



# Pilgrim Church



October 2019 NEWSLETTER

## *Pastor Mike's Missive*



*Where there is no vision, the people perish....*  
(Proverbs 29:18)

It was vision

That gave Moses the courage to lead the captive Israelites to freedom

That enabled Magellan, Cartier and Columbus to embark on their voyages of discovery

That motivated Luther, Calvin, Knox and the others to lead a reformation of the faith

That led millions to emigrate to our shores

That sparked a revolution in the American colonies in 1776

That prompted settlement of the vast lands of the American plains and West

That inspired our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, to proclaim Emancipation and 100 years later an African-American minister, Martin Luther King Jr, to spark and lead the Civil Rights movement.

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Indeed, in endeavors large and small, for individuals, families and the entire body politic, *vision* is needed to lead the way to a new and better future: Vision of a better life, vision of a better government—a more perfect union, vision of better education, health and living standards, vision of a fairer system of justice and distribution of the fruits of production.

We are in the early throes of a presidential election cycle. As long, tedious and heated as they have become, it is our quadrennial opportunity for the whole citizenry to reimagine the kind of country we want to have and what new directions we need to chart.

And...so it is for *Pilgrim United Church of Christ*. What shall be the focus of the congregation's wants and needs, your vision of ministries and outreach in which you want to engage with your new ministerial leadership? As the church comes back to life after its summer slumber, I urge the committees to reflect, to dream and to imagine what the church might become.

One of the good things about being a "short-timer" is that it liberates me to be pretty candid about my own thoughts and dreams for the church. Once I have preached my last sermon and attended my last committee meeting, I have resolved to keep my counsel about church affairs for two years--to not darken your doors or relate to any of you in any way as "Pastor." That is how it must be, my friends.

After the intimacy of baptizing five of you Sunday in the absolutely blazingly, beautiful waters of the Gulf, it has dawned on me how completely I have come to love this congregation and the privilege it has been to serve you these past nine months. What a blessing! I trust this will not be my last missive, but I would hope its message might be heeded.

Stasis, inertia and resistance to change can be fatal to an institution—and that would include churches. As I have observed on more than one occasion, it is much more important to look ahead through the windshield than back in the rear view mirror. How can *Pilgrim Church* function serving its parishioners, the community and the world in the coming months and years?

What ministries might we be undertaking that would make a meaningful impact in our community? What strengths do we have which might be built upon? How could we better utilize our physical plant? These and other questions must drive the reflective process about what the Vision of *Pilgrim Church* will be going forward as you engage with your new called pastor in this important work as disciples of Christ.

God Bless and God Speed,  
**Pastor Mike**



# WE NEED YOU

to make our new family directory complete

November 11-13, 2019

Schedule your appointment now!

After this round of pictures, directories will be ready to be printed.



"It takes a Village." Or the whole body of Christ! We will be holding our FREE Family Fun Fest for the community on Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 10 -2.

We will have music, hot dogs and hamburgers, snow cones, popcorn, a bounce house, dunk tank, games, a bake sale and much, much more! Something for everyone. We are expecting a large crowd.

It is a great opportunity to serve the community and hopefully attract families to our church. However, in order for it to be successful **we need everyone's help!** Even if you can only spare an hour or two.

If you haven't signed up using the bulletin insert, they are available in the narthex, pick one up, fill it out and place it in the collection plate or you can use this form or call the office and leave your name and phone number.

### Setting up Games etc.

- Grilling hot dogs and hamburgers
- Wrapping & serving hotdogs & hamburgers
- Serving chips & Water
- Running a game/handing out candy
- Apple Bobbing
- Dunk Tank
- Face Painting
- Running Snow Cone Machine
- Running Popcorn Machine
- Running Bake Sale
- Donating Bake Goods
- Clean-Up

Name

Phone



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



Dan and Shirley Donohue moved to Florida in 2016 from Crown Point, Indiana. They are fortunate to have their son, Tim and daughter, Kelli, as Florida

residents. Dan and Shirley reside in Deep Creek. Dan enjoys reading, biking, walking and singing. He has added his talent to the Pilgrim Church Choir. Shirley has taught piano, was a church organist and choir member. She loves to read and play pickle ball.



Charlene Thurman, "Char", moved here in June of 2018 from Michigan. She has family in Venice and Tallahassee. Char enjoys reading and has traveled extensively in the States and also throughout the rest of the world. She looks forward to living in Florida and continuing to travel.

Daniella Huff is a native Floridian. She and her two daughters, Avery, 8, and Kinslee, 3, live in Deep Creek. Daniella has a very busy life with the two girls. She has worked at Outback for five years. She enjoys the beach, music, reading and the family life atmosphere of Pilgrim Church.



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



Scouting is fun, hands-on learning and achievement that puts kids in the middle of the action and prepares them for today – and for life.

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.

# Moderator's Comments

## Volunteerism

Last month I talked about Stewardship. This month I would like to address volunteering.

Pilgrim is your Church. The volunteers run it. We have paid employees here and there at the Church and at Joyful Noise. However, **YOU** run this church through its committee structure and through the General Council. Your General Council, all volunteers with the exception of Pastor Mike, makes the decisions that affect your place of worship and Joyful Noise. All of the committees that send information for consideration to General Council are run by volunteers.

So, where am I going with this?

We need **YOU** on Finance, Mission, Christian Ed and Hospitality (Wednesday Dinners and other special functions, like the Sunday morning coffee, fun fest, ect.) We need **YOU** to be greeters, we need **YOU** to be Deacons. We will teach you what you need to know. We will teach you what you need to do. Just say YES!

We have had a number of Town Hall Meetings in the last few months. At every one someone, has asked, "Why don't we do this?" Or "Why don't we do that?" or "we used to do this....how come we don't do this anymore?" The answer more often than not, we don't have the volunteers needed to do it!

Can you give a couple of hours a month? We can find something for **YOU** to do! **STEP UP!! SERVING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY IS ESSENTIAL TO CARRYING ON GOD'S WORK AT PILGRIM!!**

"And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good." -Thessalonians 3:13

Don Anderson, Moderator

# Wednesday Nite Menu

10/9: Lasagna & Salad

10/16: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Vegetable, & Salad

10/23: Spaghetti with Meatballs & Salad

10/30: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, & Coleslaw

**"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."  
-Galatians 6:9 ESV**



*Start The Adventure In Reading*

Pilgrim Church has been running this Start the Adventure in Reading, S.T.A.I.R. Program, since 2001 helping 2nd grade

students from Deep Creek Elementary School. We have helped over 400 students become better readers. We can't do any of this without your help. All the tutors and substitutes are volunteers and are trained at Pilgrim Church.

STAIR Meets, October 1- November 7

Tuesday & Thursdays

3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

To volunteer, please call Jean LaRussa, *STAIR Coordinator*, 441-7536.



We have been having a wonderful year with our students. There are a couple of opportunities coming soon that you can assist us with!

We are hosting Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 23 at 5:30 pm in the JN pick-up area.

On October 31, we will have our annual Character Parade. You are invited to join in the festivities by your attendance or with your gift of individually wrapped (non peanut) candy.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director Joyful Noise



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 cost \$25.

## Advent Devotional

We are excited to announce that 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 you 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.

## Pilgrim Prayer Focus

October 6-God, give me a cheerful disposition even when I am frustrated by a setback. (Proverbs 17:22)

October 13 - Thank you God, for encouraging our hearts. (Colossians 4:8)

October 20 - Help me encourage others toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

October 27 -Thank you for restoring my soul and leading me in the path of righteousness. (Psalm 23:3)

Beach Baptism 09/22/2019

l-r: Trudy Marsh, Pastor Mike, Don Donohue, Karyina Martinez, Avery Huff, Danielle Huff & Kinslee Huff.



## Pilgrim Women's Fellowship

The first regular meeting will be Monday, October 7, at 10:00 am in the Church Library. We will continue the 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 life story of Charles Dickens will be presented. Following the meeting, we will share lunch at Los Mariachs, a new Mexican Restaurant in Port Charlotte.

The October Book Club date is Thursday, October 24, at 6:00 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. Carol Veigel will be hostess for this carry-in dinner.

SAVE THE DATE of Sunday, November 10 from 2:00-4:00 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. Support Cancer research by filling a table for 8-10 people with a donation of \$100.

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

## Sock It To Me

In response to our query as to how we could help they have let us know that they have plenty of shoes and school supplies but lack the needed socks and underwear.

The kids are ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I'm guessing the underwear would be for the younger kids grades K-thru 3 while socks would be for all ages.

There is a box in the Narthex for **new** kids socks and underwear to be donated to Deep Creek Elementary School. Thanks for all of your help.

Jacque Lynne Ross,  
DCE Good News Club,  
Administrator/Team Leader

# Keep The Lights On

Our August expenses exceeded our pledge contributions and loose offerings by \$3,404 and now \$19,077 year to date. We pay for this using monies from other unrestricted funds such as Joyful Noise. But this also means we are sometimes limited in how much we can invest in our programs and space at Joyful Noise if funds are used for the church. Please continue your pledge contributions.

We received \$11,146 in pledge contributions and \$1,223 in loose collections for the month. It costs \$19,666 to just turn on the lights with no funding for programs. That covers salaries, electricity, insurance, etc.

Vision2020 has been very successful; however, we have not yet been able to pay off the mortgage. The balance is \$125,388. Remaining pledges are \$229,313. Please continue to support this program.

It was great to print last month's Newsletter online. You might try it as it also saves us copy costs. The cost of color copies is 8 times the cost of black and white.

I would also like to remind everyone receiving this that contributions may be made online. Instructions are available in the Narthex or from the Church Office. Joyful Noise has been very successful with its tuition payments from parents. Processing costs to us are zero and there is a small credit card fee. You may make payments to Missions and Vision2020 as well.

The Finance Ministry needs members. Please support your financial team. Contact Cat or Don Anderson. We meet the third Monday of each month at 6:30.

Paul Whittaker, Finance Chair

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>August Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Pledge Offerings	\$131,794	\$225,000
Loose Offerings	\$ 16,616	\$ 37,500

<u>Missions</u>		
Pledges	\$37,099	\$ 54,200
Mission Payouts	\$28,044	\$ 54,200

Mortgage Balance            \$125,388

<u>Vision2020</u>	
Campaign Pledges	\$769,549
Total Cash Receipts	<u>540,236</u>
Balance of Pledges due	<u>\$229,313</u>

# October Birthdays

- 1 Susan Anderson, Savinia Krueger
- 2 Gloria Sellman, Ruby Timm
- 4 Debbie Leshner
- 6 Hamp Allen
- 7 Shirley Donohue
- 9 Sidoney Johnston
- 10 Elizabeth Crawford
- 11 Jeffrey Nicolas, Debora Provencal
- 15 Kinslee Huff
- 17 Howard Meader
- 20 Valerie Forge, Joann Nunes
- 21 Ray Gaddie, Charlene Hall, Jaclyn Martel
- 24 Danielle Huff
- 25 Mary Foreman
- 29 Joseph Beaudreau, Lorraine O'keefe, Vickie Rhoer

## TEA for a CURE



Sunday,  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup>  
2019



2:00 to  
4:00 PM  
Doors open  
at 1:00 for set up

**Pilgrim Church Meeting Hall  
24515 Rampart Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL**

**\$100 Donation for a Table of 8  
Create a Theme - Decorate your table**

**Provide your Food and Tea**

**HOT WATER PROVIDED**

**Prizes for Best Tables**

**Fashion Show provided by Anthony's of Punta Gorda**

**All models are Cancer Survivors**

**Chinese Auction**

Checks Payable to **American Cancer Society**

**Mail to: Cindy Morrell, Grand Relay Team**

**365 Belaire Ct, Punta Gorda FL 33950**

**[camorrell72@gmail.com](mailto:camorrell72@gmail.com)**

**Please Reserve by Nov 5th**

# Feeding the Hungry

The food pantry is serving between 35-40 families every 2 weeks and we anticipate the number to rise as the winter months are before us. Donations and funds have fallen off considerably in the past months while the cost of groceries has continued to rise. Even though we shop the best buys, the Food Pantry is needing a boost. We are including a list of the items that we make available and from the list, each person selects ten items:

canned soup	mac n cheese
saltine crackers	mashed potatoes
beef stew	canned potatoes
canned pasta	rice
canned tomatoes	dry beans
canned green beans	dry cereal
pork n beans	grits
canned carrots	tuna
canned corn	oatmeal
canned mixed veggies	pancake mix
canned peas	syrup
canned fruit	peanut butter
ramen noodles	jelly
spaghetti sauce	assorted canned beans
dry pasta (assorted)	snacks

Along with the 10 items, on the 4th Monday of each month, we offer a roll of paper towels and two rolls of toilet paper.

OOPS! Totals were incorrect for the month of August, in the last Newsletter. In August we served as follows:

#### August 12

families 35: adults 86, children 30

#### August 26

families 40: adults 96, children 39

Total food pantry expenses for August \$642.68

Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry. You are a very generous and caring congregation and we feel very blessed to have your assistance in this much needed ministry.

Please pray about this and continue to support your Pilgrim Food Pantry.

## It is that time of the year again-for turkey and all the fixings!

It is custom at Pilgrim to provide a turkey to those who will not be able to provide for themselves, the sick and shut-ins, and others who are deserving. We are asking the congregation for donations of cash to purchase food items and/or gift certificates for turkeys. Please mark your donations "Turkey" and place it into the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

It is estimated that we will need to supply about eighty dinners. This year we will distribute \$10.00 food gift certificates to purchase a Turkey and include the following items for the dinner: a package of mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, a can of corn, a can of green beans, and a can of cranberries.

We thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness as we minister to our church family and friends this holiday season.

**Our God is a great God and reminds each of us that it is our duty to care for those around us every day.**

With that in mind, please fill out the Turkey Dinner Request information below if you know of a family who would be deserving of a dinner. Either put it into the offering plate or bring it into the church office by October 28.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**The Pilgrim Food Pantry will be handing out the Thanksgiving dinners on November 18.**

Thank you again for your contributions.

Gerry and Karen Ahlgrim



2020 VISION SPIRITUAL ACTION PLAN  
is to PRAY, GIVE, & SERVE.  
Goal 3 Spiritual Action Plan

- Pray daily for your Joyful Noise student, their family, and their teachers.
- Give to the paydown of the mortgage on the Education Center.
- Serve by volunteering to be a classroom help or a GrandFRIEND.

"And what if with God's power working in us, He were to do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of?" Ephesians 3:20

# Bible Study Opportunities

Ken Ewing is leading Bible Study Faith Lessons by Ray Vander Laan: *Life & Ministry of the Messiah*. Explore the contrast between Herod's glorious towers and fortress and the humble birth of Jesus. Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm.

*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: Sundays at 9:15 am

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 *Prayer & Worship* on Sundays at 9:15 am.

## 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  
Rev. Ken Ewing, Associate Pastor  
All Members, Ministers  
Russ Whittaker,  
Administrator & Bell Choir Director  
Darryl Johnson, Choir Director  
Mona Johnson, Organist  
Patrick & Marilyn Randall,  
Worship Leaders  
Jessica Warne, Sunday School Director  
Doug Yokom, Maintenance  
Cat Foster, Administrative Assistant

## Joyful Noise Learning Center

Cynthia Poudrette  
Director of Joyful Noise  
941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoiselc.org

Full Contemporary Services are  
available to view online at:

[https://vimeo.com/channels/  
pilgrimonline](https://vimeo.com/channels/pilgrimonline)

**\$10**  
Per Person

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## BBQ Dinner

to benefit Boy Scout Troop 351  
Saturday, October 12 4pm-7pm  
Dinner comes with Pulled Pork  
Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw  
and a Drink

### Pilgrim Church

24515 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
Tickets can be purchased and donated to Salvation Army to help needy families

Dear Pilgrim Church,

Thank you so much for all of your support! I just purchased our new sound system to reach the students of Charlotte County with your gift. You are such a blessing.

Love, Jennifer Candia, Young Life Mission





## October 2019 at Pilgrim Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Every Sunday</b></p> <p>8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:00 am Bible Study with Genny Sweetland 9:15 am Survey of the Bible small group 10:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>		<p>1 10am Prayer Grp 11am Staff Mtg 3pm STAIR 7pm BSA Cub Pack Mtg</p>	<p>2 10am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Grp</p>	<p>3 10am Beaders 10am Overeaters Anonymous 3pm STAIR</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>6 Communion Sunday</p>	<p>7 10am Pilgrim Women Mtg 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg 7pm AA Mtg - Women</p>	<p>8 10am Prayer Grp 11am Staff Mtg 3pm STAIR 7pm BSA Cub Pack Mtg</p>	<p>9 10am Al Anon 6pm Family Nite Dinner 6pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Grp</p>	<p>10 9am Stephen Ministry 10am Overeaters Anonymous 10am Beaders 3pm STAIR</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10am Praise Team Practice 4pm Scouts BBQ Dinner Fundraiser</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 10am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg 7pm Mission Ministry 7pm AA Mtg - Women</p>	<p>15 10am Prayer Grp 11am Staff Mtg 3pm STAIR 7pm BSA Cub Pack Mtg</p>	<p>16 Newsletter Articles Due 10am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6pm Family Nite Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Grp</p>	<p>17 10am Beaders 10am Overeaters Anonymous 10:30am Sandwich Makers 3pm STAIR</p>	<p>18 4:30pm Serving Homeless Coalition</p>	<p>19 10am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>20 9:15am Town Hall Mtg 11am Town Hall Mtg</p>	<p>21 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg 7pm AA Mtg - Women</p>	<p>22 10am Prayer Grp 11am Staff Mtg 3pm STAIR 7pm BSA Cub Pack Mtg 7pm Council</p>	<p>23 10am Al Anon 5:30pm JN Trunk or Treat 6pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6pm Family Nite Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing 6:30pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Grp</p>	<p>24 9am Stephen Ministry 10am Beaders 10am Overeaters Anonymous 3pm STAIR 6pm Pilgrim Women Book Club</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 10am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>27 9:15am Diaconate</p>	<p>28 10am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg - Women 7pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg</p>	<p>29 10am Prayer Grp 11am Staff Mtg 3pm STAIR 7pm BSA Cub Pack Mtg</p>	<p>30 10am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6pm Family Nite Dinner 6pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Grp 6:30pm Bible Study with Ken Ewing</p>	<p>31 Advent Devotional story deadline tomorrow 9:30am JN Character Parade 10am Beaders 10am Overeaters Anonymous 3pm STAIR</p>		