



Pilgrim Church



June 2020 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to each of you,

After ten weeks of this new experience of providing worship online rather than in person, I am very happy to be able to reach out to express my thanks to all Pilgrim people for this opportunity to have a small part in the ongoing ministry of the congregation. Though I spent 26 years in ministry "across the river" I have long had a joyful relationship with the clergy and members of Pilgrim. Little could I have imagined that in my retirement I would have had this time with you.

I am sure that you are as challenged as I am by the current situation of the coronavirus. This is certainly not the way then any of us ever expected "church" to be done. We have known that the power of our fellowship comes from the times we have to be together, not isolated in our homes. The power comes from the handshakes and hugs that permit us to offer physical support in times of need or joy. The power comes from the face-to-face contact as we explore scripture, sing in the choir, or usher in worship. The power comes from our outreach to neighbors who utilize the food pantry, or the children served by the caring staff at Joyful Noise.

But there is this "new normal" of what the church is, and what the church must become in the future. At this moment no one knows when we will be able to all worship in the same sacred space. We hear comments about 50% capacity limits, but who decides that? Do we use the old "potluck dinner formula" of families A-L come the first and third Sundays and M-Z on the second and fourth? Your leadership team will be diligent in planning for what eventually will be. But until that time arrives, I will try to make our Sunday worship as connectional as possible. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to me to consider, please send your request to the church office and I'll see if I can work it in. If anyone would like to participate as a reader in worship, let me know as well, and I'll figure out how we can work it out, without overworking Patrick, who has done an amazing job editing together our Sunday worship.

And as I thank Patrick for this leadership, I also want to add my thanks to him and Marilyn, as well as Darryl and Mona, for their weekly contributions of music that adds to our worship experience. It is not an easy thing to ask people to be creative in the very unusual situations of home studios!

Throughout this time, I have been fully supported by the work of Cat Foster and the counsel of Don Anderson and Pastor Ken. I appreciate their encouragement of my efforts. I also appreciate the cards and emails I have received from a number of members – I hope that I continue to serve you with humility.

I also hope you are appreciating the chance that I have in recording Sunday worship from the beauty of the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens. I have tried to bring some freshness into worship, and I certainly can social-distance in this beautiful location. (Yes, I am biased as the President of the Board there!)

As a congregation, this is a most unusual time. Pilgrim is without a settled pastor, and yet, the congregation's ministries forge ahead. God will identify and call the right person to lead you into the future. There is no doubt that future will be significantly different than the past or the present. As one who served the same church for more than two and a half decades, I am well aware of the history that has been developed, and how hard it is to sometimes leave some of the past behind. But I am equally aware of how God uses new situations and new people to guide the faithful into the yet-to-be-revealed future. Pilgrim people, stay the course, trust God, trust one another and welcome the future with hope and anticipation.

Until we can be together and until God unveils the future,

Blessings,
Rev. Bill Klossner



From the Parish Administrator

Best wishes during the difficult time. An update on the church's response to Covid 19 including a plan forward will come out next week.

Yours in Christ,
Don Anderson
Moderator



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry for the Month of May served 12 families. To meet the requirements Food Bags were made up and put out as self service type distribution. The Food Pantry volunteers added additional items for this month to the bags.

We are planning to continue this service in this fashion in June. The Pilgrim Food Pantry will be open on Monday, June 15. The return to normal operations is still yet to be determined.

Thanks again to the congregation for your continued outstanding support of the Pilgrim Food Pantry.

God Bless You and be safe in these times,
Gerry and Karen Ahlgrim



The 2020 Apostles Build for our own Dawn Skelton will be completed by the Habitat for Humanity staff during this time of isolation. We look forward to a blessing of her completed home in the future.



Joyful Noise was able to celebrate our VPK Graduation on Friday, May 22. The parents and children were so excited to be able to celebrate their accomplishments of the year.

The children were so happy to see each other and catch up. Shouts of, "I missed you!" and "I turned five!" could be heard while the children were waiting to walk the stage. There were many tears shed by parents and teachers when each ceremony finished. It was a very big day in their young lives.

We were able to social distance by giving each VPK classroom their own ceremony. Parents had assigned seating giving them alternating portions of pews which allowed plenty of space per family and unobstructed views. All attending were very respectful of keeping their distance and understanding on leaving in a timely manner to allow for sanitizing in between ceremonies.

Cynthia Poudrette,
Director of Joyful Noise





Reflection from Pastor Ken

Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude

It is hard during this time of Covid-19 to find something to be thankful for. Being filled with depression and anxiety, it is difficult to be grateful. Nevertheless, we are called to respond to God's love and show our appreciation for what God has done for us in sending His son. Part of our response to God's gifts to us is to cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

We need to find ways of expressing thanksgiving for what we do have and not complain about what we do not have.

I hopefully learned this the hard way in early days of 2012 when I spent 4 and 1/2 months in hospitals and rehab. I needed to rely on the care and kindness of others. It was a humbling experience. I could have resented the fact I could not care for myself and was dependent upon someone else to care for my basic needs. God planted in me the notion that I needed to be grateful for the kindness of "stranger."

During those days of 2012 in "quarantine" I realized that I needed to show my appreciation to those who care for me and the support of communities of faith, family and friends. Upon returning from Indiana, where I was in hospitals and rehab, to home in Florida, I vowed to do better is showing gratitude for what I have. I felt badly that all I could say to folks who cared for me was thank you.

Today in quarantine I think it is important to offer thanks to others not only in words but also in deeds. To those who serve us in a variety of ways it is not enough to simply say thank you. We

should find was of showing gratitude. It may be staying home, social distancing when out, wearing a mask when called for in public. We need to show appreciation with small tokens or gifts, small acts of kindness, lifting other us in prayer, calling on folks to let them know we are thing of them. We should support activity that let those who serve us get fair wages, are treated with respect, and experience the love of God first hand.

We need to set self aside and focus on being God's love to our neighbor by being his faithful servants, and cultivating an attitude of gratitude in both word and deed. Amen.

Pastor Ken



Join Pilgrim's Email List

Pastor Ken will be sharing a mid week devotional this month through the email blast.

Contact Cat in the church office if you would like to join our email list. We send out weekly devotions, updates and the monthly newsletter. 941-629-2633, office@pilgrimonline.org.

For those with limited technology we will continue to mail the mid week devotionals.

7 Prayers for Pilgrim Church as Pastor Search continues

John 13:34, John 17:21 — Pray for a miraculous sense of love and unity among all members of the church. “Help us surrender all bitterness, division and anger within our church family. Lord, empower us to love one another with a patient, forgiving love.”

John 17:21, I Corinthians 1:10 — Pray for great unity in calling the new lead pastor. “Lord, help us to receive him and his family with deep love and renewed commitment. Grant us a powerful sense of revival and spiritual awakening as we move into the future.” Pray for grace, guidance and strength for the church from which our new pastor comes.

Ephesians 4:1-6 — Pray that we be prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. “Lord, we understand that a new lead pastor always means changes. Help us to be prepared to change and grow with graciousness and unity so we can be the church You have called us to be.”

Hebrews 6:12 — Pray that we will patiently await God’s timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will. Ask God for His mercy in giving us a true man of God and a great leader.

Philippians 2:3-11 — Pray that all the members will set aside individual expectations for the new pastor and decide in unity who God is calling to lead Pilgrim Church to be the church God has called us to be.

Isaiah 42:9 — Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor who is like their previous pastor. Others desire someone who is just the opposite. Pray that all would be receptive to God’s doing a new thing in Pilgrim Church and accept His perfect will above their own desires.

Hebrews 13:17 — Pray that the church as a whole would trust the Pastor Search Pastor Search Committee through the process of finding a new lead pastor. Pray that the congregation would trust that the Pastor Search Pastor Search Committee is being led by the Spirit as they search for the man God is bringing to Pilgrim Church and there would be no division.



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Al Bluschke

5

Lesa Sealy

6

Earl Davis
Ken Rhoe

8

Tony Caniglia

12

Melissa Monroe

14

Wilbur Holmes
Jolene Mowry
Nicholas Santiago

16

Samantha Santiago

20

Carol Borris
Frank Ross

22

Reba Barker
Bill Epps

24

Judy Michaels

26

Marilyn Hill

27

Sarge Glanton

Did we miss a birthday? Please email the office, and we will update our records.



Coronavirus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID19 and all serious illness.

For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those that are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for the afraid, grant peace.

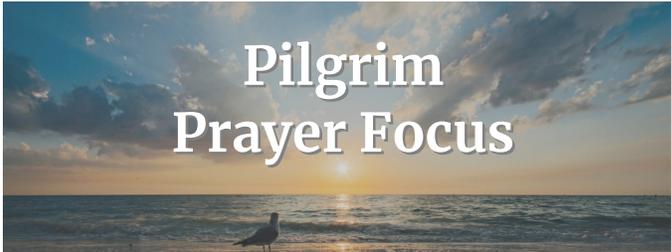
May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to you infinite. Amen
By Pedro de la Cruz



A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and
a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and
a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.



Pilgrim Prayer Focus

Based on the Beatitudes – Luke 6:20-23
We are taught by Christ that being blessed and blessing others results in great joy and rewards awaiting us in heaven.

June 7- Pray blessings for the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of God.

June 14- Pray blessings for the hungry for they will be satisfied.

June 21- Pray blessings for those who weep now for they shall laugh.

June 28- Pray blessings for those who hate, exclude, mock, and curse with evil for they shall know you follow the Son of Man.

Prayer List:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Bill Wolf | Huff Family |
| Dorothy Arnold | Jim Wright |
| Earl Davis | Mickey Rice |
| Gloria Kurbanali | Jenny Umscheid |
| Gloria Sellman | Carolyn Yousif |
| Louise Timchak | Neil & Patricia Jones |
| Dennis Tagge | Jesse Rice |
| Joseph Beaudreau | Ruby Timm |
| Carol Glanton | Patrick Timm |
| John Hames | Beth Forbes |
| Martinez Children & Family | Harry Milaev |
| Sidoney Johnston | Dawn Gardner |
| "Bullet" McClean | |
| Karen Ahlgrim | |
| Dawn Skelton and Apostles' Build House | |



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

Joyful Noise Learning Center

941-629-4821, www.joyfulnoisec.org

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Join us for Sunday Worship at 8:00 am for the Traditional Service and at 10:00 am for the Contemporary Service on:

- our Facebook page, “PilgrimUCC” the anchor is the profile image.
- Our Vimeo Page: <https://vimeo.com/channels/pilgrimonline>
- Our website: www.pilgrimonline.org