



Pilgrim Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Greetings!

As I pause to write this newsletter article, my family and I are in the throes of packing up our house in North Carolina in preparation for our move to Florida! There are boxes, bubble wrap, and packing tape everywhere. Although things are chaotic at our house right now and our minds are racing with everything that needs to be done before we move, we are extremely excited to be joining Pilgrim Church!

I understand that with change comes both excitement and anxiety. Even though I'm looking forward to joining the Pilgrim family, I, too, am feeling a little bit anxious. While Cathy is from Sarasota and is somewhat familiar with the area, I am not. I have GPS on my phone, but I'm still anticipating getting lost several times as I try to figure out my way around!

With any new journey comes anxiety. There are many questions surrounding what comes next, especially given that we are beginning this journey while dealing with a pandemic. Although they are necessary, social distancing and face masks can also present challenges that make the future even more daunting.

As we begin our new relationship and new journey together, I'm sure there will be questions that arise, and with these questions there may be anxiety. That is to be expected. We are only human, after all. When we don't know what to expect, we may worry about our ability to meet the challenges we might encounter.

However, as we look forward together, we do not do so alone. God is with us. We can look to the future with hope and excitement because we know that God, whose steadfast love sustains us even in the most difficult times, is and will always be in the mix.

I give thanks to God for you and for this opportunity to join you as your brother in Christ and your pastor. I look to the future with hope and excitement, knowing that God goes with us as we set out on this new journey together. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us!

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Blessings,
Pastor John

Rev. John Barnette

Join us in welcoming
Pastor John
in worship on
Sunday, October 11,
at 9:00 a.m.





From the Moderator

Fellow Pilgrims:

I and others on the Search Committee have been involved in the quest for our next Senior Pastor for over two years. Now that we are done I find myself, as Moderator, seeking a return to our normal routine. The only problem, courtesy of COVID 19, we don't know what that will look like. What do we know?

Well:

We know that we have to engage in social distancing and wear masks just about every place, including at Pilgrim Church. For now singing by the Pilgrim Congregation is halted. We have lost 200,000 fellow Americans to this disease. The General Council has decided that we will not take that risk. We will revisit this at the next General Council meeting.

We have allowed our first group back to the Pilgrim Campus. The Boy Scouts met for the first time in months on Monday September 14. Yes they were responsible and followed our guidelines. They had over 30 people in attendance at their Court of Honor.

After we see the impact of the return to school and the Labor Day Holiday festivities on the infection rate, I am hopeful that more small groups will be allowed to return.

Last, but certainly not least, Pilgrims new Senior Pastor, Rev. John Barnette, will be here starting October 11. He will be a key to helping the Pilgrim family decide what our new normal will look like.

*Your beginnings will seem humble,
so prosperous will your future be.—Job 8:7*

Don Anderson, Moderator



With the new school year Joyful Noise is experiencing changes, some expected and others surprises.

The biggest change is also the most exciting one. We are so excited Pastor John has joined Pilgrim Church and we will have him visiting us weekly to share devotions in the VPK and K/1 classrooms! The children are looking forward to reading their Bibles with the Pastor.

We have decided to cancel our annual Trunk or Treat as well as our Character Parade this year. With the current health crisis we feel this is the safest course of action and we are looking forward to bringing both back next year.

The biggest change is our beloved Ms. Bert has decided to retire. She has been a fixture at the school since March 2006. She has been out since March because of COVID exposure health risks. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement!

Cynthia Poudrette, Director of Joyful Noise



Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, please call the church office to schedule your special date. Single arrangements cost \$25. After worship, flowers may be taken home by giver or left at the church to be shared with visitations.



From the Desk of Reverend Bill

Pilgrim folks,

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSV)

The Apostle Paul wrote these words while he was in prison to the house gatherings (not a church like we imagine it) in Ephesus. Ephesus was a multi-cultural important trading port and crossroad of the world in the day. The entire letter is a message on how followers of Jesus should order their lives, relating to all family members, those who are different, and he writes it into a culturally chaotic, temptation-laden environment in which his implied purpose is to instruct and encourage Ephesian believers in their calling to unity as the Body of Christ, both Jew and Gentile, and in their growing in Christian maturity.

It is as though Paul is saying, **Yes, you are in fact individuals with your own individual strengths, weaknesses, preferences and gifts – BUT these individual attributes are to be subservient to the collective Body of Christ, that is, to the community living in harmony and unity in Christ. It is not to be the other way around, where the Church exists as a place to build, house and showcase "me, myself & I."**

My friends in the Pilgrim Church family, I only wish that I was as eloquent as Paul as I write to you for this last time. It has been both my privilege and perhaps one of the most challenging opportunities to serve as your supply preacher for the past six

months. I know, it was only supposed to be for two weeks, but God had plans that none of us could have ever imagined. To lead worship remotely, recording as I often did from the butterfly pavilion and other locations in the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens, was a once-in-a-career experience (I hope!).

We have all survived, we have all been changed, and we have all experienced loss of fellowship in communal worship, frustration of unfulfilled plans, even depression, not knowing the course of this virus that has touched the world. Despite all the angst, Pilgrim will be embracing a new Senior Pastor just around the corner. You will be blessed by the ministry of Pastor John and enlivened by Cathy and Charlie. They are wonderful people. I know you will welcome his leadership and his faithfulness with joy, hope and promise.

I selected the segment of the Ephesian letters, not just because I've been privileged to walk the streets of the city, imagining myself to be in the footsteps of Paul. I selected it because of the final verses: **"to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."** Nothing is more important to the local congregation, to Pilgrim Church, than to be reminded at all times, but even more so at the advent of a new pastor's arrival, that God has called you and equipped you to do even more than you "can ask or imagine," to share the love of God through Jesus to one another and to the community. I have seen it in your past, and I can see it in your future.

I close with my deepest thanks to every one of you, and the congregation's leaders, especially Don Anderson, as well as my colleagues for these past months, Pastor Ken Ewing and Cat Foster. My thoughts end with the memory of the theme of the 2011 UCC General Synod held in Tampa, which always reminds me, **"Imagine What's Possible!"** Keep Imagining, Pilgrim people!

Blessings to you all and may God's Spirit touch you always, Rev. Bill Klossner



From the Parish Administrator

I hope this newsletter finds you well rested and excited!!! Yes, excited for our new pastor and all that he brings to Pilgrim. His first Sunday will be October 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Until that time, Rev. Bill will be leading services in the sanctuary. I hope you will make an effort to attend. We will be social distancing, but more importantly, masks will be required to be worn for the entire time while inside the sanctuary. Please think of your fellow parishioners and abide by the mask rule. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We have a busy time in front of us preparing for Pastor John and his family. Please take a moment to do a couple things in advance of his arrival. First, pray for a safe trip here and a smooth transition from his congregation to ours. Second, make a renewed commitment to your church and your faith. Third, please take a few moments to send a welcome card to him and his family addressed to the church. These things will help bridge the gap upon his arrival and let him and his family know how much we are looking forward to his tenure here at Pilgrim.

Again, I wish to thank all of you who have so tirelessly worked to call a new pastor. The hours

spent have paid dividends. Also, needing my sincerest thanks are those who have seen fit to continue their tithes and offerings during this time of COVID-19 shutdown. Your faith has seen to it that we are still open and flourishing.

As ever, Pastor Ken and Pastor Bill deserve our utmost gratitude for their service to us and to God. Pastor Ken has been a rock from within for all of us to stand on and lean against while we searched for a new pastor. His weekly missive, complete with joke, is something I look forward to each week. Thank you, Pastor Ken. What began for Pastor Bill as a two-week fill-in back in March turned into a 6 month journey for which we are truly grateful. His weekly services, whether from our sanctuary or his (the Peace River Botanical Gardens), have been there for us week after week. Thank you, Pastor Bill, for everything you have given and done for us here at Pilgrim. Please don't be a stranger!!!

I pray that you stay safe, stay healthy, and above all, stay faithful.

Yours in Christ, Russ Whittaker
Parish Administrator



Pilgrim Prayer Focus

October 4- Father, I know God's people ARE the Church. Help me use my gifts to honor it.

October 11- Bless Pilgrim Church to be a beacon in the community.

October 18- Thank you Lord that at Pilgrim Church HOPE HAPPENS HERE!

October 25- Lord, we pray that Pilgrim Church is a safe haven for hurting hearts.

Prayer List:

Bill Wolf	Jim Smith	Pastor John, Cathy
Gloria Kurbanali	Sidoney Johnston	& Charlie
Louise Timchak	"Bullet" McCleen	Marilyn Walker
Dennis Tagge	Karen Ahlgrim	Zander Jones
Joe Beaudreau	Huff Family	Irene Butler
Carol Glanton	Jim Wright	Arte Johnson
John Hames	Howard Meader	Barbara Garner
Martinez Children	Susan Littrell	Marilyn Randall
& Family		



The Pilgrim Food Pantry will be open on Monday, October 12 and Monday, October 26 from 10:00 am until 11:30 p.m. We have a new banner you will see around the area letting the public know we are open.

How does the food pantry work? We have a list of the items we have available and each family completes a form, letting us know how many are in the household and choosing 10 items. We then fill the bags and offer them items that we happen to have that are not on our list. We also share this newsletter and information for other area sources of food goods.

At Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter we try to add special items to the bags we give out.

We continue to appreciate your support with financial donations and with items from our list. If you would like to volunteer to be part of this ministry, try out one Monday!

Our Food Pantry list:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 |

*We are very low on dry pasta.



Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. Please join us as we celebrate this sacrament with our brothers and sisters across the planet.

We have purchased special cups for use in these times of COVID. The TrueVine cup is a prefilled (prepackaged) communion wafer and juice set.



The elements are prepackaged, with both wafer and juice in a single two-part container. Communion participants peel back one seal to remove the communion wafer. A second seal under the wafer is then removed for juice.



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, October 17, 10:30 a.m. to assemble sandwiches .



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.



Everyone experiences a loss of some kind during their life. Each one of us deal with our loss in different ways and manners. Some folks find constructive ways of responding to loss. While others seem inconsolable. I have done a number of memorial services over the years, I have observed the mourners react differently depending upon their faith commitment. Folks who have a strong faith foundation find comfort in their faith and faith community. Those who do not have such a faith base could not be comforted in their grieving.

Dealing with our loss seems to me to be dependent on the kind of loss. We may deal with the loss of a loved one differently from a loss of a job, or sense of self, or a significant relationship, or health, or meaning to life. For me the loss of my first wife to kidney cancer and my own deterring health issues raised different emotions and responses. At the same time there was several constants which helped me deal with my losses.

At the heart of dealing with my losses was a gracious God. My faith helped me affirm the underlying support for me comes from God. Scripture affirms that Jesus shared with his disciples that when He was gone from them He would send the Holy Spirit, the comforter to be with them. We are also beneficiareis of that gift.

God has also given me the gift of a great family, strong communities of faith, the mentor of Jesus as Lord and friend, and the process of remembering, which promotes healing and provides comfort. All these gifts are helpful, and used in different ways depending upon the loss.

Throughout my life and series of losses two things remain of significant importance for me. They are a strong faith in Jesus the Christ, and a sense of humor. Both are important to me and I believe needed in life to deal with loss and setbacks and life itself. Amen.



Prepared. For Life.™

Boy Scout BBQ Fundraiser

Saturday, October 24

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pilgrim Community Center

Join us for lunch or take it to-go!

Troop 351 will be serving: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Mac & Cheese.

Ticket Price \$10

Please call/text Heather for tickets 941-628-0817.

Please support Troop 351!



Prayer Meetings are Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. As small groups are not yet able to meet in the church, we will continue to conduct prayer by conference call. Just dial 941-258-2597 at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

To submit prayer request or to update a request on the prayer list, contact Cat in the office, by phone or email. It is our blessing and privilege to intercede for you and your concerns.

God's heart is moved when we pray. We always need prayer, but now more than ever!

Matthew 18:19-20 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Please join us if possible!

A Thousand Words



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 October 10.

COVID RESPONSE

- What am I GRATEFUL for today?
- Who am I CHECKING IN ON or CONNECTING WITH today?
- What expectations of "normal" am I LETTING GO OF today?
- How am I GETTING OUTSIDE today?
- How am I MOVING MY BODY today?
- What BEAUTY am I creating, cultivation, or inviting in today?

Good News Club

Although there are no after-school activities such as Good News Club at Deep Creek Elementary, there are still ways in which we can support our local children:

- Pray for our students and their families
- Donate needed socks and underwear for children ages 5-11 (collection box in Narthex)
- Donate money through Missions labeled Bibles for Good News Kids (we purchase Bibles at different reading levels.)
- Write a card of encouragement (collection box in Narthex)



Thanksgiving Meals

Our God is a great God and reminds each of us that it is our duty to care for those around us every day. Pilgrim Church understands the gift of gathering around a table with our traditional Thanksgiving meal. We seek to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner to those who will not be able to provide for themselves.

If you or you know of a family who would benefit from items to prepare a special dinner, please complete this form. Return the form no later than noon on Monday, October 26. We will strive to fulfill each request.

Groceries will be available to be picked up on Monday, November 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Individual picking up groceries for the family must present ID that matches this form.

NAME OF FAMILY

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL PICKING UP FIXIN'S

of ADULTS IN FAMILY _____

of CHILDREN IN FAMILY _____

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE: _____



Thanksgiving Food Pantry Collection

He Said: 'Freely, Freely, You Have Received
Freely, Freely Give
Go In My Name, And Because You Believe
Others Will Know That I Live.'

In 2019, the Pilgrim Food Pantry distributed eighty-six Thanksgiving Meals. Total expense for November 2019 came to \$1,871.41, which included normal distribution items, Thanksgiving Fixin's items and gift certificates (families could then purchase their own turkey/turkey breast/ham). This was in addition to all the item donations we received.

We will have our usual Food Pantry distribution on Monday, November 9. Then on Monday, November 16, we will have a distribution for just those who have completed and turned in the Thanksgiving Meals form by October 26.

We need your assistance with donations of special items for these gifts of Thanksgiving goodies. We are holding a special collection of:

- Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing Mix
- Gravy
- Financial gifts for gift card purchases



Galatians 6:9 ESV

“And let us not grow weary
of doing good,
for in due season we will reap,
if we do not give up.”



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. John Barnette, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Bill Klossner, Interim Pastor
 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.

View our worship services at

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



October Birthdays

1

Susan Anderson

4

Savinia Krueger
 Debbie Leshar
 Matthew Santiago

7

Shirley Donohue

9

Sidoney Johnston

11

Debora Provencal

15

Kinslee Huff

17

Howard Meader

20

Valerie Forge

21

Ray Gaddie
 Charlene Hall

24

Danielle Huff

29

Joe Beaudreau
 Lorraine O'Keefe
 Vickie Rhoe

30

Stephen Emard

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

Pilgrim Church - October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:00am Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary)
4 World Communion Sunday 9:00am Worship with Rev. Bill (Sanctuary)	5 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Community Center)	6 10:00am Prayer Group (Coffee Room)	7	8	9	10 9:00am Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary)
11 9:00am Worship with Pastor John (Sanctuary)	12 JN Closed - Teacher Work Day 10:00am Food Pantry (Coffee Room, Sanctuary) 7:00pm Missions Meeting (Coffee Room) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Community Center)	13 10:00am Prayer Group (Coffee Room)	14	15 10:30am PBJ Sandwich Makers (Room 4)	16	17 9:00am Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary)
18 9:00am Worship with Pastor John (Sanctuary)	19 6:30pm Finance Meeting (Choir Room) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Community Center)	20 10:00am Prayer Group (Coffee Room)	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22	23	24 9:00am Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary) 12:00pm BSA Troop BBQ Fundraiser (Community Center)
25 9:00am Worship with Pastor John (Sanctuary)	26 Food Pantry: Thanksgiving Bag Sign Ups are Due 10:00am Food Pantry (Coffee Room, Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Community Center)	27 10:00am Prayer Group (Coffee Room) 7:00pm Council Meeting (Community Center)	28	29	30	31 9:00am Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary)