



Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

March 2020 NEWSLETTER

From the Parish Administrator

On Sunday, February 16, 2020, Reverend Bill Klossner gave us a wonderful message titled “*The Best Side is The Inside*”. I would like to expand that thought to include being a volunteer for Pilgrim Church. We are in a time of transition, discovering all the opportunities there are to serve our Lord and our church. I know, and I understand, that many of you are retired and want to come to church, worship with friends, and go on with your leisurely life. But God has not retired yet. There are many ways to serve. It doesn't have to be a commitment of every day, every week, or even every month. Any time you can give to the church is always helpful...no matter how large or small your minutes or hours are in service to God and Pilgrim Church.

Let me give you some suggestions on how and where you may serve. We are in need of several people to step up and bring the Christian Education Ministry back to life. Currently, we have no such active ministry. We are in need of members to be part of the Finance Ministry. We would appreciate it if you could give a couple of hours a month to our Visitation Ministry. I thank those, and you know who you are, who have already come forward to help with visitation, but we need more. There is always a need for kitchen help on Wednesday nights. Our Missions Ministry has many ways to serve, from serving dinner at the Homeless Coalition, to being part of the painting crew for our Habitat for Humanity house. Another valuable mission, where you can

assist, is our Food Pantry. Perhaps you could help us with our Hospitality Ministry.

So you see, there is an opportunity for you to be of service to our church. I also know that each of you always looks to your best side - your inside - for guidance when making these types of decisions. When Pastor Matthew asked me to take the job as Parish Administrator, my reply was yes...on one condition...that I volunteer. I did this in part because I thought if others saw someone, serving in a usually paid church position, as a volunteer, it may encourage and inspire them to do the same.

I sense a new unity growing steadily in our congregation. I can feel the “Let's pull together and get this done” type of attitude escalating each week. We *can* and *will* emerge from this time a stronger and more unified congregation than ever before. I urge each member to search your “*best side*” and listen intently for the answer. You may be surprised where we end up. As I have said before, let your faith take you where it will, for it is only God's will that takes you there.

God Bless,

Russ Whittaker
Parish Administrator & Bell Choir Director

From the Moderator Search Committee Chair

The Search Committee is currently reviewing 6 applications for the position of pastor.

We appreciate your continued prayers and support as we discern God's will in His time.

Don Anderson, Moderator

Pilgrim Women's Fellowship

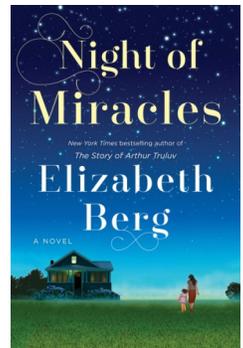
Pilgrim Women's Fellowship is an organized Small Group that worships, serves church needs, and fosters hospitality with one another. The next meeting will be March 2 in the Church Library at 10:00 am.

Our March program will feature the life of John D. Rockefeller as a Christian who changed the world. We plan to have lunch at Donato's Restaurant.

Join Us ! At these two additional activities have been planned for the month:

* March 17 – Men and women are welcomed to an all-day boat trip to Cabbage Key with the King Fisher Fleet. Cost is \$38 plus lunch money. You must book your trip on-line at www.kingfisherfleet.com.

* March 26 – Book Club will meet at 6:00 pm for potluck dinner at the home of Betsy Field In Maple Leaf Estates and discuss the book, *Night of Miracles* a novel by Elizabeth Berg. This is a contemporary women's fiction novel about surprising friendships, community, and the way small acts of kindness can change a life.



The 2020 Apostles Build for our own Dawn Skelton has angels in the attic!

SAVE THE DATE
Pilgrim Church's painting day will be Saturday, March 21. Sign up in the Narthex. A t-shirt will be given to each participant.



7 Prayers for the Pastor God is calling to Pilgrim

2 Timothy 4:1-5 — Pray that God would increase our next lead pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and that he would boldly proclaim the truth.

Philippians 1:3-11 — Pray that God would give our next lead pastor a love for our church and strength to leave his current position. Pray that God would make His will known to him and his family.

Colossians 1:9-12 — Pray for our next lead pastor's family. Of course, the new pastor may be married or single, may have children or not. God knows all of that. Pray that God, who knows who they are, would strengthen and guide the new lead pastor's family as they are led toward ministry at Pilgrim Church. Give them peace in knowing God's will.

Romans 12:9-13 — Pray that God would prepare our lead pastor always to have great zeal and passion for serving the Lord in his ministry. Pray for God's strength in his weakness and may our new minister be faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 6:16 — Pray for the future lead pastor and his family to have absolute certainty in their sense of call to our church. He must know God's direction. Pray also for protection from the evil one for our future lead pastor and his family.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 — Pray for God's strength and guidance in the lead pastor's former church. Pray that those with whom he is currently serving would trust God's plan for his servant in leading him to a new location of ministry.

Amos 4:13 — Pray that the new lead pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Pilgrim Church and the surrounding community. Pray that many will come to know Jesus through our church.

Wednesday Menu

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.

3/4

Fried Chicken, Red Skin Potatoes, Vegetable

3/11

Pork Roast, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Vegetable

3/18

Lasagna

3/25

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable

Pilgrim Prayer Focus

These Prayers are aligned with the O.S Howkins' Lenten devotional book - *The Easter Code*.

March 1 - As you pray, marvel at how much YOU mean to God.

March 8 - Thank You God, for coming in the flesh so You can understand my every need and meet it.

March 15 - Lord, let me never forget that You "laid down your life" for me.

March 22 - Lord, help me see myself as a person of promise and potential.

March 29 - Lord, through faith, I receive your unconditional love today.



We are proud to report that Joyful Noise was chosen by the Early Learning Coalition as the site for the local United Way Board. This visit was designed to showcase a quality early childhood education center. We had a group of a dozen people visit on February 11 for two hours. The group toured the school and observed interactions in the classrooms between staff and students.

They were handed checklists by the Coalition and asked to pay particular attention to how our staff modeled language development, extended vocabulary and used open-ended questions. The visit went very well with many compliments on our center and staff. I am very proud of our staff for the positive reaction we received. We are honored that the Coalition chose us out of all the centers in Charlotte County as the tour site.

Thank you to Pilgrim Church for supporting our program and helping make it the BEST in Charlotte County.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise



Tuesday, March 17

You are invited to an all-day boat trip to Cabbage Key with the King Fisher Fleet.

Cost is \$38 plus lunch money.

You must book your trip on-line at www.kingfisherfleet.com.

Departs at 9:00 a.m.

Returns approx. 4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Begin your trip with a 2-1/2 hour narrated cruise on the Charlotte Harbor aquatic preserve. We will cruise from the mouth of the Peace River, down the length of the harbor, onto the Intra-coastal Waterway, and among the islands of Pine Island Sound.

Charlotte Harbor is home to many, many playful dolphins who love to swim with the boat on all our cruises. This will increase your heart rate and deplete your camera's photo supply!

Our destination for lunch – Cabbage Key Inn, Pine Island Sound, Florida. Relax for lunch at the historic Cabbage Key Inn, home of the "Cheeseburger in Paradise". A panoramic view is provided from the front porch of the open-air restaurant situated atop a 38 foot Indian shell mound. There are no cars, not even a paved road.

After a memorable lunch, visit the gift shop, explore the nature trail which includes signs identifying flora and fauna, or climb the popular water tower look-out for magnificent photos. Join us back aboard for the return trip, arriving back at our home port between 4:15 – 4:30 pm. Cost of lunch is not included in the boat ticket price.



March Mission Moment

Charlotte Harbor Younglife

Inviting Young People to Experience Life as God
Designed it To **Be** Lived.

Younglife provides opportunities for growth because we were created for that. Our souls long for depth, meaning, and direction. We know these can only be found in the Author of Life who delights in revealing His perfect plan for us.

Kids find all this and more in Young Life. We fondly refer to our meeting time as a celebration. It's a time and place where kids come and experience life with a capital "L". They laugh, sing, and shout during the games, skits and songs, and mixers, but they also learn to listen as a caring adult shares with them the Good News of Jesus and His love for them.

Planted each week in the hearts of young people, seeds are watered and new life appears. We celebrate, and we watch them GROW!

Dear Pilgrim Church, thank you for all of your support. I am so glad to take some time to update you on some of the amazing things our Lord is doing here in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte through the ministry of Younglife.

This fall we were able to take a bus full of middle school students to camp to hear the gospel. Eleven students on that trip made a decision to follow Christ. Now, that is something to celebrate, youth coming to the Lord! Thank you for making that possible.

We also just returned from winter camp where we took 45 students from Charlotte County to hear the Gospel.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you one of these girl's stories. Her name is Madison. Madison is a senior at Charlotte High School. She's had a very hard life and has juggled from home to home. Madison moved here a couple years ago running from an abusive father in search of her mother who was struggling with addiction at the time.

Madison struggled with going to camp. She didn't feel like she was worthy or good enough to get on the bus. After holding the bus for her for some time, she finally made it. I'm so amazed at how the Lord will leave the 99 to find the one.

That weekend she heard the Gospel for the very first time and made a decision to turn her life over to Christ. Madison had never heard that there is a God who loves her and died to have a relationship with her. Today, Madison knows that she's not alone. She knows that the Lord is with her and loves her. Today she has a strong community of Younglife sisters that have surrounded her, inviting her to Bible study and church. They called and cared for her when she got in a car accident this weekend, all of which have been reminders to her that God is with her.

Thank you again, Pilgrim Church, for making it possible for me and my team to step into the lives of our youth right here in Charlotte County, so that they may come to know our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Jennifer Candia
Younglife Missionary to
Charlotte County Florida



Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

To request a Stephen Minister or to learn more about the program, please reach out to Wini Bender at 941-875-4682.



Food Pantry Report

We want to give Pilgrim Church a huge THANK YOU for your generous cake mixes and frosting.

The Back Pack Kidz are donating a meal of hope to our pantry-Thank You!

In January we served
72 families:
173 adults and
67 children under 12 years of age!
We spent \$534.38.

Items we give out on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month:

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

Thank you for your continued support of food stuff and monitory donations.

Gerry & Karen Ahlgrim, Food Pantry Chairs



Easter Flower Order Form

Easter Lilies and Hyacinths are available this year for \$8.00. You may indicate a purchase in memory of, honor of or to the Glory of God.

Easter flowers may be picked up after the Easter Sunday Service.

Return this form with payment to the Church office or in the offering plate by *March 22*.

Presented From Name

Total Number of Plants : ____

1. Dedicated to

- In Memory of
- In Honor of
- To the Glory of God

- Deliver to Shut-In
- Will pick up

- Lily
- Hyacinth

2. Dedicated to

- In Memory of
- In Honor of
- To the Glory of God

- Deliver to Shut-In
- Will pick up

- Lily
- Hyacinth

St Patrick's Breastplate

St. Patrick's Prayer

I arise today through
God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to see before me,
God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me, God's host to secure me –
against snares of devils,
against temptations and vices,
against inclinations of nature,
against everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and anear,
alone and in a crowd...
Christ, be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie,
Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of the Christ.
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.



Pilgrim Church is proud to charter and support Troop 351 and Pack 351.

Sunday, February 9, 2020, we recognized Scout Sunday with the Boy Scouts presenting the flag. Later in February the boys completed a 5 mile urban hike. These scouts hiked around historic downtown Punta Gorda. Visited many historical sites and enjoyed the beautiful linear parks of Punta Gorda. While at the Punta Gorda History Park, the boys enjoyed a break on benches built by a former member of the Troop Kyle Finch.



Easter Worship Opportunities

April 5

Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday
Traditional, 8:00 am
Contemporary, 10:00 am

April 9

Maundy Thursday
6:00 pm Supper, 7:00 pm Service

April 10

Good Friday
1:00 pm

April 12

Easter Sunday Sunrise, 7:00 am
Easter Sunday Traditional, 8:00 am
Easter Sunday Contemporary, 10:00 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. 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
 Cat Foster, Office Administrator
 Wally Knifke, Maintenance

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.



**March
 Birthdays**

2

Nancy Swen

3

Tracey Littell

4

Janice Cahn

7

Phyllis Stanley

9

Nancy Beaver, Cat Foster
 Niles Stoudt, David Wilson III

11

Jonna Dean
 Cheryl Gerry
 Jacque Ross

12

Nereid Maxey

13

Denise Diluv

14

Sharon Bergstresser

18

Dan Donohue
 Samantha Tagge

19

Larry Provencal
 Leesa Thompson

24

Sylvia Mallay

27

Margie Dingee

29

Susan Littrell

30

Martha Donovan
 Karen McKenney

Pilgrim Church March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday in Lent	2 10:00am Pilgrim Women Meeting 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	3 10:00am Prayer Group 3:15pm STAIR 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting	4	5 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:00am Beaders Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 3:15pm STAIR	6	7 10:00am Praise Team Practice
8 2nd Sunday in Lent	9 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	10 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting	11	12 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Beaders Group 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 11:00am Staff Meeting	13	14 10:00am Praise Team Practice
15 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:15am Town Hall Meeting 11:00 am Town Hall Meeting	16 JN Spring Break Camp 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm AA - Women 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm Finance Meeting	17 Fellowship to Cabbage Key JN Spring Break Camp 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting	18 JN Spring Break Camp Newsletter Articles Due	19 JN Spring Break Camp 10:00am Beaders Group 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers 11:00am Staff Meeting	20 JN Spring Break Camp 4:30pm Serving Homeless Coalition	21 Apostles Build Paint Day 10:00am Praise Team Practice
22 4th Sunday in Lent	23 JN Spring Break Camp 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	24 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting	25	26 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 10:00am Beaders Group 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Pilgrim Women Book Club	27	28 10:00am Praise Team Practice
29 5th Sunday in Lent 9:15am Diaconate Meeting	30 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm BSA Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women	31 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm BSA Cub Scout Pack Meeting	Every Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Children's Sunday School		Every Wednesday 9:00am Al Anon 10:00am Al Anon 6:00pm Dinner 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Kids Bible Crafts 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Depression & Grief Support Group	