



Pilgrim Church



Pilgrim friends,

At one point in my life I was probably not very patient. Some things seemed to be so good that waiting was such a distraction. I wanted to be able to move on, experience the next adventure, the next door that opened to me, the next chapter in my life. Life with my family was always fulfilling and my ministry provided the rewards and challenges that kept me impatiently waiting for the next nudging from God to see where I would be led.

I could hear in my head the question of the psalmist, "How long, O Lord? (Psalm 13:1)"

I was an impatient child of God!

Then it changed. Perhaps it was the realities of health issues or approaching retirement. It might have been the confidence that my children had reached their life when they no longer fully relied on me. It may have been when I realized that I was entering the final third of my life. Maybe it was just that I had come to the realization that God knew I was an impatient vessel and it was time to take a step back and wait for God to "order my steps," to quote a spiritual.

So, I have learned that "How long, O Lord" is not according to my time, but it's waiting on God. And that has made all the difference. Life slowed down, the world around me blossomed, and I could enjoy all that I was experiencing.

But now, in the middle of a global (and very local) pandemic, I hear others cry out that same question, "How long, O Lord?" How long, before we don't need to worry about where we go or who we encounter? How long, before we can return to the sanctuary for worship, fellowship and the regular activities of the

church? How long before we can be who we were before this crazy life change?

Add to that, the reality that the Pilgrim family has been in a kind of exodus wilderness for the past two years, not knowing when God was going to get you to the promised land of a settled pastor, the cry continues, "How long, O Lord?" Impatience sets in. Frustration with the process, with the search committee, with the potential candidates, with God, fills the congregation's soul. The question remains, "How long...?"

We do not know the answers or the time or the purpose – except that we know the time and the purpose of all things are of God. It is God who has always been there for Pilgrim Church and her people, in the times of community outreach ministries, in the middle of pastoral searches, and in a global pandemic. Impatience can distract us from the constant love and presence of God. Impatience can keep us from seeing the possibilities that God places before us. Impatience may even keep us from seeing God in our midst.

Pilgrim family, God is working in and through you. God continues to bring the community needs to your hearts. God will bring to Pilgrim the best pastor to serve with you into the future. Have faith in God. Have love for one another. Have patience in these impatient times.

Once again, I thank you for allowing me to share in this part of your journey of faith and hope, because I'm no longer an impatient person, but one who is blessed by God's presence.

**Be a blessing,
Rev. Bill Klossner**

Online worship continues through August. Council will meet August 25 and discuss possible in person worship for September.



Love God Love Others

In 1 John 4:19 we read "We love because he first loved us. Those who say 'I love God,' and hate their brother or sister, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen."

Very strong words. John asks us to exam our actions to see if we fulfill Gods call to love God and brothers and sisters.

I do not like to be called a liar. However, on closes examination I find myself not being truthful on occasion. I have to be careful not to gossip or spread false accusation about someone. I need to continue to ask for forgiveness and watch my actions to love God and neighbor.

There is a game show called "To Tell The Truth." It is interesting that out of the three contestants only one is pledged to tell the truth. Yes, it is a game show and the folks who lie do so to fool the panel. Nevertheless, I have seen this played out in the church repeatedly. Folks gossip about other members to make themselves look better. Some even at Pilgrim out right lie. One example is someone saying that our first candidate for settled pastor did not like children which was in direct conflict with his relation to the children he met during his visit to Joyful Noise.

We all need to take to heart Johns message to us. Let us all work at being truthful in our affirmation of loving God and brother and sister. Amen.

Pastor Ken



I know all of you wanted a quick resolution to the question: "Who will be our next settled pastor?" The Search Committee always thought that it would be easy to full a position like Pilgrim's located in a Paradise called Florida. It has been much harder than we thought.

Now we are dealing with travel problems associated with Covid-19 and, in addition, we have not been meeting as a Congregation.

I view all of these issues as not problems but opportunities to be creative and do better.

I am pleased to tell you the Search Committee has currently narrowed our current group of nine candidates to three, well qualified Pastors. They come from around the country and all bring different strengths. Pilgrim Search Committee will do its best to find the applicant who fits Pilgrim's needs.

I hope to have more news for you soon!

Don Anderson
Moderator and Chair of Search



The Prayer Shawl Ministry has shawls. Different sizes and lots of colors available. Since knitters have had to stay home, lots of knitting has been done. If you could use a shawl for yourself or a friend or relative, please call the Pilgrim Church office or call Gayle Bratton at 941-764-3454.



From the Parish Administrator

Greetings, Fellow Pilgrims!! Judy and I are safe and healthy in our cozy home. We have been doing all the right things to stay healthy... including wearing our masks when we leave the house. It is truly amazing the number of people who do not wear masks and endanger the rest of us. Alas, I guess that is the product of the "ME" generation.

Speaking of the "ME" generation, I know that most of us (actually, all of us, I pray) are in the "WE" generation. The "ME" changed to "WE" when Jesus came into my life. None of us can do "life" alone. Remember the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis and how his faith never failed him as he went through his ordeals from the pit to the prison? The message was clear to Joseph then, and should be clear to us now: WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS!!!

"Perseverance is not something you do when times are good. It's what you do when times are tough." Perseverance is what we need now to remind us that we will get through this with the help of prayer and through the knowledge that Jesus walks with us every step we take.

I know it is difficult to be away from friends and family, especially our church family, but I want you to know that we ARE together with Pastor Bill and Pastor Ken every Sunday morning through the wonders of the internet. I wish to thank all the people who make our video services possible. If I list all the names, I am sure I will unwittingly leave someone out, so please join me in giving them thanks.

I also want to thank all of you who have so generously continued to make your pledge contributions each week or month. Just because we do not have services in our sanctuary each and every Sunday morning doesn't mean we don't

have expenses. To coin a phrase so often used in these situations, "We still need to keep the lights on." Pilgrim Church needs you now, more than ever, to continue your faith giving and generosity. Think about us when you may have some "extra" funds at the end of the month. We still need to maintain our campus.

Some of the ongoing projects at this time include grounds maintenance, painting, cleaning of all facilities, equipment maintenance, and updating our fire, alarm, and security systems. Wally Knifke, our maintenance man, is busy with many of these tasks in addition to his weekend work at Joyful Noise. (Wally cannot do routine things during the week when children are in the center, therefore, he comes in on the weekends.)

Finally, brothers and sisters in Christ, please do everything you can to stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected. Stay connected to Pilgrim Church, and stay connected to Jesus. Remember, WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS!!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Russ Whittaker





From the Moderator

Can We Open Yet?

Hello everyone!

I thought by now we would be back together. Well it was not to be. I know all of you miss Sunday services and our small groups. The nightly news continues to be informative about just how many of our fellow Floridians have COVID-19. We are a hot spot. Considering the age mix of our Pilgrim family the General Council at its July 28th meeting decided to put off opening. It will again be considered at the August meeting.

We continue to meet virtually. Pastors Ken and Bill along with music support from Daryl, Mona, Patrick and Marilyn make Sunday morning service very special. If you have not viewed our services on-line, you are missing something extraordinary. Visit us on our Facebook page or website.

Every attempt is made to keep in touch with all of you. If you have a particular need or issue, please give Cat a call at the Church office and we will see what we can do.

The Food Pantry continues to hand out food every two weeks to a larger and larger group of people. Donations are always welcome!

Joyful Noise is open and functioning well courtesy of a dedicated staff headed by Cynthia Poudrette. From the beginning they went beyond the recommended precautions to keep the children and the staff safe. Any actions they have had to take have been in accordance with the recommendations from the Charlotte County Board of Health and the guidelines issued by the State of Florida.

Financially this has been a trying time for Pilgrim. So please remember to keep up your donations.

In the meantime be safe, pray frequently and support in all ways your fellow Pilgrims in this stressful time.

Don Anderson
Moderator

Pilgrim Prayer Focus

Theme: Ways to Grow as God's Child
Excerpts from The Bible Promise Book compiled by Linda Hang

August 2 – Show me what I can do and say to let my light shine brightly.

August 9 – Equip me through scripture and prayer to be a witness for You.

August 16 – Guide me to be Your ambassador to others.

August 23- Help me live out genuine faith to reflect You to others.

August 30- Father, help me be Your angel on this earth.

Prayer List:

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| Pastor Search Committee and Candidates | Sidoney Johnston |
| Bill Wolf | Bullet" McCleen |
| Dorothy Arnold | Karen Ahlgrim |
| Earl Davis | Huff Family |
| Gloria Kurbanali | Jim Wright |
| Louise Timchak | Rohan Ramjas |
| Dennis Tagge | Ruby Timm |
| Joseph Beaudreau | Ken Rhoe |
| Carol Glanton | Patricia Jones |
| John Hames | Lori Ann O'Brien |
| Martinez Children & Family | "Wheatie" Wheatcroft |
| | Jack Pickford |



I am very happy to announce that Joyful Noise will keep to our regular school schedule and start VPK on August 17th. The staff have been preparing, our roster is full, and we are ready!

We will host Open House on Sunday August 16. We know how important it is for parents to see where their children are learning and meeting the teachers. In order to allow for an open house and keep the children and staff as safe as possible we made changes to the Open House.

We have staggered the schedule of when each classroom will be open and limit visitors to the child attending and two adults with the child. This will allow for sanitizing between groups and prevent too many people gathered at a time.

We thank all of Pilgrim Church for your continued prayers and support during these trying times.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise



The food pantry returned to normal schedule this month. We were all united in our mission to provide food to those in need, and more importantly to let them know that they are valued and we care about them and their families during these deeply stressful times.

Thank you congregation for your food and monetary donations to our Food Pantry. Please continue to support this mission.

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 |
| canned pork n beans | grits |
| canned carrots | oatmeal |
| canned corn | pancake mix |
| canned mix veggies | syrup |
| assorted canned beans | peanut butter |
| canned peas | jelly |
| canned fruit | snacks |
| ramen noodles | canned tuna |
| spaghetti sauce | toilet paper |
| dry pasta (assorted) | paper towels |



- pray for them
- be polite to store clerks
- be encouraging
- look out for each other
- don't listen to gossip
- donate items you do not need
- give a gift card to someone who needs it
- send them a card, just because
- learn peoples names and use them
- leave a kind note
- leave a nice comment for someone on social media
- let someone else have the parking spot
- listen when someone else is talking
- offer a shoulder to cry on
- call a friend to catch up
- say "please" and "thank you"
- send a text to let someone know you're thinking of them
- share a good book
- share an inspiring story
- give the benefit of the doubt
- offer to pick up groceries
- offer to share your skills and talents



Pilgrim Church
 A Congregation of
 The United Church of Christ

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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



August Birthdays

1

Dee Ripley

3

Carole Worster

4

Jessica Warne-Emard

Whitney Rieter

7

Barbara Bluschke

Madeline Emard

9

Wanda Burns

Dolores Westfield

10

Isabella Emard

11

Gayle Bratton

15

Nancy Croce

16

Sherry Moll

19

Terry Ellis

20

Priscilla Brown

Carol Glanton

Nettie Wineland

29

Jackie Kaminski

30

Jill Mitchell

31

Peggy Kalaf

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