



Pilgrim Church



What an unusual moment in time we are experiencing. What has been familiar and even comforting for us is now not possible. The congregation's worship, often a weekly uplifting lifeline for social and spiritual fellowship, has been transformed into a virtual experience for all of us. I'm sure you join with me in missing the face-to-face contact that lets us catch up with one another every seven days.

How we **"DO church"**, is changing. Our worship has, and will, continue to change and evolve as we grapple with the issues surrounding COVID-19 now and into the future. When we return to any form of "in person" worship will be decided by the General Council and the data they have. Whether we will be able to sing or how we greet one another or the method which might allow us to celebrate communion are yet to unfold to us. I know that it frustrates many of you even as it challenges your pastors as well. We've never had to plan worship and ministry like this before.

So how Pilgrim Church will **"DO church"** will probably never be exactly like it has been in the past. Not only will the current health concerns affect the future, but with God's guidance a new settled pastor will be called to lead the congregation into new ways of "doing church." Be confident that God is in control and in God's time the right leadership will be secured. Times of trial, times of challenges, times of uncertainty are often the times when God is at work fashioning new models, new opportunities, and new vitality. Embrace these unusual times with a faith that places your trust in God's abiding presence.

Pilgrim Church may have to change how you "do church" because of health issues and new pastoral leadership, but Pilgrim has never, and will never stopped the way to **"BE the Church!"** One of the strengths of a vital church, like Pilgrim, is that there is a constant community of caring people. During these "isolation" months there have been dedicated members who have kept in contact with the membership via regular phone calls. The prayer concerns which are received in the church office are shared with pastoral and lay leadership for response. The Food Pantry has served people in a limited capacity but is now back to its regular schedule. The Apostles Build of Habitat for Humanity has been completed and welcomed Dawn's family. Members and friends have continued the financial support that has perhaps even exceeded expectations during this difficult time.

Pilgrim people – **you continue to BE the Church!** Embrace this, celebrate this, proclaim this with joy and pride!

Despite being a scattered congregation unable to come together in a physical space, a unity of spirit and purpose has allowed the congregation to fulfill the ministries that make a difference. **God's Spirit is among us, God's Spirit challenges us, God's Spirit fills us with hope!** May God continue to use each one of you to help Pilgrim BE the Church!

Blessings,
Rev. Bill Klossner

Online worship continues through July.

Council will meet July 21 and discuss possible in person worship for August.



We were speaking to Russ and Judy this week about singing along with the recorded worship every week. They said they did so and did so loudly. You should too! This is an imperative - it is in the Bible that you should sing to the Lord.

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

You might feel a bit silly singing all on your own but that doesn't matter - the enemy doesn't like it and God wants you to as it pleases him! Sing it loudly!

Also in Psalms 32;7 - you are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble ; you shall surround me with song of deliverance when the cares of this life try to press us or pressure us into a breakdown, we are to sing songs to the Lord that declare our deliverance.

Singing to God gives us break through from the troubles of the world.

Looking forward to worshipping with you together on Sunday.

Be blessed,
Marilyn Randall
Worship Leader

The Food Pantry for the Month of June served 50 pre packed bags of food and paper goods to families in a safe distancing manner. We are planning on returning to two distributions per month starting in July.

Karen and I would like to thank the food pantry volunteers & Cat for taking over the Food Pantry operations during our current situation.

Thank you congregation for your food and monetary donations to our Food Pantry during these challenging times.

While we prepare for this schedule please know we need items to fill our shelves.

- beef stew
- canned tomatoes
- canned corn
- canned mixed veggies
- canned peas
- spaghetti sauce
- dry pasta
- mashed potatoes
- canned potatoes
- rice
- dry beans
- dry cereal
- canned tuna
- oatmeal
- pancake mix
- syrup
- toilet paper
- paper towels

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



Reflection from Pastor Ken

Micah 6:8

He has showed you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord **REQUIRE** of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah's message is as true today as it was in his day. Micah translated means "Who is like God." He was a prophet during 755 to 686 BC in Judah for both Judah and Israel. Both were characterized by moral and religious corruption, social oppression, economic injustice, personal vices. If this sounds familiar, it could have been written for our time.

Micah 6:8 reads "He has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord **REQUIRE** of you but to do justice, and to love kindness (mercy), and to walk humbly with God?"

The Hebrews should know what was good. It was to be obedient and faithful to God. Micah seeks to answer the question on folks mind "what does the Lord ask of us?" They were hoping that simply going through mechanical worship, and participating in the stagnate sacrificial system maintaining the status quo.

Micah give three concrete answers in response to the question what the Lord **REQUIRES** of us. Notice I put requires in bold type to emphasize the importance of doing what the Lord wants of his people. The Lord through Micah does not simply say I think it would be nice to do, or you might think of acting in good away. No the Lord God requires, demands, insist on, commands all to do the following.

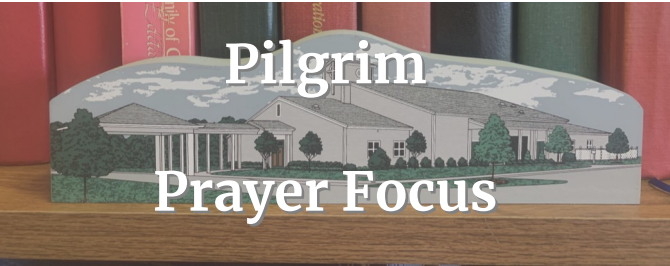
God demands that we do justice. That is we are to treat everyone fairly and with respect. We are called to do what is right and to make sure everyone is treated fairly under the law. We are to have a transformation of the heart, the seat of desire for the Hebrew, to treat everyone with respect and dignity.

We are to love kindness, mercy for all. We are to have a caring nature and to love folks with an agape love. We are to serve others with compassion, mercy, and with generosity. We are to be considerate of others and to learn what it means to walk in an others shoes.

We are to walk humbly with God. It means to have a modest view of self. We are not to think ourselves more highly than any other person believing we are better. The Fellowship of Merry Christians has a saying: "There is only one God and you are not it." We are called to be in a right relationship with God. To be faithful, obedient servant to God through serving others thus serving God.

Not thinking too highly of ourselves we are called to do justice, to be loving and merciful, and be a humble servant to God. Amen.

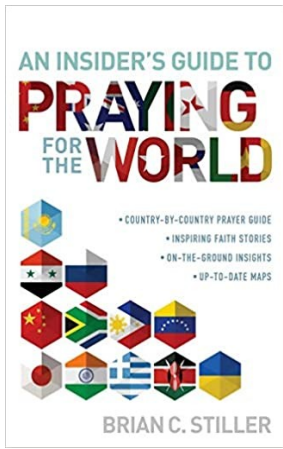
Pastor Ken



Your Pilgrim Prayer Partners continue to meet weekly and pray for your individual and congregational needs. If you have any requests please send them to Cat in the office or you may email me directly at jacque.ross@aol.com.

If you wish to pray collectively on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am, you may come to my house at 1421 Rio De Janeiro in Deep Creek or call 941-258-2597 and join us by conference call.

We are very excited that the Holy Spirit has led our group to expand our prayers and specifically include the countries of the world! We are using "An Insider's Guide to Praying for the World" to pray for a different country each week. We have also donated 4 copies of the book in the church office for any of you who wish to individually or as a group take up this challenge and pray for the unreached peoples of the world.



In addition we print off prayer cards for each country by going to the *Joshua Project* online line at <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards>.

Pray for the Unreached
Arab, Bedouin of Saudi Arabia

Country:	Saudi Arabia
People:	Arab, Bedouin
Population:	1,095,000
World Popl:	1,854,000
Main Language:	Arabic, Najdi Spoken
Main Religion:	Islam
Status:	■ Least-Reached
Christ-Followers:	Few, less than 2%
Bible:	None

www.operationworld.org
 www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations" Psalm 96:3

We are so blessed to have the privilege and power of prayer! Won't you join us?

Jacque Ross

HOW God Cares for Me

JULY 5 –
 Thank YOU, Lord, that goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.
 Psalm 23:6

JULY 12 –
 Thank YOU for the "living hope" described in 1 Peter 1:3.

JULY 19 –
 Thank YOU, Lord, that I shall not want.
 Psalm 23:1

JULY 26 –
 Help me to accomplish Your will for my life.
 Ephesians 2:10

Prayer List:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Bill Wolf | Karen Ahlgrim |
| Dorothy Arnold | Huff Family |
| Earl Davis | Jim Wright |
| Gloria Kurbanali | Mickey Rice |
| Gloria Sellman | Rohan Ramjas |
| Louise Timchak | Ruby Timm |
| Dennis Tagge | Patrick Timm |
| Joseph Beaudreau | Gene Stanley |
| Carol Glanton | Dawn Murray |
| John Hames | Connie Rice |
| Martinez Children & Family | Joan Powell |
| Sidoney Johnston | |
| Howard "Bullet" McCleen | |
| Nereid Maxey | |



Pilgrim Church

A Congregation of
The United Church of Christ

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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

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



- 1
Carol Aitchison
- 2
Ron Brawley
Connor Ellis
Paula Gallant
- 3
Vincent Sosa
- 4
Jan Mann
- 7
John Hibbert
- 12
Gloria Kurbanali
Ed O'Donnell
- 13
Marguerite Waite
- 14
Vera Brawley
- 17
Bill Wolf
- 18
Jacoby Forsberg
- 19
Dennis Tagge
- 21
Daphne Dillon
Susan Thistle
- 22
Robert Biggs
Janice Lewis
- 23
Laverne Graham
- 28
Betty Holmes

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