



# Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## January 2020 NEWSLETTER

### Prayers to Pray for Pilgrim Church

#### **A Prayer to Pursue Peace**

“So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” Romans 14:19

Father God, You desire peace and unity and encouragement for our body of believers. Help us, Lord, to pursue what makes for peace and for building one another up. To pursue the things You will lead to peace and unity. Give us discerning hearts to know Your will and give us the courage to be obedient. Lord, we know that without You and Your Holy Spirit indwelling each of us, we cannot do any of these things. But, with You and for Your glory, grant our body peace and unity. Grant the Body of Christ unity. May we walk humbly with You, God, allowing You to show us our wrongs.

#### **A Prayer for Unity as a Church Body**

“I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3

God, help our church body to work in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. Help Pilgrim Church in all our interactions with one another to have humble and gentle hearts. In our homes, our neighborhoods, and our church, grant us patience for one another, bearing with one

another in love. Grant the Body of Christ unity. May we walk humbly with You, God, allowing You to show us our wrongs.

What the enemy means for evil against our church body, we believe You can use for good. Remind our hearts of this. When we are attacked and crushed from all sides, remind us of Your faithfulness to use everything for Your good and Your glory. May we not fear but trust in Your provision for the Pilgrim Church family. May we not only be readers of Your Word but believers and doers. Increase our faith, Lord.

#### **A Prayer to Follow Jesus**

“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” Luke 9:23-24

Lord, You have given us what seems like an impossible task with this passage. You have asked us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow You. Even when our spirits are willing, the flesh is weak. You know our hearts. Help us, with Your Holy Spirit, to examine our hearts and hear from You. The longer we walk with You, the more we look like You. We desire to become more and more like You, less selfish and more selfless, willing to deny ourselves in any and all situations. You have said that when we lose our life for Your sake, we will save it. Save us from ourselves, God.





“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 10:00 am 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

Jacque Ross



Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

Late December 17, our Moderator, Donald Anderson received an extremely disappointing phone call from our new pastor, David Williams. He has withdrawn his name for personal reasons and will not be coming to Pilgrim Church.

We have contacted UCC Florida to continue our search.

**Don Anderson**  
Moderator, Search Committee Chair



Meals cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. All meals include salad, bread, drink and dessert. This ministry depends on ample volunteers to prep, cook, and clean up afterwards. Stop by the kitchen and find a way to get involved! Doors open at 6:00 pm.

1/8

Pulled Pork Sandwiches with Coleslaw

1/15

Fried Chicken, Red Skin Potatoes and Vegetable

1/22

Pork Roast, Mashed Sweet Potatoes and Veggie

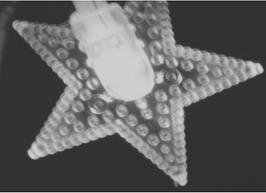
1/29

Lasagna

**Annual Meeting**  
  
Review 2019  
Leadership Committees 2020  
Budget 2020  
  
Wednesday, January 29  
7:00 pm  
Sanctuary

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. -Isaiah 40:30-31

# Keep The Lights On



Our church will incur a deficit this year of approximately \$40,000. It is expected that Joyful Noise will have a small surplus of \$20,000. So how do we pay for it? What happens when we do not have enough funds from pledges and loose collections? What does it mean to Joyful Noise?

Pilgrim will use \$20,000, the last of its available unrestricted reserves, to help pay for the shortfall. The surplus from Joyful Noise will pay for the remainder.

During the past three years we will have used up all of our available Church reserves. And we will have used Joyful Noise surplus funds to pay the balance of the deficits.

This means Joyful Noise has not been able to set aside any funds to expand in future programming, capital improvements, playground upgrades (demanded by the state), and has limited the amounts available to pay the staff and teachers.

2020 will be another difficult year for Pilgrim.

Faith Commitments for 2020 are \$50,000 less than 2019.

Please take all this in account when you consider your giving for 2020. If you have not turned in a pledge card, but intend on giving your tithe please know completed commitment cards are essential for planning 2020.

The lights will be dim.

Paul Whittaker

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>November</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>
Pledge Offerings	\$174,513	\$225,000
Loose Offerings	\$ 21,411	\$ 37,500

### Missions

Pledges	\$40,381	\$ 54,200
Mission Payouts	\$45,624	\$ 54,200

Mortgage Balance      \$121,078

### 2020Vision

Campaign Pledges	\$ 769,549
Total Cash Receipts	<u>561,396</u>
Balance of Pledges due	<u>\$ 208,153</u>

## Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Ken's Wednesday night Bible study will gather in the Library at 6:30 pm beginning Wednesday January 8.

Eileen Murray will be leading Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Conference Room, January 15 and 29.

## Altar Flowers for 2020

Save your special date now! 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. Dates are available for next year, 2020. Mark your date now! A single arrangement will cost \$25.

## 2020 Apostles Build

The Apostles Build with Habitat for Humanity is a ministry with 12 churches to build a home. It is a partnership ministry with the churches, Habitat, and the home owner. Pilgrim Church is one of the churches participating in the 2020 Apostles Build.

The 2020 Apostle Build for our own Dawn Skelton, will kick off with the slab blessing on Friday, January 24, at 9:00 am. The location of this years build is: 1335 Miliken Terrace, Port Charlotte, FL 33953.

SAVE THE DATE for Pilgrim Church's painting day, at the house, will be Saturday, March 7. We will let the congregation know later the time and how to sign up. A t-shirt will be given to each participant. We look forward to partnering with Dawn, other churches, and habitat in this important ministry, providing a home for Dawn Skelton and her two sons.

## Prayer Shawls

Do you have a dear friend or relative who needs the comfort and strength of a prayer shawl? Please call the church and we would be happy to share one with you.

## Pledge Cards for 2020

We continue to welcome your pledge cards for the year 2020. These cards are essential for preparing the church budget. Extra cards are available in the Narthex.

## Pilgrim Women's Fellowship

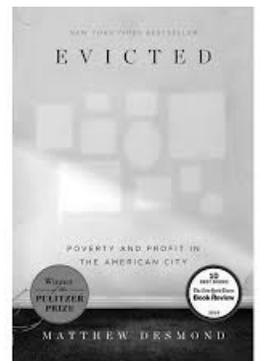
December brought great joy as we shared a beautiful Holiday Luncheon at the home of Marge and Bob Dingee, a daytrip to Selby Gardens "Lights in Bloom", and partnering with Home Instead Senior Care to deliver gifts through their "Santa to a Senior" program.



Save the dates of:

- January 6 for our next regular meeting at 10:00 am in the Library and
- January 25 for the Regional Women's Meeting of UCC Women that we will host.

The next Book Club will meet on January 23 at 6:00 pm where we will review *EVICTED*: poverty and profit in the American city written by Matthew Desmond. This is a UCC - All Church Read for 2020. It will be a potluck dinner at the home of Cheryl Gerry and Sandy Wheatcroft, 25465 E. Lennox Circle, Punta Gorda, 33950.



Women of the church, I urge you to start the new year with joining this small group who worships, serves church needs, and fosters hospitality with one another.



Thank you to everyone who came out for our annual Christmas Program! We had a standing room only crowd

who enjoyed all the hard work the Joyful Noise staff and children put in over the weeks. The show ended with a special visit from Santa inviting everyone over for dinner. Our Dinner with Santa was a huge success with over 300 dinners being served.



We are looking forward to the New Year and all the blessings that come with it. Please keep our teachers and students in your prayers as they begin mid-year assessments with the new year.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise



Volunteer Members represented Pilgrim Church at Publix by ringing the Salvation Army bell, doing the most good.



Deep Creek Elementary School Good News after-school Bible Club celebrated Jesus' birthday with a great party!

The afternoon began with prayer requests and the reading of the Christmas story followed by singing *Happy Birthday* to Jesus.

There were snacks galore interspersed with the creation of ornaments to take home. And if that wasn't enough, each child got some more treats and Christmas crafts to take home.



Are you jealous you weren't there? You don't have to miss out on all the fun as we help these kids learn more about God and His love. We can always use more volunteers.

There are many ways to volunteer. The following are just a few: Become a Grade Shepherd (sit with and converse with kids at club), Memory Verse Leader, Bible Story Teller, Gospel Spotlight Leader, or Wonder Time Leader. These jobs require training at the local conference twice a year and require you to be there on Mondays from 2:50-4:30.

Some other ways to volunteer are: Become a prayer Partner (we'll send you the children's prayer request list weekly), pray during club time for the volunteers, pray for the families and teachers, make or supply snacks, donate for Children's Bibles, help with crafts (twice a year) help with baskets twice a year.

Interested? Just contact Jacque Ross 941-625-1366

# Pilgrim Food Pantry

Pilgrim Food Pantry served 39 families plus 10 families that received emergency food during the month. There was a total of 125 adults and 32 children who benefitted from our Food Pantry Mission.

We were able to give each family 4 rolls of toilet paper, 2 rolls of paper towel, meals of hope, cake mix, frosting and other food stuff from the Thanksgiving bags. They also received our normal distribution of food. The recipients were very grateful for what our church has done for them for the coming Holidays and throughout the year.

A huge thank you for your continued support of the Pilgrim Food Pantry, We had overwhelming donations of cake mixes and frosting. Your financial support is also appreciated. Without your support the Food Pantry can not survive.

We wouldn't have a Food Pantry without these dedicated workers: Carol Borris, Tony Caniglia, Esther Eason, Ed & Marsha O'Donell, Vera Roscoe, Carol Smith, and Sharon Sweeney. Thank You to All.

Blessing for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

**Gerry and Karen Ahlgrim**



Christmas Caroling at Janet Jones Group Home on December 15.

# 20+20 VISION His Mission. Our Focus.

## 2020 Vision Progress: A TIME FOR PRAISE

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, - Ephesians 3:20

Another \$50,000 has been paid down on the mortgage of the Pilgrim Education Center!

Tithe gifts have now surpassed the \$55,000 mark with the December gifts of :

\$3,000 to PROJECT: VetRelief  
-focusing in 2020 on mental health and suicide prevention for our veterans



\$200 to Troop 0351  
-for additional camping equipment

\$406 to Pilgrim Food Pantry  
-for equipment

Remember Ephesians 3:20, and ponder what if, with God's power working in us, God were to do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of? Unite and join the Action Plan of PRAY, GIVE, SERVE.



**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**

941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoiselc.org

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise

Full Contemporary Services are available to view  
 online at:

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Follow our Facebook Page! Search “Pilgrim Church  
 of Port Charlotte” and be part of our online  
 community during the week.

**GIVE YOUR GIFT ONLINE**

Step by step instructions are available in the  
 Narthex and on our website.



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 Vera Roscoe  
 9  
 Henry Swen  
 11  
 Kay Neilley  
 17  
 Sharon Sweeney  
 Dave O'Keefe  
 18  
 Gert Devantier  
 Mary Stoudt  
 20  
 Olive Prince  
 James Bluschke  
 23  
 Larry Lewis  
 27  
 Phil Brown  
 30  
 Marlene Warburton  
 31  
 Pat Malagisi



Prayer Focus for Spiritual Refreshment

January 5 – Help me see the new year as  
 an opportunity to embrace the new.

January 12- Lead me in faith to learn to  
 think with my heart as well as my head.

January 19 – Dear Lord, be my source of  
 strength each day.

January 26 – Help me to wait patiently for  
 your wisdom.

# Pilgrim Church January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Every Sunday</i> <i>Honor the Sabbath and keep it Holy.</i></p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Children's Sunday School</p>			<p>1 Joyful Noise Closed New Year's Day Office Closed 9:00am Al Anon 10:00am Al Anon</p>	<p>2 Joyful Noise Assessments begin 10:00am Beaders 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>3 JN School Age Camp Day</p>	<p>4 10:00am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6 Epiphany JN Camp Day 10:00am Pilgrim Women Meeting 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women</p>	<p>7 JN School Age Camp Day 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting</p>	<p>8 9:00am Al Anon 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Kids Bible Craft 7:00pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Group</p>	<p>9 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Beaders 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous</p>	<p>10 Habitat House Slab Blessing</p>	<p>11 10:00am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women</p>	<p>14 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Articles Due 9:00am Al Anon 10:00am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Kids Bible Craft 7:00pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Group</p>	<p>16 Joyful Noise Assessments end 10:00am Beaders 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers</p>	<p>17 JN School Age Camp Day 4:30pm Serving Homeless Coalition</p>	<p>18 10:00am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>19 9:15am Town Hall Meeting 11:00am Town Hall Meeting</p>	<p>20 Joyful Noise Conferences Office Closed 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg</p>	<p>21 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting</p>	<p>22 9:00am Al Anon 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Kids Bible Craft 7:00pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Group</p>	<p>23 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Beaders 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 3:00pm STAIR Leader Training 6:00pm Pilgrim Women Book Club</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:00am Regionals SWFL Women's Conference 10:00am Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>26 9:15am Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p>27 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting - Women</p>	<p>28 10:00am Prayer Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 3:15pm STAIR 7:00pm Pilgrim Church Annual Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting</p>	<p>29 9:00am Al Anon 10:00am Al Anon 10:30am EM Bible Study 6:00pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Kids Bible Craft 7:00pm Depression &amp; Grief Support Group</p>	<p>30 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:00am Beaders 3:15pm STAIR</p>	<p>31 4:30pm Serving Homeless Coalition</p>	

**Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked,  
 "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?  
 We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1b-2**