



Pilgrim Church



September 2019 NEWSLETTER

Pastor Mike's Missive **The Sacrament of Baptism**

A legacy of the Protestant Reformation was elimination of five of the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church ("RCC").

Footnotes:

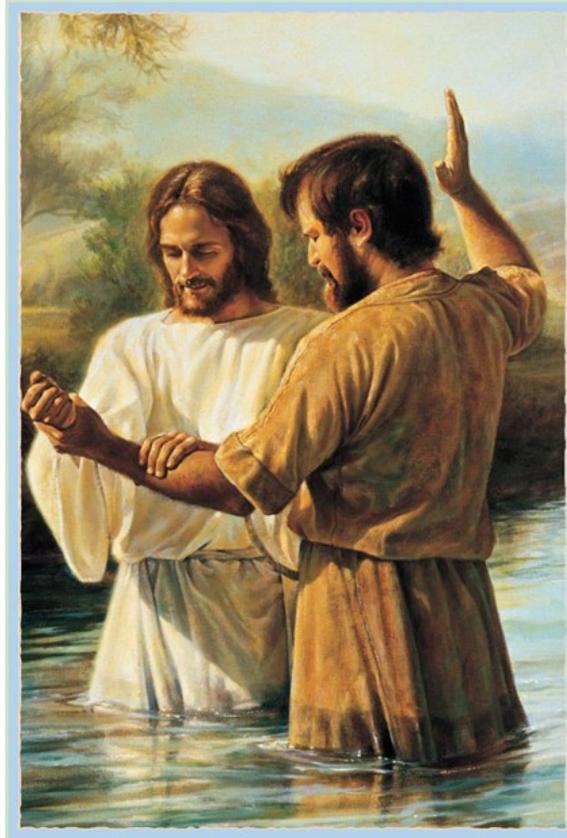
Protestant: "Protest"-ant i.e. protester (against the corruption and abuses of the Roman Catholic Church and Papacy ignited by Martin Luther and others in the 15th & 16th centuries.)

Reformation: "Reform"-ation i.e. a cleansing, "going back to the basics," refocus of Christianity

These were as follows:

- *Eucharist*
(Communion) as celebrated daily/weekly in the Mass
- *Baptism*
- Marriage
- Confirmation/1st Communion
- Confession/Reconciliation
- Holy Orders/Ordination
- Extreme Unction (anointing of the sick/dying/dead)

Only the Last Supper (Communion/Eucharist) and Baptism are sacraments named in the gospels. The other five accreted as sacraments over the centuries, but have thin or non-existent bases in scripture.



It has been a custom at Pilgrim to conduct annual, full-immersion baptisms at Englewood Beach. We have scheduled one on Sunday, September 22, for 1:00-5:00 pm. All are welcome whether you desire baptism/re-baptism or just want to join the celebration. We have rented pavilion #2 and we will have a picnic lunch and time to fellowship before the baptisms.

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the "living waters" of the Jordan: an event which precipitated his ministry. In the early

Church, baptism, initiation into membership and first communion was reserved for adults and occurred on Easter morning after one year of study and instruction. Before daylight prospective members ("Catechumens") were separated by sex and led to an under-ground place, where they stripped, bathed and put on white garments. At the break of dawn, they were led above ground and baptized in "living" (moving) waters. They were then welcomed by members and served their first communion.

(Continued from page 1)

The doctrine put forth by the RCC prior to Vatican II (the Church Council convened by Pope John XXIII in 1962) was that unbaptized children could not go to heaven nor be buried in consecrated ground. Accordingly, infants were baptized as soon as possible after birth. This negated the ancient teaching which was that only enlightened adults who accepted Christ as their Savior were eligible for baptism. The RCC has since relaxed this teaching.

There is a wonderful article in *Christian Century* this month entitled "*Buried With Christ*" By Rev. *Frank G. Honeycutt*. I commend it to you. Just Goggle the above italicized words and it will come up.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, this is the takeaway:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

-Romans 6: 3-5

Blessings, Pastor Mike



Please welcome these new members who joined Pilgrim Church on Sunday, August 25.



Dan & Shirley Donohue



Danielle Huff Avery & Kinslee



Char Sermon

If you would like to become a member of this congregation please let Pastor Mike know!

Moderator's Comments

STEWARDSHIP

By the time you read this Pilgrim United Church of Christ will be only one month from beginning the budget process for 2020. It is indeed a challenge in trying our best to forecast future revenues (Your tithing and contributions on Sunday) against the money necessary to pay staff, keep the lights on, take care of essential repairs and support our mission outreach programs. Returning to the Lord a portion of what he entrusts us with is called "Stewardship."

I could quote you chapter and verse from the Bible indicating that it is expected that you tithe 10% of your income. I'm not going to do that. You are an intelligent congregation. You know what your Bible says. You know when it speaks to you.

Inspiration comes from interesting places. I just finished watching a movie about a person of faith, "Hacksaw Ridge." Through one man's faith in God and in himself, he saved 75 of his fellow

soldiers. He was determined. He did not give up. He knew he had to keep going or his fellow beings would die. He won the Medal of Honor.

Through our faith in the LORD and in Pilgrim, through our volunteerism, through our tithing, through our giving, we make a difference in our communities. In addition to helping out our Church, we support efforts to make a difference through our local mission effort and through the United Church of Christ. So...we are not done! We will not give up! We have to keep going!

So, continue your commitment to your faith! And your Church! Thank you from one church member to another.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-Jeremiah 29:11

Don Anderson, Moderator

PRAYER DOLLS

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. -Proverbs 22:6



Every student at our Joyful Noise Learning Center decorated a paper doll, with the students name and age indicated on the back. We are asking that each Pilgrim take a doll and daily pray specifically for the child and their family. Some ideas are to use dolls as a Bible bookmark or post it to your refrigerator.

If you didn't receive one on Sunday more are available in the Church Office. If you are out homebound or out of the area, we will be happy to mail one to you.



Advent Devotional

We are excited to announce the 2019 Advent Devotional Book is under development! We have skipped several years since compiling this devotional but look forward to sharing this booklet comprised of Pilgrim stories, recollections, and life experiences of individuals this year.

In an effort to build connections at this most special of Christian celebrations, please consider writing a one-page story of a **December event** in your life. Include how it influenced your Christ Connection. Please add a favorite Bible Verse.

We understand this may be intimidating for many, and suggest your try writing it as a letter of "remember when" or a journal entry.

The 24 stories will be compiled and printed as a daily devotional book shared with the congregation for the Advent season.

The deadline to submit your writing to the church office is November 1.



Sing Unto the Lord

Music is and has been a very vital part of this church's history. We are encouraging anyone interested in being part of the Traditional Choir to join us at rehearsal!

Mark your calendars! Weekly rehearsals will start Wednesday, September 4, at 6:00 pm.

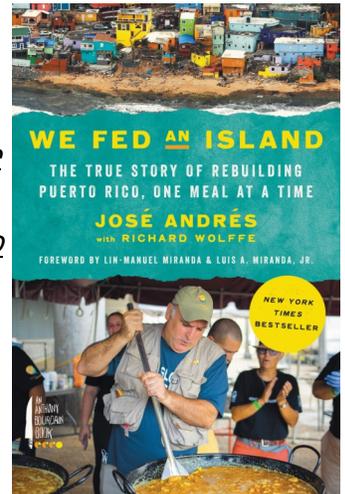


Pilgrim Women's Fellowship

The first regular meeting will be TUESDAY, September 3 at 10 AM in the Church Library. *NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FOR THIS MONTH's meeting. We will open the new study of *They Were Christians*; the inspiring faith of Christian men and women who changed the world. The author of this series is Cristobal Krusen. The first will be the life story of Florence Nightingale. Following the meeting, we will share lunch at Metro Diner in Port Charlotte.

Mark your calendars: our October meeting returns to the usual Monday on October 7th.

The October Book Club will meet on Thursday, October 24 at 6 PM. The featured book will be: *We Fed an Island: the true story of rebuilding Puerto Rico, one meal at a time* by Jose Andres. The book reviews disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Maria.



SAVE THE DATE of Sunday, November 10 from 2-4 PM for our annual Tea for a Cure and Fashion Show. This fun and delicious event is co-sponsored by Pilgrim Women's Fellowship and the Charlotte County Relay for Life Grand Team.

The Women's Fellowship Small Group is open to all women of the Church. Please join us.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>July YTD</u>		<u>Annual</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledge Offerings	\$120,648	\$133,972	\$225,000
Loose Offerings	\$ 15,393	\$ 25,715	\$ 37,500
<u>Missions</u>			
Pledges	\$31,721		\$ 54,200
Mission Payouts	\$21,807		\$ 54,200
<u>Mortgage Balance</u>		\$145,420	

When the Church has a negative cash balance, it means it is borrowing from other unrestricted funds to meet its financial obligations. At July 31, our negative cash balance was \$13,626. Our expenses continue to exceed our pledged receipts and loose collections. In total, our receipts are below budget by \$23,645 through July. We have controlled spending below budget levels to make up the difference.

It costs \$19,666 per month to turn on the lights. That means with no programming, this is what it costs to pay for salaries, electricity, insurance, etc.. This just Keeps the Lights On. Our receipts in July were \$12,316. You can see how thankful

Vision2020

Campaign Pledges	\$769,549
Total Cash Receipts	<u>527,287</u>
Balance of Pledges due	<u>\$242,262</u>

we are to have other unrestricted funds available to us. But this bank of funds will not last forever. Your pledge contributions are needed.

The Finance Ministry is looking for members to participate in the financial oversight of Pilgrim Church. Please contact Don Anderson or Cat Foster. We meet the third Monday of each month at 6:30.

Paul Whittaker, Finance Chair



Survey of the Bible is an 8 part series but is set up for you to join at any time!
If you are interested in going on this journey, understand the books, places, story, people and periods check out:
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
- August 7-September 25
Sundays at 9:15 am
- September 8-October 27

Eileen Murray is leading a Bible Study on *Cultures in Conflict*—video and workbook lessons by Ray Vander Laan. How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity?

Every other Wednesday, 10:30 am
- September 4-December 18

Genny Sweetland is leading a Bible Study on the *Gifts of the Holy Spirit* on Sundays at 9:15 am.



Thank you to everyone who came to our Open House that started our new school year! We had an amazing turn out from parents and parishioners.

We are off and running this year with a fundraiser for new playground equipment. By popular demand we are selling Fun Pasta again this year. The pasta fundraiser will run from September 2nd through September 13th. If you would like to support our fundraising efforts you can shop online at:
<https://www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/joyful-noise-2>

Cynthia Poudrette, Director Joyful Noise



Thank you congregation for your continued support both financially and with food items. Your continued support will be appreciated.

Thanks to you, during the month of July the Food Pantry was able to serve 66 families

which included 154 adults and 54 children. The total expense for the month of July was \$578.53.

In August, 35 families were served! This was 86 adults, 30 children. The expenses for August totaled \$482.68.

We would like also to thank the volunteers who served at the food pantry.



S.T.A.I.R. Program Is
Beginning Its 19th Year
We Need Your Help!

Start the Adventure in
Reading (STAIR), a

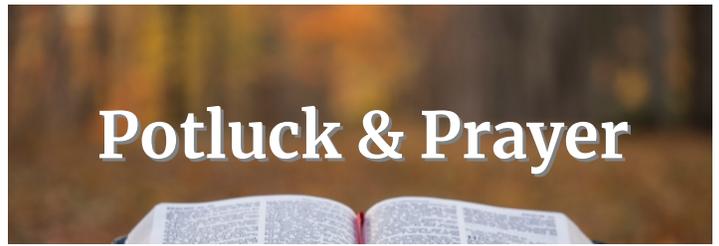
children's literacy program that provides one-on-one tutoring in reading and language skills. Pilgrim Church has been running this program since 2001 helping 2nd grade students from Deep Creek Elementary. We have helped over 400 students become better readers. Over the years we have seen siblings come through our course and sometimes we get to see or hear from former students and learn of their progress. We can't do any of this without your help. All the tutors and substitutes are volunteers and are trained at Pilgrim Church.

Training Information for Tutors & Substitutes:
September 26, 3:00 pm -Coffee Room

STAIR Meets, October 1- November 7
Tuesday & Thursdays
3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

All supplies for this program are provided. If you are interested in becoming a tutor or substitute, please contact me or fill in the application that will be in the bulletin September 8 and place it in the offering plate. We look forward to a great session of STAIR!

STAIR Coordinator, Jean LaRussa, 441-7536.



Last Saturday, August 24, we held a potluck-prayer-communion-healing service in the Community Center attended by 42 people. This was a very enjoyable evening of fellowship.



Wednesday Nite dinners will resume on October 2nd. What is your "appetite" for other potlucks-prayer services?

Please either print & fill out then drop in the offering plate, or write our your preference and drop it in the collection plate or call or email the church office and vote with your preference.

Thanks, Pastor Mike

I attended the pot luck and would again:

- On a monthly basis
- On a bi-monthly basis

I did not attend but would like to:

- On a monthly basis
- On a bi-monthly basis

Through the Fall, Winter & Spring, the Wednesday Nite meal does it for me.

- No need to have a second supper.



The Power of Prayer

“All the world starts changing when the church starts praying’ according to the song *When We Pray*.

If you feel the world needs to change won't you join us as a Prayer Partner? Pilgrim prayer group meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Coffee Room.

If you are unable to join us physically, just let the office know your desire to pray with us by giving them your name and email address and we will send you a list of our prayer concerns.

You can write your prayer concerns in the Prayer Request book in the Narthex or complete a prayer card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate.

The Bible commands us to pray about everything in all circumstances

Let's remain faithful to God's commands.

Love 'n prayers, Jacque Ross



Car Decals

\$5 each. Pick yours up at the Church Office!



Follow our Facebook page

“Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte”.

The new page has the Pilgrim Church anchor logo as the profile picture.

Recent posts include:

Verse of the Day

Bible Trivia

Event Reminders

Sunday's scripture on Friday

National Day of Prayer daily prayers

Links to Contemporary Worship recordings



Town Hall Meeting

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

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



Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please make note of it on the bulletin board in the Narthex or by calling the church office. Single arrangements are \$25.

20+20 VISION

His Mission. Our Focus.

A PRAISE REPORT is in order for the August Tithe Gifts to Charlotte Harbor Young Life (\$1,000 for a portable sound system) and Back Pack Kidz (\$1,044.95) for backpacks and food supplies.

A \$20,000 payment was made on the mortgage principal of the Education Center, bringing the balance due to \$125,420. Remember our Year 3 Goal is to pay this in full by next April.

Hasn't God blessed us more than we could ever ask for or imagine? Read Ephesians 3:23.

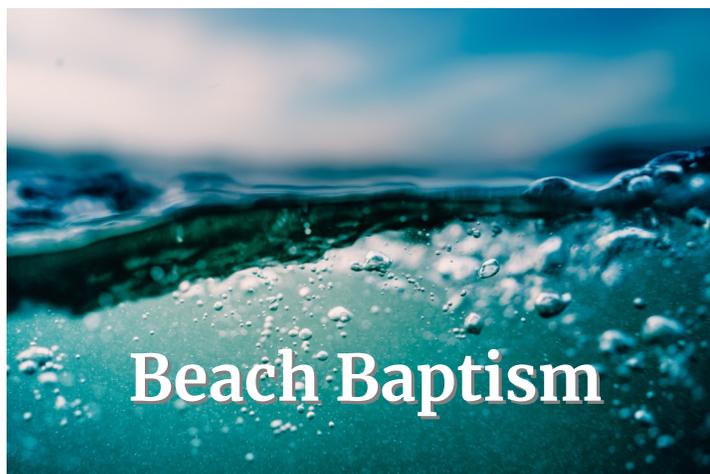
Now is the time to decide if you will volunteer monthly to assist a Joyful Noise teacher as a classroom helper OR to become a "Grand FRIEND" to a Joyful Noise family. Contact the church office if you are interested.

By now, every Pilgrim should have a paper doll as a reminder to pray daily for a Joyful Noise



student, their family, and teachers. If you don't have one, they are available in the Church Office.

2020 VISION SPIRITUAL ACTION PLAN is to PRAY, GIVE, & SERVE.



Beach Baptism

Everyone is invited to this Celebration of Baptism.

Sunday, September 22
1:00 - 5:00 pm
Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park
Pavillion#2
2100 North Beach Road
Englewood, FL 33223



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

The ACTION PLAN for the 2020 Vision Campaign is to PRAY, GIVE, & SERVE. The Pilgrim Prayer focus for September is all about SERVICE.

September 1 – Lord, remind me that my first priority is serving you.

September 8 – This Fall, focus me on a specific task for service.

September 15 – Open my eyes Lord to help me see those who need my help and care.

September 22 – Place me in a spot where I can use my spiritual gifts for others.

September 29 – Lord, we all serve something. I pray for help to faithfully serve you.

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

Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship,
Ministry and Evangelism

Rev. Michael Robinson,
Interim Pastor & Teacher
Rev. Ken Ewing, Associate Pastor
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
Doug Yokum, Maintenance
Cat Foster, Office Administrative Assistant

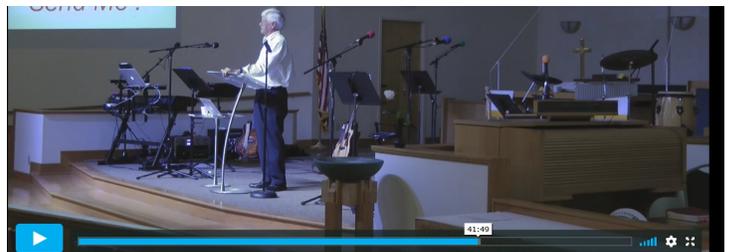
Joyful Noise Learning Center

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise
941-629-4821



Scouting is Back!

We are proud to charter Pack and Troop 351! Boy Scouts (grades 6-12) meet each Monday at 7:00 pm. Cub Scouts (grades K-5) meet on Tuesdays at 7:00.



Full Contemporary Services are available to view online at:

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





2

Dionne Jones

3

Coleen Abrahams , Karen Brown

4

Faye Pettross

6

Cynthia Poudrette

7

Ann Dewalt, Al Leshner

8

Debi Allen, James Smith

9

Marcia O'donnell, Aidyn Martinez

11

Al Fischle, Joan Powell

13

Mary Rose Binski , Rose Utterback

15

Ev Munro

16

Russ Whittaker

17

William Rash

19

Mary Schafer

22

Irene Butler

24

Reyne Schrock

25

Murray Tiffany

28

Faye Ewing

29

Lurlyne Murray

30

Evelyina Martinez, Karyina Martinez

Greetings from your Pilgrim Diaconate Ministry (Pilgrim Deacons). Summer is almost gone and soon we will be welcoming the return of our northern neighbors at worship. We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Participation at many of our church services and activities will be picking up as more of our church family will be coming to services and taking part in the many programs offered at Pilgrim Church.

Because of the increase in attendance we could use more participation from our Pilgrim Family and that is in the area of serving as Greeters and Ushers for our Sunday Services. You do not have to be a member of the Deacons Committee to serve our Church in this capacity. It is a great way to meet other members of our Church family and extend the hand of Christian love. Serving in this role will prove to be a blessing. We need both greeters and ushers especially at our 10:00 am services every Sunday. If this is an area where you might like to serve our Pilgrim Family, please contact a member of the Diaconate.

If there are any of you that feel a call to serve in other ways, please contact a member of the Diaconate or Pastor Mike to find out more information about the duties and responsibilities of the Deacons. Membership is open to any member of Pilgrim Church who is willing to serve our Pilgrim Family.

As Deacons of Pilgrim Church, we are here to serve the congregation of Pilgrim Church and God.

**Hampton Allen Chairman
Pilgrim Deacons Committee**

September 2019 at Pilgrim Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday	2 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women	3 10:00am Prayer Group 10:00am Pilgrim Women 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Pack Meeting	4 10:00am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Survey the Bible with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression & Grief Support Group	5 10:00am Bead Group	6	7 10:00am Praise Team Practice
8	9 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women 7:00pm Mission Ministry	10 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Pack Meeting	11 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Survey the Bible with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression & Grief Support Group	12 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Bead Group	13	14 10:00am Praise Team Practice 12:00pm Scouts Group
15 9:15am Town Hall Meeting 11:00am Town Hall Meeting	16 10:00am Pilgrim Women 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women	17 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Pack Meeting	18 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6:00pm Survey the Bible with Ken Ewing 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Depression & Grief Support Group	19 10:00am Bead Group 10:30am Sandwich Makers	20 4:30pm Serving Homeless Coalition	21 10:00am Praise Team Practice
22 1:00pm Baptism at Englewood Beach	23 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting	24 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council 7:00pm BSA Cub Pack Meeting	25 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Survey the Bible with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression & Grief Support Group	26 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Bead Group 3:00pm STAIR Training	27	28 Scouts 10:00am Praise Team Practice
29 9:15am Diaconate	30 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women	Every Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Bible Study with Genny Sweetland 9:15am Survey of the Bible small group 10:00am Contemporary Worship				

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

-Psalm 119:105 (KJV)