mind-easy and memorable segments. Building on four decades of powerful Bible teaching and training in every corner of the globe, this series is destined to become a powerful resource to draw people back and anchor them to Biblical truth. Utilizing a variety of staging, inventive props, and digital effects, ***Survey of the Bible: Understanding the Books, Places, Story, People and Periods*** is terrific for a 5th grader, a senior citizen and anyone in between. Connect your head, heart, and hands to rekindle your passion for God's Word.

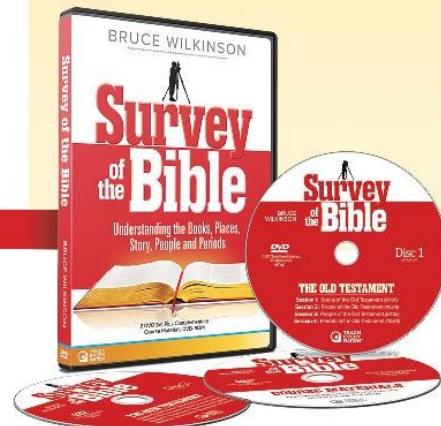


Bruce Wilkinson
BA, ThB, ThM, and Doctor of Divinity

Bruce Wilkinson began his work in Bible Survey as a graduate student. After teaching Bible Survey in college and graduate school, he founded *Walk Thru the Bible Ministries* which, under his 25-year leadership, became the largest conductor of Bible Survey training in the world.

Bruce served on the Overview Committee of the *New King James Version of the Bible*, wrote the Bible outlines for the popular *Open Bible*, coauthored one of the standards in Bible Survey reference books, *Talk Thru the Bible*, and served as General Editor of four other Bibles.

He presently serves as President of *Teach Every Nation (TEN)* which produces Bible-study video courses distributed in thousands of Training Centers and global satellite networks across the world.



Bible Revival

July 12- 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

July 13—8:30 am to 12:30 pm





Pilgrim Church
Database Update 2019

PLEASE PRINT

Head of Household Name

	First	Last	Nickname
Mailing Address (please note if you have a secondary address)			
Street	City	State	Zip Code

Mobile Phone Number

Email Address

Birthday

Marriage Date

Church Membership Status

Active

Inactive

Associate

Visitor

Date Joined Pilgrim Church

Membership by

Confession of Faith

Baptism

Confirmation

Transfer

Occupation

Work Phone

Additional Member Name

Mobile Phone Number

First

Last

Nickname

Family Relation

Spouse

Child

Grandchild

Church Membership Status

Active

Inactive

Associate

Visitor

Date Joined Pilgrim Church

Membership by

Confession of Faith

Baptism

Confirmation

Transfer

Occupation

Work Phone

Additional Member Name	<hr/>	First	Last	Nickname
Family Relation	Child	Grandchild		
Mobile Phone Number	<hr/>		Email Address	<hr/>
Birthday	<hr/>			
Church Membership Status	Active	Inactive	Associate	Visitor
Date Joined Pilgrim Church	<hr/>			
Membership by	Confession of Faith	Baptism	Confirmation	Transfer
Additional Member Name	<hr/>	First	Last	Nickname
Family Relation	Child	Grandchild		
Mobile Phone Number	<hr/>		Email Address	<hr/>
Birthday	<hr/>			
Church Membership Status	Active	Inactive	Associate	Visitor
Date Joined Pilgrim Church	<hr/>			
Membership by	Confession of Faith	Baptism	Confirmation	Transfer