



Pilgrim Church



September 2020 NEWSLETTER

In person worship resumes

Sunday, September 20, 9:00 am

- We will only use the main Narthex Doors for entering and exiting of the Sanctuary.

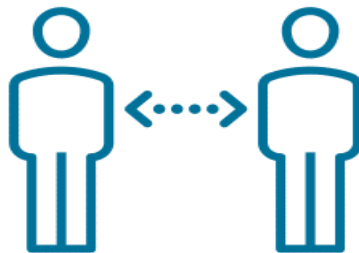
- We will have hand sanitizer by the door for you as you enter and leave.

- Temperatures will be checked.

- We will have ushers to seat you with appropriate social distancing. Those traveling together will sit together.

- All staff and volunteers will wear masks.

- All other attendees will wear masks inside the buildings (we have disposable



masks available for those who arrive without their own).

- We will discourage all physical contact (handshakes, hugs, and high-fives).

- There will be children’s Sunday School, they will follow the guidelines the Department of Health has posted.

- Bulletins will continue to be available online. They will not be printed and handed out on Sunday mornings.

- We will not pass offering plates, instead, we encourage your continued giving to be placed in a designated tithe box, given online at pilgrimonline.org, or mailed to the church.

- The sanctuary will be cleaned and disinfected after each Sunday.



From the Moderator

Fellow Pilgrims:

Search Committee Announcement

I am pleased to announce that the Pilgrim Congregation approved issuing a "call," to Pastor John at a special Service held Sunday, August 30, to become our new permanent Senior Pastor.

As he is currently the Pastor of a church out of the area the specific details of his arrival at Pilgrim are not yet available. Having had many conversations with him over the last few months I know that he and his wife Cathy and daughter Charlotte (Charlie) are really looking forward to being part of the Pilgrim Church family.



More details will be shared with you when it is available.

We are back!

As I mentioned in Sunday's special service the General Council has decided to try to start regular in person services at Pilgrim again starting **September 20th at 9:00 am**. The service will also be available on our website. A word of caution, however; we continue to be concerned about the COVID virus and may have to take action if the infection rate starts to rise again.

As before the following restrictions will apply for you to attend in person services at Pilgrim

Church and we will abide by the following safety protocols:

- Social distancing will be enforced within the buildings. This means that there will be seating restrictions.
- You will be required to wear a face mask at all times. (We will have them available if you forget.)
- Temperatures will be taken at the door.
- Please enter through the front door only.
- Please sit in the pews/seats that the usher directs you.
- If you arrive with family or a couple of friends you can sit together.
- There will be no singing by the Congregation during the service.
- An offering plate will not be passed. Instead there will be an offering Box clearly marked for your donations.
- Remember virtual hugs only.

Thank you for your patience in this somewhat trying time. Looking forward to seeing you all again even if it is at a distance.

Special Note of Appreciation

Our spiritual center has been maintained each Sunday by the actions of two selfless people in our midst. They have given of their time and energy during what has been a stressful time for all Pilgrims.

When you see them please share the thanks of your hearts with Pastors Ken and Bill.

We could not have done it without them.

Don Anderson, Moderator

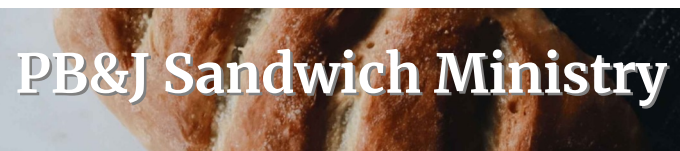


Our new school year is off to an excellent start! Our VPK is fully enrolled and all the children are so happy to be in school. We are so blessed that our school is thriving in the middle of this pandemic. We only have a few spots available in the entire school. Our Kindergarten First grade is the largest class we've had in several years with 11 children enrolled.

The total number of children at Joyful Noise is 163, with five more enrolled and starting soon. It takes 30 staff to care for these precious children. Please continue to remember them all in your prayers.

The mini bus we have been discussing buying for the past year is finally here! We look forward to being able to pick up a full load of 14 children and have them sitting safely, with space in between them. Make sure to check it out the next time you are by the school.

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise



Luke 3:10-11: And the crowds asked Him, "What then should we do?" In reply He said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

We need donations of creamy peanut butter and jam (is spreads so much easier than jelly) for the monthly Sandwich Ministry. We use 18 loaves of bread to make 200 sandwiches.

Get involved! Join us for an hour on Thursday, September 17, to assemble pb&j sandwiches for the homeless in Charlotte Country.



July 27	25 families
Aug 10	28 families
Aug 24	32 families

The numbers keep going up! And there are still so many we can reach. Please continue to remember the food pantry when you are in the grocery store, or ordering groceries and when you are writing your tithe checks.

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.

Our pantry serves:

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



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. Single arrangements are \$25.



Words

The old saying “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me,” is a myth. Many words today are meant to do violence to a person, to demean them, to demonize them, or to dehumanize them. Words that use to simply identify someone are now used to discredit the value of a person. Example of two today would be to call a person a Democrat or a Republican with inflammatory qualifications such as liberal or conservative or radical. The way the words are said, with inflections, are intended to denigrate a person’s character, or discount their position on issues even to the point of claiming the other to be unAmerican.

I believe that we can see today the power of words to hurt us and tear us down, to do violence to us. However, I also believe that words can be uplifting and healing. Words can bring comfort and encouragement.

Words can reflect our better relationships and foster more affirming attitudes towards others. Such words as love, agape love, forgiveness, justice, and harmony. These words strengthen or relationships, builds up a person, creates harmony among folks, and shows forth valuing a person. Affirming words promotes unity. When I mean by unity is not uniformity. I value diversity which adds joy, and richness to life.

May we today be aware of how we use our words and the meaning they carry behind them. May we seek to affirm others, to build up the community of faith, and to create a loving environment for all. Amen

Pastor Ken



Reliable help needed for 20 hours a week.

Pilgrim Church of Christ is looking for a part-time handy man/woman for minor facility maintenance. This includes work at the church and our school. Some school maintenance may only be done outside of school hours.

Duties include: setting up tables and chairs for activities, basic repairs as needed including minor plumbing, general painting duties, clearing gutters, and playground maintenance, accessing the attic, and other duties as assigned.

This position has a semi flexible schedule with some work that must be done on Saturdays. This work, overseen by the Parish Administrator and School Director, needs to be done independently and effectively in a timely manner. Pay is negotiable upon experience and performance.

Must be able to: work in varying temperatures, climb ladders to roof heights of buildings on the grounds, bend and stoop, safely lift up to 50lbs, continuously stand, bend, and twist. Must pass drug and background check.

Job Type: Part-time

Pay: \$12.00 to \$15.00 /hour

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please send resumes to the church office office@pilgrimonline.org by September 16.

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” -John 26:35



From the Parish Administrator

Hello again, my fellow pilgrims. I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. My deepest thanks go out to our search committee for all of their hard work. It is through them, and the work of our Lord, that we have called a settled pastor to our congregation. Pastor John's message on August 30th was a call for unity and acceptance. I know that I am all in on this message, and pray you will be also. We need to come together and be together in all of our actions and prayers going forward. THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BE A PILGRIM!!!

There have been several projects going on during the past few months, and there will be more going forward. The entire building has been power washed from top to bottom. It needed it, and it looks very good. We rented a lift in order to clean the vents and the ceiling tiles around the vents in the community center. This lift was also used to fix ceiling damage in the sanctuary.

Beginning next week we are upgrading our security system, including cameras, alarm system, and fire alarm system in both the main church building, community center, and Joyful Noise. This project will take a few weeks to complete but will not affect day to day operations.

Wonderful News: You will soon see a new vehicle parked at Joyful Noise. For several years, we have put monies aside for the replacement of one of

the Joyful Noise vans. These vans are used daily to transport students to and from their elementary schools. One of the vans can no longer be used; therefore, we have purchased a fourteen-passenger bus.

Finally, we have contracted to have some building repairs done to the exterior of Joyful Noise, and that will be completed soon.

A word about re-opening on September 20th: MASKS!!! Yes, masks are required to be present in the congregation. I know that some have difficulty wearing a mask, but please remember that it isn't all about you. Masks protect others around you, so please be considerate of yourself and others by wearing a mask.

Finally, I was very inspired by Pastor John's presence on Sunday. Message aside, the event brought people back into the sanctuary, a sight that has eluded us for several months. I wish to thank all of you who have been diligent in your giving of gifts and tithes during this time and urge you to maintain, or increase, your faith commitment as we look ahead to beginning anew with Pastor John. My journey as a pilgrim, walking with Jesus, continues.

Yours in Christ, Russ Whittaker
Parish Administrator



Magnetic Name Badges

Let's all help Pastor John and his family learn our names! Remember to wear your name badges when you return to church for worship or meetings!

If you would like an extra magnetic badge for \$10, please let the Church Office know. The next order for paid badges will be placed on September 10.



Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is stocked. Different sizes and lots of colors available. 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 Desk of Reverend Bill

Greetings to the Pilgrim family,

Yesterday, August 30, this congregation took the historic step of extending a call to Pastor John to serve as your next Senior Pastor. The enthusiasm of attendees that I witnessed following the service lets me know that though this has been a long process, God's Spirit has been alive through it all.

The arrival of a new pastor is an awesome time for any congregation, as new relationships, new ideas and new traditions emerge to develop meaningful ministries built upon the existing foundations. As Pastor John said in his sermon, everyone, pastor and lay member alike, have diverse gifts and talents that when used together, will develop more fully the Body of Christ at Pilgrim Church.

His arrival means that my time with the Pilgrim family is nearing an end. The church leadership and I have joked often this summer that when they asked me to provide worship leadership, way back in February, it was only going to be for two Sundays! Six months later, I feel very much like a part of the Pilgrim family. And that has led me to think a bit about the whole concept of "family" especially as it is used in the life of a congregation.

We may be 'born' into a family. But we can also be 'adopted' into a family or even 'assimilated' into one. I know that I was born into my biological family, and that I have nephews and a niece who were adopted into our family and have become family, even as they have come to know of the families into which they were born. I can also recall the very good friends that our family grew up with who became so close that many times my siblings and their sons thought we had four parents, so assimilated we were into both families.

There are also some marvelous families who open their homes, their arms and their love to welcome an unrelated person into the family as they 'foster' that new addition.

I was born into the United Church of Christ through my heritage, and I was adopted into the

life of congregations in Wisconsin and Florida for 45 years as they called me to pastoral leadership. While serving those congregations, I became assimilated into many families by sharing the most intimate experiences of life: birth, death, marriage, struggles.

In the past six months I have now experienced what it means to be fostered by a family – the Pilgrim Church family – as I have lived through perhaps one of the most profound times many of us have experienced. You have welcomed me into your homes via remote worship, you have sent emails and cards of appreciation which have humbled me, you have embraced me in those times when we may have met outside the sanctuary. I feel as if I have gained a temporary family who has nurtured me in these days, allowing me to enjoy the weekly task of preaching again, if only for a short time (or a very long two weeks!).

As October dawns, a new chapter of Pilgrim's life will begin. You will be well served. You will welcome Pastor John's family into the history and the future of this congregation. You will honor the church family into which they were born, adopt them into Pilgrim life, and assimilate them into your special life events. Love them, and let them be themselves, using their unique and diverse gifts and talents in your common ministry.

Until that time, I will still see you in worship, remotely for the first two weeks, and then with great hope (and continued good health numbers), we will once again gather, physically distanced and masked, in the sanctuary for the last two Sundays. And God's Spirit will continue to be present with us however and wherever we come together to praise God.

My deepest thanks for the opportunity that you have given me to share in the ministry and family of Pilgrim Church.

Blessings, Rev. Bill Klossner

Worth A Thousand Words



Pilgrim Prayer Focus

Theme: Father, My Hope Is In You

September 6 – Help me find a ray of HOPE during dark times.

September 13 -Help me speak HOPE and encourage it within others in my circle of influence.

September 20- Inspire my thoughts on cultivating HOPE in my daily work of building faithfulness

September 27 – Lift me up Lord, to a new vantage point of HOPE that ends distractions.

Prayer List:

Pastor John, Cathy and Charlie	"Bullet" McCleen
Bill Wolf	Karen Ahlgrim
Gloria Kurbanali	Huff Family
Louise Timchak	Jim Wright
Dennis Tagge	Rohan Ramjas
Joseph Beaudreau	Howard Meader
Carol Glanton	Lori Ann O'Brien
John Hames	Lisa Davis
Martinez Children & Family	Marilyn Walker
Jim Smith	family and friends of Jack Pickford
Sidoney Johnston	Gloria Craft



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.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.

Until September 20, 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



September Birthdays

- 09/02
Dionne Jones
- 09/04
Faye Pettross
- 09/06
Cynthia Poudrette
- 09/07
Ann DeWalt, Al Leshner
- 09/08
Jim Smith
- 09/09
Aidyn Martinez, Marcia O'Donnell
- 09/11
Al Fischle Jr, Joan Powell
- 09/13
Mary Rose Binski, Rose Utterback
- 09/15
Ev Munro
- 09/16
Russ Whittaker
- 09/20
Sande Ewing
- 09/22
Irene Butler, Dean Fritz
- 09/24
Reyne Schrock
- 09/25
Murray Tiffany
- 09/28
Faye Ewing
- 09/29
Lurlyne Murray
- 09/30
Evelyina Martinez, Karyina Martinez

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